

EXTRA!

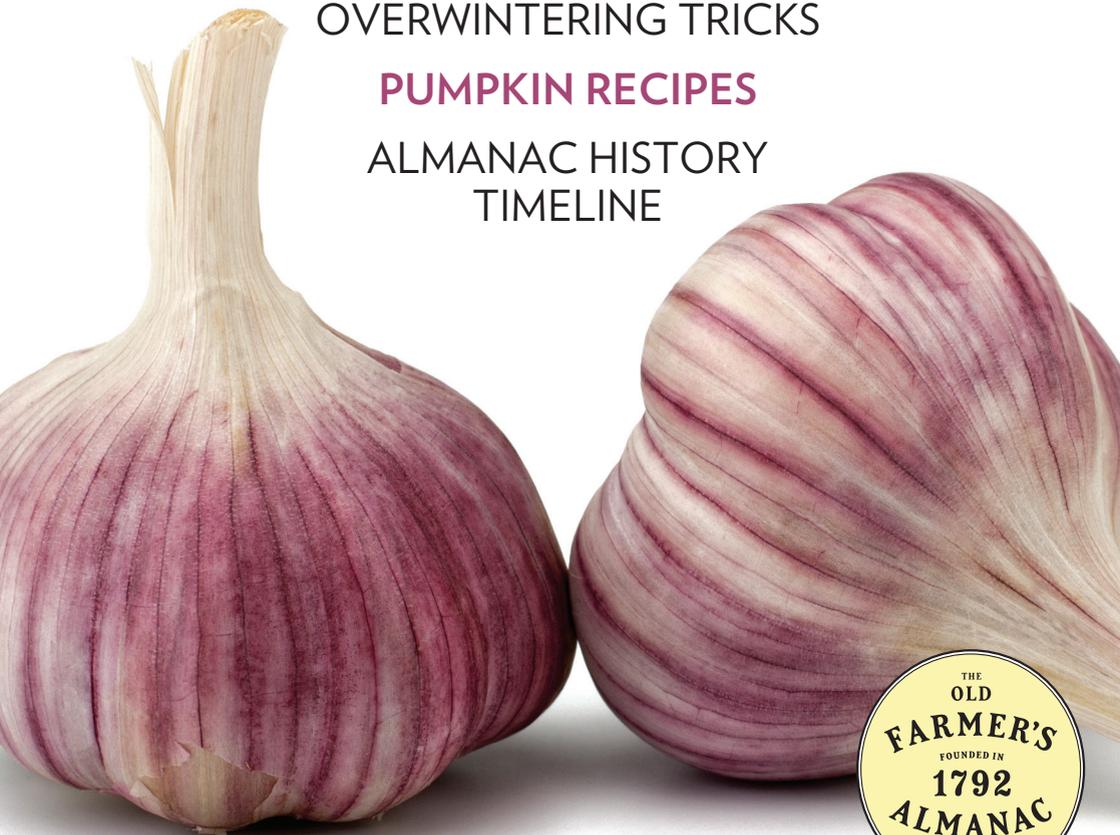
FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

GARLIC'S HISTORY OF HEALING

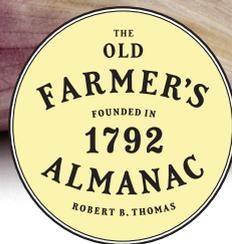
OVERWINTERING TRICKS

PUMPKIN RECIPES

ALMANAC HISTORY
TIMELINE



OCTOBER 2016





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Garlic's History of Healing

GARDENING

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How We Make Our Predictions

October U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

WIT

Humor Me
Grins and groans from the Almanac

ASTRONOMY

Sky Map for October
Visually navigate the night sky from your own backyard.

WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have in store for our November issue!

DEPARTMENTS

CALENDAR

Moon View, This Month in History, Calendar Q&A

ASTROLOGY

Best Days to Do Things
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HOT PRODUCTS

Cool Fall Finds!



THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

HOLIDAYS, HISTORY, AND FOLKLORE



MOON VIEW

October's full Moon, the **Full Hunter's Moon**, occurs on the 16th, at 12:24 A.M. EDT.

 TAP FOR MORE MOON PHASES

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT THE FULL HUNTER'S MOON



OCTOBER'S ZODIAC SIGNS

Libra: September 23–October 22

Scorpio: October 23–November 22

SAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Science provides an understanding of a universal experience.
Arts provide a universal understanding of a personal experience.

–Mae Jemison,
American astronaut
(b. October 17, 1956)



FOLKLORE FUN

*Good October, a good blast,
To blow the hog acorn and mast
[tree fruit upon which wild
animals feed].*



OCTOBER'S BIRTH FLOWER:

Cosmos or Calendula/Marigold

- Cosmos is a symbol of joy in life and love and of peace.
- The calendula (aka garden, English, or pot marigold) represents winning grace, grief, or chagrin in the language of flowers.

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



OCTOBER 5: WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

On this day in 1786, it began to rain in the Susquehanna River valley of Pennsylvania. It had been a wet autumn, and this most recent rain caused severe flooding. Crops were washed away downstream, including hundreds of floating pumpkins, which is how the disaster got its name of the “Pumpkin Flood.”

Col. John Franklin wrote: “The small streams became mighty rivers. The mills are mostly swept off, and one-half of all kind of food for man and beast is forever lost. . . . You may see stones, from 3 pounds to 3 tons weight, drove to a great distance and hove up in heaps.”

Fences, barns, homes, and outhouses were swept away. Canoers rescued survivors clinging to trees or taking refuge in second stories of flooded homes. Several people and much livestock drowned during the flood, and many cattle died the following winter due to the loss of feed.

OCTOBER 4: MONUMENTAL ENDEAVOR

On this day in 1927, master sculptor Gutzon Borglum and his team officially began to carve Mount Rushmore, using pneumatic hammers, drills, and chisels, and blasting into the granite with dynamite.

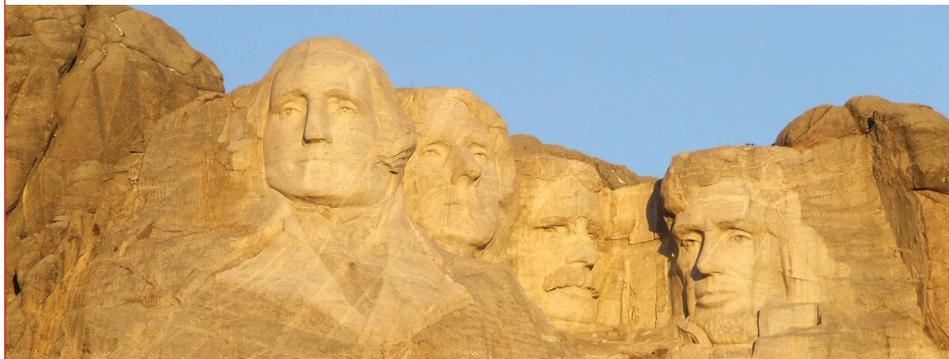
In 1924, South Dakota state historian Doane Robinson had asked Borglum if he would be interested in carving notable figures of western American history into the Black Hills for a monument to encourage tourism. Borglum agreed, but changed the focus to U.S. presidents as a way to celebrate all of America. He selected four: George Washington, to represent the birth

of the United States; Thomas Jefferson, to symbolize the nation's expansion (think Louisiana Purchase); Abraham Lincoln, to signify the preservation of the nation (during Civil War times); and Theodore Roosevelt, to denote the nation's development (including the construction of the Panama Canal).

For his work, Borglum chose a wall of exposed granite on the southeastern face of a mountain named for New York lawyer Charles E. Rushmore. Nearly 400 workers would contribute over the years, removing over 450,000 tons of rock to form the four 60-foot-tall heads. Washington's carving was dedicated on July 4, 1930; Jefferson's, on August 30, 1936; Lincoln's, on September 17, 1937; and Roosevelt's, on July 2, 1939.

