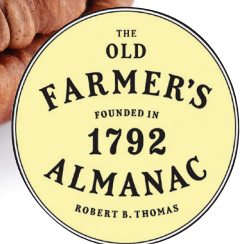


EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

PECANS ARE FOR MORE THAN PIE

- PLUS:
- Best Days to Do Things
 - Gardening by the Moon's Sign
 - Monthly Calendar • Astronomy • Weather



APRIL 2023

PHOTO: DIONISVERO/GETTY IMAGES

APRIL

Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More

CALENDAR THIS 'N' THAT

A lunar month (from new Moon to new Moon), aka a lunation, averages 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, 2.8 seconds.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Apr. 1: All Fools' Day

Apr. 2: Palm Sunday

Apr. 5: Passover begins
at sundown

Apr. 7: Good Friday

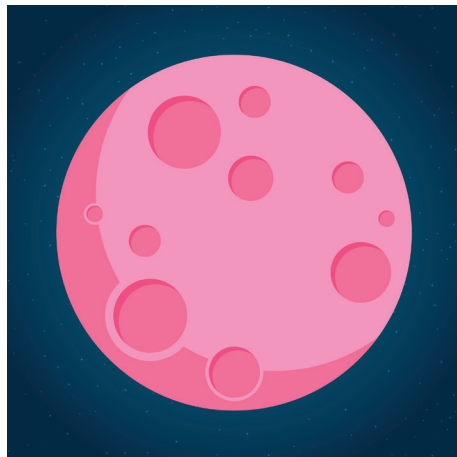
Apr. 9: Easter

Apr. 10: Easter Monday

Apr. 16: Orthodox Easter

Apr. 22: Earth Day

Apr. 28: National Arbor Day



EYE ON THE SKY

APRIL'S FULL MOON NAMES

Pink Moon, Frog Moon,
Moon When the Ducks Come Back

MOON PHASES

Full Moon: Apr. 6, 12:35 A.M. EDT

Last Quarter: Apr. 13, 5:11 A.M. EDT

New Moon: Apr. 20, 12:13 A.M. EDT

First Quarter: Apr. 27, 5:20 P.M. EDT



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT APRIL'S
FULL MOON

It's not too late to order your 2023 *Old Farmer's Almanac* calendars! Explore your options at [Almanac.com/Shop](https://www.almanac.com/Shop).



BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These April 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: 1, 27–29

Ask for a loan: 7, 8

Begin diet to gain weight: 4, 21

Begin diet to lose weight: 9, 17

Buy a home: 21, 25, 26

Color hair: 20, 21

Cut hair to discourage growth: 16, 17

Cut hair to encourage growth: 5, 21

Entertain: 1, 27–29

Get married: 5, 6

Have dental care: 2–4, 30

Move (house/household): 22–24

Perm hair: 14, 15



Quit smoking: 9, 17
Straighten hair: 9–11
Travel for pleasure: 1, 27–29
Wean children: 9, 17

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 25, 26
Brew: 7, 8
Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 16, 17
Demolish: 7, 8
Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat: 9–11
End projects: 5
Lay shingles: 1, 27–29
Make jams or jellies: 16, 17
Paint: 5, 6, 20, 21
Start projects: 21
Wash floors: 16, 17
Wash windows: 18, 19

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 12, 13
Go camping: 9–11
Go fishing: 1–6, 20–30
Set posts or pour concrete: 12, 13

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 18, 19
Graft or pollinate: 25, 26
Harvest aboveground crops: 2–4, 30
Harvest belowground crops: 12, 13
Mow to promote growth: 25, 26
Mow to slow growth: 7, 8
Pick fruit: 2–4, 30
Plant aboveground crops: 25, 26
Plant belowground crops: 7, 8, 16, 17
Prune to discourage growth: 9–11
Prune to encourage growth: 1, 27–29

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 7, 8
Castrate animals: 14, 15
Cut hay: 18, 19
Purchase animals: 25, 26
Set eggs: 4, 5, 13, 14
Slaughter livestock: 7, 8
Wean animals: 9, 17



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the April 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 APRIL

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



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



TAP FOR
APRIL 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*.

