

# EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

TIME FOR SOUP, STEW, AND CHOWDER!

SOOTHING SILENCE

THE TWELVE-STEP PROGRAM FOR  
GIVING YOUR CAT A PILL



FEBRUARY 2022

PHOTO: LIGHTSPRUCH/GETTY IMAGES

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*Grins and groans from the Almanac*

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# FEBRUARY

*Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More*



## EYE ON THE SKY

### FEBRUARY'S FULL MOON NAMES

Snow Moon, Bald Eagle Moon,  
Hungry Moon

### MOON PHASES

**New Moon:** Feb. 1, 12:46 A.M. EST

**First Quarter:** Feb. 8, 8:50 A.M. EST

**Full Moon:** Feb. 16, 11:56 A.M. EST

**Last Quarter:** Feb. 23, 5:32 P.M. EST



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT FEBRUARY'S  
FULL MOON

## FEBRUARY'S BIRTHSTONE: AMETHYST

The amethyst, a form of quartz, can range from a pale lilac color to a deep, rich purple. It was once thought to quicken intelligence and prevent intoxication. In fact, amethyst comes from *amethystos*, a Greek word meaning “sober.”

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

**Feb. 1:** Lunar New Year (China)

**Feb. 2:** Groundhog Day

**Feb. 12:** Abraham Lincoln's  
Birthday

**Feb. 14:** Valentine's Day

**Feb. 15:** National Flag of Canada  
Day

**Feb. 21:** Presidents' Day

**Feb. 22:** George Washington's  
Birthday



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calendars at [Almanac.com/Shop](https://www.almanac.com/shop).





## BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These February 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: 7, 8

Ask for a loan: 21, 22

Begin diet to gain weight: 4, 8

Begin diet to lose weight: 18, 23

Buy a home: 7, 8

Color hair: 7, 8

Cut hair to discourage growth: 19, 20

Cut hair to encourage growth: 7, 8

Entertain: 14–16

Get married: 19, 20

Have dental care: 17, 18

Move (house/household): 9–11

Perm hair: 1, 28





Quit smoking: 18, 23  
Straighten hair: 23, 24  
Travel for pleasure: 14–16  
Wean children: 18, 23

### AROUND THE HOUSE

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Bake: 12, 13  
Brew: 21, 22  
Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 21, 22  
Demolish: 21, 22  
Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat: 23, 24  
End projects: 1  
Lay shingles: 14–16  
Make jams or jellies: 2, 3  
Paint: 19, 20  
Start projects: 2  
Wash floors: 2, 3  
Wash windows: 4–6

### OUTDOORS

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Begin logging: 25–27  
Go camping: 23, 24  
Go fishing: 1–16  
Set posts or pour concrete: 25–27

### IN THE GARDEN

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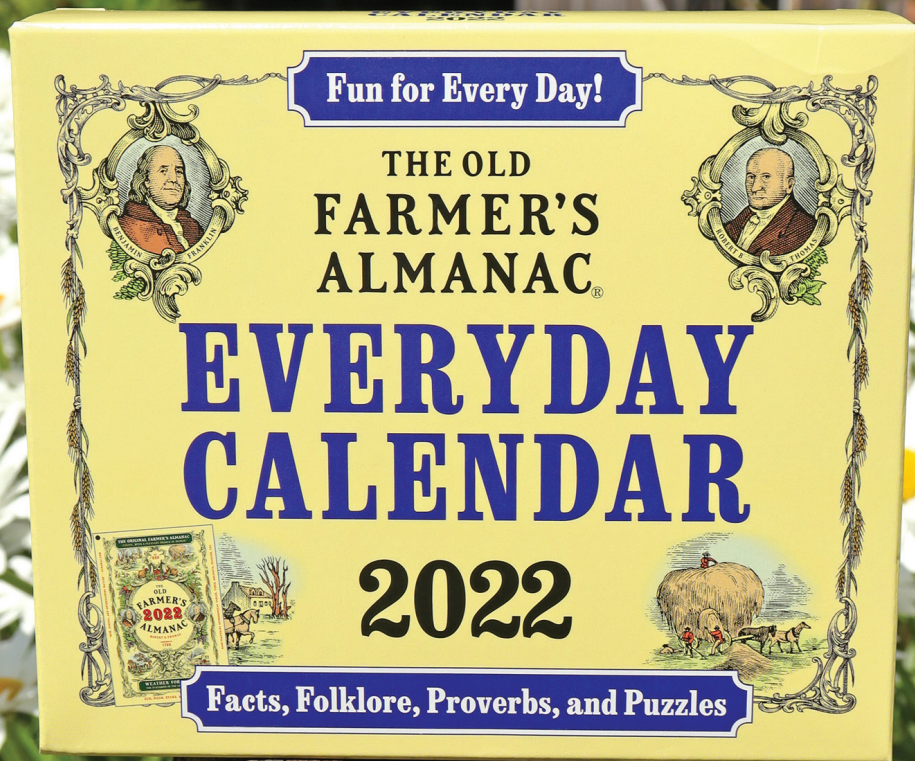
Destroy pests and weeds: 4–6  
Graft or pollinate: 12, 13  
Harvest aboveground crops: 7, 8  
Harvest belowground crops: 17, 18  
Mow to promote growth: 4–6  
Mow to slow growth: 21, 22  
Pick fruit: 17, 18  
Plant aboveground crops: 2, 3  
Plant belowground crops: 21, 22  
Prune to discourage growth: 23, 24  
Prune to encourage growth: 4–6

