

EXTRA!

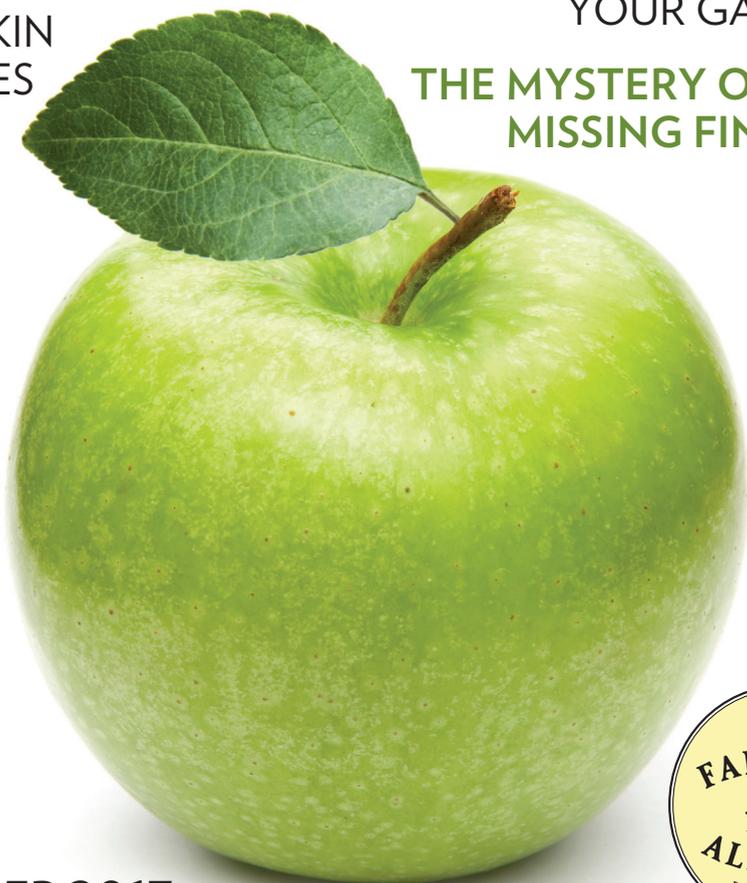
FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

APPLE TIME!

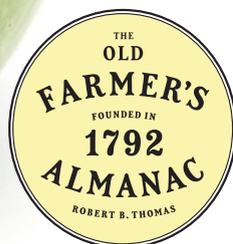
PUMPKIN
RECIPES

WHEN FROST THREATENS
YOUR GARDEN

THE MYSTERY OF THE
MISSING FINGERS



OCTOBER 2017



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WIT

Humor Me
*Grins and groans from
the Almanac*

WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have
in store for our
November issue!



THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

HOLIDAYS, HISTORY, AND FOLKLORE



OCTOBER'S BIRTHSTONE: OPAL OR TOURMALINE

- Gem-quality opals are known for their play of color, caused by the diffraction of light. They are available in several types, including black, fire, and white opals. Common opals do not shimmer.

- Opals symbolize hope and purity and were once thought to improve eyesight or enhance intuition. Throughout history, the gem's reputation has oscillated between standing for luck and standing for lack of luck. According to some, those born in October are immune from any possible negative effects.

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT OCTOBER'S BIRTHSTONES



Moon View

October's full Moon, the **Full Harvest Moon**, occurs on the 5th, at 2:40 P.M. EDT.

 TAP FOR MORE MOON PHASES

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT THE FULL HARVEST MOON

Folklore Fun

Warm October, cold February.



ALMANAC 225TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE

The following are excerpts from the October Right-Hand Calendar Page of The 1793 [Old] Farmer's Almanac:

*Pomona her cheerful juices yields,
While golden harvest decks the fields.
See the enamel'd drooping trees,
Shedding their leaves at every breeze.*

• Oct. 4–5: Rather too cool for bare toes.

• Oct. 12: Col. dis. Am. 1492.

• Plough your lands for summer fallow; but this may be done in dull, wet weather, or in such times as other work can not go on; because no time in this month must be lost.

OPAL AND TOURMALINE TRIVIA

- Each opal is made of tiny spheres of amorphous hydrated silica; its water content makes it prone to cracking or crazing (many fine cracks). This can happen if the gem dries out, such as might occur when exposed to high temperatures or long periods of low humidity. The gem is relatively soft, with a hardness rating of only 5.5. (Never place an opal in an ultrasonic jewelry cleaner: The vibrations can crack the gem.)
- An alternate birthstone, tourmaline, comes in a kaleidoscope of colors; often more than one hue is present in a gem. Bright-color specimens are valued more highly. When heated or cooled, these gems develop an electric charge; the Dutch once used them to remove ash from meerschaum tobacco pipes.
- Egyptian legend says that tourmaline received its colors as it passed through a rainbow on its way up from Earth's core. The gem symbolizes inspiration and once was believed to protect against evil.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



OCTOBER 6: RAINY DAYS

On this day in 1967, 50 years ago, 19.26 inches of rain fell in 24 hours at the weather station in Ucluelet Brynnor Mines, British Columbia—a Canadian record that still stands. This came as a surprise to no one: Situated on the west coast of Vancouver Island, in a warm, wet marine environment, the area is bounded on the north and northwest by mountains that block the moisture-filled winds off the Pacific, causing them to dump vast amounts of rain. The nearby weather station of Henderson Lake experienced the second rainiest 24-hour period (16.61 inches) and holds Canada’s records for greatest annual rainfall in 1 year (319.78 inches in 1931) and greatest average annual rainfall (256 inches).