Borglum passed away on March 6, 1941, whereupon his son, Lincoln, took over. On October 31, 1941, after 14 years of hard work, the massive project came to a close.

+ TAP FOR MOUNT RUSHMORE TRIVIA



MOUNT RUSHMORE TRIVIA

- Just before winter each year, the National Park Service staff inspects cracks and fissures in the rock of Mt. Rushmore's monument and caulks them if necessary, using a silicone sealant.
- The heads of the monument are expected to erode about 1 inch every 10,000 years.



CALENDAR Q&A



Q: In Latin, *octo* means eight. So, why is October the name of the 10th month?

A: The Gregorian calendar, which many of us use today, has ties to the early Roman lunar calendar, thought to have been introduced by Rome's legendary first king, Romulus, around 753 B.C. This ancient timekeeping system contained only 10 months: Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Iunius, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October (the eighth month), November, and December. Martius, Maius, Quintilis, and October contained 31 days, while the other months had 30, for a total of 304 days. In winter, the days were not counted for two lunar cycles.

It wasn't until about 713 B.C. that a calendar reform, attributed to the second Roman king, Numa Pompilius, added the months Ianuarius and Februarius. Some historians think that both months were placed at the end of the year, while others believe that Ianuarius became the first month and Februarius the last. Later reforms organized the months as they are arranged today in the Gregorian calendar, whereby October became the 10th month in spite of its name.



BEST DAYS

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

Begin diet to lose weight: 17, 21, 26
 Begin diet to gain weight: 4, 13
 Cut hair to encourage growth: 2, 12, 13
 Cut hair to discourage growth: 27–29
 Have dental care: 25, 26
 Quit smoking: 17, 21, 26
 Wean children: 17, 21, 26

AROUND THE HOUSE

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 21, 22
 End projects: 30
 Start projects: 2

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 8, 9
 Go camping: 5–7
 Go fishing: 1–16, 30, 31
 Set posts or pour concrete: 8, 9

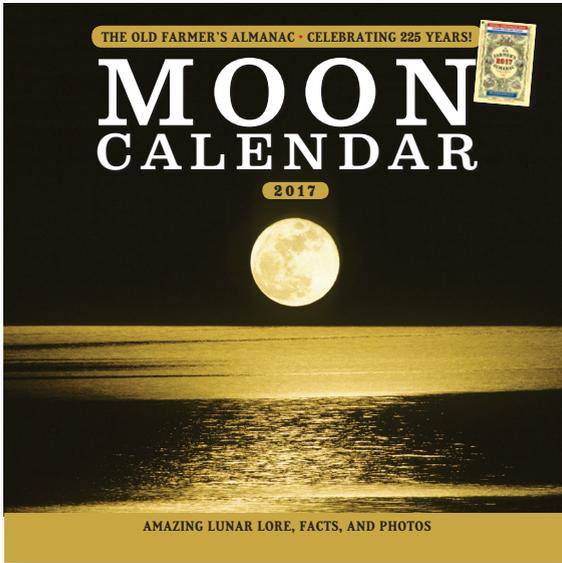
IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 14, 15
 Graft or pollinate: 21, 22
 Prune to encourage growth: 5–7
 Prune to discourage growth: 23, 24
 Plant aboveground crops: 3, 4, 12, 13
 Plant belowground crops: 21, 22
 Harvest aboveground crops: 8, 9
 Harvest belowground crops: 25, 26

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 3, 4, 30, 31
 Castrate animals: 10, 11
 Cut hay: 14, 15
 Set eggs: 9, 10, 19, 20
 Slaughter livestock: 3, 4, 30, 31
 Wean animals: 17, 21, 26

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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, 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 OCTOBER

1 Libra

2 Libra

3 Scorpio

4 Scorpio

5 Sagittarius

6 Sagittarius

7 Sagittarius

8 Capricorn

9 Capricorn

10 Aquarius

11 Aquarius

12 Pisces

13 Pisces

14 Aries

15 Aries

16 Taurus

17 Taurus

18 Gemini

19 Gemini

20 Gemini

21 Cancer

22 Cancer

23 Leo

24 Leo

25 Virgo

26 Virgo

27 Libra

28 Libra

29 Libra

30 Scorpio

31 Scorpio



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



APP EXTRA!
TAP FOR
OCTOBER
MOON PHASES

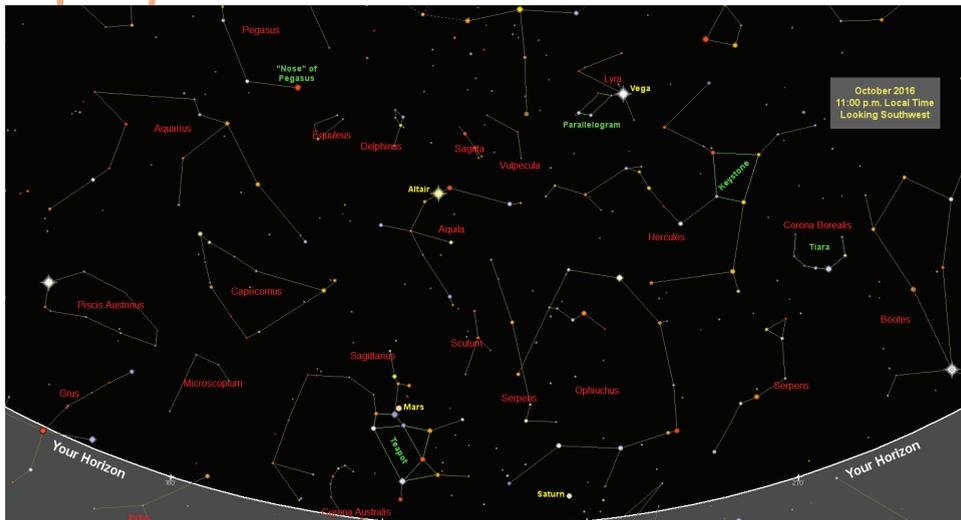
MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

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 is retrograde from August 30–September 22, 2016, and December 19, 2016–January 9, 2017.**

–*Celeste Longacre*



FOUR IN A ROW

When you look to the southwest in October, the bright star Altair in the constellation Aquila the Eagle shines front-and-center. Only 11 stars in the whole sky are brighter than Altair. One of the reasons that Altair is so bright is that it is relatively close to Earth, less than 17 light-years away. That’s still a fantastically great distance, but Altair is closer than most stars we can see with our unaided, or “naked,” eyes.

Altair is a handy signpost that guides us to four small constellations that most sky watchers never notice. They are lined up in a neat row just above Altair. All four are notably lacking in bright stars and are best seen during the

first and last weeks of October, when the Moon is near first or last quarter.

EQUULEUS: Starting from the left, we have Equuleus, the Little Horse (or Foal), the second smallest of all constellations. Equuleus is an example of a constellation that bears little resemblance to its namesake. It earned its name solely by virtue of its location near the nose of Pegasus the Winged Horse.

DELPHINUS: For a constellation that does look like it namesake, look no farther than Delphinus the Dolphin. To my eye, Delphinus most certainly resembles a dolphin leaping upward from the celestial sea.



SAGITTA: Next in line is another easily recognized figure. It's Sagitta the Arrow, the weapon which, in Greek mythology, was used by Hercules to slay Aquila the Eagle. Strangely, Sagitta appears to be flying away from Aquila rather than toward him. We must allow the ancient Greeks a bit of poetic license!

These first three little constellations were envisioned by star gazers thousands of years ago and appear in the list of 48 constellations compiled by the astronomer Ptolemy in the 2nd century. In contrast, Vulpecula the Fox is a more modern invention.

