

# EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

MAKING A CASE FOR PLANTS

PERFECT PUMPKIN RECIPES

CALCULATING COUSINS

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF SEASONS



OCTOBER 2020

PHOTO: NESOLENAYA ALEXANDRA/SHUTTERSTOCK

## FEATURES

### GARDENING

Making a Case for Plants

### FOOD

Perfect Pumpkin Recipes

### GENEALOGY

Calculating Cousins

### LIVING NATURALLY

How to Make the Most of Seasons



### WEATHER FORECASTS

How We Make Our Predictions

October U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

## DEPARTMENTS

### CALENDAR

October Holidays, Fun Facts, and More

### ASTROLOGY

Best Days to Do Things

Gardening by the Moon's Sign

### ASTRONOMY

Sky Map for October

### WIT

Humor Me  
*Grins and groans from the Almanac*

### WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have in store for our November issue!



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# OCTOBER

*Holidays, Fun Facts, and More*

## HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

*Mid-Autumn Festival (China)*



**A**lso known as the Chinese Moon Festival, this holiday has been celebrated for at least 3,000 years and is said to be the second largest festival in China

after the Chinese New Year. Observed on the 15th day of the eighth month of the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, it can occur in either September or early

October in the Gregorian calendar; in 2020, it arrives on October 1.

This autumn festival falls during the full Moon nearest the fall equinox, which

is traditionally said to be the brightest and roundest. Local festivities might involve brightly colored lanterns, dances, games, and other entertainments. Families and friends celebrate into the

evening to give thanks for the harvest and for being together, offering each other wishes for happiness and long life and remembering loved ones who live far away. Celebrants may make offerings to the Moon goddess

Chang'e or share traditional mooncakes by moonlight. These round pastries, which symbolize the full Moon and reunion, are often filled with red bean or lotus seed paste surrounding a salted egg yolk in the center.

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- Oct. 5:** Child Health Day
- Oct. 9:** Leif Eriksson Day
- Oct. 12:** Columbus Day, observed
- Oct. 12:** Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Oct. 12:** Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
- Oct. 24:** United Nations Day
- Oct. 31:** Halloween

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

- Q:** What is a pumpkin's favorite sport?  
**A:** Squash



## EYE ON THE SKY

### MOON PHASES

- Full Harvest Moon:** Oct. 1, 5:05 P.M. EDT
- Last Quarter:** Oct. 9, 8:40 P.M. EDT
- New Moon:** Oct. 16, 3:31 P.M. EDT
- First Quarter:** Oct. 23, 9:23 A.M. EDT
- Full Hunter's Moon:** Oct. 31, 10:49 A.M. EDT



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT OCTOBER'S FULL MOON

New for 2021!

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## BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These October 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

Advertise to sell: 17, 18

Ask for a loan: 5, 14

Begin diet to lose weight: 5, 14

Begin diet to gain weight: 18, 27

Buy a home: 18, 27

Color hair: 3–5, 31

Cut hair to discourage growth: 3–5

Cut hair to encourage growth: 26, 27, 31

Get married: 15, 16

Have dental care: 13, 14

Move (house/household): 6, 7

Perm hair: 23–25

Quit smoking: 7, 26

Straighten hair: 19, 20



Travel for pleasure: 11, 12

Wean children: 7, 26

### **AROUND THE HOUSE**

---

Bake: 8, 9

Brew: 17, 18

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut:  
9, 10

Demolish: 17, 18

Dry fruit/vegetables/meat: 11, 12

End projects: 15

Lay shingles: 11, 12

Make jams/jellies: 26, 27

Paint: 15, 16

Start projects: 17

Wash floors: 26, 27

Wash windows: 1, 2, 28–30

### **OUTDOORS**

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Begin logging: 21, 22

Go camping: 19, 20

Go fishing: 1, 16–31

Set posts or pour concrete: 21, 22

### **IN THE GARDEN**

---

Destroy pests and weeds: 1, 2,  
28–30

Graft or pollinate: 8–10

Harvest aboveground crops: 21,  
22, 31

Harvest belowground crops: 4, 5

Mow to slow growth: 2, 11

Mow to promote growth: 17, 18

Pick fruit: 13, 14

Plant aboveground crops: 17, 18

Plant belowground crops: 8–10

Prune to discourage growth: 11, 12

Prune to encourage growth: 19, 20

### **ON THE FARM**

---

Breed animals: 17, 18

Castrate animals: 23–25

Cut hay: 1, 2, 28–30

Purchase animals: 8, 9

Set eggs: 5, 6

Slaughter livestock: 17, 18

Wean animals: 7, 26



## GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the October 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, Pisces, or Taurus

