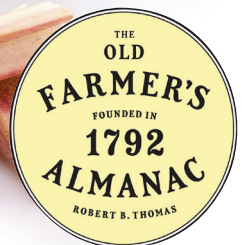


EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

RECIPES FOR RETURNING RHUBARB

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



MAY 2023

PHOTO: VALENTYNVOLKOV/GETTY IMAGES

MAY

Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More

CALENDAR THIS 'N' THAT

According to ancient lore, Tuesdays are good for making new business deals.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

May 14: Mother's Day

May 20: Armed Forces Day

May 22: National Maritime Day

May 22: Victoria Day (Canada)

May 29: Memorial Day



EYE ON THE SKY

MAY'S FULL MOON NAMES

Flower Moon, Budding Moon,
Moon of the Shedding Ponies

MOON PHASES

Full Moon: May 5, 1:34 P.M. EDT

Last Quarter: May 12, 10:28 A.M. EDT

New Moon: May 19, 11:53 A.M. EDT

First Quarter: May 27, 11:22 A.M. EDT



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MAY'S
FULL MOON

Love flowers? Order your copy of *The Old Farmer's Almanac Flower Gardener's Handbook* at Almanac.com/Shop or Amazon.

Created for gardeners of all experience levels



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BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These May 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*

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 15, 16

Graft or pollinate: 22, 23

Harvest aboveground crops: 27, 28

Harvest belowground crops: 17, 18

Mow to promote growth: 4, 22, 23

Mow to slow growth: 6, 17, 18

Pick fruit: 1, 27, 28

Plant aboveground crops: 4, 22, 23

Plant belowground crops: 13, 14

Prune to discourage growth: 15, 16

Prune to encourage growth: 24–26



PERSONAL

- Advertise to sell: 4, 24–26
- Ask for a loan: 17, 18
- Begin diet to gain weight: 2, 29
- Begin diet to lose weight: 6, 15
- Buy a home: 4, 24–26
- Color hair: 17–19
- Cut hair to discourage growth: 17, 18
- Cut hair to encourage growth: 2, 3, 29–31
- Entertain: 24–26
- Get married: 2, 3, 29–31
- Have dental care: 1, 27, 28
- Move (house/household): 20, 21
- Perm hair: 11, 12
- Quit smoking: 6, 15
- Straighten hair: 7, 8
- Travel for pleasure: 24–26
- Wean children: 6, 15

AROUND THE HOUSE

- Bake: 22, 23
- Brew: 4–6
- Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 13, 14

- Demolish: 4–6
- Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat: 15, 16
- End projects: 4
- Lay shingles: 24–26
- Make jams or jellies: 13, 14
- Paint: 2, 3, 29–31
- Start projects: 20
- Wash floors: 13, 14
- Wash windows: 15, 16

OUTDOORS

- Begin logging: 9, 10
- Go camping: 7, 8
- Go fishing: 1–5, 19–31
- Set posts or pour concrete: 9, 10

ON THE FARM

- Breed animals: 4–6
- Castrate animals: 11, 12
- Cut hay: 15, 16
- Purchase animals: 22, 23
- Set eggs: 1, 2, 11, 12, 28–30
- Slaughter livestock: 4–6
- Wean animals: 6, 15



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the May 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 MAY

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



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



TAP FOR
MAY 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*.

