

# EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

▶ MAKE YOUR  
OWN LAUNDRY  
PRODUCTS

▶ 4 DELICIOUS  
HOLIDAY  
PIE RECIPES

▶ TRUE  
WEATHER  
PROVERBS

▶ FAST-GROWING  
TREES FOR  
YOUR YARD

NOVEMBER 2015





## **FEATURES**

**GARDENING**  
FAST-GROWING  
TREES FOR  
YOUR YARD

**LIVING NATURALLY**  
MAKE YOUR OWN  
LAUNDRY PRODUCTS

**FOOD**  
4 DELICIOUS  
HOLIDAY PIE RECIPES

Move over turkey,  
here comes dessert.

**WEATHER**  
THE FACTS BEHIND  
WEATHER FOLKLORE

Scientists now—  
finally—admit that  
many weather  
proverbs are TRUE!

## DEPARTMENTS

### CALENDAR

Moon View

Get Under the Shower

Getting Married in November?  
*Choose Your Theme; Explore the Lore*

Holiday Happenings  
*Daylight Saving Time; Thanksgiving*

November Day of Note  
*Sadie Hawkins Day*

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Sky Map for November 2015  
*Visually navigate the night sky from your own backyard*



### HOT PRODUCTS

Holiday Gift Ideas

### WEATHER

How We Make Our Predictions

Maps of U.S. and Canadian  
Weather Regions

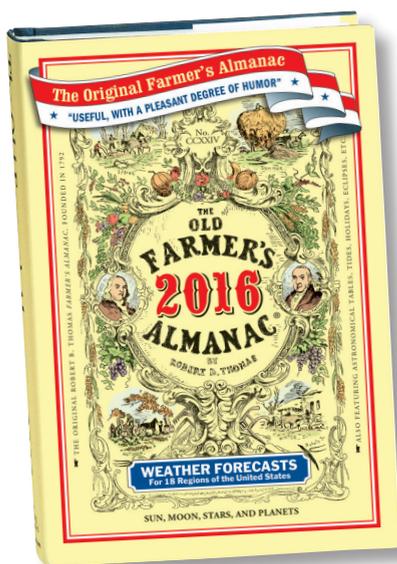
November U.S. and Canadian  
Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

### WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have in store for our  
December issue!





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# THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

## HOLIDAYS, HISTORY, AND FOLKLORE

**MOON VIEW**  
NOVEMBER'S  
FULL MOON,  
THE FULL  
BEAVER MOON,  
OCCURS ON  
THE 25TH, AT  
5:44 P.M. EST.



FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE  
**FULL BEAVER  
MOON** AND  
OTHER FUN  
MOON FACTS,  
**WATCH THIS  
VIDEO.**



### GET UNDER THE SHOWER

**The Leonids meteor shower, that is.** This dependable event, which peaks around November 17 or 18, is so named because its meteors appear to come from the constellation Leo. This light show actually comes from comet Tempel-Tuttle. As the comet passes close to the Sun during its orbit, some of its particles melt and disintegrate, leaving a trail of debris, mostly the size of grains of sand or smaller, which orbit the Sun. Earth travels through this debris field each year, resulting in the Leonids meteor shower.

Although this shower averages 10 to 15 shooting stars per hour, occasionally it surprises. During meteor storms, which occur about every 33 years, the Leonids are known to roar. In 1966, viewers saw thousands of meteors per minute. In 2001, there were up to 800 per hour. A spectacular display won't happen again, however, until around 2034; expect a docile turnout this year. Nevertheless, the Leonids meteors are often colorful and travel at one of the fastest speeds of all meteors. Some produce bright fireballs with long trails.

For the best show, choose a site away from city lights and wait until after midnight. Then set up a lounge chair and look up and/or to the southeast for shooting stars. Don't forget to make a wish (or 10 to 15)!

# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



## SAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**The heyday  
of a  
woman's  
life is the  
shady side  
of 50.**

—Elizabeth  
Cady Stanton,  
American social  
reformer  
(b. November 12,  
1815; d. October  
26, 1902)

NOVEMBER 1:

## Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 A.M.

If your area observes it, don't forget to set the clocks back 1 hour and enjoy an extra hour of sleep!



NOVEMBER 26:

## THANKSGIVING DAY (U.S.)

In a 1789 proclamation, President George Washington called on the people of the United States to acknowledge God for affording them “an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness” by observing a day of thanksgiving.



Devoting a day to “public thanksgiving and prayer,” as Washington called it, became a yearly tradition in many communities.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863. In this year, during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln made his Thanksgiving Day Proclamation. He asked his fellow citizens to “to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day

of thanksgiving and praise . . . .”

It was not until 1941 that Congress designated the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day, thus creating a federal holiday.

However official, the idea of a special day for giving thanks was not born of presidential proclamations. Native American harvest festivals had been

celebrated for centuries, and colonial services dated back to the late 16th century.

Thanksgiving Day, as we know it today, began in the early 1600s when settlers in both Massachusetts and Virginia came together to give thanks for their survival, for the fertility of their fields, and for their faith. The most widely known early Thanksgiving is that of the Pilgrims in Plimoth, Massachusetts, who feasted for 3 days with the Wampanoag people in 1621.

Turkey has become the traditional Thanksgiving fare because at one time it was a rare treat. During the 1830s, an 8- to 10-pound bird cost a day’s wages. Even though turkeys are more affordable today, they still remain a celebratory symbol of bounty.



TAP HERE  
TO LEARN  
SOME  
FASCINATING  
TURKEY  
TRIVIA.



# NOVEMBER DAY OF NOTE

## Sadie Hawkins Day

On November 15, 1937, cartoonist Al Capp, creator of the *Li'l Abner* comic strip, introduced the idea of a day in fictitious Dogpatch, USA, when all unmarried ladies, including the character Sadie Hawkins, could pursue their men. If the men were caught, marriage was unavoidable.

The idea took off in real life in November 1938, when the first recorded “girls-ask-boys” Sadie Hawkins Day dance was held. In 1939, *Life* magazine reported that more than 200 colleges had held Sadie Hawkins Day events.

Although it had not been his intention, after the Sadie Hawkins Day debut and subsequent popularity with his readers, Capp included the event in his comic strip every November. Today, Sadie Hawkins Day events are often celebrated on the first Saturday in November.



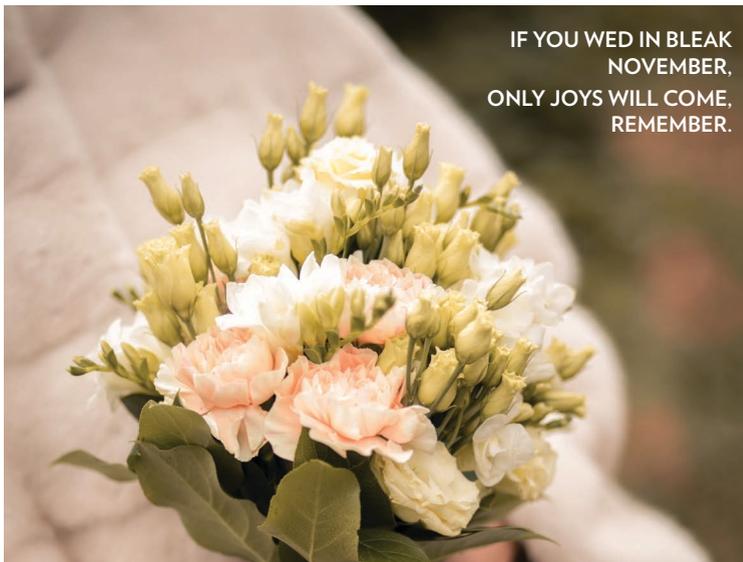
## DID YOU KNOW?

### Sadie Hawkins

**Day** is sometimes celebrated on February 29, which is associated with a similar tradition. Long ago, Leap Day also was known as “Ladies’ Day” or “Ladies’ Privilege,” the only period of time when women were free to propose to men. It is thought that this event may have been based on a Scottish law in the 1200s or on an Irish legend, but no one knows for certain.

### Enter to Win

Participate in our **annual Wedding Photo Contest!** You can submit photos at any time of day or night, year-round. In June each year, one lucky couple will receive a bundle of Almanac products, including *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, an Almanac cookbook, and more.



IF YOU WED IN BLEAK  
NOVEMBER,  
ONLY JOYS WILL COME,  
REMEMBER.

## *Getting Married in November?*

### CHOOSE YOUR THEME

For a wedding in the 11th month of the year, consider a travel theme—after all, marriage is a journey!