**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 OCTOBER

<b>1</b> Aries	<b>9</b> Cancer	<b>17</b> Scorpio	<b>25</b> Aquarius
<b>2</b> Aries	<b>10</b> Cancer	<b>18</b> Scorpio	<b>26</b> Pisces
<b>3</b> Taurus	<b>11</b> Leo	<b>19</b> Sagittarius	<b>27</b> Pisces
<b>4</b> Taurus	<b>12</b> Leo	<b>20</b> Sagittarius	<b>28</b> Aries
<b>5</b> Taurus	<b>13</b> Virgo	<b>21</b> Capricorn	<b>29</b> Aries
<b>6</b> Gemini	<b>14</b> Virgo	<b>22</b> Capricorn	<b>30</b> Aries
<b>7</b> Gemini	<b>15</b> Libra	<b>23</b> Aquarius	<b>31</b> Taurus
<b>8</b> Cancer	<b>16</b> Libra	<b>24</b> Aquarius	

TAP FOR  
MERCURY IN  
RETROGRADE  
DATES

TAP FOR  
OCTOBER  
MOON PHASES

## MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

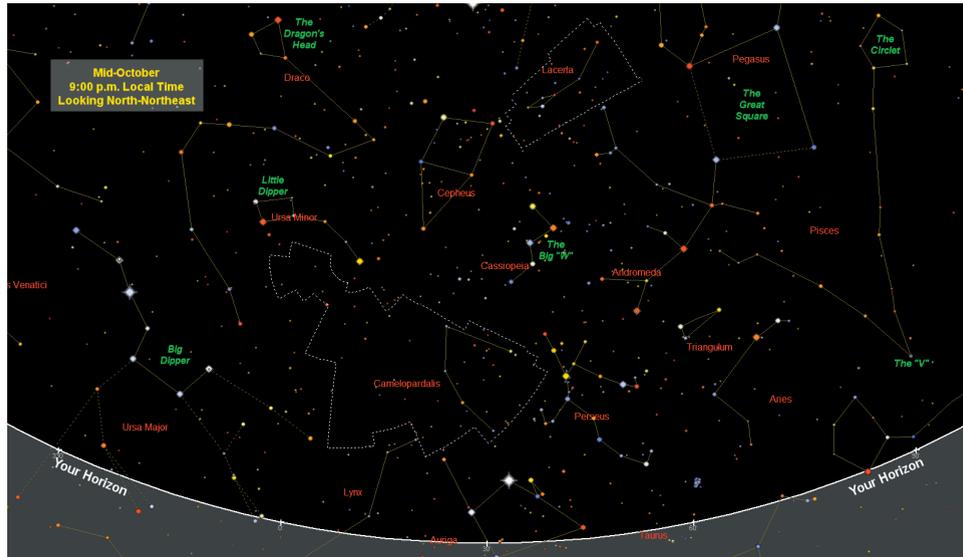
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion *retrograde motion*.

Mercury's retrograde periods can cause our plans to go awry. However, this is an excellent time to reflect on the past. Intuition is high during these periods, and coincidences can be extraordinary.

When Mercury is retrograde, remain flexible, allow extra time for travel, and avoid signing contracts. Review projects and plans at these times, but wait until Mercury is direct again to make any final decisions.

Mercury's remaining 2020 retrograde period: **Oct. 14–Nov. 3.**

—Celeste Longacre



## CONSTELLATIONS, THEN AND NOW

**A**s human beings, it is in our nature to seek order from chaos, to find patterns even where none exist. It's no surprise, then, that no matter how far back we look into recorded history, we find ancient peoples drawing sky maps and inventing names for what they observed.

Inevitably, ancient observers of the sky saw patterns in the stars—patterns that we now call “constellations.” Beginning at least 7,000 years ago, early astronomers were documenting mythological creatures, supernatural beings—even ordinary tools and weapons—all composed of stars. Over time, the names and even patterns of most constellations have changed as different cultures have applied their own mythology to the night sky. In fact, the 88 constellations that we recognize today were not agreed upon until the 20th century.