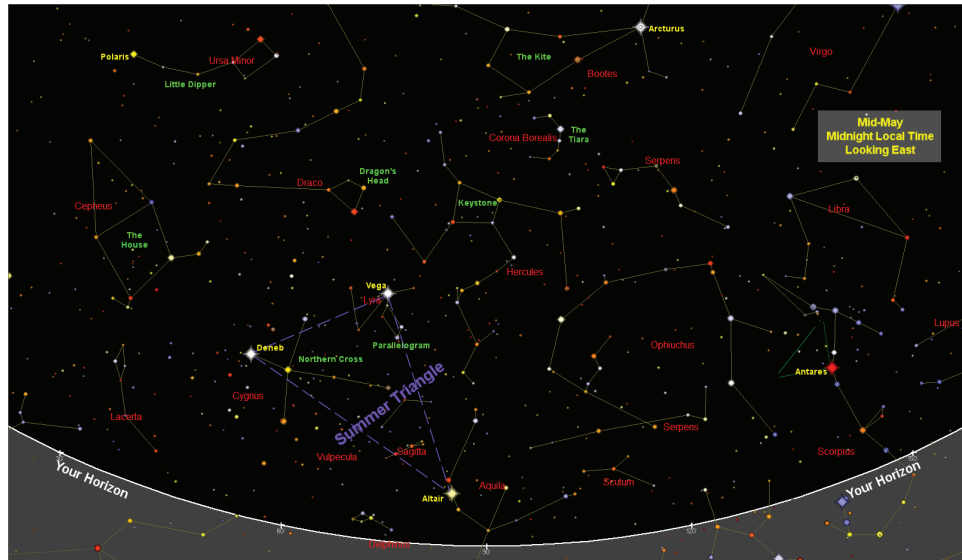
Mercury's retrograde periods can cause our plans to go awry. However, this is an excellent time to reflect on the past. Intuition is high during these periods, and coincidences can be extraordinary.

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).



ALL ABOUT ASTERISMS

An asterism is an easily recognized star pattern that lies within a constellation. Unlike constellations, asterisms are entirely “unofficial.” There is no international organization or governing body that assigns names to asterisms. Their names have come into popular usage because they are a convenience—an easy way to navigate the sky. If you wish, feel free to identify and name your own asterisms. Who knows? Your names might catch on!

For a fine example of an asterism, look near the center of this month’s star map for the Keystone, a compact pattern of four stars that lies within the constellation Hercules, the Hero. Hercules is a sprawling constellation, the fifth largest in the sky, but the distinctive shape of the Keystone really stands out.

Above and to the right of the Keystone is the constellation Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. To me, this semicircle

 TAP TO GET A PRINTABLE MAY SKY MAP

 TAP TO FOLLOW OHIOAN JEFF DETRAY’S SKY ADVENTURES



of stars looks far more like a tiara than a crown, so The Tiara it is, at least for me.

Higher in the sky lies Boötes, the Herdsman, whose main stars form an asterism known as The Kite. It's a sloppy-looking kite, to be sure, but the shape is certainly suggestive of one—enough so that it can help you to get your bearings and find Boötes. The bright star Arcturus anchors the tail of The Kite.

Off to the left, look for the Little Dipper asterism, part of the constellation Ursa Minor, the Lesser Bear. At the end of the dipper's handle is Polaris, the North Star. From brightly lit suburbs, you'll see only Polaris and the brighter stars of the dipper's bowl. Leave town to see the whole dipper.

Between the Little Dipper and The Kite slithers the body of Draco, the Dragon, which culminates in the Dragon's Head, a four-sided asterism that shows up well when viewed from a dark location.

Below the Dragon's Head, look for two very bright stars that point the way to a great pair of asterisms, one small and the other quite large.

The star Vega in the small constellation Lyra, the Lyre, achieved notoriety as home to the fictional aliens who sent a message to Earth in the 1997 Jodie Foster film *Contact*. Beneath Vega is a small but beautifully symmetrical asterism, the Parallelogram. Its exquisite and geometrically perfect shape is a wonder.

To the lower left is the bright star Deneb, marking the tip of the Northern Cross, which lies on its side at this time of year. Deneb and the Northern Cross are part of the large constellation Cygnus, the Swan. The name "Deneb" is derived from the Arabic word for "tail," and indeed Deneb sits at the tail of the Swan.

The left side of our sky map features The House, an asterism within the constellation Cepheus, the King. Yes, it's a lopsided house, but no more lopsided than the ones we all drew as children.

We've already mentioned that Vega and Deneb can help you to find two lovely asterisms. These two stars, plus brilliant Altair, comprise the three corners of the large asterism known as the Summer Triangle, marked in purple on our Sky Map. The Summer Triangle will be prominent in the sky from now well into autumn.

-Jeff DeTray

The 2023 Garden Guide is here!



THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC
Garden Guide
2023



ORDER TODAY!

FOOD



Recipes for Returning Rhubarb

For rhubarb lovers, nothing beats homemade goodies from freshly picked rhubarb. If you don't grow your own, spring is the time to find it at your local grocery store or farmers' market. Once fresh rhubarb is at hand, give these recipes a try.