Create wedding invitations to look like airline tickets or luggage tags. Select ties for the groom and best man and silk scarves for the bridesmaids that depict maps; add globe earrings for the ladies. Use old maps to make paper airplanes or hearts and hang them up as garlands.

Arrange vintage postcards in travel-themed decorative boxes or small antique suitcases and set them on reception tables for guests to browse. Hang up a large map on which guests can stick personalized pins on where they come from. Or, have them sign a map or globe with well wishes.

Hand out compasses as wedding favors. Offer foods that are famous in the area where you are getting married or where you will have your honeymoon, such as a selection of cheeses



TAP FOR  
DETAILS AND  
TO SEE  
**PREVIOUS  
WINNERS.**





Try a vintage travel theme for a unique wedding.



from Vermont or Wisconsin or *coq au vin* from France. Take wedding photographs beside a mode of travel from ages past, such as a four-master windjammer or vintage plane. With this theme, the sky's the limit!

### EXPLORE THE LORE

Wedding folklore can add a bit of whimsy and tradition to an invitation, a place card, even a thank-you note. Here are a few to use or adapt:

- In Japan, clams are served to wedding guests with both shell halves, to symbolize the united couple.
- In South Africa, it is customary for the parents of the bride and groom to bring fire from their hearths to start the fire in the newlyweds' own fireplace.
- In Venezuelan wedding receptions, often during a lull, *La Hora Loca*, or crazy hour, will be declared. At the start of this high-energy period, which may extend into the wee hours, guests are given sparkling masks, funny hats, noisemakers, whistles, and other party favors. Everyone has fun on the dance floor, and spontaneity is key!

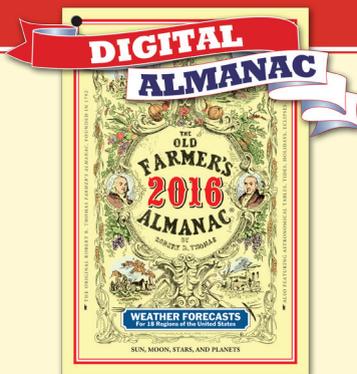
TAP FOR  
A GREAT  
**COQ AU VIN**  
RECIPE.



 TAP TO FIND MORE FOLKLORE OR SHARE YOUR TRADITION.

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## BEST DAYS

These November dates, deemed to be propitious in astrology, are based on the astrological passage of the Moon. However, consider all indicators before making any major decisions. —*Celeste Longacre*

### PERSONAL

Begin diet to lose weight: 6, 10  
 Begin diet to gain weight: 20, 24  
 Cut hair to encourage growth: 19, 20, 24  
 Cut hair to discourage growth: 8, 9  
 Have dental care: 5, 6  
 Quit smoking: 6, 10  
 Wean children: 6, 10

### AROUND THE HOUSE

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 1, 28, 29  
 End projects: 9, 10  
 Start projects: 12, 13

### OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 15, 16  
 Go camping: 12–14  
 Go fishing: 11–25  
 Set posts or pour concrete: 15, 16

### IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 21, 22  
 Graft or pollinate: 1, 28, 29  
 Prune to encourage growth: 13, 14  
 Prune to discourage growth: 3, 4, 30  
 Plant aboveground crops: 19, 20  
 Plant belowground crops: 1, 28, 29  
 Harvest aboveground crops: 15, 24  
 Harvest belowground crops: 5, 6

### ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 10, 11  
 Castrate animals: 17, 18  
 Cut hay: 21, 22  
 Set eggs: 26, 27  
 Slaughter livestock: 10, 11  
 Wean animals: 6, 10



## GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the November dates shown in the Moon's Astrological Place calendar below to find the best days for the following garden tasks:

**PLANT, TRANSPLANT, AND GRAFT:** Cancer, Scorpio, or Pisces

**HARVEST:** Aries, Leo, Sagittarius, Gemini, or Aquarius

**BUILD/FIX FENCES OR GARDEN BEDS:** Capricorn

**CONTROL INSECT PESTS, PLOW, AND WEED:** Aries, Gemini, Leo, Sagittarius, or Aquarius

**PRUNE:** Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius. During a waxing Moon, pruning encourages growth; during a waning Moon, it discourages growth.

### THE MOON'S ASTROLOGICAL PLACE IN NOVEMBER

1 Cancer	9 Libra	17 Aquarius	25 Taurus
2 Leo	10 Scorpio	18 Aquarius	26 Gemini
3 Leo	11 Scorpio	19 Pisces	27 Gemini
4 Leo	12 Sagittarius	20 Pisces	28 Cancer
5 Virgo	13 Sagittarius	21 Aries	29 Cancer
6 Virgo	14 Sagittarius	22 Aries	30 Leo
7 Libra	15 Capricorn	23 Taurus	
8 Libra	16 Capricorn	24 Taurus	



TAP FOR  
MERCURY IN  
RETROGRADE  
DATES



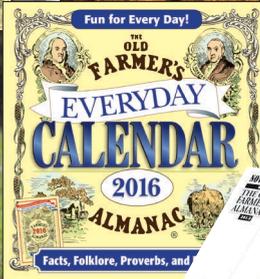
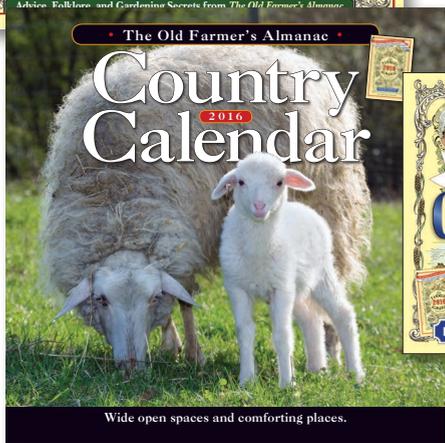
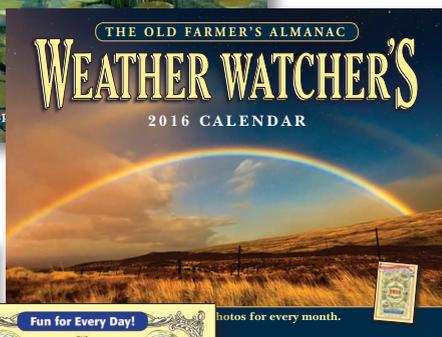
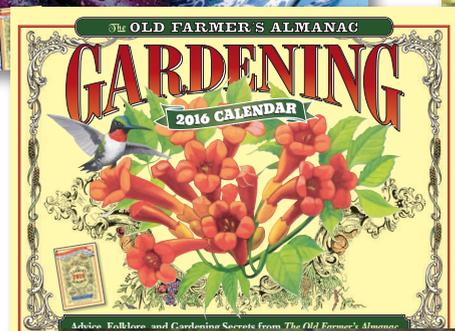
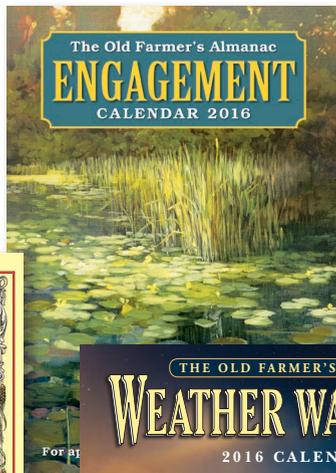
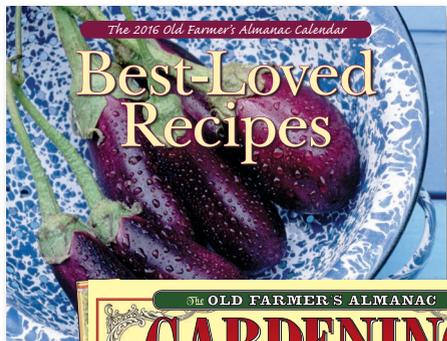
**APP EXTRA!**  
TAP FOR  
NOVEMBER  
MOON PHASES