For most of recorded history, only the brightest or most distinctive star patterns were recognized as constellations. For millennia, some parts of the sky belonged to no constellation

TAP TO GET  
A PRINTABLE  
**OCTOBER**  
SKY MAP

TAP TO  
FOLLOW  
OHIOAN JEFF  
DETRAY'S SKY  
ADVENTURES



at all. This was still the case in the 2nd century when Greek-Roman astronomer Claudius Ptolemy produced one of history's most important scientific writings, the *Almagest*. This colossal work comprised 13 books, each devoted to a different aspect of astronomy. Books VII and VIII concerned the stars and identified 48 constellations.

Over the next many centuries, astronomers slowly invented additional constellations from stars that Ptolemy had failed to include in his original 48.

This month's sky map shows two of them. In 1612, Dutch astronomer Petrus Plancius created the constellation **Camelopardalis, the Giraffe**, from a jumble of faint stars between Ursa Major and Perseus. The constellation **Lacerta, the Lizard**, was invented in 1690 by Polish astronomer Johannes Hevelius from otherwise unassigned stars between Cepheus and Pegasus. A prolific constellation inventor, Hevelius created seven new constellations where none had existed before.

The star pattern of Camelopardalis looks nothing like its namesake, but the stars of Lacerta can at least be imagined as a reptile of some sort.

Throughout the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, new constellations were gradually invented to fill in those parts of the sky that had none. Occasionally, there were conflicts, such as when Edmund Halley (of Halley's Comet fame) proposed a new constellation to honor King Charles II of England. Other astronomers rejected the idea of naming constellations for contemporary persons, so Charles's constellation never came to be.

The haphazard nature of constellations was on the agenda of the newly formed International Astronomical Union (IAU) at its first General Assembly in 1922. The assembled delegates decided that the sky would be divided into exactly 88 constellations and that their boundaries would be drawn so that every part of the sky lay within a constellation. No more unassigned stars!

All but one of Ptolemy's ancient 48 constellations made the IAU's modern list of 88. Because every point on the sky must lie within a constellation, the boundaries of some constellations resemble a gerrymandered Congressional district. Note the very convoluted outline of Camelopardalis on our sky map. The 88 IAU constellations are still in use today.

The items highlighted in green on our sky map are known as "asterisms." These are distinctive (but unofficial) star patterns that lie within constellations. When getting your bearings under the stars, it's often easiest to first spot an asterism and then use it as a guide to finding the parent constellation.

—Jeff DeTray



# Making a Case for Plants

**A** London physician accidentally invented the first terrarium in the early 1800s. Dr. Nathaniel Ward placed a cocoon in a covered jar so that he could observe the emergence of a sphinx moth. In time, several plants sprang up from soil in the bottom of the jar, including a thriving fern. This surprised Ward because he had unsuccessfully tried to grow ferns in his yard and blamed the failure on polluted air from city smokestacks.

After his discovery, he constructed several fern containers, later to be called Wardian cases. These early terrariums quickly became popular, especially with the affluent, who had large, ornate cases made to display houseplants, miniature gardens, and woodland scenes.

A terrarium is a mini-

ecosystem that creates its own atmosphere and needs little from the outside except light. Moisture that condenses on the glass runs down to remoisten the soil. The glass protects the plants from insects and diseases as well as from the dry air associated with many homes.

Most houseplants are tropical and make ideal residents for a terrarium. Miniature ferns, peperomias, African violets, and some orchids are all good candidates. Many woodland plants and mosses are also right at home under glass.

You can use almost any clear glass container, such as an aquarium or big fish bowl, to construct a terrarium. Start by covering the bottom of the container with a 1-inch layer of pebbles or crushed stone. Add chunks of charcoal to the stone or cover it with a 1/8-inch-deep

layer of crushed charcoal to absorb odors. Next, add 2 to 3 inches of damp potting soil and firmly tamp. The soil can be molded into hills and valleys to add interest; add rocks and small logs for a natural-looking setting.

Once the terrarium is planted, cover its top with a pane of glass. If the sides fog up from excess humidity, leave the top open a crack so that some of the moisture evaporates from the container. A sealed terrarium will go for months, even years, without needing water.

Keep your terrarium out of direct sunlight to avoid overheating; fluorescent lighting is ideal. You will want to display your terrarium where it is sure to be noticed because it may just give the room—as well as your plants—a little atmosphere.