According to geologist G.E.P. Eastwood in 1968, “in the intervals between rain, the area is frequently blanketed with fog, and the vegetation remains dripping

wet for a week or more.” Under such circumstances, the undergrowth is “an almost impenetrable tangle.”

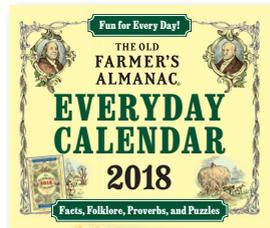
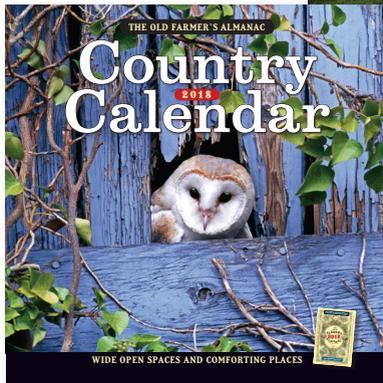
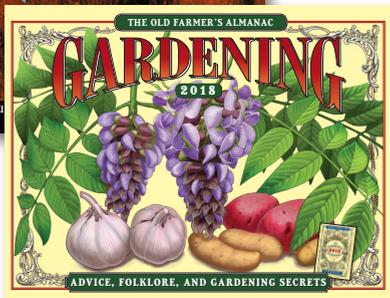
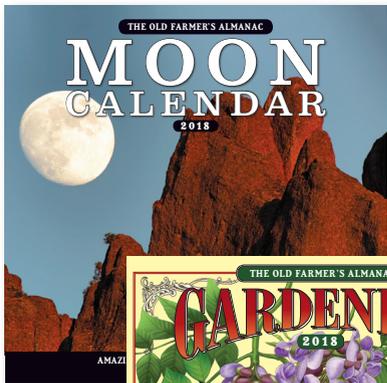
Brynnor Mines, Ltd., dug an open-pit iron mine there in 1962. The firm tried drilling for underground ore in 1963, an effort abandoned in 1967 because of “exceedingly heavy inflows of water.” All mining ended in 1968.

Dependent on furs, forestry, and fishing since European traders arrived in the late 1770s, the district of Ucluelet is now turning to adventure tourism. Bordering on the 150,000-acre Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, it offers whale watching, surfing, hiking, and “storm watching,” advising visitors to bring along their “West Coast tuxedos” (rain jackets and pants) to prepare for 10 to 15 megastorms each winter.

“Gore-Tex and gum boots are always in vogue,” tourism officials note cheerfully.

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2018 Old Farmer's Almanac Calendars



JANUARY 2018

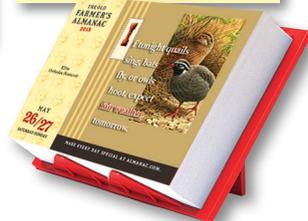
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Quick Notes **Birthdays** **In The** **Not To Be**

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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

Begin diet to lose weight: 7, 12, 16
 Begin diet to gain weight: 3, 31
 Cut hair to encourage growth: 3, 4, 30, 31
 Cut hair to discourage growth: 7, 8
 Have dental care: 15–17
 Quit smoking: 7, 12, 16
 Wean children: 7, 12, 16

AROUND THE HOUSE

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 11, 12
 End projects: 18
 Start projects: 20

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 25, 26
 Go camping: 22–24
 Go fishing: 1–5, 19–31
 Set posts or pour concrete: 25, 26

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 5, 6
 Graft or pollinate: 11, 12
 Prune to encourage growth: 22–24
 Prune to discourage growth: 13, 14
 Plant aboveground crops: 3, 4, 30, 31
 Plant belowground crops: 11, 12
 Harvest aboveground crops: 25, 26
 Harvest belowground crops: 15–17

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 20, 21
 Castrate animals: 1, 27–29
 Cut hay: 5, 6
 Set eggs: 9, 10, 28
 Slaughter livestock: 20, 21
 Wean animals: 7, 12, 16



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

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

+ TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES

▶ **APP EXTRA!**
TAP FOR
OCTOBER
MOON PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

