

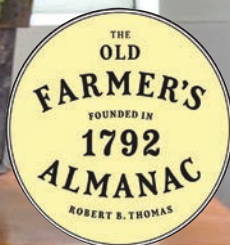
# EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

## CREATE YOUR OWN "TREE HOUSE"

PLUS:

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



JANUARY 2025

PHOTO: KINDRA CLINEFF

# JANUARY

*Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More*

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- Jan. 1:** New Year's Day
- Jan. 6:** Epiphany
- Jan. 7:** Orthodox Christmas (Julian)
- Jan. 8:** Elvis Presley's Birthday
- Jan. 17:** Benjamin Franklin's Birthday
- Jan. 20:** Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, observed
- Jan. 20:** Inauguration Day
- Jan. 29:** Lunar New Year (China)

## CALENDAR FUN

**JAN. 13: ST. KNUT'S DAY**  
 In Sweden, this is the traditional day to discard the Christmas tree and end the season's festivities by "dancing" the tree out the door while singing.



Get ready for 2025! Order your calendars at [Almanac.com/Shop](https://Almanac.com/Shop).



## EYE ON THE SKY

### JANUARY'S FULL MOON NAMES

Wolf Moon, Canada Goose Moon, Frost Exploding Moon

### MOON PHASES

**First Quarter:** Jan. 6, 6:56 P.M. EST

**Full Moon:** Jan. 13, 5:27 P.M. EST

**Last Quarter:** Jan. 21, 3:31 P.M. EST

**New Moon:** Jan. 29, 7:36 A.M. EST

### SPECIAL EVENT

**January 4** is the time of **perihelion**, when Earth is closest to the Sun for the year: 91,405,993 miles.



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT JANUARY'S FULL MOON



## BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These January 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*

Quit smoking: 19, 24

Bake: 12, 13

Brew: 21–23

Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat: 24, 25

Make jams or jellies: 3–5, 31

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut:  
21–23

Begin diet to lose weight: 19, 24

Begin diet to gain weight: 6, 11

Cut hair to encourage growth: 8, 9

Cut hair to discourage growth:  
19, 20



Perm hair: 1, 2, 29, 30

Color hair: 8, 9

Straighten hair: 24, 25

Have dental care: 16–18

Start projects: 30

End projects: 28

Demolish: 21–23

Lay shingles: 14, 15

Paint: 8, 9

Wash windows: 6, 7

Wash floors: 3–5, 31

Go camping: 24, 25

Entertain: 14, 15

Travel for pleasure: 14, 15

Get married: 19, 20

Ask for a loan: 21–23

Buy a home: 8, 9

Move (house/household): 10, 11

Advertise to sell: 8, 9

Mow to promote growth: 3–5

Mow to slow growth: 21–23

Plant aboveground crops: 3–5, 31

Plant belowground crops: 21–23

Destroy pests and weeds: 6, 7

Graft or pollinate: 12, 13

Prune to encourage growth: 6, 7

Prune to discourage growth: 24, 25

Pick fruit: 16–18

Harvest aboveground crops: 8, 9

Harvest belowground crops: 16–18

Cut hay: 6, 7

Begin logging, set posts, or pour concrete: 26–28

Purchase animals: 12, 13

Breed animals: 21–23

Wean: 19, 24

Castrate animals: 1, 2, 29, 30

Slaughter livestock: 21–23

Set eggs: 10, 11, 18, 19

Go fishing: 1–13, 29–31



## GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the January 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 JANUARY

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



TAP FOR  
MERCURY IN  
RETROGRADE  
DATES



TAP FOR  
JANUARY  
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.

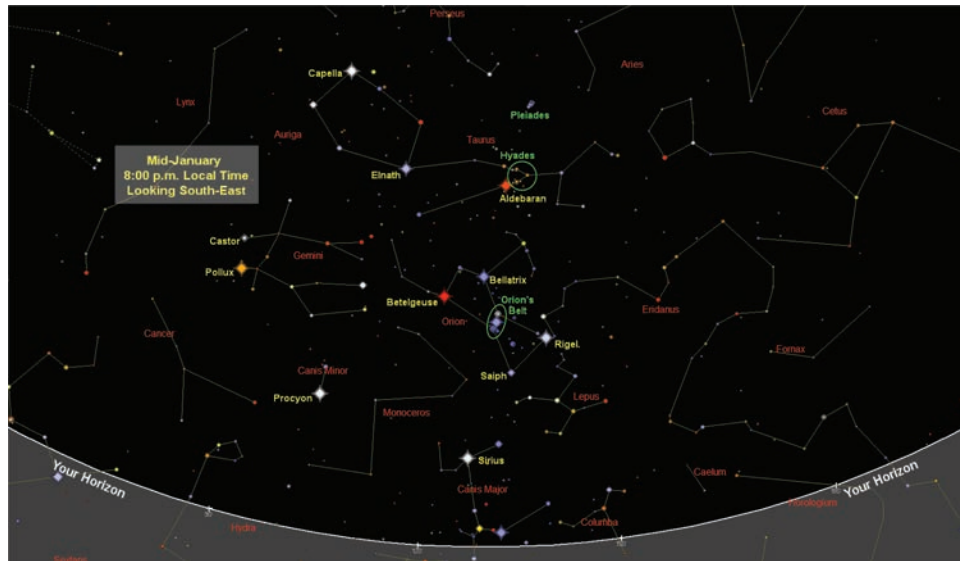
Mercury's 2025 retrograde periods are **March 14–April 6, July 17–August 10, and November 9–29.**