VULPECULA: Astronomer Johannes Hevelius published his own list of constellations in 1687. He included the 48 constellations from Ptolemy's list but added a few of his own. One of the additions was Vulpecula the Fox, apparently invented to "use up" a few stray stars not otherwise assigned to other constellations.

AND FOUR MORE

On nights when moonlight prevents you from seeing the four dim constellations above Altair, there are other, more conspicuous shapes in the October sky.

VEGA: Above and to the right of Altair sits Vega, fifth brightest of all stars and part of the constellation Lyra the Lyre. Note the lovely Parallelogram asterism (unofficial star pattern) that comprises the main body of the Lyre.

HERCULES: To the right and slightly below Lyra is the Keystone asterism in Hercules, a sprawling constellation representing the Greek hero. The stars of Hercules are difficult to envision as a human figure, but the Keystone stands out clearly.

CORONA BOREALIS: Farther to the right lies Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. On a dark night, the tiara shape of this constellation forms a near-perfect semicircle.

THE TEAPOT: If your horizon is clear of trees, buildings, and man-made light, you may be able to see the Teapot asterism in Sagittarius the Archer. At this time of year, the Teapot is tipped as if pouring out its contents. The planet Mars glows near the Teapot's handle.

Enjoy the crisp, clear nights of October and try to glimpse the four little constellations that dwell above Altair!

—Jeff DeTray



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LIVING NATURALLY

Garlic's History of Healing



LIVING NATURALLY



I grow lots of garlic and look forward to my mid-October garlic-planting ritual, when the weather is usually still warm enough to work without hat and gloves, the biting insects have disappeared, and there's not much other outside work to do.

I save the best bulbs from the season's garlic crop (harvested in July), separate them into cloves, plant each clove 2 inches down and 4 to 5 inches apart, then cover with a few inches of straw or leaf mulch. That's it! The sprightly garlic shoots emerge as the first early-spring greenery.



Across many centuries and cultures, people have valued garlic for its health-promoting properties.

LIVING NATURALLY

GARLIC'S LONG HISTORY OF HELP AND HEALING

Historical records from India and Egypt referring to garlic date back 5,000 years, ranking garlic as one of the world's oldest horticultural crops. It's easy to grow and harvest, and many varieties will store well for long periods.

A wide variety of folkloric and traditional uses for “the stinking rose” have appeared throughout history: The ancients variously recommended garlic as an aphrodisiac and male potency enhancer; as a charm to ward off devils, werewolves, and vampires; as an adhesive for mending glass and porcelain; as a mordant for gilding; as a food for slaves and laborers to promote strength and physical endurance and for soldiers to promote battlefield courage; and as an insect, squirrel, and mole deterrent.

But across many centuries and cultures, people have valued garlic for its health-promoting properties as a preventative or cure for conditions as varied as arthritis, asthma, diabetes,



Garlic is inexpensive and safe, and it grows just about everywhere.

athlete's foot, colds, influenza, intestinal worms, ulcers, bronchitis, many forms of cancer, dandruff, arteriosclerosis, skin infections, cholera, constipation, epilepsy, gangrene, ear infections,

 TAP FOR MORE ON GARLIC

high blood pressure, laryngitis, heavy-metal poisoning, leprosy, malaria, measles, meningitis, hemorrhoids,

ringworm, scurvy, food poisoning, smallpox, snakebite, tuberculosis, and typhoid.

Contemporary research has validated some of these claims and questioned others, although many scientists around the world continue to study garlic's healing potential.

And why not? It's inexpensive, safe, and readily available, with thousands of years of cross-cultural use as a

primary natural healing agent—and it grows just about everywhere.

JUST EAT IT!

With so many delicious ways to use garlic in your daily diet, don't wait for science to confirm its usefulness in treating this or that disease. Serve it often because you love the taste. Mince it into salad dressings; add it to casseroles, soups, and stews; give your pizzas a

LIVING NATURALLY

garlic topping.

If you can't tolerate the flavor of raw or lightly cooked garlic, try roasted garlic for an ambrosial treat. The sharp flavor mellows, and the flesh becomes soft and easy to spread or blend into dips, soups, casseroles, or sandwich fillings.

Caution: To prevent the growth of deadly botulinum bacteria, don't infuse raw garlic in olive oil or any other salad or cooking oil, unless you plan to use it right away. You can safely infuse raw garlic in vinegar, because the acid in the vinegar prevents the botulinum bacteria from growing.

Many Web articles tout garlic-containing products as insecticides, insect repellents, and mole-control agents, but studies show that these products aren't really effective. Some agricultural experts do suggest that sprinkling a mixture of granulated garlic and cayenne pepper into the planting hole will prevent squirrels from demolishing your fall-planted tulip bulbs.

—Margaret Boyles

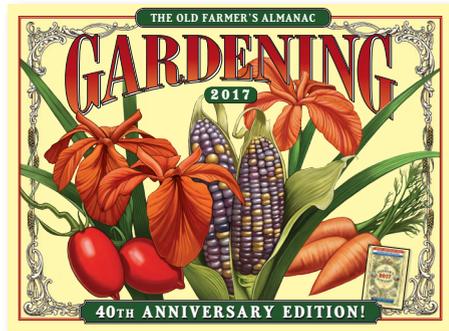
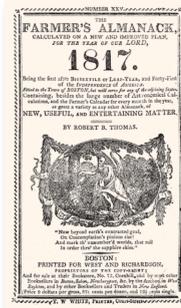
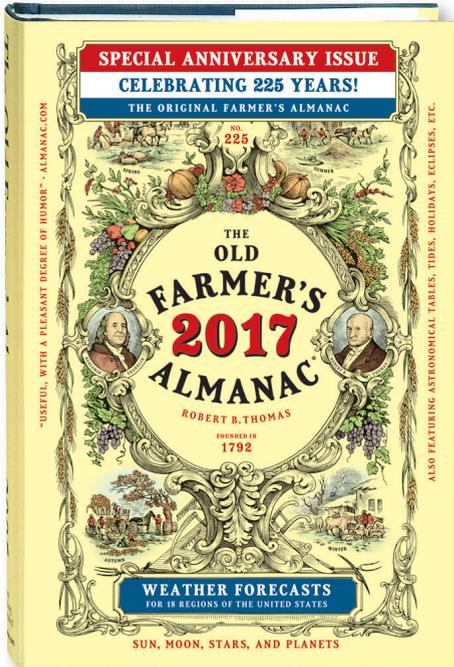


*If you can't tolerate
the flavor of raw
or lightly cooked garlic,
try roasted garlic.*



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

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GARDENING

OVERWINTERING TRICKS

Here are some ways to help garden and landscape plants survive the winter in northern regions.



GARDENING

GUARD THE GERANIUMS

Before the first frost, cut plants back to about 6 to 8 inches. Then lift the plants and cut back the roots. Put the trimmed plants in the smallest pots possible—containers just large enough to fit the roots. Fill the remaining space in the pot with regular potting soil. Keep the plants in the shade for a week and then place them in a sunny spot indoors. When new growth starts, cut off all the old leaves.



RESCUE THE ROSEMARY

This culinary herb prefers life in a pot and can successfully survive as a houseplant from year to year.

Before a frost in the fall, dig it up, plant it in a pot, and bring it indoors. Place it in a sunny window and keep it evenly watered. Mist the leaves frequently or place the entire plant in the shower and give it a good rinse once a month. The plant may start to look a little tired by March, but it will perk up once you return it to the garden. Dig a hole in the late spring, after all danger of frost has passed, and set the plant back into the soil.

GARDENING



PROTECT THE ROSES

Roses need thick insulation to help them stay dormant. For those that are grafted, such as hybrid teas, make sure that their graft unions are covered with soil to insulate them from low temperatures. After a freeze or two, mound 12 inches of soil around the base of the rosebush.

Nongrafted roses, such as rugosas and antiques, don't need much protection. Just mulch the ground around them with a couple of inches of straw or shredded leaves.