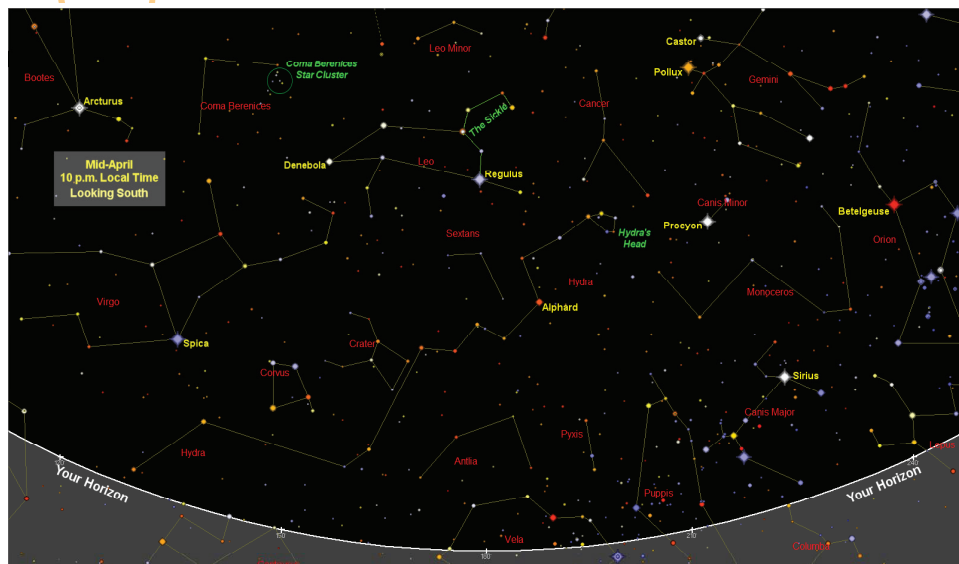
Mercury's retrograde periods can cause our plans to go awry. However, this is an excellent time to reflect on the past. Intuition is high during these periods, and coincidences can be extraordinary.

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 2023 retrograde periods: **April 21–May 14, August 23–September 14, and December 13–(January 1, 2024).**

–*Celeste Longacre*

Celebrating its 46th anniversary in 2023, the best-selling *Old Farmer's Almanac* Gardening Calendar is filled with beautiful art, helpful tips, insightful quotes, and an easy-to-use grid with holidays and Moon phases. Order yours today at [Almanac.com/Shop](https://www.almanac.com/shop).



THE MINOR LEAGUERS

With the start of baseball season upon us, this seems an appropriate time to look at constellations that haven't made the Big Leagues. These are the night sky's lesser lights, constellations that are either too small or too faint to make the celestial all-star team. To maximize your ability to see the Minor Leaguers, choose a moonless night during April and a viewing location as far as possible from city lights.

First, let's get our bearings. When you look to the south on April evenings, mighty Leo, the Lion, dominates the scene. The most distinctive part of Leo is the Sickle asterism, a pattern of six stars anchored by Regulus, the 21st brightest star in the night sky. Once you've spotted the Sickle, you should have little trouble tracing out the rest of Leo, culmination with bright Denebola, whose name comes from an Arabic phrase meaning "tail of the lion."

With Leo clearly in view, we can now make our way to the

 TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
APRIL SKY MAP

 TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES



first few Minor Leaguers. Just above Leo lies the Smaller Lion, Leo Minor. You'll have to make good use of your imagination, because only three of Leo Minor's stars are easily visible, arranged in a much-flattened triangle. Moving to the east (leftward), we find Coma Berenices, Berenice's Hair, named for Queen Berenice of ancient Egypt. It seems Berenice pledged to cut her long, flowing hair if her husband, King Ptolemy III, returned safely from battle. When he did, Berenice lopped off her golden locks, and astronomers of the time declared that they would be forever preserved in the night sky.

Like Leo Minor, Coma Berenices consists of just three main stars. However, the constellation is also home to the Coma Berenices Star Cluster, which is highlighted on our map. With your eyes alone, you will see only about five stars in the cluster, but even small binoculars will reveal several more.