A close-up photograph of a glass filled with a vibrant pinkish-red beverage, identified as Rhubarb Punch. The drink is served over ice and garnished with a slice of lemon and a sprig of fresh basil. The background is a textured, grey surface with other lemon slices and rhubarb stalks visible, suggesting a fresh, natural preparation. The lighting is bright, highlighting the textures of the fruit and the clarity of the glass.

Rhubarb Punch

RHUBARB PUNCH

1 pound rhubarb, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

1 stick cinnamon

1-1/4 cups sugar

1 cup pineapple juice

1/2 cup fresh lemon juice

In a heavy saucepan over medium heat, combine rhubarb, cinnamon, and 4 cups of water. Simmer, covered, for 10 minutes. Strain juices and return to saucepan; discard solids. Add sugar and stir to dissolve. Cool, pour into a container with a lid, then chill overnight in the refrigerator.

Pour juice into a punch bowl and add pineapple juice and lemon juice. Just before serving, add ice.

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/

FOOD

Strawberry Rhubarb Soup

STRAWBERRY RHUBARB SOUP

6 cups chopped rhubarb
2 cups strawberries, hulled and sliced
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1/4 cup dry white wine or cold water
1/4 cup sugar, or more to taste
1 cup cream
1 egg yolk

In a stockpot over medium heat, combine rhubarb, strawberries, and 1-1/2 quarts of water. Simmer, partially covered, for 20 minutes. Strain, reserving fruit, and return liquid to pot. Reheat to a simmer.

In a bowl, combine cornstarch and wine and stir to form a smooth paste. Add 1/2 cup of hot soup to paste, stir with a whisk until blended, and add entire mixture to pot. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until smooth. Add sugar and reserved fruit and stir.

In a bowl, combine cream and egg yolk and then stir slowly into soup. Do not boil.

Cool, chill, and serve cold.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Rhubarb Cherry Crunch



RHUBARB CHERRY CRUNCH

CRUST:

1 cup quick-cooking oats
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
pinch of salt

FILLING:

4 cups diced rhubarb
1 cup sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon almond extract
1 can (21 ounces) cherry pie filling
1/2 cup chopped nuts

For crust: Grease a 13x9-inch baking pan.

In a bowl, combine all ingredients, then press half of the mixture on the bottom of prepared pan.

For filling: Preheat oven to 350°F.

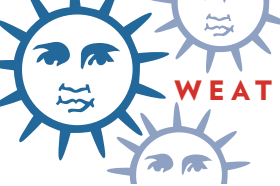
Spread diced rhubarb on top of crust.

In a pan, combine sugar, cornstarch, and 1 cup of water. Boil until thick. Stir in almond extract and pie filling.

Spoon cherry mixture over rhubarb. Sprinkle with remaining crust mixture and nuts. Bake for 45 minutes.

Serve warm, topped with whipped cream or ice cream.

Makes 12 servings.



A MAY FLOOD NEVER DID GOOD.

HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

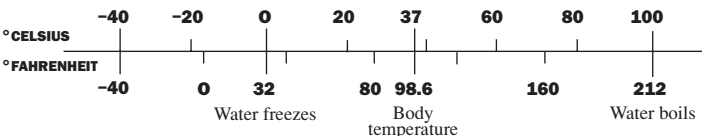
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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.

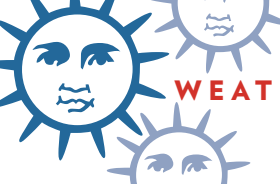
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

