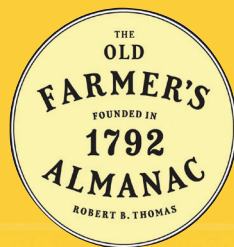


# EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

## TELLING THE BEES

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



AUGUST 2024

PHOTO: JUDYJUMP/GETTY IMAGES

# AUGUST

*Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More*

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- Aug. 1:** Emancipation Day (Canada)
- Aug. 4:** U.S. Coast Guard Birthday
- Aug. 5:** Civic Holiday (Canada)
- Aug. 19:** National Aviation Day
- Aug. 26:** Women's Equality Day

## BIRTH FLOWERS: AUGUST

### GLADIOLUS AND POPPY

- Gladiolus may symbolize strength, victory, honor, love, integrity, remembrance, faithfulness, or sincerity.
- The poppy has long been a symbol for remembrance and consolation, as well as sleep, peace, death, and resurrection. It can also represent imagination, pleasure, or extravagance.



## EYE ON THE SKY

### AUGUST'S FULL MOON NAMES

Sturgeon Moon, Mountain Shadows Moon, Black Cherries Moon

### MOON PHASES

**New Moon:** Aug. 4, 7:13 A.M. EDT

**First Quarter:** Aug. 12, 11:19 A.M. EDT

**Full Moon:** Aug. 19, 2:26 P.M. EDT

**Last Quarter:** Aug. 26, 5:26 A.M. EDT



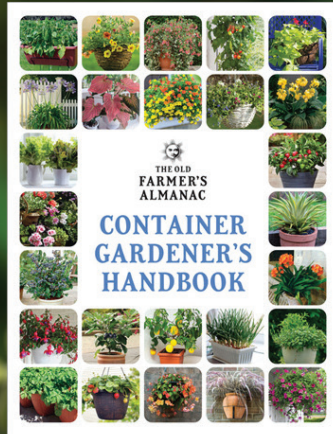
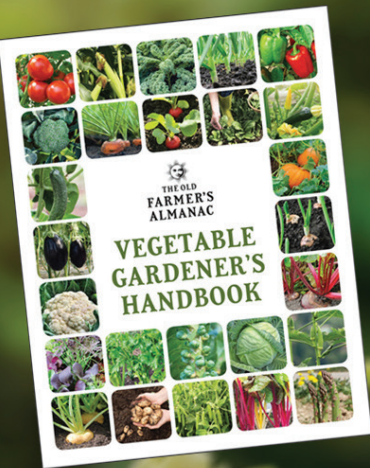
TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT AUGUST'S FULL MOON

*The Old Farmer's Almanac* Garden Planner software makes gardening easier! Try it free for 7 days (no credit card needed!) at [GardenPlanner.Almanac.com](http://GardenPlanner.Almanac.com).

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## BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These August 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: 11, 12

Ask for a loan: 24, 25

Begin diet to gain weight: 8, 13

Begin diet to lose weight: 22, 26

Buy a home: 11, 12

Color hair: 24, 25

Cut hair to discourage growth: 24, 25

Cut hair to encourage growth: 8–10

Entertain: 3–5, 30, 31

Get married: 8–10

Have dental care: 6, 7

Move (house/household): 26, 27

Perm hair: 18, 19



Quit smoking: 22, 26  
Straighten hair: 13–15  
Travel for pleasure: 3–5, 30, 31  
Wean children: 22, 26

### **AROUND THE HOUSE**

---

Bake: 1, 2, 28, 29  
Brew: 11, 12  
Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut:  
1, 2, 28, 29  
Demolish: 11, 12  
Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat:  
3, 22, 23  
End projects: 18  
Lay shingles: 3–5, 30, 31  
Make jams or jellies: 20, 21  
Paint: 8–10  
Start projects: 5  
Wash floors: 20, 21  
Wash windows: 22, 23

### **IN THE GARDEN**

---

Destroy pests and weeds: 22, 23  
Graft or pollinate: 1, 2, 28, 29  
Harvest aboveground crops: 6, 7