Continuing downward, past the large constellation Virgo, we come to the compact figures of Corvus, the Crow, and Crater, the Cup. Corvus is an ancient constellation, dating back to at least 1100 B.C., when it was known to the Babylonians as The Raven. Its four main stars form an asterism that is easy to spot, even though it bears scant resemblance to a crow. Crater is much fainter but equally old, and it does actually resemble its namesake.

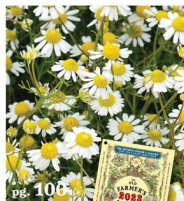
To the upper right of Crater and directly below Regulus is Sextans, the Sextant, one of the least impressive constellations of all. It's another three-star constellation, but unlike very ancient Corvus and Crater, Sextans is a modern invention. It was first designated as a constellation in 1687 by noted Polish astronomer Johannes Hevelius.

Slithering beneath the small constellations Corvus, Crater, and Sextans is Hydra, the Water Snake. Hydra is the largest of all constellations, an impressive meandering figure that spans nearly one-quarter of the sky, from its head high in the south to its tail near the eastern horizon. This constellation has been recognized since very ancient times, despite being home to only one bright star, Alphard, known as "The Solitary One."

Hydra seems to be meandering westward toward Monoceros, the Unicorn, a faint W-shape grouping that will require you to have dark skies if you are to see it at all. The final Minor Leaguer in this part of the sky is Cancer, the Crab, which sits just above the head of Hydra and directly to the right of the Sickle, where we began our journey.

-Jeff DeTray

The 2023 Garden Guide is here!



THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

Garden Guide

2023



ORDER TODAY!



FOOD

Pecans Are for More Than Pie

We celebrate events throughout the year, from birthdays to holidays to anniversaries. But almost every day—or week or month—is special. In looking over the calendar, we noticed that April is National Pecan Month. Give these recipes a try, and we're sure that you'll go nuts for pecans.

PHOTO: SAMANTHA JONES/QUINN BREIN COMMUNICATIONS

Zucchini and Pecan Sour Cream Pancakes



ZUCCHINI AND PECAN SOUR CREAM PANCAKES

1-1/3 cups milk
1 cup sour cream
2 eggs
2 tablespoons (1/4 stick) butter, melted and cooled
2 cups all-purpose flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup grated zucchini
1/4 cup chopped pecans
1-1/2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
butter and maple syrup, for serving

In a bowl, combine milk, sour cream, eggs, and butter. Mix thoroughly. Add flour, baking powder, sugar, and salt; stir until just combined. The batter will be lumpy. Add zucchini, pecans, and lemon juice.

Using a 1/4 cup measure, drop batter onto a hot, greased griddle or skillet. Cook until bubbles appear on the surface. Turn once and cook until underside is slightly brown.

Serve with plenty of butter and warm maple syrup.

Makes 6 servings.

Looking for more great recipes? Get a copy of our best-selling cookbook with recipes from you, our readers. *The Old Farmer's Almanac Readers' Best Recipes* is filled with tried-and-true recipes that keep folks coming back for more, plus the stories behind them! Store.almanac.com/cookbook-readers-best-recipes/

FOOD

Sweet Potato, Pear, and Pecan Salad

SWEET POTATO, PEAR, AND PECAN SALAD

DRESSING:

1/2 cup canola oil

1/4 cup apple cider vinegar

2 tablespoons maple syrup

1/4 teaspoon salt

freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1/3 cup fresh basil, chopped

SALAD:

1/3 cup pecan halves

4 teaspoons honey

sprinkle of cayenne pepper, or to taste

2 medium sweet potatoes

1 bag (8 ounces) mixed baby greens

1 Bartlett pear, cored and diced

4 slices bacon, fried crisp and chopped

2 ounces crumbled blue cheese

For dressing: In a bowl, whisk together oil, vinegar, maple syrup, salt, and pepper. Stir in basil.

For salad: Grease a baking sheet or line with parchment paper. In a skillet over medium-high heat, cook pecans, honey, and cayenne for 3 minutes, or until mixture simmers and is foamy. Spread onto prepared baking sheet, separating slightly with a fork; set aside to cool completely.