**APP FINDER!**  
FIND OUT  
UPCOMING  
FULL MOON  
DATES WITH  
THE ALMANAC  
FULL MOON  
FINDER APP.

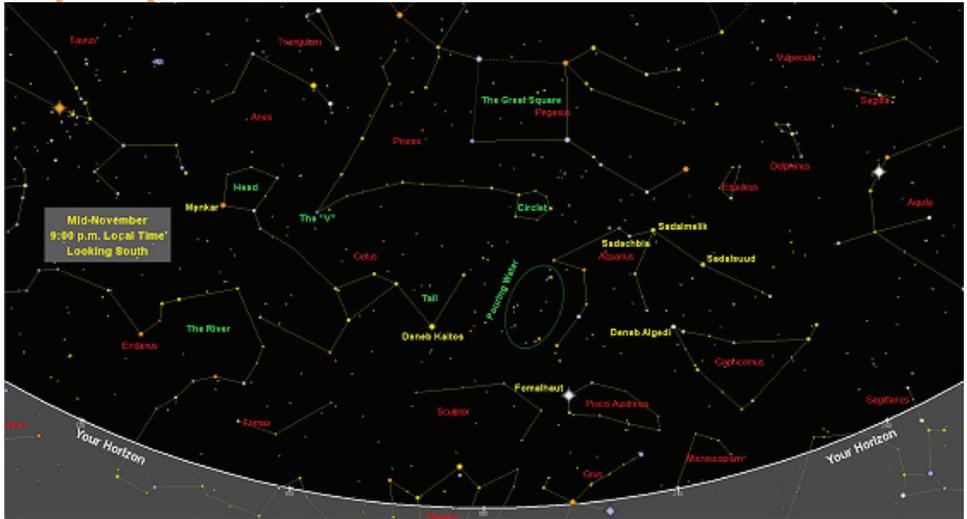
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## SAIL THE CELESTIAL SEA

On November evenings, the southern sky is filled with constellations related to water. These astronomical ships of the Celestial Sea contain few bright stars and are less well known than more brilliant groupings. You can enjoy the watery constellations of November best in a location far from city lights.

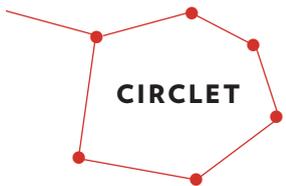
### APP EXTRA!

TAP TO GET A PRINTABLE NOVEMBER SKY MAP.

### APP EXTRA!

TAP TO FOLLOW OHIOAN JEFF DETRAY'S SKY ADVENTURES.

Our sea cruise starts the Great Square of Pegasus, high in the south. Just below it is an asterism known as the Circling Water. **C**ircling Water is a slightly lopsided circle of stars that forms the head of one of the two fish of Pisces, the Fishes. From the Circling Water, follow a long, gentle arc of stars leftward to the point where it meets another long line of stars angling down from above. The arc and line represent the bodies of the two fishes. The point where they





meet is where the fishes' tails touch and is known as the "V" of Pisces.

The "V" of Pisces points toward the heart of Cetus, the Sea Monster (or Whale). On the left, another lopsided circle of stars forms the head of Cetus. The star Menkar ("nostril") is one of two bright stars in Cetus. The other is Deneb Kaitos in the Sea Monster's tail. In Arabic, Deneb means "tail," and Kaitos, "southern." Thus, Deneb Kaitos is the "southern tail" of Cetus.

Below and far to the left of Cetus, glimpse a portion of Eridanus, the River, a long, winding constellation that meanders upward in an arc nearly to Cetus and flows downward to disappear below the horizon. This star pattern, named in ancient times, represents what we now know as northern Italy's Po River.

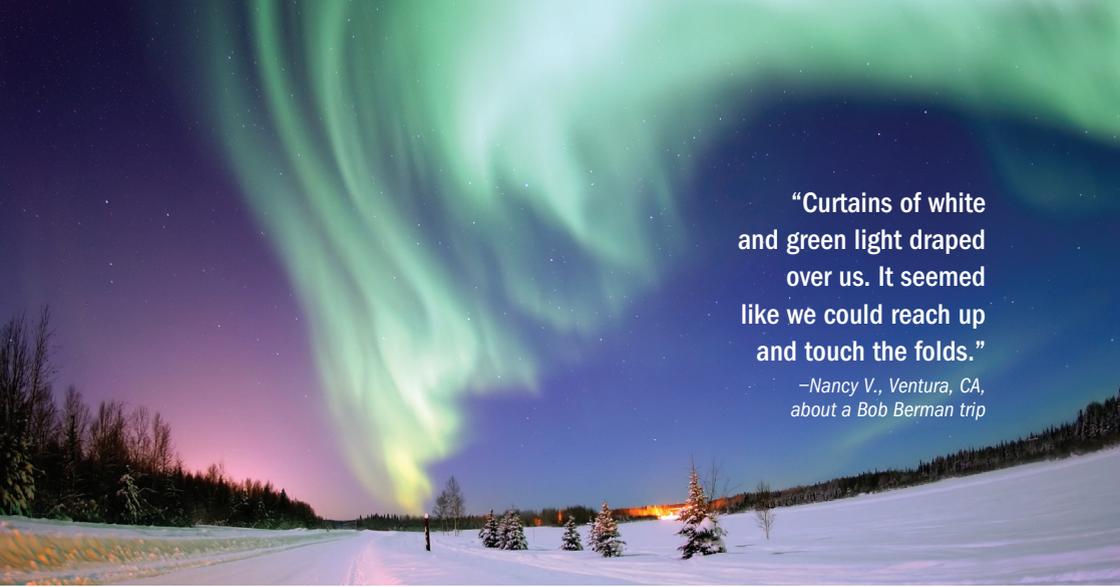
**J**ump back to the Circlet of Pisces. Look below and to the right to find Aquarius, the Water Carrier. Some constellations resemble their namesakes—Aquarius is not among them! You'll just have to trust the ancients who perceived the sprinkling of stars circled in green as a stream of water pouring from a jar carried by Aquarius. The ancient Arabs associated the stars of Aquarius with good luck. The Arabic meanings of Sadachbia, Sadalmelik, and Sadalsuud refer to good fortune.

Below Aquarius is the compact "boat"-shape outline of Capricornus, the Sea-Goat, a creature that is half fish and half goat. Remember the word Deneb? It is also the name of the brightest star in Capricornus: Deneb Algedi, or "tail of the goat." Stars with Deneb in their names can be found throughout the sky wherever celestial creatures were named by ancient Arabic astronomers.

**W**e come now to Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish, just to the left of Capricornus. Piscis Austrinus represents a single fish, not a pair like Pisces. In an otherwise faint constellation, the bright star Fomalhaut stands out; it is the 18th brightest star in the sky! Due to its location, some myths tell of Piscis Austrinus swallowing the water pouring out of Aquarius's jar.

Finally, look way up to the right of Pegasus to find little Delphinus, the Dolphin. Ancient legends of dolphins saving sailors lost at sea inspired the creation of this tiny constellation. When you have clear skies above, be sure to take a sea voyage through the November sky.

—Jeff DeTray



“Curtains of white and green light draped over us. It seemed like we could reach up and touch the folds.”

—Nancy V., Ventura, CA,  
about a Bob Berman trip

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GARDENING

# FAST- GROWING TREES FOR YOUR YARD



PHOTO: BLEND IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

# YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT A LIFETIME

for a newly planted tree to grow big enough to hold a bird feeder or shade the backyard patio. By choosing quick-growing varieties and giving them the proper care, you can have it made in the shade in a surprisingly short time.

**T**he white willow, a cousin of the familiar weeping willow, is an upright grower that soars 20 to 30 feet in just 5 to 6 years and eventually grows as tall as 100 feet with a 50-foot spread. Poplars are also known for their rapid growth. The eastern poplar, better known as cottonwood in many areas, shoots skyward at 4 to 5 feet a year. In Mississippi, a cottonwood growing on rich bottomland was reported to have obtained a height of 98 feet in just 11 years.

Another speedy shade-maker is the silver maple, a magnificent



THE WHITE WILLOW CAN GROW UP TO 30 FEET IN 5 YEARS.