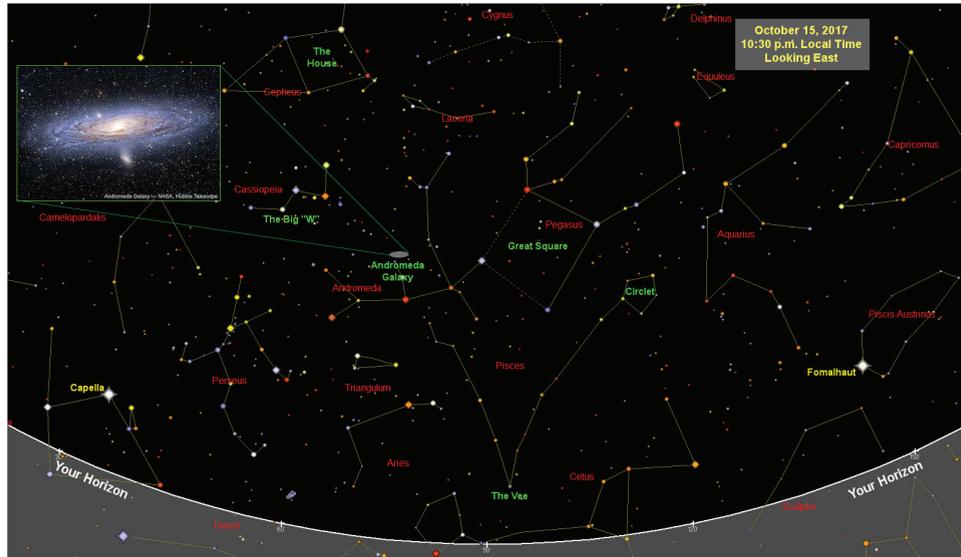
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion retrograde motion.

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 will next be retrograde during December 3–23.

—Celeste Longacre



THE FARTHEST THING YOU'VE EVER SEEN

APP EXTRA!

TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
OCTOBER
SKY MAP

APP EXTRA!

TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES

A common astronomy question is, “What’s the farthest thing that I can see using just my eyes?” Today we know the answer, but less than 100 years ago, no one had any idea. It wasn’t until 1925 that Edwin Hubble (yes, THAT Hubble) and his colleagues figured it out, changing our place in the cosmos (and the science of astronomy) forever.

Determining the true scale of the universe was a problem that confounded many generations of astronomers and physicists. The solution came in a series of painstaking steps playing out over thousands of years, each new milestone building on those that had come before. The ancient Greeks made the first breakthroughs by determining the diameter of the Earth and eventually the approximate distance to the Moon.

Two millennia later, in the 17th and 18th centuries, the next great leap occurred. Careful observations of the planets Mars and Venus allowed astronomers to calculate the distance to



the Sun with reasonable accuracy. With this known, the distances to the planets could be determined, and the size of our solar system came into focus.

The next challenge was the stars. How far away were those tiny points of light? Improvements in instrumentation allowed 19th-century astronomers to measure the distances of a few dozen stars. Then it was discovered that a certain type of variable star pulsates (changes its brightness) on a schedule that depends on its brightness. By carefully measuring the pulsations of these special stars, their distances could be calculated.

Then came the early 20th century. Astronomers now knew the distances to many stars and knew that billions of stars were collected into our galaxy, the Milky Way. It seemed that we might at last have a handle on the size of the universe. But the universe had other ideas. The problem was the nebulae.

Scattered among the stars in their telescopes, astronomers spotted hazy patches of light that became known as nebulae—the Latin word for “mists.” The nature of the nebulae was unknown. They looked like misty clouds of dust or gas, perhaps illuminated by nearby stars. As ever larger telescopes were constructed, researchers discovered that many nebulae were composed of exquisitely faint stars, but most astronomers still assumed that the nebulae were within our own Milky Way.

In 1925, Edwin Hubble turned the largest telescope of the day on the so-called Andromeda Nebula. He was able to measure some of the special pulsating stars in the nebula. When he performed the distance calculations, the results were astounding. The Andromeda Nebula was not in the Milky Way after all. It was a separate galaxy, the Andromeda Galaxy, and it was far beyond the farthest extremes of the Milky Way. In one fell swoop, the true size of the universe was revealed, and it was incomparably larger than previously imagined.

Which brings us to this month’s Sky Map. Find a dark location far from city lights. Spend 30 minutes enjoying the various sights on the map while your eyes become fully dark-adapted. Now you’re ready. Between the Great Square of Pegasus and the Big “W” of Cassiopeia, look for a small, hazy cloud. This is the Andromeda Galaxy, the “nebula” that allowed Edwin Hubble to determine the scale of the cosmos. And it’s the farthest thing you’ll ever see with your eyes alone.

—Jeff DeTray

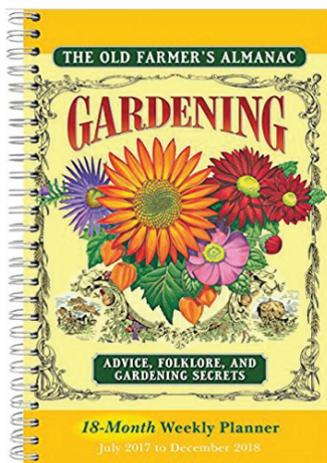
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LIVING NATURALLY

Apple Time!

It's apple season again here in New Hampshire. I mean the kind that grow on trees, not the latest iPhone.