Pierce sweet potatoes and cook in microwave on high for 4 to 5 minutes, or until tender. When cool enough to handle, remove skins and chop into 1/2-inch cubes.

In a large salad bowl, mix together greens, pears, and sweet potatoes. Pour dressing over salad and toss to coat.

Top with bacon, blue cheese, and pecans before serving.

Makes 4 servings.



**Maple Pecan
Carrot Cake**

MAPLE PECAN CARROT CAKE

CAKE:	1/2 teaspoon almond extract (optional)	2 cups grated carrots
4 eggs, at room temperature	2 cups all-purpose flour	1 cup raisins
1 cup vegetable oil	1 tablespoon baking powder	FROSTING:
1/2 cup maple syrup	1/2 teaspoon salt	16 ounces (2 packages) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup brown sugar	1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon	1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, softened
1/2 cup sour cream or plain yogurt	1/2 teaspoon ground allspice	2 cups confectioners' sugar
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice	1/4 teaspoon baking soda	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 teaspoons orange zest	1-2/3 cups pecan halves or pieces	
1 teaspoon vanilla extract		

For cake: Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter a 13x9-inch baking pan.

In a bowl, combine eggs, oil, maple syrup, brown sugar, sour cream, lemon juice, orange zest, vanilla, and almond extract (if using). Using an electric mixer, beat on medium-high speed for 1 minute.

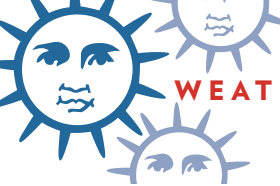
In a separate bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, salt, spices, and baking soda. Stir in pecans, then make a well.

Pour egg mixture into the well and stir until evenly combined. Add carrots and raisins and stir until combined. Scrape batter into prepared pan.

Bake on center oven rack for 30 to 35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Transfer to a cooling rack to cool thoroughly.

For frosting: About an hour before serving the cake, combine cream cheese and butter in a bowl. Using an electric mixer, beat on medium speed to blend. Add confectioners' sugar, 1 cup at a time, beating after each addition. Add vanilla and beat to blend. Spread frosting over the cake.

Makes 12 servings.



A THUNDERSTORM IN APRIL IS THE END OF HOARFROST.

HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

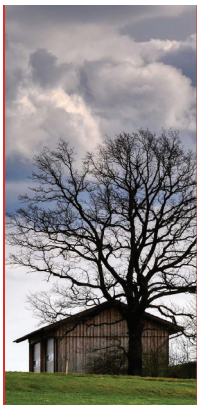
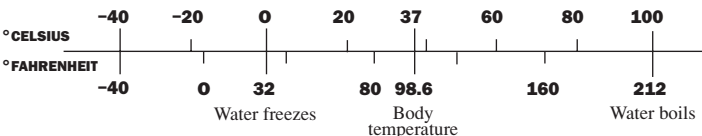
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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. Our forecasts are based on the tabulations that span the period 1991 through 2020.

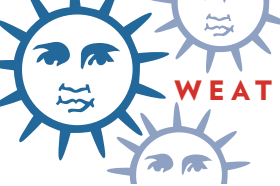
We believe that nothing in the universe happens haphazardly, that there is a cause-and-effect pattern to all phenomena. However, although neither we nor any other forecasters have as yet gained sufficient insight into the mysteries of the universe to predict the weather with total accuracy, our results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

CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



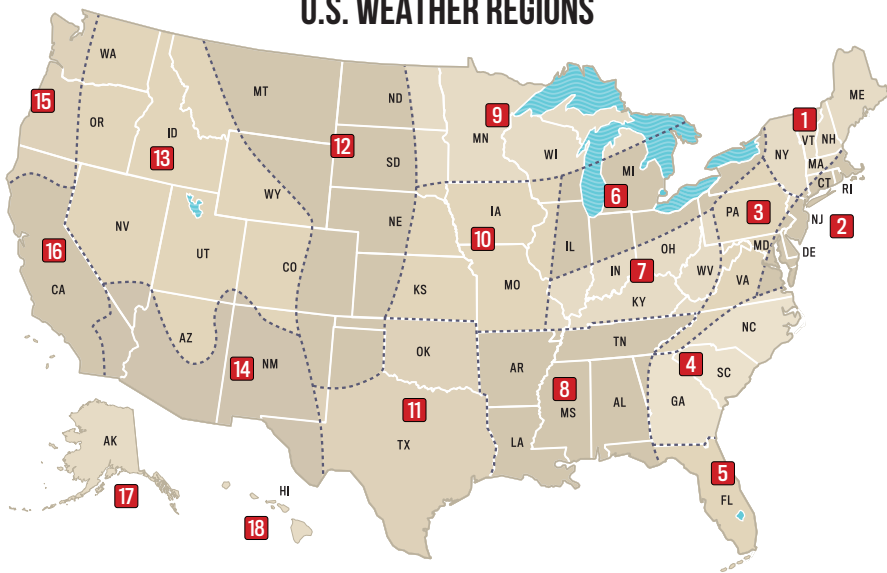
TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