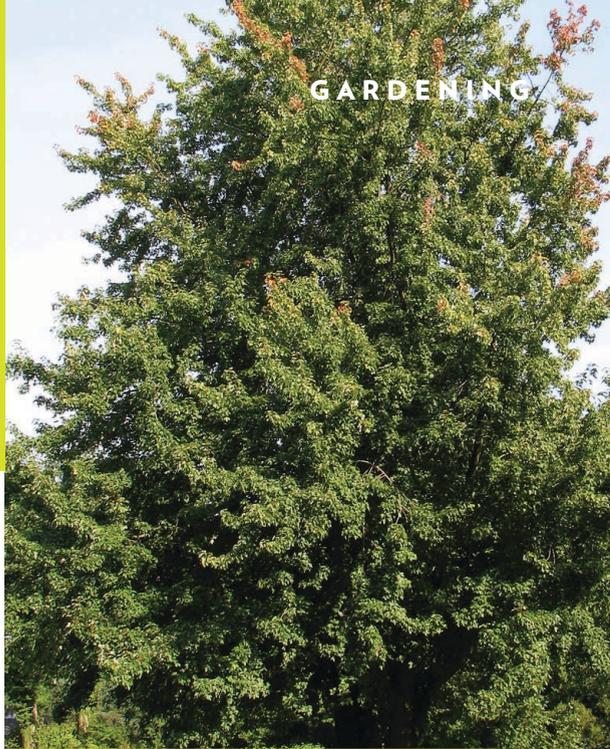
**Most beautiful trees are slow growers and are undoubtedly, as we are told, worth waiting for; but while they are coming on, why not fill in between with any kind of quick-growing trees?**

—The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste, 1859

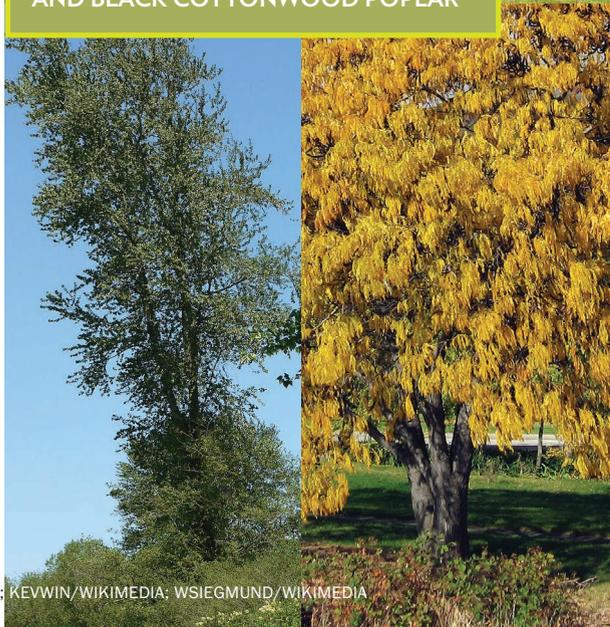
low-branching tree that grows 2 to 3 feet in height each season. Its light-green leaves have a silvery underside and turn golden yellow in the fall. The thornless honeylocust casts a delicate shade through its tropical-looking, fernlike foliage and rapidly grows to its mature height of 45 feet.

**U**nfortunately, fast growth comes with a price. Quick trees tend to be brittle and are more likely to be damaged by high winds and ice storms than are slow-growing varieties such as sugar maple and beech.

Trees with medium growth rates may be the best choice for growing a durable tree in a relatively short time. Red maple is such a tree. It looks a lot like a sugar maple but grows at twice the rate, or about 2 feet



SILVER MAPLE (ABOVE), THORNLESS HONEYLOCUST (BELOW RIGHT), AND BLACK COTTONWOOD POPLAR



## GARDENING



RED MAPLE (ABOVE)  
AND RED OAK (BELOW)



### He who plants a tree Plants a hope.

—Lucy Larcom, *American poet* (1824–93)

per year. Its brilliant, fiery fall foliage is considered by many to be the best of any tree. Oaks have a reputation for growing painstakingly slow, but two that are exceptions to the rule are the red oak, with an average yearly growth rate of 2 feet, and the pin oak, which often grows 3 feet or more in one season. Both of these muscular trees will eventually reach 70 feet or more.

**R**egular feeding and watering will keep trees growing at their maximum rate; even slow-growing varieties, given some encouragement, can rise to the occasion. —George Lohmiller

### BEST TREES FOR FIREWOOD

With colder temperatures around the corner, you may wonder what type of hardwood makes the best firewood.

TAP TO SEE OUR TOP 13 LIST.



“Everything you need to plan your vegetable garden”



# Plan Your Garden the Easy Way

Draw your ideal garden layout

Access detailed growing advice for each plant

View your personalized planting calendar  
& receive planting reminders by email



LIVING NATURALLY

# Make Your Own Laundry Products

*After the ecstasy, the laundry.*

—JACK KORNFELD,  
AMERICAN AUTHOR (B. 1945)



# YES, THE LAUNDRY ALWAYS AWAITS.

So, a few years ago, after the stress of planning for Hurricane Sandy and a nor'easter that blew in days later, and a case of swollen thumbs and elbow tendinitis that came from a day of overzealous firewood-stacking, I turned to the laundry. (I'll forgo weighing in on whether the local, state, and national elections caused ecstasy or agony in my household.)

Ecstasy or agony, laundry is a metaphor for everything about daily living that demands attention, and so also becomes part of a spiritual practice.

In this case, it meant turning my attention to making new batches of homemade laundry detergent and oxygen bleach, both of them cheap, easy, effective, and nontoxic to humans and the environment.

## *Homemade Detergent*

Ten minutes of time and a few pennies' worth of ingredients makes 2 gallons of excellent laundry detergent.

Here's how I do it:

1. I heat a gallon of water in my stainless-steel stockpot and add about one-third of a bar of grated goat-milk soap, stirring the mixture until the soap melts. (You can use any hard soap for this recipe; I use the biggest holes on a cheese grater.)
2. Then I add half a cup each of washing soda and borax and continue stirring until the powders dissolve.

---

### YOU WILL NEED

---



CHEESE  
GRATER



SOAP



STAINLESS-STEEL  
STOCKPOT



WASHING  
SODA



BORAX

3. Finally, I add another gallon of hot water, stir the whole thing, and let it sit until the mixture cools. The end result: a lumpy gel that I funnel into a few recycled plastic detergent containers.
4. Because it's lumpy, I shake my homemade mix well before measuring out 1/2 cup per load of wash. My lumpy gel works as well as any purchased detergent that I've used.
5. I use unscented soap, because many scents in personal-care and laundry products make me sneeze or even give me headaches. But if you like scented laundry, use nice-smelling soap or add a couple of drops of an essential oil to the pot while the mixture is still warm.

### *Homemade Oxygen (Nonchlorinated) Bleach*

This is a cinch to make, and not only does it work well on most fabric stains, but also you can use it to clean just about everything—even as a gentle disinfecting wash for fruit and vegetables.

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#### YOU WILL NEED

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**HYDROGEN PEROXIDE**



**BAKING SODA**



**DARK SPRAY BOTTLE**

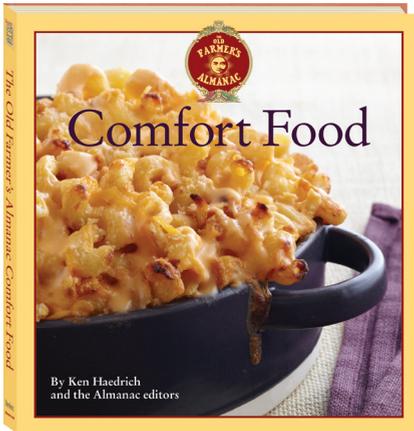
Here's how I make it:

1. I mix equal parts of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide and baking soda with two parts of hot water and shake well, then funnel it into a light-excluding bottle to maintain the stain-fighting power of the peroxide. That's it!
2. Although my homemade product doesn't have the same disinfecting power as some commercial liquid oxygen bleaches (e.g., for disinfecting cloth diapers), I find that it works equally well as a stain-remover.
3. Be forewarned: It doesn't spray the way commercial liquid oxygen bleaches do, because the baking soda settles. I just shake it well and squirt or sprinkle it onto stains, or add 1/2 cup to the wash water.