–*Celeste Longacre*

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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 BRIGHTEST SKY OF THE YEAR!

**T**he combination of crisp, clear winter nights and a southeastern sky filled with celestial wonders makes it well worth bundling up and scanning the heavens in January.

Orion, the Hunter, is not the largest constellation, but it is unquestionably the brightest. It's home to a pair of the sky's Top 10 brightest stars, ruddy Betelgeuse and blue-white Rigel. Star colors are notoriously difficult to discern, but on a clear night, the differing hues of Betelgeuse and Rigel are plain to see at Orion's right shoulder and left knee, respectively.

Somewhat less luminous are Bellatrix at the Hunter's left shoulder and Mintaka, Alnilam, and Alnitak, which comprise Orion's Belt. Saiph, at his right knee, would be a noteworthy star in any other celestial neighborhood, but it doesn't even crack the Top 5 in mighty Orion.

TAP TO GET  
A PRINTABLE  
**JANUARY  
SKY MAP**

TAP TO  
FOLLOW  
OHIOAN JEFF  
DETRAY'S SKY  
**ADVENTURES**



Above Orion stands Taurus, the Bull, his long horns jutting to the left and one baleful eye represented by the reddish star Aldebaran. Nearby lies a group of stars that make up the Hyades star cluster. The members of the Hyades lie fairly close together in space, but despite its apparent proximity, Aldebaran is *not* a part of the cluster. It is much closer to us than the Hyades (one reason that it appears brighter) and just happens to lie along the same line of sight. This is one of countless examples where celestial objects appear near one another from our point of view, but vast differences in distance mean that they are actually far apart.

Above the Hyades are the Pleiades, also known as the Seven Sisters, which are among the most famous of star clusters. This cluster is so distinctive and its location so prominent that dozens of ancient cultures found a place in their mythologies for the Pleiades. Most people with good vision can spot five stars when they gaze at the Pleiades. However, if your eyesight is especially acute and the sky is wonderfully clear, you may see seven or even more. If you do, you have “the eyes of a warrior,” as ancient lore decreed.

Off to the left is the five-sided figure of Auriga, the Charioteer. The star Elnath is shared between Auriga and Taurus, making it one of the few stars that belongs to two constellations.

Swinging downward, we find Gemini, the Twins. Their names are Castor and Pollux, with stars of those names representing the heads of the reclining twins. They lie holding hands, their legs and feet stretched out toward Orion.

Continuing counterclockwise around the sky, we reach Canis Minor, the Lesser Dog. Its only bright star is Procyon, a name meaning “before the dog.” This refers to the fact that on any given night, Procyon rises above the horizon a few minutes before the bright star Sirius, whose nickname is “the Dog Star.” Thus, Procyon rises “before the dog.”

We’ll skip over the dim constellation Monoceros to reach Canis Major, the Greater Dog. This figure is home to the aforementioned Sirius, which just happens to be the brightest star in the night sky—almost twice as bright as any other! Sirius appears so bright to us because it is both extremely luminous and relatively nearby.

Enjoy the January sky—the brightest of the year!

–Jeff DeTray





# Create Your Own “Tree House”

*Think big, even in a small space*

PHOTOS: KINDRA CLINEFF

## GARDENING

**Y**ou don't have to move to the country to relax under a canopy of foliage or immerse yourself in arboreal splendor. You can surround yourself with trees indoors, whether you live in a city or suburb, studio apartment, condo, or house-share!

There's nothing new about bringing jolly green giants into your home. Foliage plants have been lurking in the dark corners of homes for a while. What's new is our appreciation of them. Today, trees are considered elements of design as well as calming agents (you've heard of the green effect? forest bathing?) and air fresheners (many of these plants can help to clean toxins from your environment). By introducing a large, stylish plant into your space, you can transform *both* of your interiors—your home and your

mind. What's more, the bigger the plant, the greater the benefits.