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 APRIL
WEATHER
PREDICTIONS
FOR THE U.S.
AND CANADIAN
REGIONS





APRIL'S “FOOLISH” FORECAST

A late-season arctic blast to start the month will cause rivers and lakes to freeze over in much of the eastern half of the continent. *Don't worry, folks—just April foolin'!* In reality, the weather on the 1st and immediately thereafter will be mild across much of the U.S. East, with sunshine from the Appalachians and Southeast and Florida into the Ohio Valley, while rain showers will occur from the Northeast through the Great Lakes into the High Plains and southward to the Gulf Coast. It will be chilly with rain and snow showers over the Rockies and sunny and dry along the West Coast. Canada will be chilly with rain and snow showers over eastern areas and sunny and mild from the Prairies to the Pacific Coast.

On April 9, Easter Sunday, folks will need to keep the jacket and umbrella handy for the cool and wet conditions along much of the U.S. East Coast as well as from the Heartland through the Intermountain West to the West Coast and across much of Hawaii. The middle of the country will enjoy sunny and mild conditions for Easter activities. Up north, there will be a snowstorm over Atlantic Canada, while the skies farther west will be more tranquil, albeit chilly. Snow and rain showers may alter outdoor plans from the Prairies into southern British Columbia.

April 22 will mark the 53rd celebration of Earth Day. Expect variable



skies with cool conditions from the Northeast and Ohio Valley across the Great Lakes and into the Upper Midwest. There will be rain showers from the Heartland through the High Plains and Intermountain West to the West Coast, including the Alaskan Panhandle. Across Canada, the weather will be sunny and pleasant from western portions of Atlantic Canada into southern Ontario, but rain may dampen plans from the Prairies to the Pacific Coast.

April 24 is St. George's Day in Newfoundland and Labrador, where any outdoor plans may run up against periods of rain and snow.

On Arbor Day, April 28, Mother Nature will provide needed rain to give the trees a good start in life from the mid-Atlantic region through the Southeast and westward across the Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, and Deep South into the Heartland, as well as across much of Hawaii. A late-month chill will cause snow showers across the High Plains and Intermountain West, while the weather will be sunny and mild for tree planting along much of the Pacific Coast.

Overall, April temperatures will be cooler than normal across much of the United States but warmer than average across Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Alaska, and Hawaii. It will be wetter than normal from the Appalachians and Southeast across the Deep South and Heartland through the Rockies to the West Coast and drier than normal elsewhere. In Canada, the weather will be cooler and drier than normal over much of the East and warmer and wetter than normal across the rest of the country.

The early outlook for summer calls for temperatures to be cooler than normal across the northern and central Rockies and Great Basin and along the central and southern California coast and near or above normal elsewhere. Rainfall will be above normal from New England through the mid-Atlantic coast, from the Upper Midwest southward through the Deep South, from the northern Rockies through the Pacific Northwest, from the Desert Southwest to the southern California coast, and across Alaska and Hawaii and near to below normal elsewhere. Temperatures will be warmer than normal across much of Canada, except for in the Northwest Territories, where they will be cooler than normal. Precipitation will be below normal in Atlantic Canada and from southern Ontario across to the eastern and central Prairies and near to above normal elsewhere.

—Bob Smerbeck and Brian Thompson, *Old Farmer's Almanac meteorologists*