### ON THE FARM

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Breed animals: 21, 22  
Castrate animals: 1, 28  
Cut hay: 4–6  
Purchase animals: 12, 13  
Set eggs: 9, 10, 18–20  
Slaughter livestock: 21, 22  
Wean animals: 18, 23

**Taking one day at a time  
has never been more fun!**



**LEARN MORE**



## GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the February 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 FEBRUARY

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



TAP FOR  
MERCURY IN  
RETROGRADE  
DATES



TAP FOR  
FEBRUARY  
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.

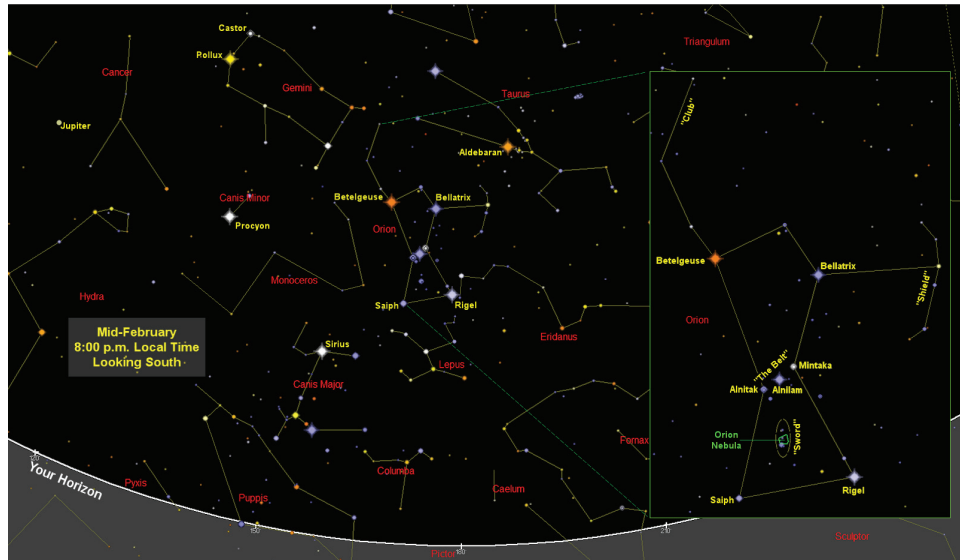
When Mercury is retrograde, remain flexible, allow extra time for travel, and avoid signing contracts. Review projects and plans at these times, but wait until Mercury is direct again to make any final decisions.

Mercury's 2022 retrograde periods:  
**January 13–February 3, May 10–June 2, September 9–October 1, and December 28–(January 18, 2023).**

–*Celeste Longacre*

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Celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2022, 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).



## ALL HAIL THE MIGHTY HUNTER!

**T**here is no brighter constellation in the night sky than Orion, the Hunter. And there is no better time to view Orion than an early evening in February, so bundle up!

When you look to the south in February, your view is dominated by Orion, standing tall and proud. Let's examine the Hunter in detail. This month's Sky Map includes a close-up view of Orion on the right-hand side of the map.

The main figure of Orion consists of seven bright stars. The brightest of these are Betelgeuse on his right shoulder and Rigel on his left knee. Both are among the sky's 10 brightest stars, and they have distinctly different colors. At a glance, it is easy to see that Betelgeuse is a yellowish orange star while Rigel is a dazzling blue-white. In general, the colors of stars are very subtle, but the colors of these two bright stars are easy to see.

Betelgeuse and Rigel are both classified as "supergiant"



TAP TO GET  
A PRINTABLE  
FEBRUARY  
SKY MAP



TAP TO  
FOLLOW  
OHIOAN JEFF  
DETRAY'S SKY  
ADVENTURES



stars, having about 8 and 21 times the mass, respectively, of our Sun. Where Betelgeuse really excels, however, is in its sheer size—as much as 1,000 times larger than our Sun!