—George Lohmiller

**Most houseplants are tropical and make ideal residents for a terrarium.**



# Perfect Pumpkin Recipes

*It's that time of year when pumpkin seems to infiltrate the food world! Now you can add pumpkin to your recipes at home for a seasonal taste. For every menu from breakfast to snack time to dinner, here are some tasty recipes to try.*

# Southwestern Pumpkin Burgers

 TAP FOR  
RECIPE

## SOUTHWESTERN PUMPKIN BURGERS

- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/2 cup frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green bell pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 3/4 cup fine-curd cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup pumpkin purée
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh Italian parsley
- scant 1/2 teaspoon salt
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1-1/4 cups panko bread crumbs
- 1 cup shredded pepper jack or sharp cheddar cheese
- 6 hamburger buns, optional

Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a skillet over medium heat; add onions, corn, and bell peppers and cook for 5 minutes, or until soft. Add garlic, cumin, chili powder, and smoked paprika and cook for 30 seconds more, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.

In a bowl, combine cottage cheese, pumpkin, and egg yolk and mix with a wooden spoon. Add onion–corn–pepper mixture, parsley, salt, and black pepper. Stir and add bread crumbs and cheese. Stir until combined. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or overnight.

Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a nonstick skillet over medium heat. Shape pumpkin mixture into six patties. Place them in the skillet and cook, in batches, if necessary, for 3 minutes on each side, or until lightly browned, turning once. Serve with or without buns.

**Makes 6 servings.**

 SHARE  
THIS  
RECIPE

FOOD

# Pumpkin Pancakes

 TAP FOR  
RECIPE

## PUMPKIN PANCAKES

1-1/2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour  
2 tablespoons baking powder  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon ground allspice  
1 teaspoon salt  
1-1/2 cups evaporated milk  
1 cup pumpkin purée  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1/4 cup bacon drippings (liquid, but not hot)  
maple syrup, for serving

In a bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, brown sugar, cinnamon, allspice, and salt. Add milk, pumpkin, eggs, vanilla, and bacon drippings and stir until well combined.

Preheat greased griddle or skillet over moderate heat until drops of water scatter over surface. Using a 1/3 cup measure, pour batter onto griddle. Cook pancakes for 2 minutes on each side, or until golden and cooked through. Serve with maple syrup.

**Makes 4 servings.**

SHARE  
THIS  
RECIPE

FOOD

# Pumpkin Hummus

 TAP FOR RECIPE

PHOTO: ZI3000/SHUTTERSTOCK



SHARE  
THIS  
RECIPE

## PUMPKIN HUMMUS

- 8 cloves garlic
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1/4 cup tahini
- 2 tablespoons pumpkin oil or olive oil
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin purée
- 3 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon chipotle pepper (ground or flakes)
- pumpkin seeds, for garnish

Combine all of the ingredients (except garnish) in food processor and blend until smooth. Transfer to a bowl and cover. Refrigerate overnight.

Garnish with pumpkin seeds and drizzle with extra oil before serving. Serve with vegetables, crackers, or plain tortilla chips.

Makes about 1-1/2 cups.



# Calculating Cousins

*An occasional feature from our sister publication, Family Tree Magazine, a guide to finding and preserving family history.*

**W**hen it comes to cousins, the relationship possibilities are endless. Your number of grandparents doubles with each generation. Count back 10 generations, and that's 2,046 total ancestors, which means that the potential cousin population is exponential. You could have millions of them: fourth cousins, second cousins three times removed, tenth cousins twice removed—we could go on.

With DNA testing, Facebook, online family trees, and message boards that can connect you to new cousins every day, you're bound to become curious about exactly how you're related.

Here's how to determine the kind of cousins you are, based on degrees of separation from shared ancestors.

### **WHAT MAKES SOMEONE A COUSIN?**

Answer: The fact that you share an ancestor with that person. To understand cousin relationships, remember that your ancestors are only the people in your direct line: parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on. Your ancestors' siblings are aunts and uncles (no matter how many "greats" you count)—not ancestors.

Just about any other blood relative who is not your sibling, ancestor, aunt, or uncle is your cousin. To determine your degree of cousinhood—first, second, third, etc.—you need to identify the ancestor you share with your cousin and how many generations separate each of you from that ancestor.

### **FIRST COUSINS**

Your first cousin (aka full cousin) is the

child of your aunt or uncle. The most recent ancestor you and your first cousin share is your grandparent. You typically share 12.5 percent of your first cousin's DNA.

### **SECOND COUSINS**

Your second cousins are the children of your parents' first cousins. You and your second cousins have the same great-grandparents. You typically share 3.125 percent of your second cousin's DNA.

### **THIRD COUSINS**

Third cousins' most recent common ancestors are great-great-grandparents. You typically share .781 percent of your third cousin's DNA.