—Margaret Boyles



# Cook Up Some Comfort!



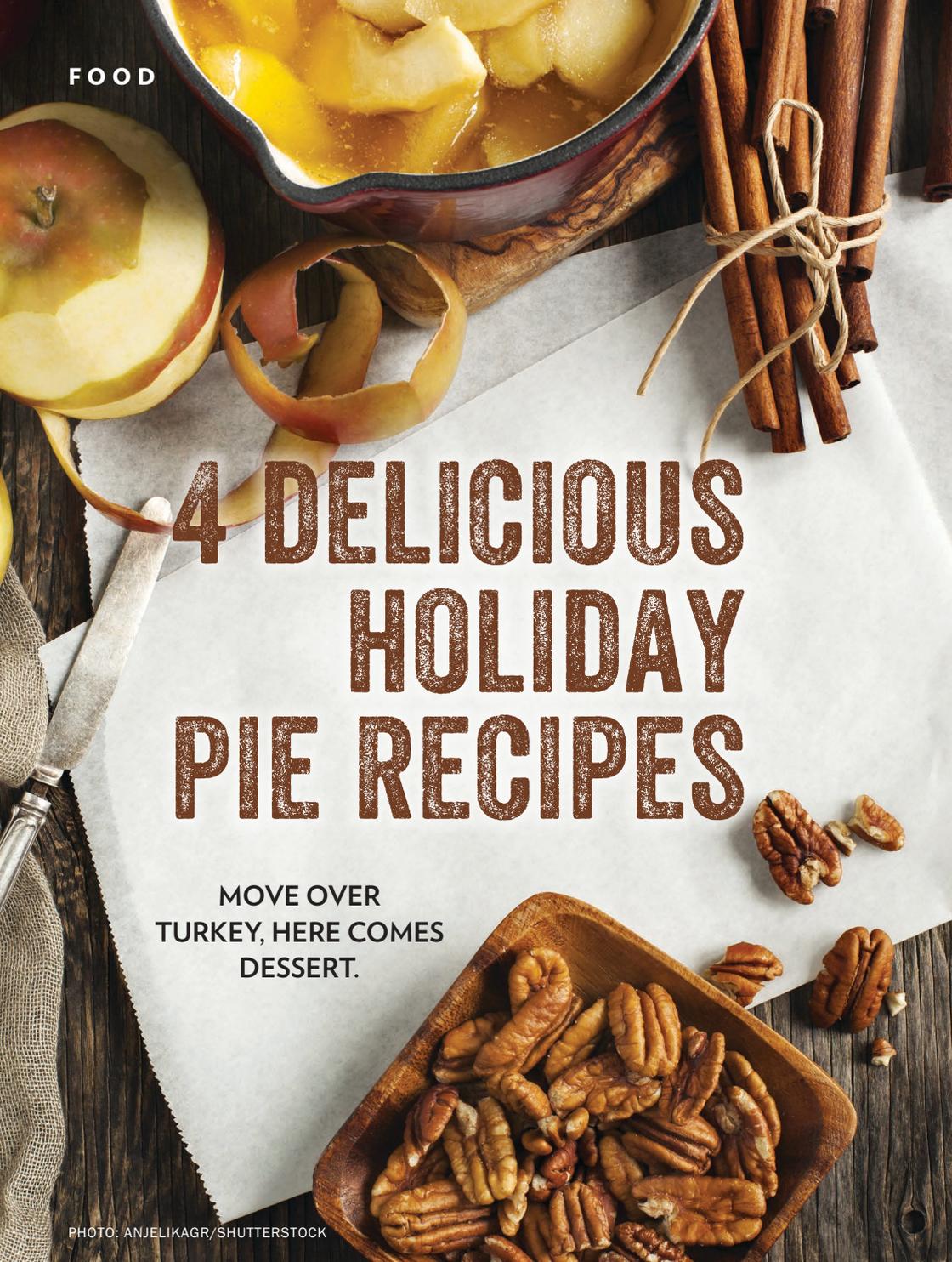
America's most trusted Almanac brings you America's tastiest comfort food in a NEW cookbook. You'll find every dish you love, every recipe you want: **More than 200 recipes, plus 140 timesaving tips** for bringing great-tasting recipes to the table, each one guaranteed to keep family and friends coming back for more!



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FOOD

A still life composition featuring a bowl of apple pie filling, cinnamon sticks, a peeled apple, and walnuts. The bowl is filled with sliced apples and a golden-brown sauce. The cinnamon sticks are tied with a string. The apple is peeled and sliced, with the peels curled around it. The walnuts are scattered around a wooden bowl filled with them. The background is a dark wooden surface with a white paper overlay.

# 4 DELICIOUS HOLIDAY PIE RECIPES

MOVE OVER  
TURKEY, HERE COMES  
DESSERT.

**W**e all know that turkey is the star of the show on Thanksgiving, but it's not the finale. That performance begins when it's time to pass around the coffee and tea, and the pies take center stage. The following recipes rely on a popular seasonal ensemble of flavors—apples, cranberries, pumpkins, pecans—but these are not understudy desserts, mimicking traditional dishes. We've cast these ingredients in new roles and included our foolproof, fail-safe pie pastry. Try all or a couple of these this year. We're betting that they will steal the show, and you'll get all of the applause.

### BASIC PIE PASTRY

*If you haven't yet found your favorite pie dough, try this mistakeproof version. For a two-crust pie, make it twice, rather than doubling the recipe.*

- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 tablespoon sugar**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) cold butter, cut into pieces**
- 1/4 cup cold water**

- 1.** In a food processor, combine flour, sugar, and salt. Process for a few seconds. Scatter butter on top. Process for 8 seconds more. Add cold water all at once and process for 6 to 8 seconds, or just until crumbs form. Stop before dough clumps on blade.
  - 2.** Turn mixture out onto wax paper and gather into a smooth ball. Knead once or twice. Chill for 30 minutes to 1 hour before rolling out.
- Makes one 9- to 10-inch crust.**

 **SHARE THIS  
RECIPE**

FOOD

# CHOCOLATE PECAN PIE

 TAP FOR  
RECIPE

## CHOCOLATE PECAN PIE

*Decadent and delicious, here is one pie that always disappears. Don't fret if it rises up and cracks when done; it will settle down as it cools.*

- 5 squares (5 ounces total) semisweet chocolate**
- 2 teaspoons instant coffee granules**
- 2 tablespoons (1/4 stick) butter**
- 3 eggs**
- 3/4 cup dark corn syrup**
- 1/3 cup sugar**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract**
- 1-1/2 cups pecan halves**
- 1 unbaked 9-inch piecrust**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2.** Melt chocolate in top of double boiler over hot water. Stir in coffee and butter, letting butter melt. Set aside to cool slightly.
- 3.** Combine eggs, corn syrup, sugar, and vanilla and whisk to blend. Stir in melted chocolate mixture and pecans.
- 4.** Pour filling into piecrust. Bake for 50 minutes, or until a knife inserted into center comes out clean. Cool on rack.

**Makes 8 to 10 servings.**



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RECIPE

FOOD

 TAP FOR RECIPE

# APPLE QUINCE GINGER CRANBERRY PIE

PHOTO: ANJELIKAGR/SHUTTERSTOCK

## APPLE QUINCE GINGER CRANBERRY PIE

*With a few additions, apple pie takes on a holiday air. Look for quinces in specialty markets and combine several kinds of apples—‘McIntosh’, ‘Cortland’, ‘Spencer’, etc.—for the best flavor. Serve with vanilla ice cream.*

- 4 or 5 large tart cooking apples, peeled and sliced**
- 2 quinces, peeled and sliced**
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries**
- 3/4 cup sugar**
- 1/4 cup diced candied ginger**
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger**
- 2 unbaked 9-inch piecrusts**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 425°F.
- 2.** Combine apples, quinces, cranberries, sugar, candied ginger, and ground ginger. Spoon into unbaked piecrust and cover with top crust. Press crust rim with fork tines to crimp edge. Poke several times with fork to make steam vents.
- 3.** Bake for 10 minutes, reduce heat to 325°F, and bake for 40 minutes, or until crust is golden.

**Makes 8 servings.**



SHARE THIS  
RECIPE

FOOD

# CHERRY BERRY PIE



TAP FOR  
RECIPE



## CHERRY BERRY PIE

*This mouthwatering pie bursting with berries comes from one of our newest cookbooks, *Cooking Fresh With The Old Farmer's Almanac*.*

- 2 cups halved and pitted sweet red cherries**
- 2 cups blueberries**
- 1 cup whole cranberries, at room temperature**
- 3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, divided**
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice**
- grated zest of half an orange**
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch**
- 2 unbaked 10-inch piecrusts**
- milk, for glaze**

 SHARE THIS  
RECIPE

- 1.** Combine cherries, blueberries, cranberries, 2/3 cup sugar, lemon juice, and orange zest. Mix well. Set aside for 15 minutes, stirring several times.
  - 2.** Separately, mix 2 tablespoons sugar with cornstarch. Add to fruit and mix. Set aside.
  - 3.** Preheat oven to 400°F.
  - 4.** Pour filling into bottom piecrust and smooth with spoon. Cover with top crust. Press crust rim with fork tines to crimp edge. Poke top crust several times to make steam vents. Brush top with milk. Sprinkle with remaining sugar.
  - 5.** Bake for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to 375°F, rotate pie 180 degrees, and bake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until any visible juices bubble thickly.
  - 6.** Transfer to cooling rack for at least 2 hours before serving.
- Makes 8 servings.**