On Orion's left shoulder lies the very blue star Bellatrix, meaning “female warrior.” It's no coincidence that the Bellatrix LeStrange character in the Harry Potter books is extremely warlike (and not in a good way!). Bellatrix (the star) is even bluer than Rigel, but because Bellatrix is dimmer, its color is less apparent except on especially clear, dark nights.

Completing the main outline of Orion is Saiph, marking the Hunter's right knee. This is another supergiant star, 22 times the mass of our Sun.

The three stars of the Belt are a prominent feature of Orion. These stars span the midsection of the Hunter, forming a straight bright line. Although we call it the Belt, this asterism (unofficial star pattern) has many names in various cultures and religions, including the “yardstick,” the “wand,” and the “Three Kings” (after the Christmas story).

If you are viewing Orion from a dark location, you'll be able to see his right arm rising upward from Betelgeuse. The arm is often depicted as holding a weapon of some sort, often a club. Orion's other arm extends to the right of Bellatrix and holds a shield to fend off the Hunter's enemies.

Finally, you may notice a group of three stars hanging downward below the Belt. These are said to represent Orion's sword. The middle “star” in the sword isn't a star at all, but is instead a giant cloud of glowing gas and dust known as the Orion Nebula or the Great Nebula in Orion.

This nebula is a stellar nursery, where new stars are being born at this very minute. The cloud glows because many young stars are still embedded within it. With binoculars, the Great Nebula looks like a small, glowing cloud. It is the closest star-forming region to Earth, a mere 1,300 light-years away!

—Jeff DeTray



AMUSEMENT



# The 12-Step Program for Giving Your Cat a Pill

PHOTO: LIGHTSPRUCH/GETTY IMAGES



1. **Pick up cat** and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as though holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on both sides of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to its cheeks. When cat opens up, pop pill into mouth. Cat will then close mouth and swallow.

2. **Retrieve pill** from floor and cat from behind sofa. Repeat the process.

3. **Retrieve cat** from bedroom and throw soggy pill away.

4. **Remove second pill** from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of throat with forefinger.

Hold mouth shut for a count of 10, if you are able. Hold cat's mouth closed as well.

5. **Retrieve pill** from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe.

6. **Kneel on floor** with cat wedged firmly between knees, immobilizing front and rear paws. Ask assistant to hold cat's head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into cat's throat. Flick pill down ruler with forefinger and rub cat's throat vigorously.

7. **Retrieve cat** from living room curtain valance.

8. **Carefully sweep** shattered figurines from hearth and set them aside for later gluing. Remove

third pill from foil wrap. 9. **Wrap cat** in beach towel and ask assistant to lie prone on cat with cat's head visible under assistant's armpit. Put pill in end of paper tube you've made for this purpose. Force cat's mouth open with pencil and blow.

10. **Check label** to make sure pill is not lethal to humans. Sip water to take taste away. Apply bandage to assistant's forearm and remove blood from carpet with soap and cold water.

11. **Retrieve cat** from neighbor's roof.

12. **Telephone** your veterinarian and beg for help.

—Bob Story



When forsythias  
begin to bloom,  
it's time to plant peas.

# 28 Tips for a Garden That's Tops

*The ground might be frozen and snowfall may be in the forecast, but for gardeners, it's time to start planning this year's vegetable crops. To help you through this heady time of new beginnings, we offer the following advice.*



## PREPARE FOR PLANTING

Any way that you raise the soil temperature will help plants to adjust to the shock of cold ground. If possible, plant in raised beds. Alternatively or additionally, cover the soil with plastic mulch to boost soil temperature.

## 4 WAYS TO KNOW WHEN IT'S SAFE TO PLANT OUTDOORS

Use any one of these methods:

1. **Grab a handful** of your garden soil. If you can form it into a ball, the soil is too wet for planting. (Chances are that the seeds will rot.) If the soil crumbles through your fingers and reminds you of chocolate cake, it's ready for planting.
2. **Make a ball** of soil and drop it. If the ball crumbles, your garden is ready for seeds. If it holds its shape or breaks into two clumps, it's still too wet for planting.

3. **Step into the garden** and then step back and look at the footprint that you've left in the soil. If it's shiny, there's too much water near the soil's surface to dig and plant. If it's dull, then excess water has drained away and it's time to plant.

4. Then there's the old farmer's guideline: **When the weeds start to grow** in your garden, it's time to plant your hardy vegetables.