### INTO THE WOODS

Start by finding the balance between your tree preferences and the woody wonders that your indoor environment can support. Keep lighting in mind as you attempt to match plants with your situation. Most foliage plants can tolerate fairly low sunlight but not no light at all. Assess your windows—their size, exposure direction, and how much light actually infiltrates. Most foliage plants will thrive beautifully in an east-, west-, or south-facing window as long as the sunlight is not obstructed by a nearby building or evergreen plantings outside. Yet, depending on the plant, even a bright, north-facing window is often adequate. Four hours or more of good sunlight should satisfy most foliage plants.

A windowless room probably won't be a good environment.

Next, look around for a plant that speaks to you in a scale that matches your available space. (This is where you tap into some design tenets.) Consider the size and style of your furniture and balance these elements against the physical shape and size of your plant. Think about how much room you can devote to your arboreal vignette. Maybe you have only space enough to profile one magnificent specimen. Maybe you have space for one not-so-huge plant. Or perhaps you can stage a mini forest. Be realistic. Shop with some measurements and snapshots of your space in hand.

### BRANCH OFF

Plug in the elements of design. Imagine how the plant will work with the room so that the foliage becomes part

## GARDENING

of the rhythm in the scene. Think flair and flow. Got wallpaper? Follow through with plants that echo these hues. Searching for a focal point? Consider plants that can make a statement. Groupings of several plants can form “look at me” dialogues when designed thoughtfully. Choose plants whose leaf colors echo (are similar in shade or hue to) others in your group.

You can probably find some swank foliage plants waiting to be adopted from a store near you. Often, the problem is presentation: Sitting in a sad, black plastic container, a beautiful plant can look decidedly forlorn. But you can fix this! Find a container that fits the plant, adds to its pizzazz, and works with your décor. Do you have a snappy rug? Choose a container that bears some of your carpet colors. Be sure that

the container gives the plant’s roots ample room to grow (cramped roots will result in chronically thirsty plants, which can be a killer). Got limited floor space? Deep containers are just as efficient as wide pots. Let the roots plunge down into a cylindrical shape. No matter its form, be sure that the container allows for drainage (drill holes in it, if necessary). Provide a “saucer” underneath but skip the skimpy, clear plastic trays—make the saucer a fashion statement, something edgy.

Enlist plant stands and stack furniture to vary your plants’ heights. Anything can become a plant stand: Chairs, trunks, upended wastepaper baskets, coffee tables, and step stools all work. Start by setting plants at ground level and work your way up.

Once you make your home into a “tree house,” you will feel different. Imagine waking up in

“the woods” without the bears or bugs. Imagine looking up from your comfy chair into tree branches. Then stop imagining it and do it!

### TENDING THE FOREST

In general, the foliage plants that you find for sale at stores are selected because they are diehards. Palms, fiddle-leaf figs, cordylines, and the like are content in overheated apartments or chilly farmhouses, but these leafy inhabitants respond positively to a little nurturing. Here’s how to show them some love:

**Potting mix:** These poor plants are usually crammed into the world’s worst potting medium. As soon as you adopt your plant, repot it with fresh potting mix and a new container. Use an organic potting medium that furnishes food. Get your new addition off to a good start.

**Water:** Don’t forget to serve drinks. Most of these plants tolerate

## GARDENING



a certain degree of forgetfulness with the watering can, but don't push their limits. Water your plants when the potting mix is dry to the touch (not bone-dry, just slightly dry). Fill the container to the rim, then let the water soak in—and out. (This is why you need drainage holes in the container and a saucer under it.)

**Fertilizer:** Feed your plants if it makes you happy, but most foliage plants are not particularly hungry beasts. If you are working with a potting

mix, feed once every 3 weeks, following the directions on the package label. Withhold fertilizer between Thanksgiving and March 1, when light levels are low.

**Humidity:** Most foliage plants tolerate low humidity, but if your lips are getting chapped, consider running a humidifier to make everyone more comfortable.

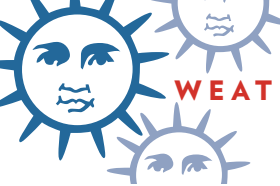
**Pruning and grooming:** You would do no harm by sculpting your plant in whatever direction you want to

steer it. But not all plants love having their head chopped off. Research your plant's preferences before you snip.

**Problems:** Check your plant for issues at point of adoption. If problems occur or if you suspect that your plant is infested, contact your local Cooperative Extension service to identify the foe. Ask for recommendations on organic solutions, and be sure to follow the label directions.

—Tovah Martin





A SUMMERISH JANUARY, A WINTERISH SPRING.

# HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

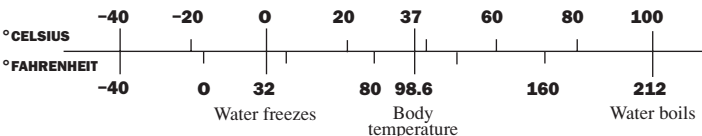
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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.