FOOD

# PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE PIE



TAP FOR  
RECIPE





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RECIPE

## PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE PIE

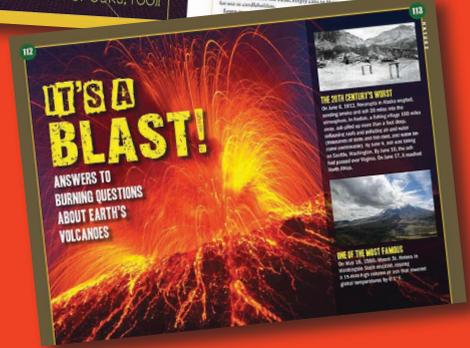
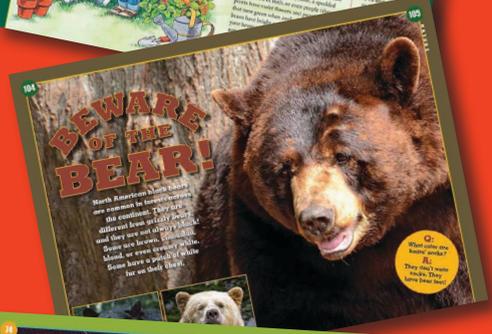
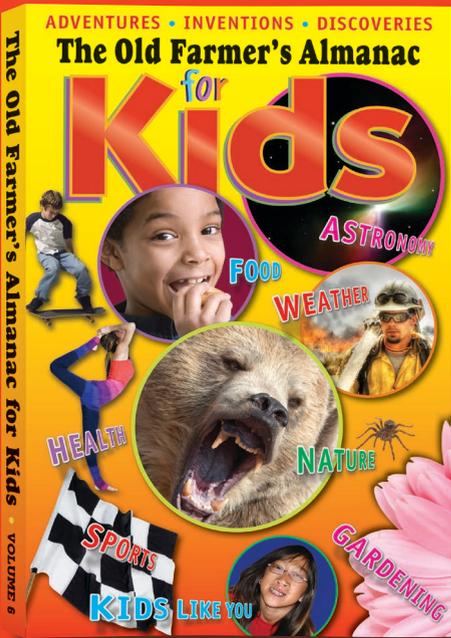
*These pies can be made up to 2 weeks ahead and frozen until serving. We don't recommend using sugar-free pudding mix in this recipe, as it contains different fillers, which will result in a different consistency.*

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened**
- 2 tablespoons plus 1 cup milk, divided**
- 2 tablespoons sugar**
- 1 container (8 ounces) whipped dessert topping, thawed**
- 2 graham cracker piecrusts (6 ounces each)**
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin purée**
- 2 packages (3.4 ounces each) vanilla instant pudding mix**
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon**
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger**
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves**

**1.** Beat cream cheese, 2 tablespoons milk, and sugar until creamy. Whisk in whipped dessert topping. Divide cream cheese mixture between two piecrusts.

**2.** Separately, combine pumpkin, 1 cup milk, pudding mix, cinnamon, ginger, and cloves. Spread half of pumpkin mixture onto each piecrust. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours, or freeze. If you freeze pies, thaw whole pie in refrigerator for 1 hour before serving.

**Makes 2 pies.**



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# The Facts Behind Weather FOLKLORE

SCIENTISTS NOW—FINALLY—ADMIT THAT  
MANY WEATHER PROVERBS ARE TRUE!

**W**eather proverbs—the delightful, often rhyming, couplets and colorful statements that typically link a natural event with a meteorological condition—originated centuries ago when people watched the skies, oceans, plants, and animals for clues of what to expect weatherwise. Here's why we, too, can rely on these age-old adages.

## WEATHER



### PROVERB: A YEAR OF SNOW, CROPS WILL GROW.

**WHY:** A several-inch layer of snow contains more air than ice. Trapped between the interlocking snowflakes, the air serves to insulate the plants beneath it. When the snow melts, the water helps to keep the ground moist.

### Proverb: If there is thunder in winter, it will snow 7 days later.

**WHY:** According to Topper Shutt, chief meteorologist for WUSA-TV in Washington, D.C., this is true about 70 percent of the time, especially from the East Coast to the Plains. Thunder in winter is an anomaly often caused by a big dip and a big rise in the jet stream (a powerful wind current that acts like railroad tracks, guiding high and low pressure systems from west to east across North America and separating cold air in the north from warm air in the south). As cold air moves south, it replaces warm air and lifts it up, often causing thunderstorms. The cold air behind the front settles in. Depending on the strength of the front, it may hang around for many days. When the next weather system arrives several—if not exactly 7—days later, temperatures may still be cold enough to cause the moisture in the system to fall as snow.



### PROVERB: A RING AROUND THE MOON MEANS RAIN WILL COME REAL SOON.

**WHY:** A ring, or halo, around the Moon is caused when the light of the Moon refracts through ice crystals present in high-level clouds. Although these clouds do not produce precipitation, they often occur in advance of an approaching low-pressure system, which often brings precipitation in the form of rain or snow.

# WEATHER

## GO FIGURE

Weather clues are all around us. There are no real surprises, says Environment Canada's David Phillips. Before a tornado, for example, the sky may turn green and the approaching wind might sound like a train at a distance. Here are a few clues to making your own predictions:



### Pay attention to winds and clouds.

These are the big predictors of changes in barometric pressure and resulting weather. For instance, the adage "No weather is ill, if the wind be still" indicates a high-pressure system, a broad area of descending air characterized by calm winds and little cloud formation.

## OBSERVE SHEEP, CATS, AND COWS.

Their bodies are affected by changes in air pressure. When rain is on the way, old sheep turn their backs to the wind, cats sneeze, and cows lie down.



## WATCH BIRDS IN FLIGHT.

Air pressure affects many birds. For example, swallows have sensitive ears; when the barometric pressure drops, they fly as close to the ground as possible, where air density is greatest. Generally, low-flying birds are signs of rain; high flyers indicate fair weather.

—Martie Majoros



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## SUN FACE HANGING VOTIVE

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**BUY**



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**BUY**





# WEATHER FORECASTS

IF THE GEESE ON ST. MARTIN'S DAY [NOV. 11] STAND ON ICE, THEY WILL WALK IN MUD AT CHRISTMAS.



## HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

Over the years, we have refined and enhanced this formula with state-of-the-art technology and modern scientific calculations. We employ three scientific disciplines to make our long-range predictions: solar science, the study of sunspots and other solar activity; climatology, the study of prevailing weather patterns; and meteorology, the study of the atmosphere. We predict weather trends and events by comparing solar patterns and historical weather conditions with current solar activity.

Our forecasts emphasize temperature and precipitation deviations from averages, or normals. These are based on 30-year statistical averages prepared by government meteorological agencies and updated every 10 years. The most-recent tabulations span the period 1981 through 2010.

We believe that nothing in the universe happens haphazardly, that there is a cause-and-effect pattern to all phenomena. However, although neither we nor any other forecasters have as yet gained sufficient insight into the mysteries of the universe to predict the weather with total accuracy, our results are almost always very close to our traditional claim of 80 percent.

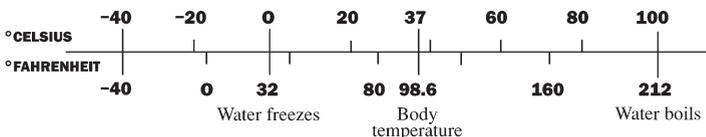


TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY.



LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY.

### CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE





# WEATHER FORECASTS

## MAP OF U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



## MAP OF CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS





## WEATHER FORECASTS

A HEAVY NOVEMBER SNOW  
WILL LAST UNTIL APRIL.

### U.S. FORECASTS NOVEMBER 2015

#### REGION 1: NORTHEAST

Temp. 40° (2° above avg.); precip. 3" (0.5" below avg.). 1–2 Sunny, cold. 3–8 Rainy periods, mild. 9–12 Rain and snow showers. 13–16 Rainy periods, mild. 17–25 Showers, mild. 26–30 Snowy periods, cold.

#### REGION 2: ATLANTIC CORRIDOR

Temp. 48° (1° above avg.); precip. 3" (0.5" below avg.). 1–2 Sunny, mild. 3–8 Rainy periods, turning chilly. 9–16 A few showers; mild north, cool south. 17–21 Sunny, cold, then mild. 22–26 Showers, then sunny, warm. 27–30 Wet snow north, rain south, then sunny, cold.