As soon as the soil is ready for planting, stir it well and let it sit for several days. Then top-dress it with compost or well-rotted manure and get to work.

## TUNE IN TO NATURE

Phenology is the age-old practice of observing nature. You can employ it by taking note of what happens in your landscape and using natural events as clues to when to plant.

- When **forsythias** begin to bloom, it's time to

plant peas.

- When **lilacs** have leafed out, plant bean, cucumber, and squash seeds.

- When **apple blossoms** begin to fall from the tree, plant corn. Or plant it when **oak leaves** are the size of a squirrel's ear (about 1/2 inch in diameter).

- When **dandelions** are in full bloom, plant beets, carrots, cole crops (broccoli, brussels sprouts, collards), lettuce, and spinach.

- When **bearded irises** bloom, transplant eggplants and peppers.

- When **lilies-of-the-valley** are in full bloom, plant tomatoes.

- When **red maples** bloom, plant onions.

## SEEDING SECRETS

- When planting seeds, **plant the largest seeds** in the package to get the best germination rate.

- To get an early start with **beans**, soak the seeds in tepid water for several hours until they



swell; place the seeds in a single layer on several moist paper towels. Cover the seeds directly with another moist towel (in contact with the seeds). Enclose the covered seeds in a plastic bag and keep them at 70° to 80°F. Examine them daily. When the first sprouts appear, plant the seeds directly in the garden, spaced 2 inches apart.

- Start **corn** seeds in the same way that you

do beans (above) and move the kernels to the garden as soon as you see little white roots. Plant them in damp soil, fill the furrows partway, and stretch plastic wrap down the length of the furrow. As soon as you see the plants emerge from the soil, remove the plastic wrap.

- In wet weather, when sowing **corn** directly into the garden, plant kernels only 1 inch deep, so that the seeds won't

rot. Otherwise, plant them at least 2 inches deep, especially for late plantings in warm or dry weather, when it is important to keep the seeds moist. The deeper the seeds, the harder it is for crows to find them.

- Do not use fresh manure or even an overdose of well-rotted manure where you plant **carrot** seeds. It can cause carrots to grow legs or fork into strikingly human form.

## GARDENING

### FINGER TIPS

Wondering how deep to plant your seeds? Try the “fingertip method” by poking a hole . . .

- the depth of the fingernail on your index finger for **lettuce**, **Spanish onions**, and **radishes**.
- the depth of your first knuckle for **beets**, **cabbage**, **carrots**, **cucumbers**, and **squash**.
- the depth of your second knuckle for **bush** **or pole beans** and **corn**.

### TRANSITIONING TRANSPLANTS

If you start vegetable plants indoors from seeds, be sure that they harden off—that is, gradually get used to unsheltered life outdoors:

- During seedlings’ last week indoors, withhold fertilizer and water less often.
- Seven to 10 days before transplanting, set the seedlings outdoors in dappled shade that is

protected from winds for a few hours each day, gradually increasing their exposure to full sun and windy conditions.

- Keep the soil moist at all times during the hardening-off period. Dry air and spring breezes can result in rapid transpiration.
- If possible, transplant on overcast days or in the early morning.
- Set transplants into loose, well-aerated soil that will capture and retain moisture, drain well, and allow easy penetration by seedling roots.
- Soak the soil around new seedlings immediately after transplanting.
- Spread mulch to reduce soil moisture loss but do not put mulch up against the stems.
- To ensure that phosphorus—which promotes strong root development—is available in the root zone of new transplants,

mix 2 tablespoons of a 15-30-15 starter fertilizer into a gallon of water (1 tablespoon for vining crops such as melons and cucumbers) and give each seedling a cup of the solution after transplanting.

### MINIMUM SOIL TEMPERATURE FOR SEEDS TO GERMINATE (°F)

Beans	48°
Beets	39°
Cabbage	38°
Carrots	39°
Corn	46°
Melons	55°
Onions	34°
Peas	34°
Radishes	39°
Squash	55°

—*Almanac editors*

We all love flowers but—for a change—think about putting foliage bouquets front and center: They’re fun, festive, and fit in anywhere! Learn more about how in the annual *Old Farmer’s Almanac Garden Guide!* Get a copy—or join the Gardening Club for even more—at [Almanac.com/Shop](http://Almanac.com/Shop).



# Garden Planner for Vegetables, Herbs, and Flowers



Try out our Garden Planner with a free  
7-day trial—ample time to plan your  
dream garden!