Harvest belowground crops: 24, 25  
Mow to promote growth: 11, 12  
Mow to slow growth: 28, 29  
Pick fruit: 6, 7  
Plant aboveground crops: 11, 12  
Plant belowground crops: 1, 2,  
28, 29  
Prune to discourage growth:  
3, 30, 31  
Prune to encourage growth: 13–15

### **OUTDOORS**

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Begin logging: 16, 17  
Go camping: 13–15  
Go fishing: 4–19  
Set posts or pour concrete: 16, 17

### **ON THE FARM**

---

Breed animals: 11, 12  
Castrate animals: 18, 19  
Cut hay: 22, 23  
Purchase animals: 1, 2, 28, 29  
Set eggs: 17, 18, 26, 27  
Slaughter livestock: 11, 12  
Wean animals: 22, 26



## GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the August 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 AUGUST

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



TAP FOR  
MERCURY IN  
RETROGRADE  
DATES



TAP FOR  
AUGUST  
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.

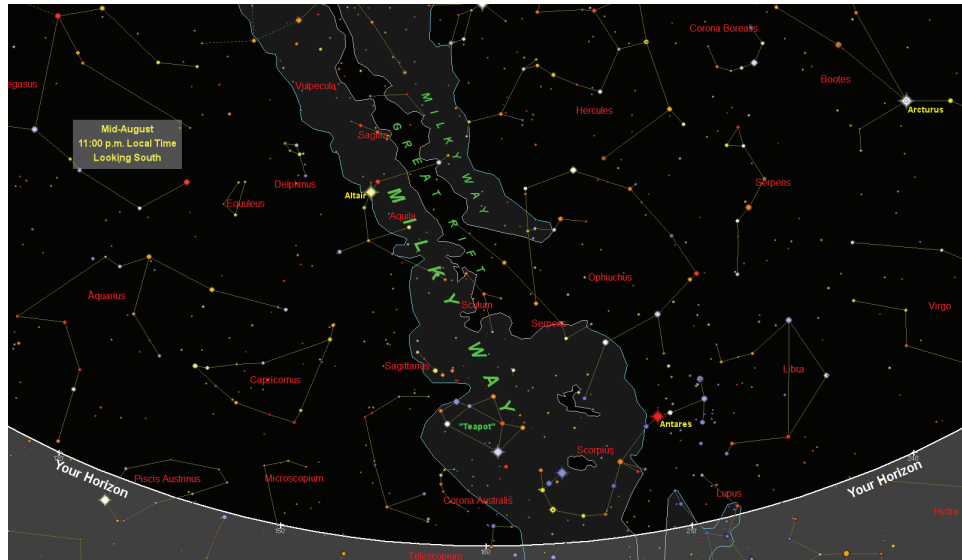
When Mercury is retrograde, remain flexible, allow extra time for travel, and avoid signing contracts. Review projects and plans at these times, but wait until Mercury is direct again to make any final decisions.

Mercury's remaining 2024 retrograde periods are **August 4–27** and **November 25–December 15**.

—Celeste Longacre

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Celebrating its 47th anniversary in 2024, 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).



## METEORS AND THE MILKY WAY

Every year in August, we welcome the Perseid Meteor Shower to our skies. The Perseids are one of the best meteor showers of the year, and they reach their peak on the night of August 12–13.

Known as shooting stars, meteors appear as brief streaks of light when small space rocks called meteoroids plunge into Earth's atmosphere. Friction with the atmosphere heats the meteoroids to the point where they burn up, each creating a bright flash that we call a meteor.

Most meteoroids are no larger than grains of sand, but occasionally pieces of a big one survive the fiery trip through the atmosphere to reach the ground. These surviving fragments are known as meteorites.

In summary, when moving through space, a tiny rock is a *meteoroid*. When we see it burn up in Earth's atmosphere, it's a *meteor*. If any part of the object survives its passage

TAP TO GET  
A PRINTABLE  
AUGUST  
SKY MAP

TAP TO  
FOLLOW  
OHIOAN JEFF  
DETRAY'S SKY  
ADVENTURES





through the atmosphere and reaches the ground, it's a *meteorite*.