An apple a day may keep the doctor away!

We personally don't grow tree fruit, but we do buy and enjoy a lot of local apples from late September through the winter months.

In seasons when the Baldwins or Northern Spys are abundant, I generally buy a bushel to stash in the root cellar, alongside the homegrown cabbages and carrots. (They store best in a cold, humid

environment.)

We eat apples fresh, baked (stuffed with walnuts, drizzled with honey and a little cinnamon), in sauce(s), in poultry stuffings, cut up and sautéed as a side dish, and in pies and pandowdies.

Some households (not ours) also make their own cider (including hard cider, drink of choice of our colonial ancestors), vinegar,

pectin, and "leather."

Science is providing new relevance to the old adage, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." A growing body of research suggests that eating apples and apple products may help to prevent cardiovascular diseases, Alzheimer's, asthma, allergies, diabetes, some cancers, and osteoporosis, as well as help with weight management. So eat up!



Fresh apples speed up the ripening of other fruit.

What Else Can Apples Do?

Fresh apples have many other uses around the house.

As a ripening agent:

Fresh apples give off ethylene gas, which will speed up the ripening of other fruit. Just set unripe pears, tomatoes, or bananas in a bowl or paper bag with a couple of apples. Because of the ethylene gas, it's a good idea not to store apples in your refrigerator or in

the same storage space as potatoes, as they tend to make the potatoes sprout earlier.

To keep baked goods from drying out:

Cakes, muffins, and homemade breads will stay moist longer if you store them in a bag or container containing a cut apple.

To soften a lump of hardened brown sugar:

Just tuck a piece of cut apple in a sealed

bag with the brown sugar for a few hours.

To remove excess salt from a soup:

Just drop a few pieces of peeled apple into the soup, stew for a few minutes, and remove the apples, which should have sopped up the excess salt.

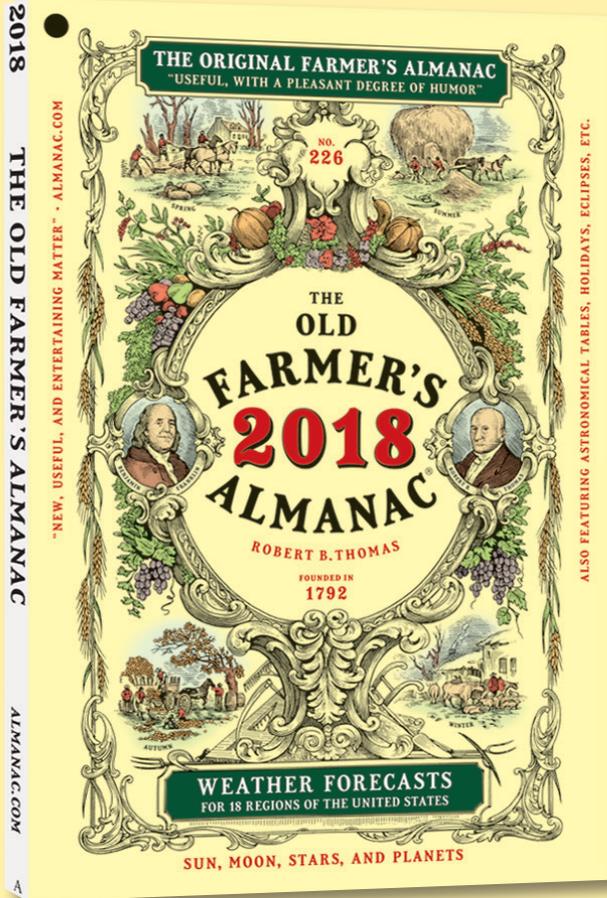
—Margaret Boyles



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

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GARDENING



When Frost Threatens Your Garden

Strategies for saving plants from a spring or fall freeze

PHOTO: APIGUIDE/SHUTTERSTOCK



Frost damage depends on location, soil, plants, and more.

If an Arctic air mass descends, with the wind roaring out of the north and the afternoon temperatures dropping fast, you're in for a freeze. It can be widespread, and everybody's going to get hit. Or it can be a local phenomenon touching one garden and ignoring others down the road.

Potential frost damage is determined by your garden's location, its soil, its plants, its topography,

and, of course, global phenomena. While there may not be time for you to alter your garden in advance of an imminent overnight frost, consider these ways to reduce the amount of cooling in and around your garden when planning plots and plantings.

- Your garden will warm up more during the day if it is **on a slope facing the Sun**. Residual heat in plants and soil may determine whether

your garden sustains frost damage during the night. Cold air, which is dense and heavy, will flow downhill from the plants growing on a slope—what the experts call “drainage.” A garden on a south-facing slope offers two advantages: more exposure to the Sun and better drainage of cold air.

- Trees surrounding your garden **act like a blanket** and reduce the amount of heat

GARDENING

radiating from the soil, perhaps keeping the temperature high enough to protect your plants from early fall frosts.