[LEARN MORE](#)

FOOD



# Time for Soup, Stew, and Chowder!

*This is the perfect season to make soups, stews, and chowders. Warm and nourishing in wintertime, they serve as a delicious lunch or dinner with some good bread and a green salad. Here are some Almanac favorites.*

PHOTO: BECKY LUIGART-STAYNER



FOOD

# Carrot Ginger Soup



PHOTO: BECKY LUGART-STAYNER

## **CARROT GINGER SOUP**

- 2 tablespoons (1/4 stick) butter**
- 2 leeks, chopped**
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and diced**
- 1 pound potatoes, peeled and diced**
- 1 orange, zest and juice**
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh ginger**
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar**
- 4 cups vegetable broth**
- 1 cup milk**
- salt, to taste**
- dash of dry sherry, to taste**
- dash of ground nutmeg, to taste**
- chopped fresh parsley or cilantro, for garnish**

In a large soup pot over medium heat, melt butter. Add leeks and cook until soft. Add carrots, potatoes, orange zest and juice, ginger, and brown sugar. Cook for 5 to 7 minutes, or until softened.

Add broth and milk and simmer for 20 minutes.

Transfer soup to a blender or food processor and purée in batches. Return to soup pot.

Season with salt, sherry, and nutmeg. Serve garnished with chopped fresh parsley.

**Makes 4 to 6 servings.**



FOOD

# Spicy Beef Stew

PHOTO: AS FOOD STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK



## SPICY BEEF STEW

- 2 pounds lean beef (preferably chuck roast)
- 2 onions, cut into wedges
- 1 pound new potatoes, diced
- 1 pound baby carrots, cut in half
- 1-1/2 tablespoons Italian seasoning
- 2 teaspoons beef bouillon granules
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 containers (11.5 ounces each) hot and spicy vegetable juice, or 1 container hot and spicy vegetable juice and 1 container regular vegetable juice

Preheat oven to 250°F.

Cut beef into 1- to 1-1/2-inch cubes. Place in a 4-1/2-quart Dutch oven. Add remaining ingredients. Bring mixture to a boil over medium-high heat; cover and transfer to oven.

Bake for 4 hours. Do not peek. Do not stir.

Makes 6 to 8 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/](http://Store.almanac.com/cookbook-readers-best-recipes/)

FOOD

# Low-Country Chowder





## LOW-COUNTRY CHOWDER

- 2 tablespoons (1/4 stick) butter
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can (10.5 ounces) cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup milk or half-and-half
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon celery salt
- 1/4 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 12 bite-size pieces kielbasa or smoked sausage
- 4 red potatoes, cooked and cut into quarters
- 4 to 6 crab claws or equivalent meat from body or 1 can (8 ounces) claw crabmeat, (optional)
- 12 shrimp, cooked, peeled, and deveined
- corn kernels from 2 cooked ears and scrapings from cobs

In a large soup pot over medium heat, melt butter. Add onions, mushrooms, and garlic. Cook until onions are translucent. Add mushroom soup, milk, seasonings (generally, go heavier on pepper), sausage, and potatoes. Cook on medium-low heat until well blended and small bubbles appear. Reduce heat to low and cook for 10 minutes. Add crab (if using), shrimp, and corn. Cook for a few minutes, or until heated through. Remove promptly from heat and serve.

**Makes 4 servings.**



LIVING NATURALLY



# Soothing Silence

PHOTO: RUDYBALASKO/GETTY IMAGES



**S**hortly after returning from a long hike in the woods near my house, an online news headline caught my attention: “Noise Is No. 1 Quality-of-Life Complaint in NYC.” Let’s quietly contemplate how noise and silence affect our health and happiness.

The caption under the newspaper headline about noise complaints said, “The city’s 311 hotline got more than 260,000 calls about excessive noise, up 30 percent in 2 years.”

I flashed back 20 years or so to a public hearing in my small rural town over a proposal to install a small sawmill on a road about half a mile from any house or business. More than 40 people turned out, most of whom raised their voices angrily against the sawmill.

They equated the noise potential of the sawmill with the awful disturbance during the previous year caused

by a large-scale forestry operation that ran day and night, subjecting residents a mile away to trucks, saws, chippers, and the endless bleating of back-up beepers.

Industrial machines, heavy traffic, construction noise, shrieking trains, honking horns, jets and helicopters overhead, barking dogs, and hollering humans get people anxious, angry ... and sick.

Most people know that high-decibel noise can damage hearing. But chronic exposure to noise also has a wide variety of negative health effects that go way beyond annoyance, including cardiovascular problems, immune-system disruptions, sleep disturbance, interference with fetal and child development, and more.