### **WHAT IS A "REMOVED" COUSIN?**

A "remove" happens when two cousins have different numbers of generations back to their most recent

## GENEALOGY

common ancestor. One generation of difference equals one remove. To calculate this, count the number of generations from each cousin back to the common ancestor. The cousin with the lower number of generations determines the degree of cousinhood—first, second, third and so on. Subtract the lower number of generations from the higher number to find out how many times removed the cousins are.

### DOUBLE COUSINS

This is a special cousin category for the offspring of brothers- and sisters-in-law. For example: Your sister weds your husband's brother. Instead of sharing one set of grandparents, as first cousins do, double

cousins share both sets of grandparents. As you might expect, double cousins have more DNA in common than typical first cousins—about 25 percent.

### KISSING COUSINS

A kissing cousin is not a cousin you marry. Instead, it's any distant relative whom you know well enough to give a "hello" kiss to at family gatherings.

This begs the question: How close a cousin is too close to wed? States have different laws governing consanguineous marriages. It's best to ask a lawyer about statutes for the state in question.

### WHO'S NOT A COUSIN?

Due to limited mobility

in our ancestors' day, most of us have instances in our family trees of cousins who married, knowingly or unknowingly. This means that you can be related to the same person in multiple ways. Someone you're related to by marriage, rather than by blood, is not your cousin. You might be in-laws, or your relationship might be "good friends." You can learn more about collateral degree calculation (aka family relationships) in Lois Horowitz's *Dozens of Cousins* (Ten Speed Press, 2004) or Jackie Smith Arnold's *Kinship: It's All Relative* (Genealogical Publishing Co., 2009).

—Diane Haddad



# AGE-OLD WISDOM

**Encourage pollinators** with companion planting

**Reduce pests and diseases** with crop rotation

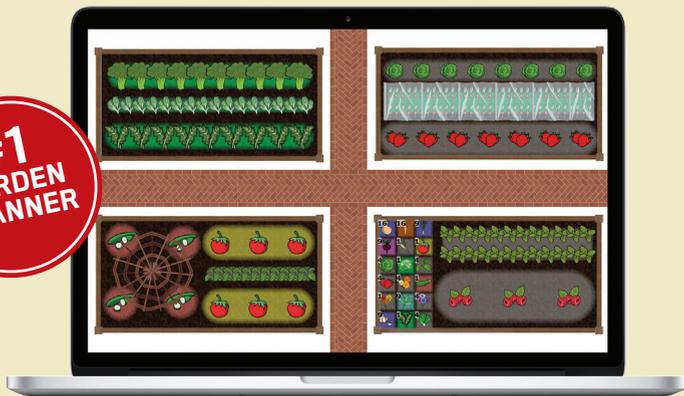
**Maximize harvests** with succession planting

**Learn more from your garden** with detailed records



# MODERN TOOLS

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GARDEN  
PLANNER**



The **Old Farmer's Almanac Garden Planner** makes planning a productive garden easy. Try the **Free 7-day Trial** with no credit card details required. Includes free online Garden Journal!

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LIVING NATURALLY



# How to Make the Most of Seasons

PHOTO: SKYNESHER/GETTY IMAGES

**E**very main season in my four-season climate contains many micro-seasons of varying length.

They arise and die continuously throughout the calendar year, sometimes overlapping, often coinciding, in some years never occurring at all. Late March and early April bring seed-starting season, dandelion season, and mud season. These ease gradually into the forsythia, volunteer-lettuce, and lilac seasons, and then on into the strawberries, peas, lamb's-quarters, and asparagus seasons, until we finally reach the August–September blowout: broccoli, green beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, summer squash, and corn seasons.

The annual sequence of food-producing, wild-plant collecting, and food preservation create many of my seasons, but there are others: For example, I observe pond seasons such as ice-out and pollywog seasons. I delight in the ephemeral seasons of

puffballs and slime molds. Each year brings a couple of hard-to-dry-clothes-indoors-or-out seasons, when the days are too short and cloudy for the laundry line and it's still too warm for the constant of radiant wood heat that dries them on indoor bars.

The visible and measurable changes in weather and hours of daylight precipitate psychological changes. Each season brings a different kind of awareness. The way the air feels on my skin, the angle of light striking my eyes as the Sun moves across the sky, and the sensations of the ground underfoot as I walk or kneel all affect my thinking, my hoping and dreaming, and the way I put words together and go about solving problems.