- A stone wall benefits the garden by **acting as a heat sink**, absorbing warmth from the Sun during the day and radiating it slowly at night. The water in a nearby lake or pond (if it is one acre or larger) does the same. A cold frame can be heated with an improvised heat sink: a dozen 1-gallon jugs of water. They absorb heat during the day and radiate it at night.

A stone wall acts as a heat sink.

- Moisture also determines whether frost will nip your tomatoes. Condensation warms and evaporation cools. When **moisture in the air condenses on plants and soil**, heat is produced, sometimes raising the temperature enough to save the plants. On the other hand, if the air is dry, moisture in the soil will evaporate, removing some heat.
- Good soil, full of organic matter, retains moisture, reducing the rate of evaporation. Mulch also helps to prevent evaporation.
- Plants can **modify cooling**. Dark ones with a maroon or bronze cast may absorb more heat during the day. Those that have been planted close together create a canopy that entraps heat from the soil (though the tops will still suffer frost damage). Most important, a plant's





Cover your plants if you think frost is possible.

cold hardiness determines its ability to withstand colder temperatures.

- If it has been a glorious fall day with a clear sky and low humidity, chances are that temperatures will drop enough at night to cause frost. If you believe that frost is a possibility, cover your plants, especially the tender ones like impatiens, peppers, and tomatoes. Use newspaper, straw, old sheets and bedspreads, plastic tarps, or evergreen branches. Cover the whole plant; you're trying to retain radiated heat. And have all covers in place well before sunset. —*Eliot Tozer*

DEW POINT FROST PREDICTIONS

To most accurately predict frost, consider the expected dew point, along with the weather. As air cools, it is able to hold less and less water vapor. When it cools to the saturation point (the temperature at which it can no longer hold water vapor), the vapor condenses and forms dew. That temperature is the dew point. The more moisture there is in the air at the start, the higher the temperature will be when the vapor condenses. If the dew point is high enough, there is less danger of frost. A dew point of 43°F is almost always high enough to be reassuring.

Strange as it may seem, it is more likely that there will be plant damage from freezing on a clear, dry evening, when the air temp is a warmish 50° and the dew point is 33°, than when the air temp is a much cooler 43° and the dew point is 41°.

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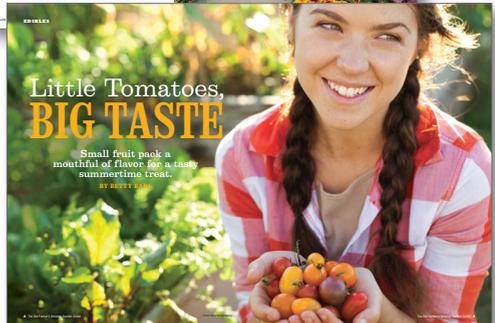
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FOOD

Pumpkin Recipes

It's that time of year again when pumpkin seems to infiltrate the food world! Now you can add pumpkin to your recipes at home for a seasonal taste. From breakfast to dessert, here are some tasty recipes to try.

Pumpkin Waffles With Pecan- Flavored Butter

 TAP FOR
RECIPE

PUMPKIN WAFFLES WITH PECAN-FLAVORED BUTTER

- 1 cup puréed pumpkin
- 1 cup melted butter, divided
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 eggs, separated
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter pecan flavoring
- pecans (optional)

Preheat a waffle iron.

In a bowl, combine pumpkin, 1/2 cup butter, milk, vanilla, and egg yolks.

In a separate bowl, sift together flour, salt, baking powder, and baking soda. Add to wet ingredients and stir to combine.

Beat egg whites to stiff peaks and fold into batter.

Pour into waffle iron and cook according to manufacturer's directions.

In another bowl, combine remaining 1/2 cup of butter, confectioners' sugar, and butter pecan flavoring. Stir to combine.

Top waffles with pecan butter and garnish with pecans.

Makes 4 large waffles.



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RECIPE

FOOD



 TAP FOR RECIPE

Southwestern Pumpkin Burgers

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 puréed pumpkin
- 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.



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RECIPE

Pumpkin Spice Cookies

 TAP FOR RECIPE



PUMPKIN SPICE COOKIES

COOKIES:

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter,
softened
3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 large egg plus 1 egg yolk
1/2 cup puréed pumpkin
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup whole wheat pastry flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon ground ginger

1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

FILLING:

1 package (8 ounces) cream
cheese, softened

2/3 cup sugar

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/4 teaspoon lemon extract

For cookies: Using an electric hand or stand mixer, cream butter, gradually adding sugars. Beat in egg and yolk, pumpkin, and vanilla.

In a bowl, sift together flours, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and spices. Stir dry ingredients into creamed mixture, a third at a time, until evenly mixed. Cover dough and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper. With lightly floured hands, roll dough into 1-1/2-inch-diameter balls and place on prepared baking sheets, leaving about 2 inches in between. Bake one sheet at a time on center oven rack for 15 to 17 minutes. (When done, the tops will be dome-shape and yield slightly to light finger pressure.) Cool cookies on baking sheets for 2 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely.