#### REGION 3: APPALACHIANS

Temp. 43° (1° below avg.); precip. 3.5" (avg.). 1–2 Sunny. 3–8 Rainy periods; warm, then cool. 9–11 Sunny, cold. 12–19 Rain, then flurries, cold. 20–27 A few showers, mild. 28–30 Snow showers, cold.

#### REGION 4: SOUTHEAST

Temp. 53° (2° below avg.); precip. 1.5" (1.5" below avg.). 1–2 Sunny, cool. 3–7 Rainy periods, mild. 8–15 Scattered showers, cool. 16–19 Sunny, cold. 20–27 Showers, then sunny, warm. 28–30 Showers, cool.

#### REGION 5: FLORIDA

Temp. 67° (2° below avg.); precip. 0.5" (2" below avg.). 1–8 Scattered t-storms, cool. 9–15 Sunny; chilly, then warm. 16–19 Showers, then sunny, cool. 20–30 Sunny; warm, then cool.

#### REGION 6: LOWER LAKES

Temp. 41° (avg.); precip. 2" (0.5" below avg.). 1–2 Sunny, mild. 3–8 Rain to snow, turning cold. 9–11 Sunny. 12–15 Rain, then sunny, mild. 16–18 Snow squalls, cold. 19–26 Rainy periods, mild. 27–30 Lake snows, cold.



## WEATHER FORECASTS

### REGION 7: OHIO VALLEY

---

Temp. 47° (1° above avg.); precip. 2.5" (1" below avg.). 1–2 Sunny, mild. 3–6 Rainy, mild. 7–11 Rain to snow, then sunny, cold. 12–15 Showers, mild. 16–19 Snow showers, cold. 20–27 A few showers, mild. 28–30 Snow showers, cold.

### REGION 8: DEEP SOUTH

---

Temp. 55.5° (2° above avg. north, 1° below south); precip. 3" (2" below avg.). 1–7 Rainy periods, cool. 8–10 Sunny, cold. 11–18 Rain, then sunny, very cold. 19–24 Sunny, turning warm. 25–30 Showers, then sunny, cold.

### REGION 9: UPPER MIDWEST

---

Temp. 30° (1° above avg.); precip. 3" (1" above avg.). 1–4 Rainy periods, mild. 5–13 Snow showers; cold, then mild. 14–18 Snow, then flurries, cold. 19–23 Snow, then flurries, cold. 24–25 Rain and snow, mild. 26–30 Snowstorm, then flurries, cold.

### REGION 10: HEARTLAND

---

Temp. 45.5° (4° above avg. north, 1° above south); precip. 1.5" (1" below avg.). 1–7 Rainy periods, turning cool. 8–11 Sunny, mild. 12–17 Rain, then sunny, very cold. 18–26 Rain, then sunny, turning warm. 27–30 Sunny, cold.

### REGION 11: TEXAS–OKLAHOMA

---

Temp. 59° (2° above avg.); precip. 1.5" (1.5" below avg.). 1–5 Sunny, cool. 6–10 T-storms, then sunny, cool. 11–17 Sunny; warm, then cool. 18–20 Sunny, warm. 21–30 Showers, then sunny, warm.

### REGION 12: HIGH PLAINS

---

Temp. 40° (3° above avg.); precip. 1" (avg.). 1–7 Periods of rain and snow, turning cold. 8–10 Sunny, mild. 11–14 Periods of snow, cool. 15–20 Snow showers, cold. 21–30 Showers, then sunny, turning warm.



## WEATHER FORECASTS

### REGION 13: INTERMOUNTAIN

---

Temp. 43° (3° above avg.); precip. 2" (0.5" above avg.). 1–7 Showers, then sunny, cool. 8–12 Showers, mild. 13–16 Snow showers, cold. 17–21 Rain and snow north; sunny, mild south. 22–26 Periods of rain and snow, mild. 27–30 Rainy, mild north; snow south.

### REGION 14: DESERT SOUTHWEST

---

Temp. 56° (1° above avg. east, 1° below west); precip. 0.5" (0.5" below avg.). 1–5 Sunny, mild. 6–18 Sunny, cool. 19–23 Showers, warm. 24–30 Sunny, seasonable.

### REGION 15: PACIFIC NORTHWEST

---

Temp. 47° (avg.); precip. 8.5" (2" above avg.). 1–5 Rainy, mild. 6–7 Sunny. 8–14 Misty, turning cool. 15–19 Heavy rain. 20–22 Sunny, cool. 23–30 Rain, some heavy, turning mild.

### REGION 16: PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

---

Temp. 60° (2° above avg.); precip. 3.5" (2" above avg.). 1–4 Showers north, sunny south. 5–16 Sunny; warm, then seasonable. 17–22 Stormy, heavy rains. 23–30 Rainy periods, mild.

### REGION 17: ALASKA

---

Temp. 0° N, 34° S (2° below avg.); precip. 1.4" N, 4" S (1" above avg. N, 1" below S). 1–8 Clear, turning cold N; snow, then flurries, cold WC; flurries, mild EC; showers, mild S. 9–16 Snowstorm, then flurries N+C; snowy periods, cold S. 17–27 Snow, then flurries, cold. 28–30 Clear N+C, snowy S; cold.

**KEY:** central (C), east-central (EC), north (N), south (S), west-central (WC)

### REGION 18: HAWAII

---

Temp. 77.5° (avg.); precip. 7.5" (5" above avg.). 1–3 T-storms, cool. 4–8 Showers, warm. 9–12 Sunny, nice C; a few t-storms, cool E+W. 13–18 A few t-storms, turning cool. 19–22 A few showers, warm C; t-storms, turning warm E+W. 23–30 Rainy periods and heavy t-storms, seasonable.

**KEY:** central (C), east (E), west (W)



## CANADIAN FORECASTS NOVEMBER 2015

### REGION 1: ATLANTIC CANADA

---

Temp. 4°C (1° above avg.); precip. 135mm (50mm below avg. north, 60mm above south). 1–5 Sunny, turning mild. 6–10 Rain, heavy north, mild. 11–14 Showers, cool. 15–22 Heavy rain, then showers, mild. 23–27 Rain and snow showers. 28–30 Rain to snow, turning cold.

### REGION 2: SOUTHERN QUEBEC

---

Temp. 2°C (2°C above avg.); precip. 60mm (20mm below avg.). 1–3 Sunny, cool. 4–7 Rainy, mild. 8–13 Rain east, snow west, then sunny, turning mild. 14–17 Showers, mild. 18–21 Flurries, cold. 22–27 Snow to rain, then sunny, mild. 28–30 Snowstorm, cold.

### RÉGION 2: QUÉBEC DU SUD

---

Temp. 2°C (2°C au-dessus de la moy.); précip. 60mm (20mm en-dessous de la moy.). 1–3 Ensoleillé, froid. 4–7 Pluvieux, doux. 8–13 Pluie à l'est, neige à l'ouest, puis ensoleillé, avec radoucissement. 14–17 Averses, doux. 18–21 Rafales, froid. 22–27 Neige à pluie, puis ensoleillé, doux. 28–30 Tempête de neige, froid.

### REGION 3: SOUTHERN ONTARIO

---

Temp. 3°C (avg.); precip. 90mm (40mm above avg. east, 30mm below west). 1–2 Sunny. 3–6 Showers, mild east; snow west. 7–11 Snow showers, cold. 12–20 Rain to snow, then snow showers, cold. 21–27 Showers, mild east; periods of rain and snow elsewhere. 28–30 Snowy, cold.



## CANADIAN WEATHER FORECASTS

### REGION 4: THE PRAIRIES

---

Temp.  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  below avg.); precip. 25mm (5mm above avg.). 1–5 Sunny, mild. 6–17 Snow showers, cold. 18–22 Flurries; mild, then cold east; very cold west. 23–31 Snow, then flurries, very cold.

### REGION 5: SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

---

Temp.  $3^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  below avg. north, avg. south); precip. 170mm (20mm above avg.). 1–6 Rainy periods, mild. 7–8 Sunny, mild. 9–13 Snow showers north, showers south; mild. 14–23 Periods of rain and snow coast; snow, heavy at times, inland; cold. 24–30 Rainy, turning mild coast; snow showers, cold inland.