Several times a year, Earth passes through streams of cosmic debris. When this happens, we may be treated to a meteor shower in which the number of meteors jumps dramatically to anywhere from 10 to 100 meteors per hour.

In the case of the annual Perseid Meteor Shower, every August, Earth encounters debris left behind by Comet Swift-Tuttle, which was discovered in 1862. As Earth plows through the cometary debris, each little particle appears in the sky as a momentary streak of light—a meteor.

Perseid meteors can appear anywhere in the sky, so your best viewing strategy is to recline or lie on the ground and look toward the darkest and most unobstructed region of the sky. A sleeping bag or air mattress makes meteor watching a *lot* more comfortable.

If you watch the Perseids from a truly dark location, use the opportunity to also observe one of the night sky's most magnificent sights—the summer Milky Way, which is the galaxy in which our Sun and all of its planets are located.

From our vantage point within the galaxy, it appears as a huge, shimmering cloud of light arching from the southern horizon to high overhead. It glows with the combined light of billions upon billions of faraway stars, each too faint for our eyes to resolve. Added together, these myriad stars produced the soft glow that we see as the Milky Way.

Sadly, the increase in light pollution over the past century has turned the Milky Way from a common sight into one that many folks have never seen. In 1994, when the Northridge earthquake knocked out power (and therefore light) to Los Angeles, emergency centers received calls from concerned citizens who reported a “giant silvery cloud” hovering over the city. Was it dangerous? Not to worry: The city dwellers were merely seeing the Milky Way for the first time in their lives!

You need a dark location to observe the Milky Way in all its glory. A typical suburban neighborhood won't be sufficiently dark. Moonlight, security lights, and streetlights are enough to spoil the view. From a properly dark, moonless viewing site, you can see the huge, hazy band of the Milky Way and maybe even the Great Rift, a large, dark strip of cosmic dust and gas that hides part of the Milky Way and appears to divide it in two, as shown on this month's Sky Map.

A meteor shower lasts just a night or two, but the Milky Way is on display every night of the year, and it's especially grand in the summer. Find yourself to a really dark spot and check it out!

—Jeff DeTray



FOLKLORE

*The bee's life is  
like a magic well:  
The more you draw  
from it, the more  
it fills with water.*

—Karl von Frisch, Austrian  
ethologist (1886–1982)

# Telling the Bees

*A swarm of facts, folklore, and traditions*

PHOTO: FLORINTT/GETTY IMAGES

## FOLKLORE

**F**or thousands of years, human beings have shared a special bond with bees. Bees are not truly domesticated; their relationship with humans is an equal partnership. In Central Europe, beekeepers gave their bees written contracts, promising to cherish and take care of them in return for wax and honey.

The orderliness and industry of honeybees and their loyalty to their queen are a timeless metaphor. In ancient times, the hieroglyph that represented the king of Lower Egypt was a bee. When Napoleon Bonaparte made himself emperor, he wore a coronation mantle (cloak) decorated with golden bees. Even today, a beehive adorns the state flag of Utah, along with the motto “Industry.” Indeed, the bee has given its name to occasions of collective labor, such as a sewing bee.

Bees were symbolic of wisdom and morality. Muslims believe that the bee is the only animal that left the Garden of Eden unchanged. The Germans believed that bees were created by God to provide wax for church candles, and the Bretons said that they were the transformed tears of Christ. In India, the three Hindu gods Indra, Krishna, and Vishnu were called “the nectar-born,” and Kama, a god of love, had a bowstring made of bees.

The Greeks and Romans thought that bees sucked their young out of flowers. In fact, queen bees are impregnated by drones in the so-called “mating flight,” far from the hive. But no one understood this until the late 19th century. Until then, bees represented chastity and were a symbol of Artemis, the Greek goddess of virginity. Beekeepers had to abstain from sex during

certain ritual periods, and young women would parade their sweethearts before the hives, believing that bees would sting a faithless lover. Valentine is the patron saint not only of lovers but also of beekeepers.

In Greek mythology, two daughters of the king of Crete, Melissa and Amalthea, protected the infant Zeus, and the grateful god turned them into bees. Greeks also believed that if a bee landed on a baby’s lips, the child would grow up to be an eloquent speaker. The philosopher Plato, the dramatist Sophocles, and the historian Xenophon were said to have received the gift, and each was nicknamed “The Athenian Bee.”