### **BEYOND SEASONAL EATING**

Many of us have embraced the idea of seasonal eating: Growing or buying locally grown food (as well as eating wild plants) throughout the growing

season gets you the most flavorful, nutritious foods; contributes to the local economy; may save money; contributes less carbon to the atmosphere; and certainly can introduce you to foods that you couldn't find in the supermarket.

### **BUT WHAT ABOUT LIVING SEASONALLY?**

By living seasonally, I mean fully inhabiting your natural environment and letting your environment inhabit you. You can live seasonally even in urban settings, even if you spend your working hours in an office cubicle without windows.

### **HOW TO DO IT**

• **Get out more**, and pay attention once you get out. Get curious about what's happening in the natural world. Notice what's new or changed since the last time you ventured out.

• **Make yourself go out in all kinds of weather.** (Okay, do avoid thunderstorms

and extreme weather.) As the need arises, get some serviceable rain gear, a wind-resistant jacket and pants, sweat-wicking shorts, T-shirts for summer, and thermal long johns for the colder months, plus hats, mittens, and treaded boots. If you live in snow country, put some lightweight snowshoes and trekking poles on your gift list. Add a bike (speedy for commuting or just an old beater for jaunting around) if you don't have one.

• **Buy or borrow wild and cultivated plant guides** and learn how to use the identifier keys that they contain. Look at the weeds that grow from cracks in the asphalt, along the roadsides, or along the woodland path. Identify the aromatic flowers and shrubs that grow in a neighbor's yard. Notice the insects that flutter around this or that plant. Friend or foe?

• If you're really adventurous, **get insect, bird, and other nature guides**, too. Identify which pollinator species is

buzzing around inside that squash blossom, or which mammal left that pile of scat at the edge of the field. What bird species made that perfect, tiny nest in the lilac bush outside the town library? What kinds of fallen leaves are these?

### THE BENEFITS OF SEASONAL LIVING

- If you get out more often to explore your surroundings, you'll get **more exercise**, always a good thing. Taking a lunchtime walk, even on an overcast day, does wonders for recharging your mental batteries and sharpening your mind, as well as burning a few calories.
- If you choose to learn more about the plants and animals that share the space around you, you'll **expand your knowledge**, maybe even your wisdom. Your interior world will become broader, deeper, more diverse.
- You may find **new friends** out exploring the same terrain. This, in turn, may lead to planning more extensive joint adventures. New

relationships formed around similar interests can increase your emotional well-being.

- As you notice and learn more about your local environment, you may start to care more about it and **understand how humans impact other living creatures**. People simply don't take care of what they don't know and embody.
- More seasons? More celebrations! To my way of looking at it, every season, particularly if it involves a lot of hard work, deserves a **holiday**. Depressingly long mud season? Plan a mudluck dessert social, where everybody brings their gooiest dark chocolate confection. Harvest season winding down? Time to celebrate with an evening of Halloween pumpkin carving. You get the idea.

Go ahead. Name your private seasons—and celebrate one today!

—Margaret Boyles



TAP TO READ MORE OF MARGARET BOYLES'S POSTS IN HER "LIVING NATURALLY" BLOG



FOR EVERY FOG IN OCTOBER, A SNOW IN WINTER.

# 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. 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.

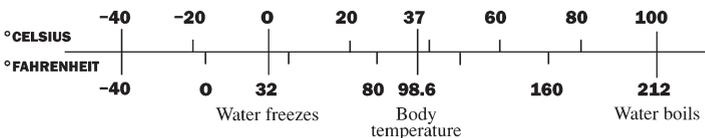


TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

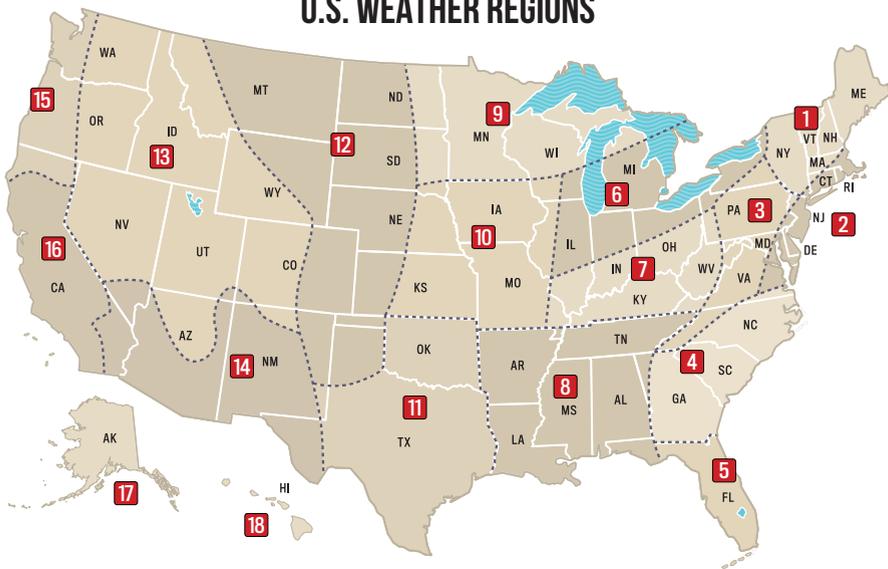
## CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