It turns out that the study of “soundscapes” and their relationship to human health and well-being is broad and breathtakingly

complex. Studies of the relationships between humans (and wildlife) and the sound environments in which they live have resulted in calls for preserving native, natural “sound environments” as common resources like soils, air, and water.

George Foy, a journalist and New York University creative writing professor, also found the New York City soundscape a hellscape and set out to find “the last place on Earth without human noise.” He visited an anechoic chamber, a room built specifically for the purpose of excluding all noise, at Orfield Labs in Minnesota.

As Rachel Nuwer of the BBC related:

“... [M]inutes into his stay in the chamber, he noticed that the silence was in fact broken. His own body, it turned out—his breathing, his heartbeat, even the scratchy sound his scalp made rubbing against his skull when he frowned—

## LIVING NATURALLY

was betraying his quest for auditory nothingness. “The only time you’ll hear absolute silence is when you’re in no position to hear it because you’re dead,” he realized.”

As an article in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* noted, “the term ‘quiet’ is not synonymous with silence; its standard usage implies an absence or masking of industrial noise and/or the presence of natural sounds such as water flow, birdsong, or wind.”

There’s quite a bit of research on the healing effects of nature, although few studies that specifically tease out the visual from the sound or olfactory effects. But, for example, the stress-relieving effects of natural sounds, even in virtual environments, have been identified.

Most of us would define noise as intrusive, unwanted sound of

any kind. I feel grateful that my semirural environment rarely presents annoying noise that I can’t control. (One roaring exception: “Motorcycle Week,” when thousands of bikers from across the nation come blasting through central New Hampshire, day and night, all week.)

Somehow, I don’t find troubling the more usual sounds of chain saws, snowplows, and lawn mowers in my sparsely populated corner of the universe. They connect me to my community in comforting ways. Even the sawmill (which received its permit despite the protests) and a gravel-mining operation half a mile down the road—both separated from me by generous stretches of woods—enter my soundscape with only the occasional muffled sounds of operation.

*The New York Times*

asked its readers: “Where do you go to find peace in this boisterous city? With eight million New Yorkers and 60 million tourists a year all packed into 301 square miles, is there a special park bench, riverside fishing spot, or underused historic site where you go to cherish the sound of silence?”

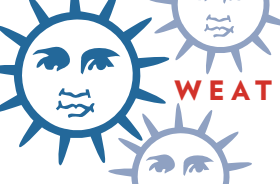
More than 1,000 readers responded, telling the paper that they find quiet space on piers and riverbanks and in places of worship, museums, parks, public gardens, cemeteries, and wildlife sanctuaries.

The paper created this beautiful slide show from readers’ suggestions. Even just viewing this lovely photomontage, which is replete with soundscapes, brings a sense of peace and calm.

—Margaret Boyles



TAP TO READ MORE OF MARGARET BOYLES’ POSTS IN HER “LIVING NATURALLY” BLOG



THERE IS ALWAYS ONE FINE WEEK IN FEBRUARY.

# HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

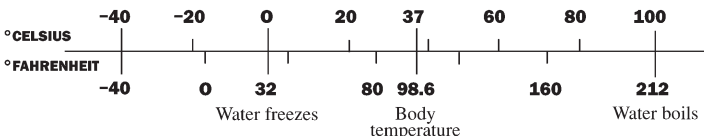
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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 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.

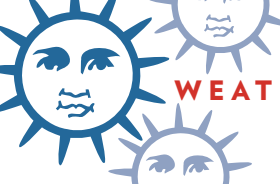
## CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