A vast collection of folklore relates to bees. A bee flying into a house means that a stranger is coming. If the bee flies in and out of the house, it’s good luck, but it mustn’t be shoed out, and if the

## FOLKLORE

bee dies in the house, bad luck will follow. If a swarm comes to your home without your knowledge, disaster will follow. The Roman general Scipio once canceled an attack because a swarm landed in his camp.

Bees can even predict the weather, it is said. Unusually large stores of honey in the fall mean that a hard winter is coming.

Some of the most interesting folklore about bees involves human-bee communication. Bees were said to hum hymns on Christmas Eve, and beekeepers sang to their bees to prevent them from swarming. Swearing or quarreling in front of bees was strictly forbidden, lest they become upset and leave.

It was thought that the public exchange of money for bees was offensive to them, so barter was the preferred method of acquiring a swarm. If money must be used, the buyer should leave it on a stone in an

agreed-upon place for the seller to collect later, and the exchange should never take place on a Friday.

The most touching custom was to tell the bees of any significant events in the beekeeper's life. Bees were often invited to weddings, for example, and in Brittany and parts of England, betrothals were announced to the bees. The new couple would introduce themselves to the gaily-decorated hives, and pieces of wedding cake would be left there as gifts for the bees.

It was critical to tell the bees of a death in the beekeeper's family. Many tales have been told of colonies leaving the farm or dying off if they were not told, especially when the beekeeper him- or herself died. A family member (some stories specify the youngest child or the oldest female relation) had to gently knock on the hive and announce, "The Master

is dead." Then she or he would beg the bees not to leave the farm. Often the hives were decorated with black crepe for the funeral.

John Greenleaf Whittier's 1858 poem "Telling the Bees" relates such a story, and in 1906, Rudyard Kipling's "The Bee-Boy's Song" gave the bees themselves a voice:

*Bees! Bees! Hark to  
your bees!*

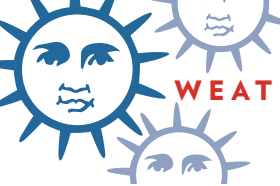
*"Hide from your  
neighbors as much as you  
please,*

*"But all that has  
happened, to us you must  
tell,*

*"Or else we will give  
you no honey to sell!"*

An ancient custom of no modern consequence? Perhaps. But following the death of England's King George VI in 1952, thousands of British beekeepers rushed outside to tell the bees.

*-Tim Clark*



RED LIGHTNING FORETELLS A DRY SPELL.

# HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

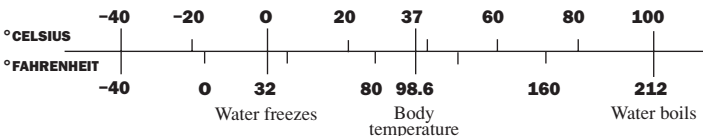
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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.

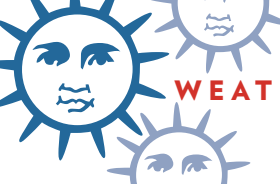
## CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