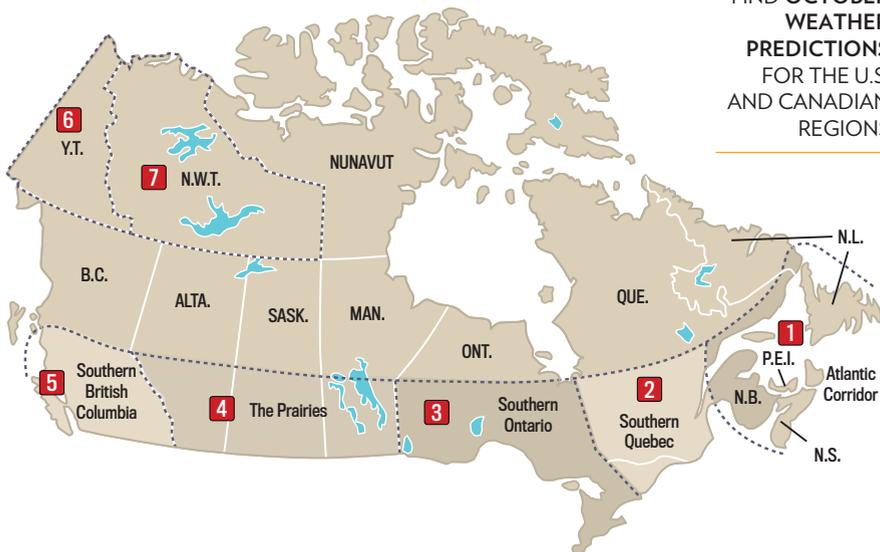


# WEATHER FORECASTS

## U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



## CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



CLICK HERE TO  
FIND OCTOBER  
WEATHER  
PREDICTIONS  
FOR THE U.S.  
AND CANADIAN  
REGIONS





## TIME TO GO DRIP-OR-TREATING

I'm sending a special shout-out on October 5, World Teachers' Day, to Jim Witt, my high school earth science teacher, who got me started in meteorology and long-range forecasting. This will be a good day for taking a long weekend and playing hooky in western states and provinces, with sunshine for most of us. In the east, rainy periods will likely keep most of us indoors.

Folks in Canada can give thanks for umbrellas on October 12's Canadian Thanksgiving, as showers and cool temperatures will predominate across the Commonwealth. In the States, a tropical rainstorm will dampen the Northeast, while most other parts of the nation will have dry weather.

The weather on October 17, National Pasta Day, will not bring a chance of meatballs, but rain will grate on some in the northwest quarter of the United States and eastern third of Canada.



There's a 63.2% chance of a tropical storm threat in the southeastern states on October 20, World Statistics Day, with a 71.3% chance of snow showers in the Intermountain region and Alaska and an 81.2% chance of rain in the Pacific states. The chances for rain are only 12.7% elsewhere, although 78.2% of Canada will have at least the possibility of a shower. The Prairies will even have a 40.7% chance of snow.

October 31 brings Halloween, the only day of the year in which I look normal. The weather will be a treat across most of the United States, with dry weather and mild temperatures predominating. While the Prairies should be dry, most of Canada will have trickier weather, with showers across the south and snowy periods farther north.

Overall, October will bring milder-than-normal temperatures nearly everywhere—and much warmer than normal in the eastern two-thirds of the United States. As the leaves begin turning color and floating to the ground, above-normal rainfall will spread from the Deep South and Southeast northeastward to New England and from central California northward through the Pacific Northwest. Most other areas will be dry or nearly so.