All climbing roses need to be protected. Pull down the canes, lay them on the ground, and cover them with at least 6 inches of soil. Mound soil around the plant base, too. If your winter temperatures go below -10°F , leave canes in place and insulate them with a thick covering of straw wrapped with burlap or old sheets.



BLANKET THE FLOWER BED

To encourage your perennials to go dormant and stay that way through the inevitable freezing and thawing cycles of winter, apply a heavy mulch of straw, leaves, or other organic matter after the first several hard frosts. If you mulch the ground too early in the fall, rodents may find the cozy layer impossible to resist and the mulch may also delay the ground from freezing solid.

GARDENING

LIFT AND STORE

Many tropical plants grow from underground bulbs, corms, or tubers, including caladium, calla lily, canna, dahlia, ginger, and tuberous begonia. These plants are easy to overwinter. When nights drop into the low 40s or high 30s F, the leaves of plants will brown and begin to die. This is your cue to dig, or lift, them up. (You can wait until after a killing frost to dig dahlias and cannas.) Remove the dirt from the swollen portions of the roots and set them on newspapers in a shaded area or the garage to cure for a couple of days. Cut off the top growth and pack the bulbs, corms, and tubers in a box filled with dry peat moss or vermiculite. Store in a dark area where the temperature is between 35° and 50°F. When spring arrives, plant again for another year of enjoyment. Bulbous tropicals will increase their numbers and produce bigger bulbs, corms, and tubers when they are saved from year to year in this manner.

—Doreen Howard

 TAP FOR TIPS FOR EXTRA-HARDY TROPICAL OPTIONS



SHELTER THE TREES

Protect a small tree or shrub from extreme cold and the uneven temperatures of freezing and thawing by surrounding it with a cylinder of snow fencing or chicken wire. Fill the space between the tree and the fencing with straw or leaves for insulation.

To shield a dwarf or young evergreen from winter damage, drive stakes into the ground at four corners around the plant. Wrap burlap or heavy black plastic around the stakes and secure it at the top, bottom, and center with stout twine.



EXTRA-HARDY TROPICAL OPTIONS

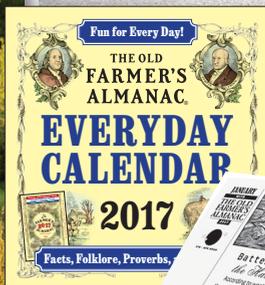
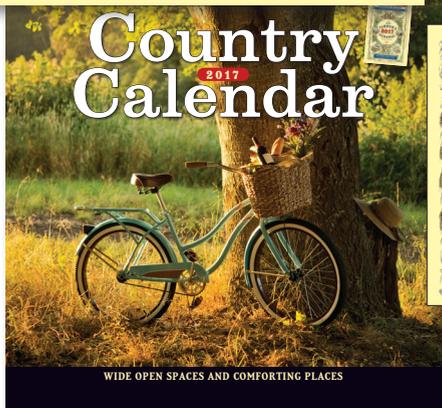
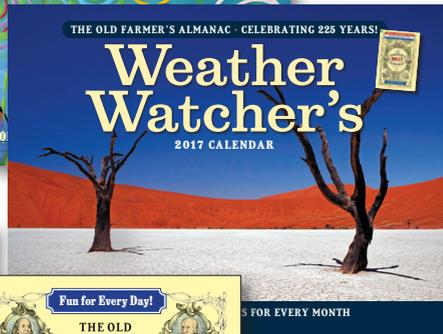
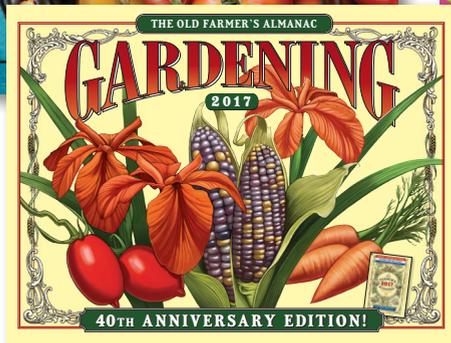
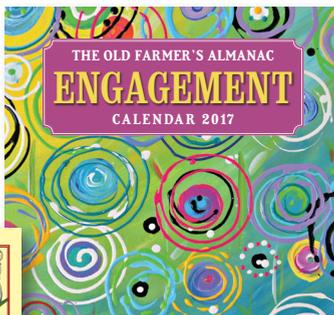
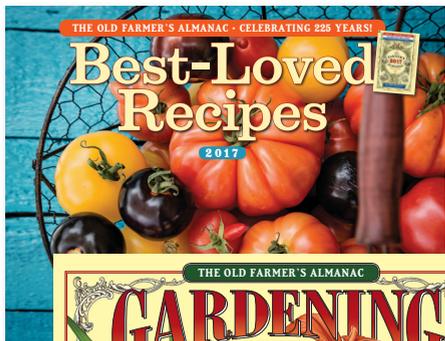
These plants can take colder temperatures than others in their class. The temperature given is what the plant can survive without protection. You can gain another 5 to 10 degrees of cold tolerance if you mulch heavily, plant in a sheltered area, and wrap plants.

- Bananas: *Musa basjoo* (−5°F)
- Citrus: ‘Satsuma’ tangerine, ‘Meyer’ lemon, ‘Trifoliate’ orange (20°F).
- Figs: ‘Celeste’, ‘Italian Honey’, ‘Hardy Chicago’, ‘Brown Turkey’, ‘Petite Negra’ (10°F)
- Passionflowers: Incense passionflower, *Passiflora incarnata* (−10°F) −D. H.

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FOOD

Pumpkin Recipes

When autumn arrives, it seems like there is a pumpkin explosion in the food world. Coffee shops, bakeries, and restaurants put pumpkin in everything from lattes to bagels to pasta. Try these delicious ideas for working pumpkin into the recipes in your own kitchen.

FOOD



TAP FOR
RECIPE



Ginger Thai Pumpkin Bisque



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

GINGER THAI PUMPKIN BISQUE

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 4 cups canned pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons grated ginger
- 1 can (15 ounces) coconut milk
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 teaspoon red curry paste
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons freshly minced cilantro, divided
- 4 tablespoons shredded coconut

Heat oil in a 3-quart saucepan or stockpot over medium heat. Add onions and garlic and cook until onions are tender. Remove mixture to a food processor or blender. Add pumpkin and ginger, then process until mixture is smooth. Return mixture to saucepan. Add coconut milk, stock, soy sauce, lime juice, curry paste, and salt. Bring to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes. Stir in 2 tablespoons of cilantro. Simmer for 2 minutes more.

Ladle soup into serving bowls and garnish with shredded coconut and remaining cilantro.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

FOOD



TAP FOR
RECIPE

Pumpkin Pickles

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

PUMPKIN PICKLES

4 cups pumpkin, peeled and cut into bite-size cubes

1-1/2 cups sugar

1-1/2 cups apple cider vinegar

2 sticks cinnamon

10 whole cloves

Steam pumpkin until barely tender, about 10 minutes (don't let pumpkin touch the boiling water or it will get mushy). Drain thoroughly and set aside.

In a saucepan, combine sugar, vinegar, cinnamon, and cloves and simmer, covered, for 20 minutes. Add pumpkin, return to a simmer, cover, and cook for 3 minutes more. Remove pan from heat and leave pumpkin in the syrup; refrigerate for 24 hours.

Heat mixture to simmering and cook for 5 minutes. Remove spices and pack pumpkin into sterilized jars. Fill with syrup. Seal and process for 10 minutes in a boiling water bath.

Makes about 3 pints.

FOOD

Pumpkin Macaroni and Cheese



TAP FOR
RECIPE



PHOTO: BRENT HOFACKER/SHUTTERSTOCK

PUMPKIN MACARONI AND CHEESE

- 1 pound pasta, your preference
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 2 cups freshly shredded sharp cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh sage
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup seasoned bread crumbs

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a large casserole.