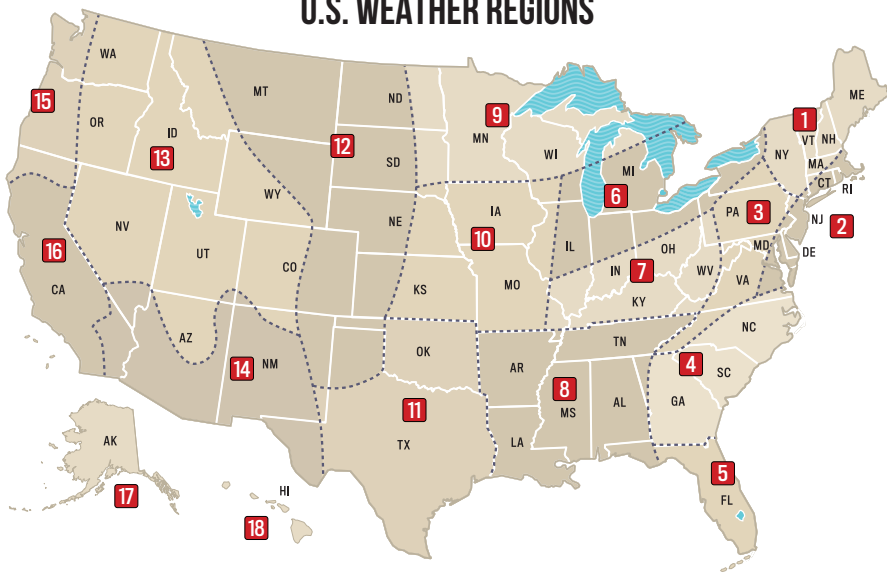


LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY

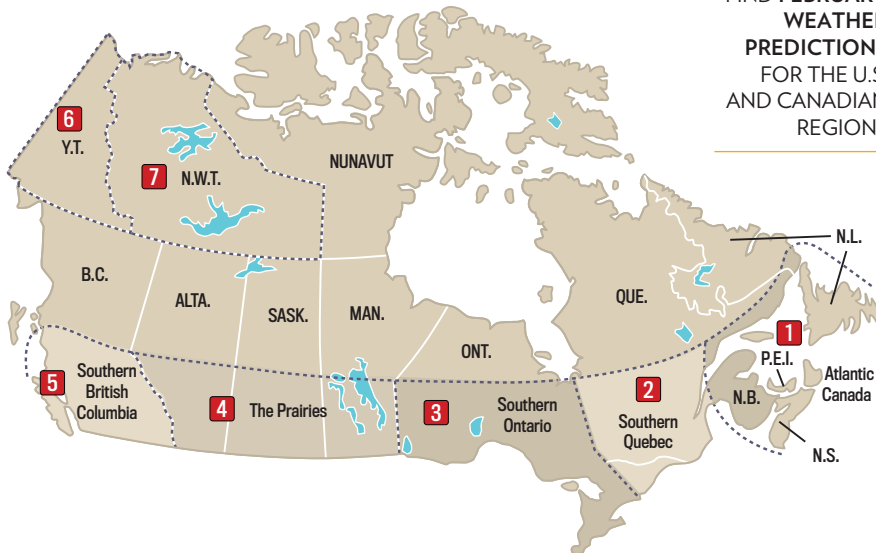


# WEATHER FORECASTS

## U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



## CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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FIND FEBRUARY  
WEATHER  
PREDICTIONS  
FOR THE U.S.  
AND CANADIAN  
REGIONS







## A MONTH PACKED WITH HOLIDAYS— AND WEATHER!

**P**unxsutawney Phil will be greeted with a cold morning and flurries as he emerges in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, on Groundhog Day, February 2. Some of Phil's prognosticating friends will have an easier time seeing their shadow. Both Staten Island Chuck in New York City and Buckeye Chuck in Marion, Ohio, will be greeted with some sunshine and mild temperatures. Pierre C. Shadeaux—a nutria, actually—of New Iberia, Louisiana, will also get to bask in sunshine as he tries to determine how fast the heat of summer will arrive.

In Canada, the weather will be mild with rain showers as Wiarion Willie emerges in Ontario, while Shubenacadie Sam in Nova Scotia will see some sun.

February 12 is Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Snowflakes will fly on a chilly day in Lincoln's birthplace, Hodgenville, Kentucky. Farther west, it will turn out to be somewhat milder in Lincoln, Nebraska, with a few rain showers around. Much of the East will be cold, with some flurries and snow showers in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic. The rest of the country will be milder, with rain and showers scattered about the Plains and Northwest.



Football may not be the only thing in the air during Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles on February 13, as a storm could bring some rainy periods during the big game.

A snowstorm may squash Valentine's Day dinner plans across the interior Northeast on February 14. Snowflakes will fly from the mid-Atlantic to the Great Lakes. A chilly day and night across the Southeast will encourage snuggling. It will be warmer across the West, with some rain along the West Coast. Much of Canada will see rain and snow showers, although the Prairies will be largely sunny.

This Presidents' Day, February 21, will feature some snow in Washington, Pennsylvania, while it will be cold with some flurries in the air from Monroe and Buchanan, Michigan, out to Madison, Wisconsin, and down to Jefferson City, Missouri. Areas from Jackson, Mississippi, to Tyler, Texas, will enjoy a good deal of sunshine. The Southeast will be sunny and cold, while rain and snow showers will develop from the northern Plains to the West.