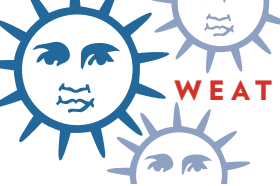
## CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

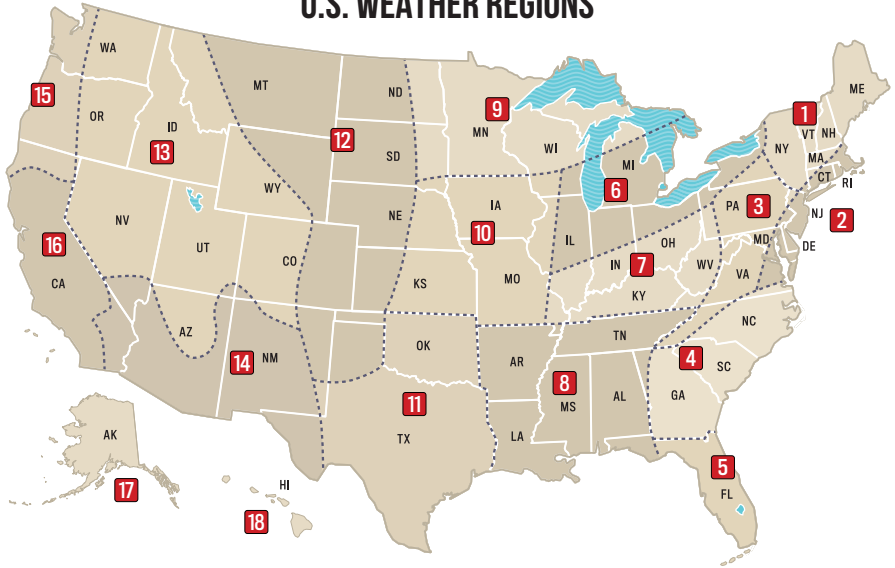


LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY



# WEATHER FORECASTS

## U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



## CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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







## NEW YEAR EXPECTATIONS

**W**e'll kick off 2025 on a fairly mild note across much of the East for New Year's Day. Rain and snow showers will be found across New England, with some rain from the Appalachians into the Southeast. There will be a good deal of sunshine across Florida and a few showers across the Great Lakes and the Deep South, where it will also be fairly mild. We expect the new year to start off quite sunny and warm in Texas–Oklahoma, whereas it will be sunny and fairly cold in the Upper Midwest and southern Heartland. There will be some snow from the High Plains through the Rockies, and there can be pockets of rain and snow across the rest of the West. Alaska looks mostly clear and cold, while there will be the potential for rain in Hawaii. At the start of the year in Canada, the Maritimes will be mild with some rain and snow, while some snow is predicted across southern Quebec. It looks rather cold across the rest of the country, with pockets of snow.

In the U.S., January 20 will be both Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday (observed) and the presidential inauguration. It looks like a chilly day for the inauguration at the Capitol, but it will likely be dry with some sunshine. Much



of the rest of the Northeast and Appalachians will be free of precipitation, while there will be some rain in the Southeast. Snow and/or snow showers are likely across the Great Lakes, Upper Midwest, Heartland, High Plains, and Intermountain West. There will be limited precipitation across the West.

Looking at January as a whole, we expect near- to above-average temperatures across New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and Florida. The Appalachians, Southeast, Great Lakes, and Ohio Valley will tend to be on the colder side of average. We also anticipate some colder weather from the Upper Midwest through the Pacific Northwest. Meanwhile, it will be on the warmer side from the southern Plains westward to California. In Canada, we expect above-average temperatures from the Northwest Territories across Nunavut and into Quebec and the Maritimes, and colder than average temperatures elsewhere.

For precipitation, it will tend to be on the drier side across the Deep South, Ohio Valley, Great Lakes, and into the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Above-average precipitation is predicted across the Southeast. Precipitation will tend to be closer to average from the Upper Midwest through the Heartland and southern Plains. A fairly large area of above-average precipitation will likely develop from the High Plains westward through the Rockies and all through the West. Across Canada, near- to below-average precipitation this month is expected across the Maritimes, southwestern Quebec, and southern Ontario. There will be some pockets of above-average precipitation from the Northwest Territories through the eastern Prairies and across southeastern Quebec. The pattern will tend to be on the drier side from the western Prairies through southern British Columbia, and the Yukon.

Looking at the winter forecast, we anticipate a La Niña through the winter—and sure enough, a weak La Niña is already starting to develop. The La Niña should help to bring a few cold shots southward, more so than we've seen during the past couple of winters. Even with these cold periods, we still expect much of the U.S. and Canada to end up with above-average winter temperatures overall. The high solar activity this year (the highest since the early 2000s), combined with a westerly Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO, an index measuring stratospheric winds near the equator), also indicates the potential for some cold blasts, especially later in the winter.

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