Cook pasta al dente in boiling salted water.

In a deep skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add onions and garlic and cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Add flour and stir to form a paste. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Slowly whisk in milk until smooth. Whisk in 1 cup of cheese. When cheese is melted, add pumpkin and sage. Season with salt and pepper.

Mix pumpkin mixture with pasta and spread in prepared dish. Mix together remaining cheese and bread crumbs and sprinkle on top.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until topping has browned.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

FOOD

Browned Butter Frosted Pumpkin Bars

 TAP FOR
RECIPE



BROWNEB BUTTER FROSTED PUMPKIN BARS

BARS:

- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-1/4 cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
- 3/4 cup (1-1/2 sticks) salted butter, melted
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup chopped sweetened dried cranberries (optional)

FROSTING:

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) salted butter
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup milk

For bars: Heat oven to 350°F.

In a bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, baking soda, and ginger. Stir in pumpkin, butter, and eggs; mix well. Stir in cranberries (if using).

Spread batter into ungreased 15x10x1-inch jelly-roll pan. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool completely.

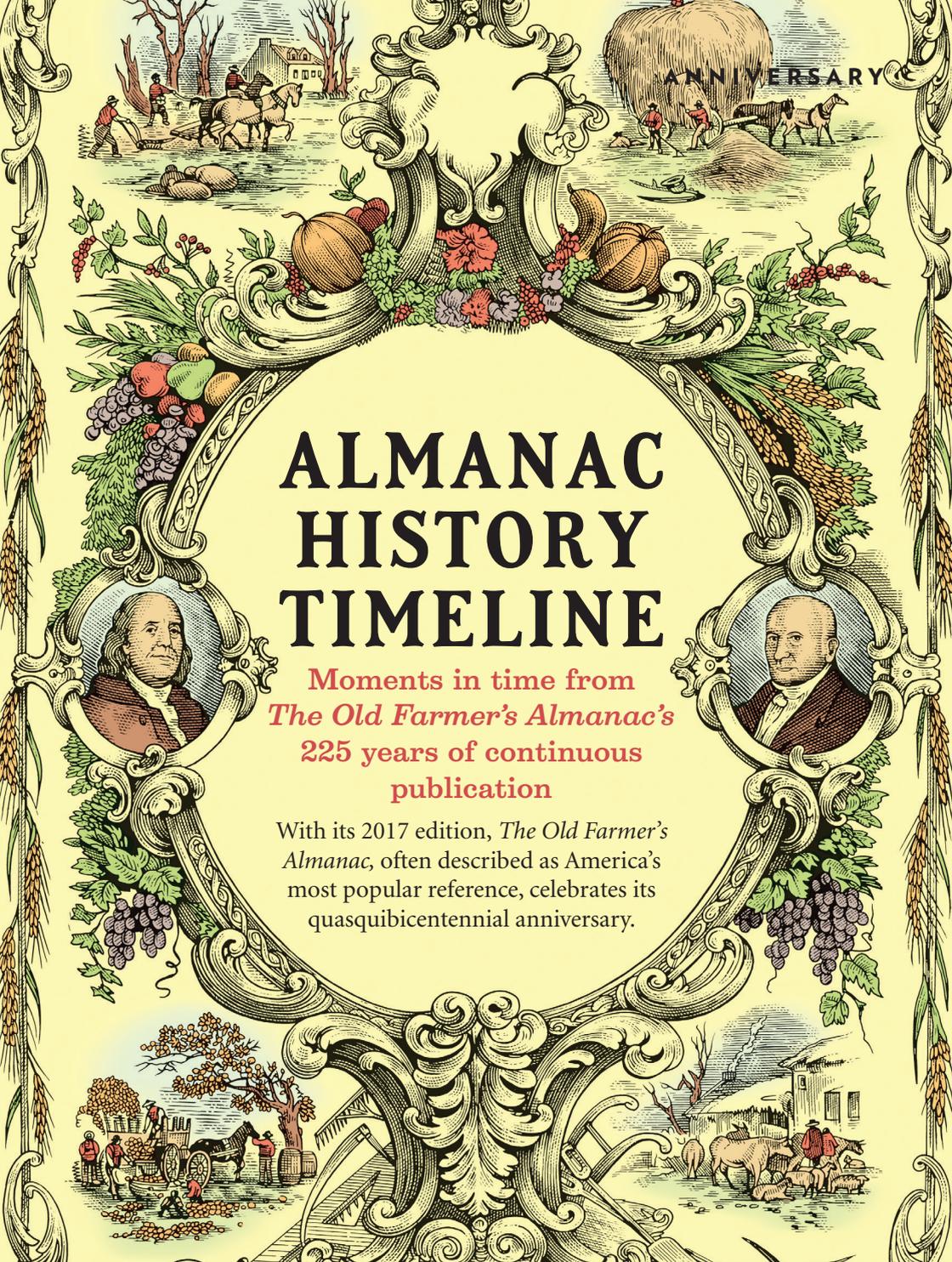
For frosting: In a 1-quart saucepan over medium heat, melt butter, stirring constantly and watching closely, until butter just starts to turn golden brown (3 to 5 minutes). Immediately remove from heat. Pour into a bowl and cool for 5 minutes. Add sugar and vanilla to cooled browned butter and mix well. Stir in enough milk for desired frosting consistency.

Spread frosting over cooled bars. Cut into bars.

Makes about 5 dozen small bars.

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

ANNIVERSARY



ALMANAC HISTORY TIMELINE

Moments in time from
The Old Farmer's Almanac's
225 years of continuous
publication

With its 2017 edition, *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, often described as America's most popular reference, celebrates its quasiquibicentennial anniversary.

ANNIVERSARY

No small word for no small achievement, “quasibicentennial” means “a quarter [century] more than 200 years” and refers to this Almanac’s 225 years of publication—a record unmatched by any other periodical in North America.

People often ask us how and why the “little yellow book” (the inspiration for this monthly missive) has lasted so long. Luck has played a big role. Here are a few such serendipitous situations, excerpted from the *2017 Almanac*.

1832: “(Old)” appears in the title. “Our long and continued endeavors to be

useful and to please have been crowned with unprecedented success,” writes founder R. B. Thomas.

1858: Abraham Lincoln defends a man accused of murder. The killing, by “slungshot,” allegedly occurred in the Moon’s light on August 29, 1857. Citing the Almanac’s Right-Hand Calendar Page for that day, Lincoln wins an acquittal by noting that his client could not have been identified because the Moon “ran low” and thus was not high enough to cast much light. The Almanac is the only one that year to indicate days on which the Moon “runs low.”

1938: President Franklin D. Roosevelt writes: “The Almanac is an invaluable friend, companion, and guide.”

1942: Instead of Length of Day, Calendar Pages predict Length of Twilight, “useful for ‘Dimouts’ and ‘Blackouts,’ for telling children when to come home, and for calling in the cattle.” Readers, left to calculate day length, are not pleased.

1943: Length of Day is reinstated, and a Twilight table is introduced.

1957: “Last year’s edition again enjoyed the largest paid almanac newsstand sales in the world.”



1792:

Robert Bailey Thomas publishes *The Farmer’s Almanac* for 1793, “containing as great a variety as any other Almanac of new, useful, and entertaining matter.”

1963: The November Farmer's Calendar essay reads "Night is coming on—and murder, perhaps" adjacent to day 22. At the bottom of the page appears "Two full moons this month—Guard against crime." John F. Kennedy is assassinated on the 22nd. Lee Harvey Oswald is killed on the 24th.

1981: "CBS Morning News" host Charles Kuralt salutes the 1982 edition on air: "Some people read it for its weather forecasts, planting tables, recipes, secrets of the zodiac, phases of the Moon.