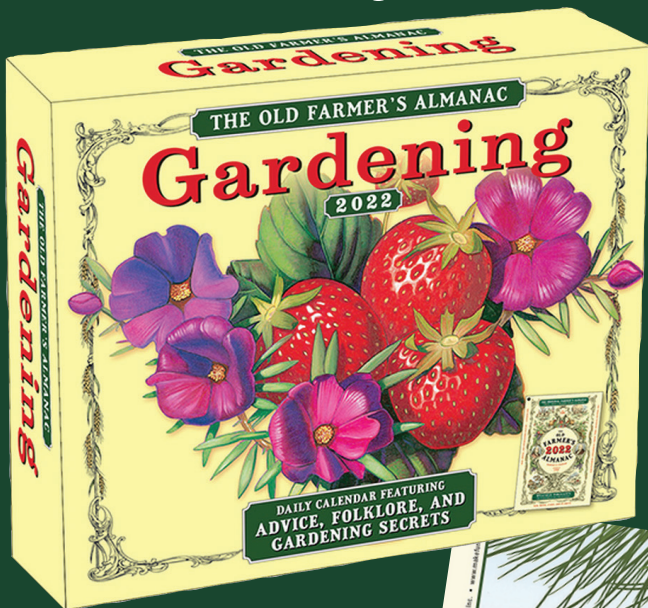
Washington's birthday is the next day, February 22, and there will be some pockets of rain and snow across the Northeast for celebrating. Much of the Southeast will remain chilly despite sunshine. Rain and snow showers will move across the Rockies and Plains. The Southwest will turn out dry, while some showers will move across the Northwest.

February temperatures will be above normal across much of the United States and Canada. However, it will be chillier than normal across Florida, the Upper Midwest, and portions of the Desert Southwest. Precipitation will generally be above normal in northern and eastern Canada, the interior of the northeastern U.S., the Southeast, and the Intermountain West. Near- to below-normal precipitation is expected elsewhere.

Important factors in the upcoming winter include a weak La Niña, a continued warm phase in the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO), a neutral to positive phase in the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) in the early stages of its warm cycle. Oscillations are linked ocean-atmosphere patterns that influence the weather over periods of weeks to years. This should lead to a colder-than-normal winter across most of the United States, with milder-than-normal temperatures across most of Canada.

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

# The 2022 Old Farmer's Almanac Gardening Daily Calendar



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# HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



## ONE WORD'S DIFFERENCE

A farmer from Connecticut always wrote with a very illegible hand, so when his congressman received a letter from him one day, he was hard-pressed to decipher even a

single part of it. Not wanting to bother or embarrass the writer, the legislator shared the letter with a number of his colleagues, who collectively were finally able to interpret all but one word.

This word seemed very important, as

it was underlined, but as neither the congressman nor his friends could make it out, the congressman determined to ask the farmer personally the next time he was back in his district. Said day came, and, after profusely thanking





the farmer for the communication, the congressman delicately told him of his difficulty in deciphering it and of the immense help his colleagues had been in figuring out all but one now-circled word. Would the farmer mind solving the mystery?

The man looked at his letter, then at the congressman, and then at his letter again, his face meanwhile taking on a rather consternated expression. Finally, he looked at the congressman and said, "You fool! The word is 'Confidential!'"

## **A TAIL OF THE BOUNDING MANE**

The elementary school teacher took great pains to make

sure that her students understood their geography lesson about the equator, which was defined as "an imaginary line that surrounds the world." When she thought that by repetition they had it down letter-perfect, she complimented them and told them to repeat it at home to surprise their parents with the extent of their knowledge.

"Mother, have you ever seen a 'quator?" asked one little girl when the time came.

"Why, no, dear—I don't even know what that is."

"I do!" said the child. "It's a menagerie lion that runs 'round the world."

## **RAINED OUT**

Night was approaching and it was raining hard. The traveler

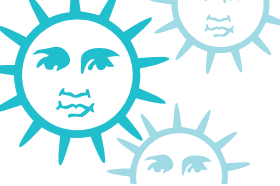
dismounted from his horse and rapped at the door of the one farmhouse he had come across along a 5-mile stretch of road. No one came to the door.

As he stood on the doorstep, the water from the eaves trickled down his collar. He rapped again. Still no answer. He could feel the stream of water coursing down his back. Another spell of pounding, and finally the head of a lad of 12 appeared out of a second-story window: "Whaddya want?"

"I want to know if I can stay here overnight!" the traveler answered testily.

After sizing up the stranger for a full minute, the boy answered: "Fine by me."

And shut the window.



# WHAT'S NEXT



**GARDENING**  
Let's Hear It  
for Heirlooms!



**CALENDAR**  
Moon phases;  
March birthstone, holidays,  
and full Moon names



**ASTRONOMY**  
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**HISTORY**  
Famous trees in  
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**FOOD**  
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