For filling: Using an electric hand or stand mixer, beat cream cheese, gradually adding in sugar. Add vanilla extract and lemon extract. Beat until smooth. Refrigerate until needed. When cookies have cooled completely, spread the flat side with some of the filling and press the flat side of a second cookie onto the filling to make a sandwich.

Makes about 30 cookies.

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

ANNIVERSARY



The Mystery of the Missing Fingers

Over the centuries, people have sent unsolicited, strange-but-true stories to the Almanac. Here's an oft-repeated one.

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

ANNIVERSARY

My father lost two fingers in a wood-sawing accident in 1897. He kept the severed fingers in a small bottle of alcohol because he wanted to have them buried with him. He kept the bottle on a cellar windowsill. The window was screened with a clump of lilac brush. People seldom went into that part of the cellar.

During the summer of 1912, I threw a stone and broke a corner of this window's pane. Since my mother had not yet heard about the traumas, the complexes, or the thwarted egos that a solid smack on the seat of the pants could create, I neglected to mention the broken

window.

As cold weather set in, my father began complaining that his removed fingers were cold and nothing he could do would relieve them. My mother tried in vain to convince him that it was impossible for fingers in a 15-year pickle of alcohol to feel anything. He continued to complain, and she continued to pooh-pooh the whole idea.

One cold day, she went into the back cellar. Feeling a draft of icy air, she investigated and discovered the broken window. The hole was directly behind the bottle of fingers.

Without saying anything to anyone, she took the fingers upstairs and put

them in a bureau drawer in a warm bedroom. My father never mentioned cold fingers again. A few days later, she sent the hired man to replace the pane of glass, so my father had no idea that the fingers had been moved.

Years later, she told us about the incident.

My father died in 1936. As we left the house to go to the funeral, my brother-in-law asked us which one had given the fingers to the undertaker. Not one of us had thought of them. Bill dashed back into the house, got the fingers, and surreptitiously dropped them into the casket as he walked past it for the last time.

—Helen McDivitt, in
The 1968 Old Farmer's
Almanac

**HE KEPT THE SEVERED FINGERS IN A SMALL
BOTTLE OF ALCOHOL BECAUSE HE
WANTED TO HAVE THEM BURIED WITH HIM.**



WEATHER FORECASTS

OF AUTUMN'S WINE, NOW DRINK YOUR FILL;
THE FROST'S ON THE PUMPKIN, AND SNOW'S ON THE HILL.

HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

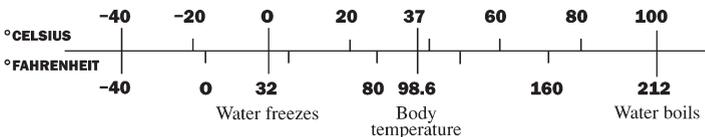
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