I like the ads, myself. These ads speak to the real America. The one that is worried about its false teeth falling out or its pants falling down. *The Old Farmer's Almanac* offers remedies for aching feet. That's why it's lasted for 190 years."

1986: "Good Morning America" host David Hartman asks editor Jud Hale on air, "Why should I put down this morning's New York Times and pick up The Old Farmer's Almanac?" and then answers himself: "It provides perspective, doesn't it? It has a way of placing this morning's news in perspective."

1992: President George H. W. Bush writes, "The

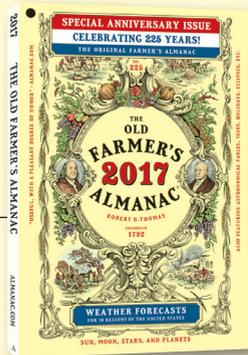
Almanac could well be described as 'the journal of American tradition.' [It] is as relevant today as it was 200 years ago, underscoring the lasting value of traditional wisdom."

2015: Almanac.com goes mobile to phones and tablets.

JOIN THE PARTY

To learn more about this Almanac, see replica pages of the 1793 edition, and read Robert B. Thomas's story in his own words, buy *The 2017 Old Farmer's Almanac Collector's Edition* in traditional print or get the digital edition for your tablet, computer, or phone.

TAP TO BUY
**THE 2017 OLD
FARMER'S ALMANAC
ANNIVERSARY
EDITION**



1999:

"Maybe the secret to our longevity has been that, in some ways, we have never been 'old.'"

“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

See the Northern Lights with *The Old Farmer's Almanac!*

Join us in Alaska to see the aurora borealis from February 26–March 3, 2017.
Led by the Almanac's astronomy editor, Bob Berman,
this 6-day, 5-night adventure promises to be the trip of a lifetime.

By night, behold the blazing and magical curtains of light. By day, tour Alaska!

Highlights include:

- accommodations, most meals
- luxury bus transport in Alaska
- Museum of the North,
University of Alaska Fairbanks
- World Ice Art Championships
- dog sledding
- hot springs pool
- astronomy lectures
- photography tutorial
- optional train tour
- and much, much more!



Space is limited! For details and reservations, call 845-901-7049.

LEARN MORE

Ice Sculpture photo: FairbanksMike



WEATHER FORECASTS

IF THE HARE WEARS A THICK COAT IN OCTOBER, LAY IN A GOOD STORE OF FUEL.



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

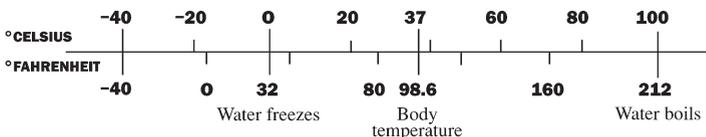
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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.

CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE

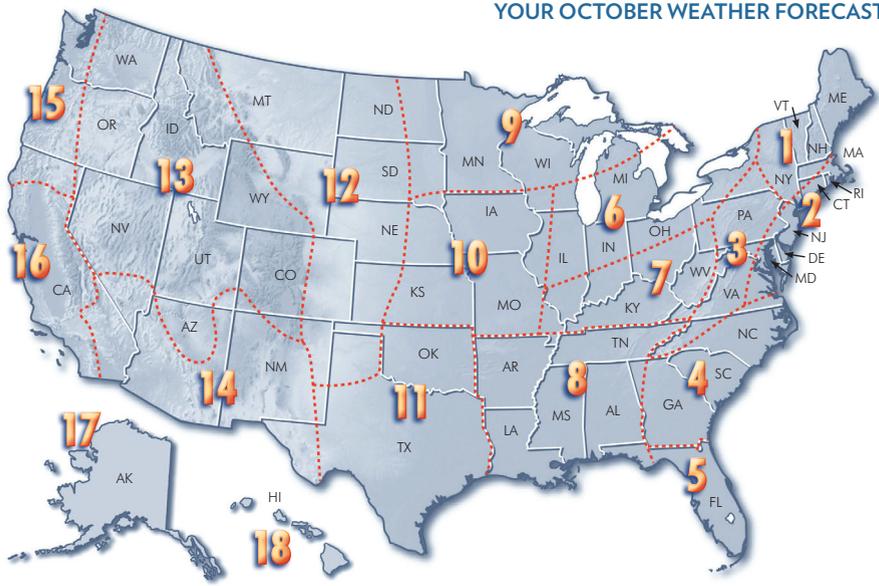




WEATHER FORECASTS

MAP OF U.S. WEATHER REGIONS

CHECK YOUR REGION TO SEE YOUR OCTOBER WEATHER FORECAST.



MAP OF CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS





WEATHER FORECASTS

IF THE HARE WEARS A THICK COAT IN OCTOBER, LAY IN A GOOD STORE OF FUEL.

U.S. FORECASTS OCTOBER 2016

REGION 1: **NORTHEAST**

Temp. 53° (5° above avg.); precip. 3.5" (avg.). 1–6 Heavy rain, then sunny, cool. 7–16 Sunny, nice. 17–25 Showers, then sunny, mild. 26–31 Showers, cool.

REGION 2: **ATLANTIC CORRIDOR**

Temp. 62° (6° above avg.); precip. 4.5" (1" above avg.). 1–10 Rain, then sunny, warm. 11–16 Showers, mild. 17–23 T-storms, then sunny, warm. 24–31 A few t-storms.

REGION 3: **APPALACHIANS**

Temp. 58° (5° above avg.); precip. 4" (1" above avg.). 1–6 T-storms, then sunny, cool. 7–16 Sunny north, showers south; mild. 17–24 Rain, then sunny, warm. 25–31 Rain, then sunny, cool.

REGION 4: **SOUTHEAST**

Temp. 68° (4° above avg.); precip. 5" (1" above avg.). 1–6 Rain, then sunny, cool. 7–17 A few t-storms, warm. 18–22 Sunny, warm. 23–26 Showers, quite warm. 27–31 T-storms, then sunny, cool.

REGION 5: **FLORIDA**

Temp. 79° (4° above avg.); precip. 6" (2" above avg.). 1–5 T-storms, cool. 6–10 A few t-storms, warm. 11–17 Scattered t-storms, warm. 18–20 Sunny, warm. 21–31 A few t-storms, warm.

REGION 6: **LOWER LAKES**

Temp. 58° (6° above avg.); precip. 1.5" (1" below avg.). 1–5 Showers, cool. 6–14 Sunny, warm. 15–24 Showers, then sunny, warm. 25–31 Rain, then snow showers, turning cold.



WEATHER FORECASTS

REGION 7: OHIO VALLEY

Temp. 62° (5° above avg.); precip. 2" (0.5" below avg.). 1–5 Showers, cool. 6–13 Isolated showers, warm. 14–17 Showers, mild. 18–24 Sunny, quite warm. 25–29 T-storms, then sunny, cool. 30–31 Snowy, cold.

REGION 8: DEEP SOUTH

Temp. 69° (4° above avg.); precip. 1.5" (1.5" below avg.). 1–7 Sunny; cool, then warm. 8–12 T-storms, then sunny, warm. 13–18 Scattered t-storms, warm. 19–25 Sunny, warm. 26–31 T-storms, then sunny, cool.

REGION 9: UPPER MIDWEST

Temp. 50° (6° above avg. east, avg. west); precip. 3" (0.5" below avg. east, 2" above west). 1–8 Showers, then sunny, cool. 9–18 Rain, then sunny, warm. 19–23 Rainy periods, mild. 24–31 Rain and snow showers, turning cold.

REGION 10: HEARTLAND

Temp. 60° (4° above avg.); precip. 3.5" (2" above avg. north, 1" below south). 1–6 Showers, then sunny, cool. 7–11 Sunny, warm. 12–19 T-storms, then sunny, mild. 20–25 Rainy periods, mild. 26–31 Sunny, turning cold.