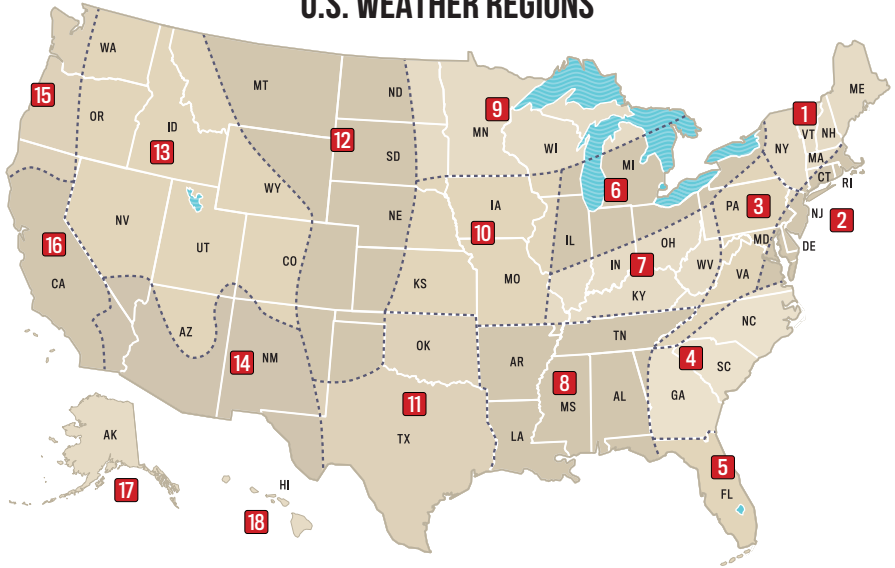


LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY



WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





MAY DAYS TO PRAISE!

The 149th Kentucky Derby will take place on the first Saturday of the month, May 6, in Louisville, where the potential for some “Run for the Roses” rain will increase the chances of a sloppy track by post time.

On Mother’s Day, May 14, moms from the Ohio Valley down through the Southeast may get to enjoy some time outside, as we’re expecting some sunshine and a warm afternoon. Raindrops could dampen the day across New England and the Mid-Atlantic, while showers and even a few thunderstorms will move across portions of the Plains and Midwest. There will also be some showers in the Pacific Northwest and the Rockies, while mothers in the Southwest will get to enjoy some sun. In Canada, showers will be widespread across the eastern half of the country, while more sunshine is expected farther west.

Looking at May 27–29, the Memorial Day long weekend, we see that the best places in the United States to spend some time outside will be around the Great Lakes and on the West Coast. Some pockets of showers and thunderstorms will pop up elsewhere. Much of the country will be on the warm side, with the Pacific Northwest perhaps being especially so. Cool spots will be found from the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley into the Appalachians. Alaska will be on the chilly side as well, with some rain about.

After what will have been a somewhat chilly April, the month of May could see the thermometer really rising across much of the United States. Temperatures are expected to be above average across many parts of the country, with the exception of the Intermountain West. Across Canada, while



the Northwest Territories are expected to be cooler than normal, the rest of the country will see near- or above-normal temperatures.

With regard to precipitation, May will likely turn out to be drier than average across New England, while the mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions will be on the wet side. Most of the area from the Ohio Valley down to the Gulf Coast will see near-normal rainfall, as opposed to much of the Upper Midwest and Plains, where above-normal precipitation will be the norm. Many parts of the West will be on the dry side after withstanding a very wet (and snowy, in the mountains) winter. Alaska and Hawaii will see near- to above-normal precipitation. In just about everywhere except Atlantic Canada, where there will be a little less rain than usual, Canadians can expect above-normal precipitation throughout the month of May, which means the arrival of quite a few showers to help to get the green things growing.

A look ahead into later this year and the upcoming hurricane season reminds us that we've been in a mostly active stretch over the past few years in the Atlantic basin, which has largely coincided with the La Niña that developed during 2020. Following three hurricane seasons influenced by La Niña's cooler waters, we do expect ocean temperatures in that part of the Pacific to start to warm as the year goes on. There's a high likelihood that we'll be in a neutral phase of ENSO (the El Niño Southern Oscillation, which is a measure of how warm or cool the water is in the part of the Pacific off Central and northern South America that we monitor for El Niño and La Niña) or potentially even start to shift more toward El Niño (warmer waters) at some point during the hurricane season. El Niño years typically are not as active as La Niña ones, so we expect slightly below-average to nearly average tropical activity. The average number of named storms in the Atlantic is 14, which happens to be the number that we saw in 2022.

We're forecasting the potential for hurricane strikes across Texas in late July and late August, with the threat for a tropical storm in the Deep South later in August.

It's important to keep in mind that the number of storms in any given year does not directly coincide with how many storms make landfall. Our go-to example for this is the 1992 hurricane season, which had only seven named storms in the Atlantic. The first storm, Andrew, didn't form until mid-August—but ended up causing more than \$26 billion in damage.

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