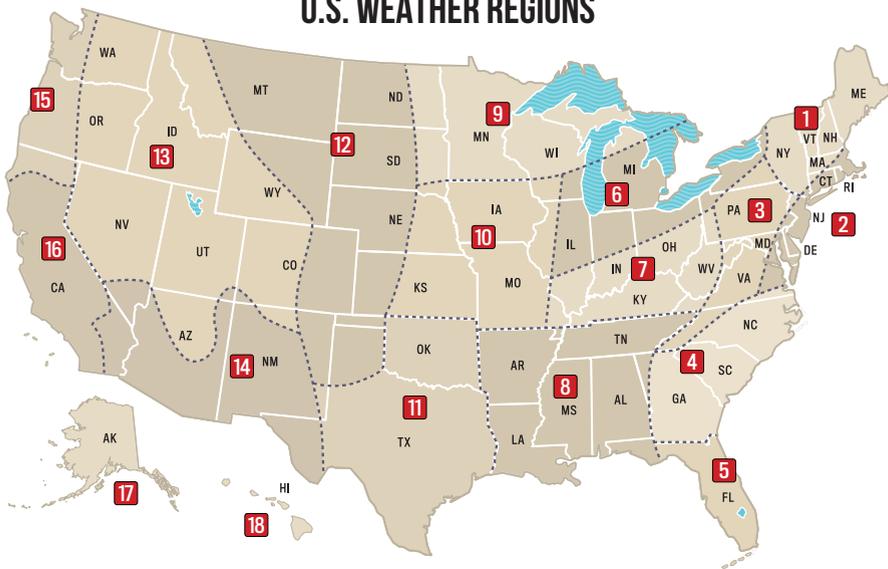


LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY

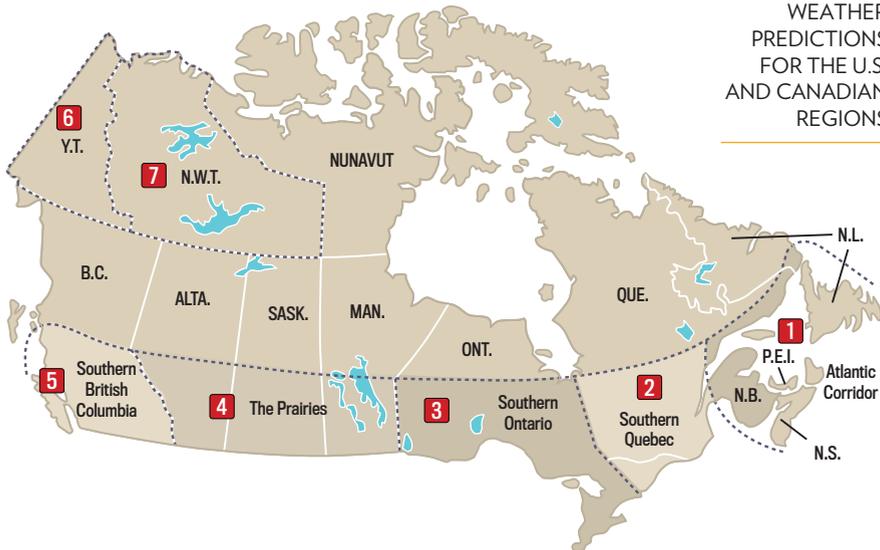


WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS

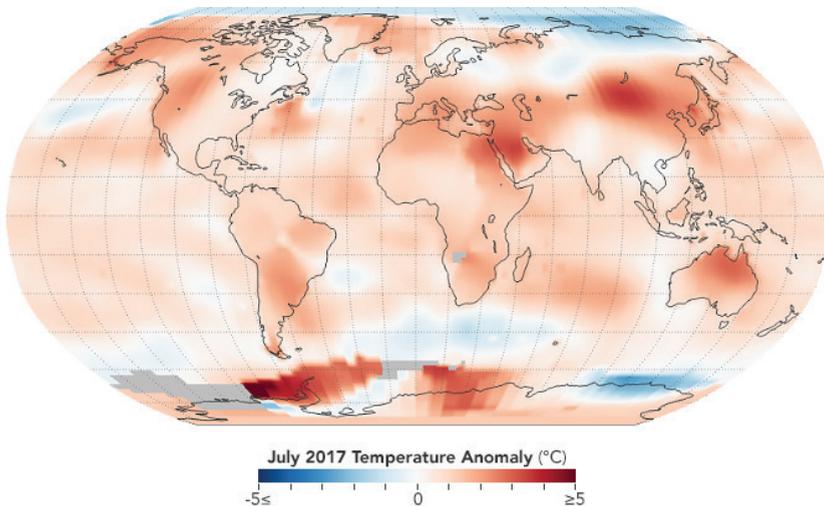


CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





THE COOLING EFFECT OF THE SUN?

As Earth continues to warm, lower solar radiation may help to ease the heat's impact—temporarily.

July 2017 had very close to the same average temperature across Earth as did July 2016, which was the hottest month ever recorded. According to NOAA (the U.S. government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), the average global land and ocean surface temperature for July 2017 was 0.83 degree C (1.49 degrees F) above the 20th-century average of 15.8°C (60.4°F), only 0.05 degree C (0.09 degree F) behind July 2016.

You can see on this map from NASA that nearly every place on Earth was warmer than normal in July, including

all of the Americas. NASA also has an interesting animation showing the temperature departures from the normal mean over the period from January 1880 through July 2017.

Nine of the 10 warmest Julys on record have occurred since 2005, with July 1998 the only one before the 21st century. July 2017 also marks the 41st consecutive July and the 391st consecutive month (that's 32 years and 7 months) in which the average global temperature has been above the 20th-century average.

In my view, this is extremely strong evidence that Earth is warmer than it



TAP FOR NASA'S ANIMATION OF TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES SINCE 1880

was in the 20th century. And, because solar activity (the driver of our long-range forecasts) suggests that temperatures in recent years should have been relatively cool, this represents strong evidence that there is some other factor causing warming—which would be the increase in greenhouse gases caused by human activities.

I do expect that solar activity over the next 15 to perhaps 50 years will remain low. And if I am correct, this will keep the Earth's temperatures cooler than they would otherwise be—although still continuing a general year-to-year warming trend. Then, once solar activity returns to near normal levels, temperatures would jump significantly higher—perhaps on the order of 1 to 2 degrees F.

Although based on the current political climate it seems unlikely that we will have taken the actions needed to deal with the increased temperatures on a national level, states like California, New York, and Florida have already started to enact plans to deal with rising seas and other effects of the rising temperatures.

One very important thing to keep in mind is that with technological advances accelerating at an exponential rate, solutions that would be too complex

and costly now will be much more effective in the future. Thus I am hopeful that we will find a way to deal with any changes in climate that will enable the continuing advancement of humanity.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR THIS WINTER

As solar activity continues to decline toward its minimum in early 2019, temperatures will be much colder than last winter—but still above normal—from Maine southward to most of Florida and westward through the Great Lakes, Midwest, Heartland, and Northern Plains. With last winter's weak La Niña most likely to be replaced by a weak El Niño, cold air masses will have difficulty making any prolonged inroads in the northern Plains, Great Lakes, or northeastern states. But they will be able to slide into the Intermountain region, making below-normal temperatures the rule from the Gulf States westward to California and from the Intermountain region westward to the Pacific Northwest.