REGION 11: TEXAS-OKLAHOMA

Temp. 69° (2° above avg.); precip. 3" (1" below avg.). 1–8 Sunny north, a few t-storms south; cool. 9–13 T-storms, warm. 14–18 Sunny, nice. 19–25 A few t-storms north, sunny south; warm. 26–31 Sunny, turning cool.

REGION 12: HIGH PLAINS

Temp. 47° (2° below avg.); precip. 1.5" (0.5" above avg.). 1–6 Sunny, nice. 7–11 Rain and snow, chilly. 12–18 Sunny, turning mild. 19–27 Snowstorm, then sunny, cold. 28–31 Flurries, cold.



WEATHER FORECASTS

REGION 13: INTERMOUNTAIN

Temp. 47° (4° below avg.); precip. 1.5" (avg. north, 1" above south). 1–5 Sunny, nice. 6–8 Showers, north, sunny south. 9–16 Showers north; snow, then sunny. 17–19 Showers north, snow south. 20–22 Sunny north, snowstorm south. 23–31 Snow, then sunny, cold.

REGION 14: DESERT SOUTHWEST

Temp. 65° (3° below avg.); precip. 1.5" (0.5" above avg.). 1–8 Showers, turning warm east; sunny, warm west. 9–16 Showers, then sunny, cool. 17–31 Showers, then sunny, cool.

REGION 15: PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Temp. 51° (3° below avg.); precip. 3.5" (1" above avg. north, avg. south). 1–5 Misty, mild. 6–10 Rainy periods, turning quite cool. 11–16 Rainy periods, some heavy; cool. 17–23 Showers, chilly. 24–31 Rainy periods, cool.

REGION 16: PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

Temp. 62° (3° below avg.); precip. 0.5" (avg.). 1–7 Sunny; warm, then cool. 8–11 Sprinkles north, rain south; cool. 12–16 Sprinkles north, sunny south; cool. 17–22 Showers, then sunny, chilly. 23–31 Showers, then sunny, cool.

REGION 17: ALASKA

Temp. 12° N, 43° S (avg.); precip. 0.1" N, 6.6" S (0.4" below avg.). 1–4 Snow showers N+C, showers S. 5–12 Snow showers N+C, rainy periods S. 13–19 Flurries N, periods of rain and snow EW. 20–23 Snow showers, mild N+C; rain and snow, cold S. 24–31 Flurries, turning cold N; snowy periods, cold EW.

KEY: Panhandle (P), Aleutians (A), north (N), central (C), south (S), west-central (WC), east-central (EC), south-central (SC), elsewhere (EW)



WEATHER FORECASTS

REGION 18: HAWAII

Temp. 79.5° (0.5° below avg.); precip. 2" (avg.). 1–9 Isolated showers, cool. 10–19 Daily showers, seasonable. 20–23 Showers and t-storms; cool C+W, warm E. 24–31 Isolated showers C+W, several showers E; cool.

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

MUCH RAIN IN OCTOBER,
MUCH WIND IN DECEMBER.

CANADIAN FORECASTS OCTOBER 2016

REGION 1: ATLANTIC CANADA

Temp. 10.5°C (2°C above avg.); precip. 170mm (50mm above avg.). 1–3 Showers, cool. 4–10 Heavy rain, then sunny, mild. 11–15 Rain and snow showers, cold. 16–21 Showers, turning mild. 22–31 Sunny, then showers, mild.

REGION 2: SOUTHERN QUEBEC

Temp. 10°C (2°C above avg.); precip. 90mm (10mm above avg.). 1–8 Showers, mild. 9–15 Sunny, mild. 16–25 Showers, then sunny, mild. 26–31 Showers, mild.

RÉGION 2: QUÉBEC DU SUD

Temp. 10°C (2°C au-dessus de la moy.); précip. 90mm (10mm au-dessus de la moy.). 1–8 Averses, doux. 9–15 Ensoleillé, doux. 16–25 Averses, puis ensoleillé, doux. 26–31 Averses, doux.

REGION 3: SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Temp. 13°C (4°C above avg.); precip. 65mm (avg.). 1–6 A few showers, cool. 7–19 Several showers, warm. 20–24 Sunny, warm. 25–31 Showers, then flurries, turning cold.



CANADIAN WEATHER FORECASTS

REGION 4: THE PRAIRIES

Temp. 5°C (1°C below avg.); precip. 10mm (10mm below avg.). 1–5 Sunny; mild, then cool. 6–9 Showers east; snow, then flurries west. 10–11 Snow showers. 12–18 Rain, then sunny, mild. 19–21 Showers, mild east; snowy, cold west. 22–31 Snow showers, cold.

REGION 5: SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Temp. 8°C (1°C below avg.); precip. 130mm (30mm above avg.). 1–4 Sunny, mild. 5–10 Showers, cool. 11–19 Rainy periods south, rain and snow north; turning cold. 20–24 Rain and snow showers, chilly. 25–31 Rain, then showers coast; snow showers inland; turning cold.

REGION 6: YUKON

Temp. -1°C (2°C below avg.); precip. 30mm (avg.). 1–5 Sunny, mild. 6–11 Snowy periods, cold. 12–17 Flurries, cold. 18–21 Snow, then flurries, very cold. 22–26 Snowy, cold. 27–31 Flurries, very cold.

REGION 7: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Temp. -3°C (1°C above avg.); precip. 16mm (5mm below avg.). 1–6 Flurries, seasonable north; showers, mild south. 7–9 Snow showers, cold. 10–12 Flurries north; rainy periods, mild south. 13–19 Snow showers; mild north, seasonable south. 20–24 Flurries, very cold north; snowstorm, seasonable south. 25–31 Flurries; mild, then cold.



HOW WEATHER AFFECTS HISTORY

Weather affects us all nearly every day. Whether it is the thunderstorm that dampens our picnic, the snow and ice that make our drive to work take longer, the cold spell that requires our children to bundle up for school, or an event like the California drought that increases food prices, the weather impacts all of us directly all of the time.

Most of us know that it was a change in the climate, caused by either an extraterrestrial impact or a massive bout of volcanism, that led to the extinction of the dinosaurs, rise of the mammals, and, eventually, emergence of humans. But, since that time, weather and climate have also played a critical role in numerous events that have dramatically changed the course

of human history. Here are—in my opinion—5 of the top 10 (we'll reveal the other 5 next month):

1. A.D. 541: RAIN AFTER DROUGHT BRINGS FIRST BUBONIC PLAGUE EPIDEMIC

The first recorded bubonic plague epidemic occurred around 541, killing nearly half the people in the Roman Empire and changing the balance of power around the world.

A cold period and severe drought in Africa in the 530s ended with flooding rains. The drought killed crops, along with most of the gerbils and mice, an event which then killed off the larger predators that normally would have eaten the rodents.

When the drought ended, the rain brought plant life back, which enabled rodents to replace their population.



WEATHER UPDATE

Because the larger predators took longer to grow back, the rodents were able to multiply, overrunning East Africa with mice and gerbils that were carriers of the plague.

Merchant ships brought these rodents to Europe, bringing an illness that would spread throughout the known world, laying waste to cities, and leaving so many corpses piled up that there were not enough people left to bury them.

2. 1692: LITTLE ICE AGE SPURS SALEM WITCH TRIALS

The cold weather of the “Little Ice Age” may have led to the infamous Salem witch trials in 1692, as witches were thought capable of controlling weather.

The cold weather brought crop failures, resulting in hardships, and witch hunts may have occurred

because people sought scapegoats to blame. Some diaries and sermons dating from this period suggest that the unfavorable weather was the main cause for the prosecutions.

While Salem is the best-known “witch trial” city, there were also numerous witch trials in Europe during the 1680–1730 cold spell of the “Little Ice Age.”