### REGION 6: YUKON

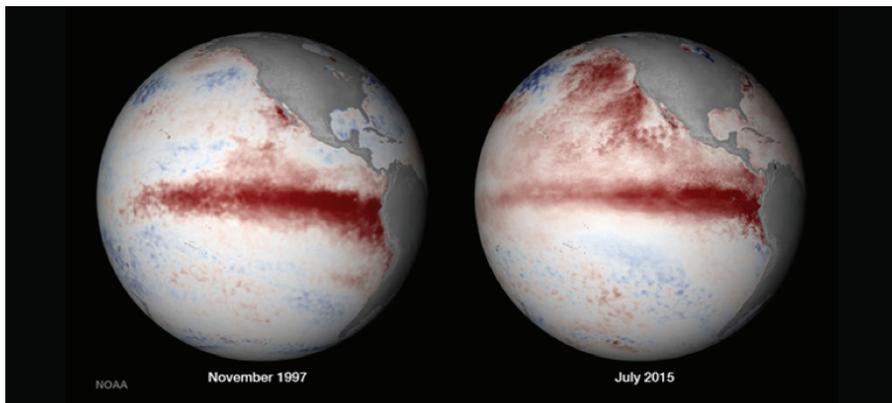
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Temp.  $-26^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $5^{\circ}\text{C}$  below avg.); precip. 25mm (avg.). 1–10 Flurries, mild. 11–21 Snow showers, cold. 22–30 Flurries, turning very cold.

### REGION 7: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

---

Temp.  $-19^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $3^{\circ}\text{C}$  below avg.); precip. 15mm (5mm below avg.). 1–9 Flurries; cold, then mild. 10–17 Snow showers, cold. 18–30 Flurries, frigid.



## EL NIÑO KNOCKOUT

It appears very likely that forecasts by NOAA of a strong El Niño this coming winter will be correct and, in fact, that we may have the strongest El Niño on record.

Although there are differences in the weather that El Niños bring, based upon their type and strength, the greatest variations from normal winter weather conditions typically include:

- above-normal temperatures across the northern states, with below-normal temperatures across much of the south
- above-normal precipitation in California, the Gulf states, and the Southeast
- above-normal snowfall across the southern Rockies and Sierra Nevada regions, with well below-normal snowfall in the Midwest and Great Lakes regions

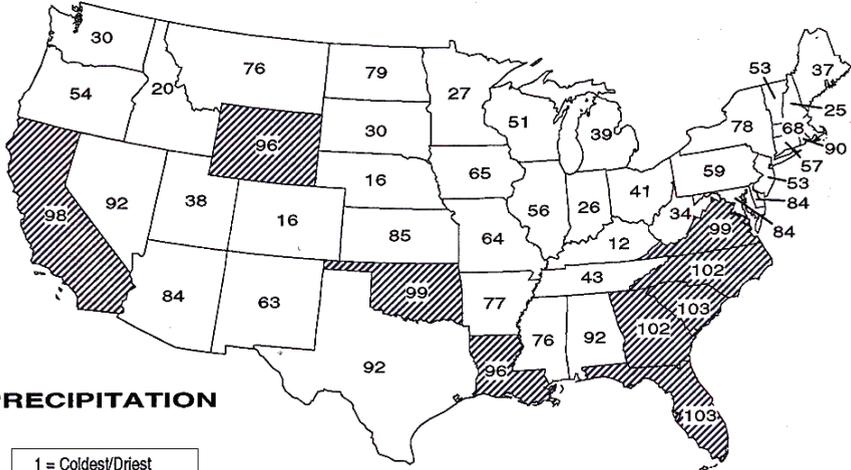
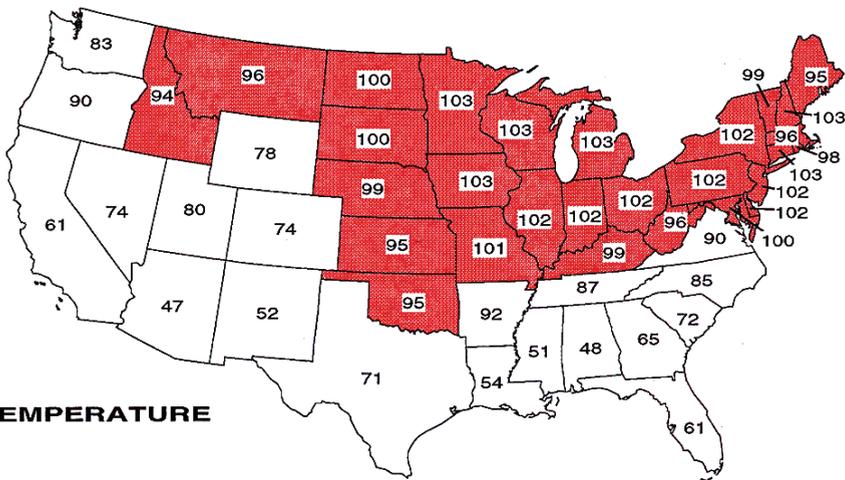
This was the case during the last strong El Niño, in the winter of 1997–98, as shown on the NOAA temperature and precipitation maps.

But, as you can see from the globes comparing Pacific Ocean water temperatures in 1997 and 2015, there are some major differences in the temperature structure across the Pacific. Both pictures show a large red band of very warm ocean temperatures from the central Pacific across to South America. Indeed, it is this warm water that defines an El Niño.



# WEATHER UPDATE

## DEC. 1997-FEB 1998 STATEWIDE RANKS





But the 1997 globe shows a blue “blob” of below-normal temperatures off the British Columbia coast, while in 2015 there are instead large red areas of above-normal temperatures dominating the northeastern Pacific.

**E**xactly what this means is not certain, and some believe that Northeast Pacific temperatures will trend to normal as we approach winter. But if these warm ocean temperatures continue, they are likely to significantly alter the effects of the coming winter’s El Niño.

Since this has never before happened (at least not since we have been measuring ocean temperatures), our forecast methodology of finding historical analogues does not help us to determine this winter’s weather. However, the physics and atmospheric dynamics effects that it could bring about suggest that while southern California will likely have above-normal rainfall in the coming winter season, central and northern California may have another year of below-normal rainfall.

Another consideration is a persistent area of cold water in the North Atlantic, probably caused by melting ice from Greenland. This is also likely to affect the global circulation, keeping the northeast states colder than normal this winter, despite the El Niño.

**S**o, based upon the El Niño, the “blob,” and the cold north Atlantic, what would we forecast differently this winter and where is our forecast most likely to be incorrect?

First, California is likely to be rainier than we forecast, especially in the south, although keep in mind that given the severity of the California drought, the area will need more than one wet winter to get back to normal.

Second, the north-central part of the United States will likely be milder than we forecast, with above-normal temperatures, on average, through the course of the winter.

Third, while we forecast that portions of the Southeast would be cooler and wetter than normal, we probably understated the geographic extent of these conditions.

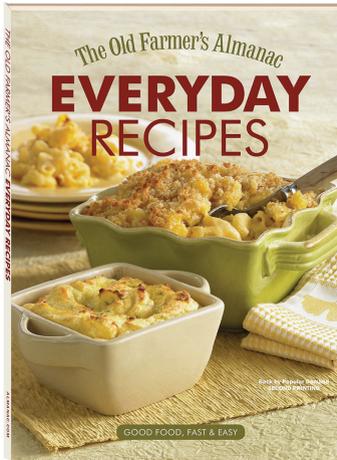
–*Michael Steinberg, Old Farmer’s Almanac meteorologist*

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Strata



Stuffed Red Peppers



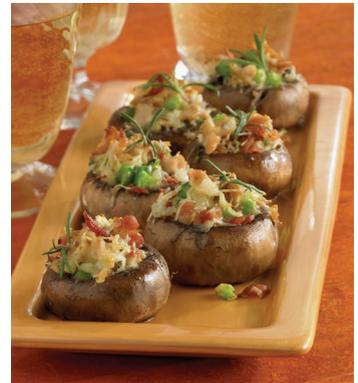
Peachy Almond Cake



Perfect Macaroni and Cheese



Mild and Meaty Lasagna



Clam-Stuffed Mushrooms

# WHAT'S NEXT



## LIVING NATURALLY

Kitchen Uses for Winter Ice and Snow



## CALENDAR

The Full Cold Moon  
• Kwanzaa history and traditions • an *Echo 1* anniversary • December wedding tips and folklore



## GARDENING

An Armchair Adventure— with the flowers of winter



## AMUSEMENT

Why is the Midwest Square?



## FOOD

Warning! It's Fruitcake Season!—with recipes



## WEATHER

“It Was So Cold That . . .”—when The Big Chill hits Canada, you don't want to be there

- PLUS:** Weather Update • U.S. and Canadian forecasts  
• Sky Map • Best Days to do things • Gardening by the Moon's Sign  
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