**A**s for the upcoming winter, we will be entering Solar Cycle 25, which is expected to bring very low solar activity. Although low levels of solar activity have historically been associated with cooler temperatures, on average, across Earth, we believe that recent warming trends will dominate in the eastern and northern parts of the United States in the coming winter, with below-normal average temperatures limited to the western portion of the nation. Temperatures will average above normal in most of Canada, except for Atlantic Canada and the Prairies, where below-normal readings are expected.

As we move toward the winter, watch for any changes in the ENSO pattern (the El Niño–Southern Oscillation, which is based on temperatures in the Pacific Ocean), where we expect a weak La Niña to develop. If La Niña were to be stronger, colder temperatures would likely prevail across the northern Plains and southern Ontario. If instead we have more neutral conditions or an El Niño, California would experience heavier rainfall while the Canadian Prairies would have milder temperatures.

—*Michael Steinberg, Old Farmer's Almanac meteorologist*



# HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



## A FALLING OUT

“What became of that young fellow who got a job as a helper to an aviator?”

“He lost the job.”

“Proved incompetent, eh?”

“Nope. He and his boss fell out over something.”

## GROWING SEASON

When James A. Garfield was president of Oberlin College, a man brought for



admission his student son, for whom he wished a shorter course than the regular one.

“The boy can never take all that in,” said the father. “He wants to get through quicker. Can you arrange it for him?”

“Oh, yes,” said Mr. Garfield. “He can take a short course; it all depends on what you want to make of him. When God wants to make a great oak, He takes 100 years, but He takes only 2 months for a squash.”

## DEVOTIONAL STATE OF MIND

As the new minister in the village was on his way to the evening service, he met a young man whom he was anxious to have

become an active member of the church.

“Good evening, my young friend,” he said solemnly. “Do you ever attend a place of worship?”

“Yes, indeed, sir,” replied the young man with a smile, “every Sunday night. In fact, I’m on my way to see her now.”

## OVERBOARD

An enthusiastic citizen, about to visit Europe, was rejoicing over the fact and the pleasures to come.

“How delightful it will be,” he said to his wife, “to tread the bounding billow and inhale the invigorating oxygen of the sea, the boundless sea! I long to see it! To breathe in great drafts of life-giving air. I shall

want to stand every moment on the prow of the steamer with my mouth open—”

“You probably will, dear,” interrupted his wife.

## POETICAL BOOTBLACK

A passerby one day was impressed by a verse crudely printed on a sign hung in front of a shoeshine parlor. It read thus:

*When the clouds seem  
all around you,*

*When there’s nothing  
to relieve*

*The darkness of your  
prospects,*

*And no light you can  
perceive,*

*Just keep smiling,  
smiling, smiling,*

*No matter what  
betide,*

*And don’t forget to  
keep it up,*

*And SHINE INSIDE.*

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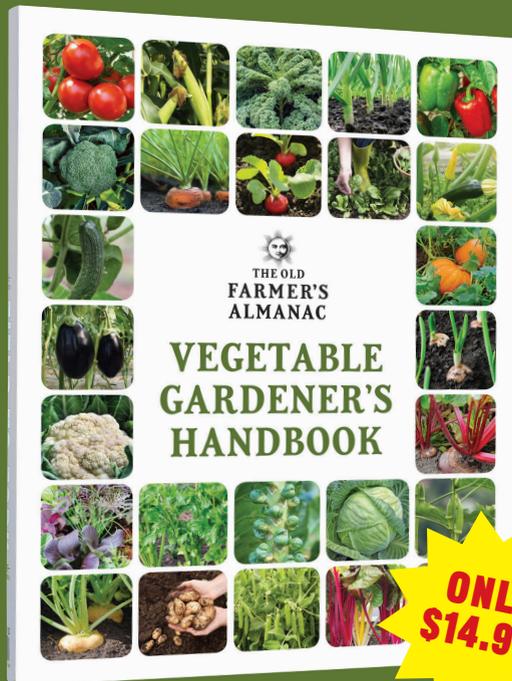
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# WHAT'S NEXT



## LIVING NATURALLY

When It's All About the Food



## CALENDAR

Moon phases, November holidays, India's Diwali festival, Joke of the Month



## ASTRONOMY

Explore with our Sky Map



## ANNIVERSARY

What Ever Happened to the Pilgrims?



## FOOD

Crave-Worthy Cranberry Recipes



## HUSBANDRY

Teach Your Chicken to Come When Called

Plus: Weather Update • U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts • Gardening by the Moon's Sign • Best Days to Do Things • Humor • and much more in the November *EXTRA!*

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