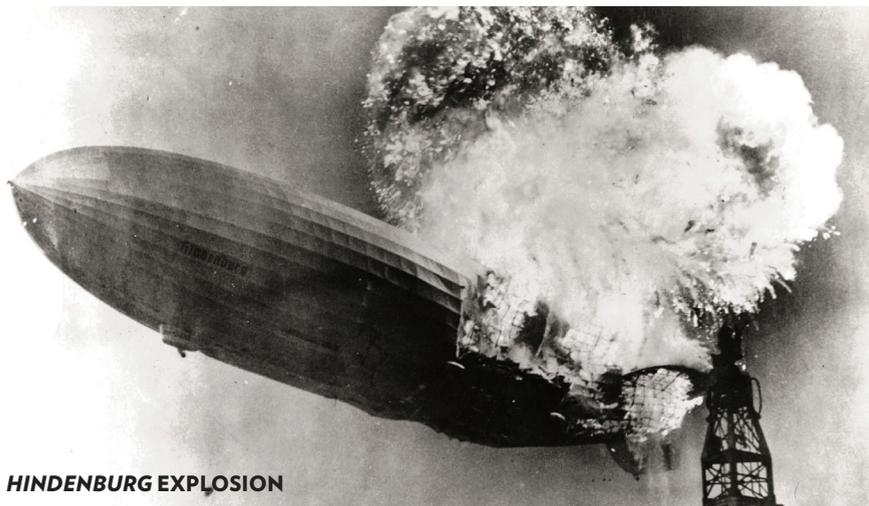
3. 1937: HINDENBURG EXPLOSION CHANGES FUTURE OF AIR TRAVEL

Back in the 1920s and '30s, dirigibles looked like the air transportation of the future. Yet the era of the airship ended abruptly on May 6, 1937, when the *Hindenburg* burst into flames during a landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey.

The *Hindenburg's* covering was made of a very flammable mixture,



SALEM WITCH TRIALS



HINDENBURG EXPLOSION

similar in composition to rocket fuel. On the day in question, the airship circled the Lakehurst airport for more than an hour, waiting for the weather to clear. This long time moving through the rain clouds caused the dirigible's skin to become negatively charged, and when the crew dropped the wet lines to dock, they acted as a ground, causing the *Hindenburg's* coating to ignite, along with the highly flammable hydrogen used to keep it aloft. Within seconds, most of the ship was ablaze, and 34 seconds later it was a burning mass on the ground.

Up until the *Hindenburg's* dramatic explosion, many considered dirigibles to be the future of commercial air travel. Quieter, roomier, and more

luxurious than airplanes, they nonetheless succumbed to the danger of their highly flammable fuel.

One other note is that hydrogen was used instead of safe helium because the United States had a monopoly on the world supply of helium and, fearful that other countries might use the gas for military purposes, had banned its export. If not for this ban, we might be flying in dirigibles today.

4. 1789: WEATHER HELPS CAUSE THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The "Little Ice Age" helped cause more than witch trials; it was a major contributor to the unrest that led to the French Revolution. The cold temperatures of the "Little



WEATHER UPDATE

Ice Age” combined with a 1783 Icelandic volcanic eruption and a major El Niño to bring drought and crop failures to Europe. The French were already suffering from higher taxes that had been raised to support the American Revolution. A cycle of drought and then fierce hailstorms and flooding between 1787 and 1788 served as the final straw leading to the most historic “storm” of all, the storming of the Bastille.

5. 1980: IRANIAN HABOOB CANCELS HOSTAGE RESCUE AND SPURS REAGAN VICTORY OVER CARTER

Those of us old enough to remember the Iranian Hostage Crisis of 1980 know that as it dragged on over months, it severely damaged President Jimmy Carter’s standing with voters in the upcoming presidential election. Since the 1979 Iranian revolution, Iran’s new supreme leader, Ayatollah

Khomeini, had held 52 American embassy workers as hostages. On April 24, 1980, a daring helicopter rescue was attempted. Some of the fleet’s helicopters were quickly sidelined with mechanical problems, but the final straw was a severe dust storm, known as a haboob, that aborted the mission. Not only were the hostages still held, but eight servicemen were killed in the aborted mission, and the hostages were dispersed to multiple locations to prevent the possibility of a future rescue attempt.

Khomeini condemned Jimmy Carter and, in a speech after the incident, credited God with throwing sand to protect Iran. Carter himself blamed his loss in the 1980 U.S. presidential election to Ronald Reagan mainly on his failure to win the release of U.S. hostages held captive in Iran.

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





HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC

Don't Mess With Senior Citizens

THEY DIDN'T GET TO BE OLD BY BEING STUPID.

A senior citizen couple is traveling by car from Victoria to Prince George, British Columbia.

After almost 11 hours on the road, they are too tired to continue and decide to take a room. But they plan to sleep for only 4 hours and then get back on the road. When they check out 4 hours later, the desk clerk hands them a bill for \$350.

The husband explodes and demands to know why the charge



is so high. He tells the clerk that although it's a nice hotel, the rooms certainly aren't worth \$350 for 4 hours. Then the clerk tells him that \$350 is the

standard rate.

The husband then insists on speaking to the manager.

The manager appears, listens to him, and then explains that the hotel has an Olympic-size swimming pool and a huge conference center that were available for the couple to use.

"But we didn't use them," the husband says.

"Well, they are here and you could have," explains the manager.



The manager then goes on to explain that the couple could also have taken in one of the shows for which the hotel is famous.

“We have the best entertainers from New York, Hollywood, and Las Vegas perform here,” the manager says.

“But we didn’t go to any of those shows,” the husband says.

“Well, they were here and you could have,” the manager replies.

No matter what amenity the manager mentions, the husband replies, “But we didn’t use it!”

The manager is unmoved, and eventually the husband gives up and agrees to pay. As he didn’t have the checkbook, he asks his wife to write the check. She does and gives it to the manager.

The manager is surprised when he looks at the check.

“But, ma’am, this is only made out for \$50.”

“That’s correct,” she replies. “I charged you \$300 for sleeping with me.”

“But I didn’t,” exclaims the manager.

“Well, too bad. I was here and you could have,” she says.



19TH-CENTURY NONSENSE

DOCTORS AND HOG BUTCHERS

A person who was famous for his antipathy toward the medical profession once accosted a doctor with the observation that physicians were no better than hog butchers.

“I am glad,” retorted the doctor, “for hog butchers are very adept in the business of curing.”

19TH-CENTURY NONSENSE

A SIGN OF CONTENTMENT

A gentleman had a board put up on part of his land, on which was written: “I will give this field to anyone who is really contented.”

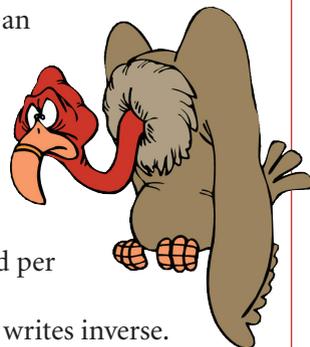
Whenever a suitor to the land came forth and was asked “Are you contented?,” the general reply was always “Yes, I am.”

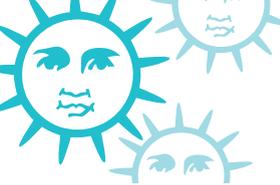
“Then,” would rejoin the gentleman, “what do you want with my field?”

PUNDEMONIUM

- A vulture boards an airplane carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, “I’m sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.”

- A backward poet writes inverse.





WHAT'S NEXT



GARDENING

The wonders of
witch hazel



CALENDAR

Full Beaver Moon,
San Francisco–Oakland
Bay Bridge, Pikes Peak,
how the days of the
week got their names



LIVING NATURALLY

New uses for
old socks



ASTRONOMY

Explore with our
Sky Map



FOOD

Fantastic recipes for
Thanksgiving leftovers



HISTORY

Sara Josepha
Hale, “mother” of
Thanksgiving

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