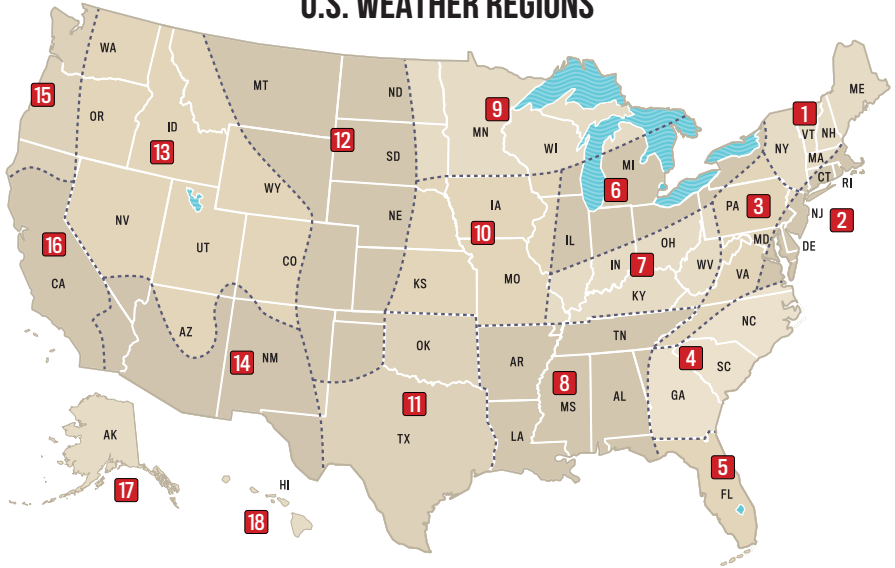


LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY



# WEATHER FORECASTS

## U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



## CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





## A PRETTY COOL FORECAST

**C**olorado Day, August 1, celebrates the Rocky Mountain state's admission into the union in 1876. Folks enjoying outdoor activities there will encounter sunny and warm conditions, although there may be scattered late-day thunderstorms across the eastern Plains.

On August 5, Canadians planning to celebrate their Civic Holiday outdoors will find conditions cool in southern Ontario, with added showers in Atlantic Canada, the Prairies, and the Northwest Territories.

National Aviation Day, August 19, commemorates the birth date in 1871 of Orville Wright. Air travelers at this time will find typical afternoon showers and thunderstorms from the East Coast through the Appalachians, in the Deep South, from the Great Lakes through the Upper Midwest, across the Plains, and over parts of Alaska and Hawaii. A tropical storm may cause delays in Texas. Look for sunny and dry conditions across the Ohio Valley and the Heartland and from the Desert Southwest and Intermountain West to the Pacific Coast.

The adoption of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote, is honored on August 26, Women's Equality Day. Outdoor activities could be affected by an afternoon thunderstorm from the East Coast through the Appalachians, in the Deep South, from the eastern Great Lakes into the Upper Midwest, and in the northern Rockies. Sunny and



dry conditions will be the rule from the Ohio Valley through the western Great Lakes, as well as from the Heartland and Plains through the southern Rockies and Desert Southwest, all the way out to the California coast. In Canada, expect passing showers from Atlantic Canada into southern Quebec, isolated afternoon thunderstorms from southern Ontario through the Prairies, and periods of rain from British Columbia into the Yukon.

August temperatures will be cooler than normal from the Great Lakes through the Upper Midwest, across the Plains through the Intermountain West, and over much of Arizona and western Washington state and near to above normal elsewhere. Rainfall will be below normal from Florida through the southern Gulf Coast states, from the western High Plains into the central Rockies, and in Alaska and Hawaii and near to above normal elsewhere. In Canada, temps will be below normal from Atlantic Canada through southern Quebec into southern Ontario and near to above normal elsewhere. Precipitation will be above normal from Atlantic Canada through southern Quebec and across southern British Columbia and the northern Yukon and near to below normal elsewhere.

Autumn temperatures in the United States will be below normal from the southern New England coast southward through Florida and westward across the Appalachians and Ohio Valley into the Great Lakes and near to above normal elsewhere. Precipitation will be above normal from the Appalachians and Ohio Valley through the Tennessee Valley, across the eastern Great Lakes and much of Texas, from western Oregon through California, and in Alaska and near to below normal elsewhere. In Canada, temps will be below normal in southern Quebec and the northern Northwest Territories and near to above normal elsewhere. Precipitation will be above normal from Atlantic Canada into southern Quebec, over eastern portions of southern British Columbia, and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories and near to below normal elsewhere.

We expect the 2024 hurricane season, which runs through November, to have above-normal activity. The best chances for a hurricane strike will be across the Southeast and Florida in late August and in the Deep South in early September. Tropical storm threats are foreseen in the Atlantic Corridor in late August, in Texas in late August and early September, from Atlantic Canada into southern Ontario in early September, and in Atlantic Canada in mid-October.

*–Bob Smerbeck and Brian Thompson, Old Farmer’s Almanac meteorologists*