The winter of 2017–2018 will feature above-normal snowfall in northern and central New England, from the Tennessee Valley westward to New Mexico, and in the central Great Lakes, central Plains, and Intermountain regions.

—Michael Steinberg, Old Farmer's Almanac meteorologist



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



How to Buy Soap

A deaf old lady walked into a store and asked for 10 cents' worth of soap.

"We don't sell it by pieces," said the polite clerk.

"Yes, and I want the yellow kind," replied the old lady.

"You don't understand me, madam," said the clerk. "I said that we don't sell partial bars."

"Sure enough," replied the aged customer, "soap isn't what it used to be. They put too much junk in it these days."

"Oh, my goodness!"

exclaimed the now distracted clerk in a stage whisper. "Will you just listen to this lady?"

Then, placing his mouth to her ear, he as much as screamed: "We! Don't! Sell! Partial! Soap! Here!"

"Yes," said the old lady, "you may put it up in paper and tie a string around it if you like."

The clerk rushed to a box, took out a bar of soap, and almost flung it at the old woman, exclaiming: "Please! Just take this and leave!"

The old lady carefully laid her dime on the counter and, as she did so, remarked to the clerk:



WIT

“You’re the politest and most accommodating young man I’ve ever seen, and I’ll surely call again when I want more soap!”

–M. Quad (*Charles Bertrand Lewis, 1842–1924*)

LAWNDRY BILLS

“I’m afraid my bills are like a lawn at the break of day . . .”

“Pray tell, why?”

“Because they are all over dew.”



A Hobbling Pun

A strolling gentleman remarked to his companion that the man limping down the street in front of them was a famous bishop.

“Indeed, is it so?”

replied the second. “I should not have imagined him to be a clergyman, but a lame man.”



SHIFTY

A commercial traveler realized that he had accidentally left an article of his wardrobe at an inn and some time later wrote to the chambermaid to return it to him. He received the following answer:

I hope, dear sir, you’ll not feel hurt,
I’ll plainly tell you about it;
I’ve made a shift of your old shirt,
And you must make a shift without it.

Played the Fool

A letter once arrived at the New Orleans post office addressed to the “Biggest Fool in the City.”

The postmaster being absent at the time, one of the postal clerks informed him of the letter upon his return.

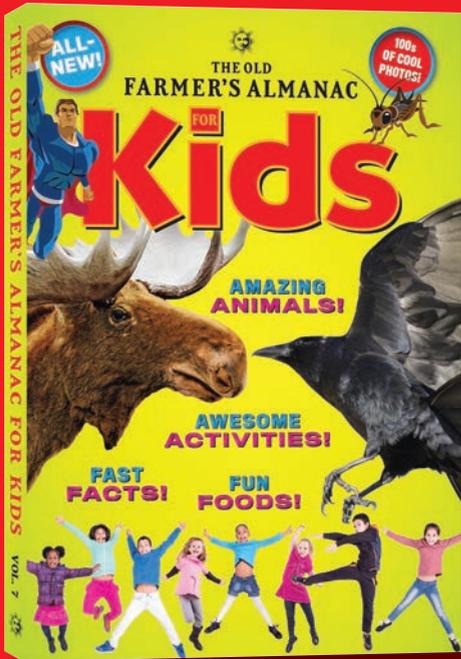
“And what became of it?” asked the postmaster.

“Why, I didn’t know who the biggest fool in New Orleans was, so I opened it myself.”

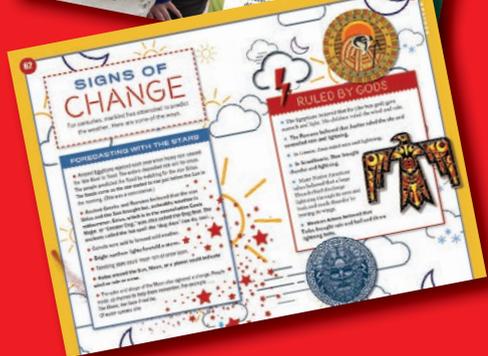
“And what did you find?”

“Find?” replied the clerk. “Why, nothing but the words ‘Thou art the man.’”





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WHAT'S NEXT



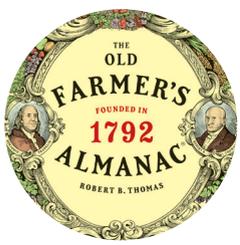
GARDENING
Onions for the
Flower Bed



CALENDAR
Full Beaver Moon,
birthstones, Hawaii's
Queen Lili'uokalani and
the song *Aloha 'Oe*, 1793
Almanac tidbits



**LIVING
NATURALLY**
Grow Fresh Salads
All Winter Long



ANNIVERSARY
Our Funniest Story
Ever—"Why My
Great-Uncle Left the
Ministry"



FOOD
Scrumptious Thanksgiving
recipes, including
Caramel Apple Crumb Pie



ASTRONOMY
Explore with our
Sky Map

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!*

CELEBRATING THE ALMANAC'S 225TH YEAR!