

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

### THE GREATEST DEALS IN HISTORY!

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



OLD

**NOVEMBER 2023** 

ILLUSTRATION: DHAKA VECTOR STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK



# **NOVEMBER**

Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More

### **CALENDAR THIS 'N' THAT**

When you are reaching the same age as the numerical date of your birthday (such as if you are turning 30 on November 30), you are having a "golden birthday."

### **HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS**

**Nov. 5:** Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 A.M.

Nov. 7: Election Day

Nov. 10: U.S. Marine Corps

Birthday

Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Nov. 11: Remembrance Day

(Canada)

Nov. 19: Discovery of Puerto

Rico Day

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Day





### EYE ON THE SKY

### **NOVEMBER'S FULL MOON NAMES**

Beaver Moon, Frost Moon, Whitefish Moon

**MOON PHASES** 

Last Quarter: November 5, 3:37 A.M. EST New Moon: November 13, 4:27 A.M. EST First Quarter: November 20, 5:50 A.M. EST Full Moon: November 27, 4:16 A.M. EST



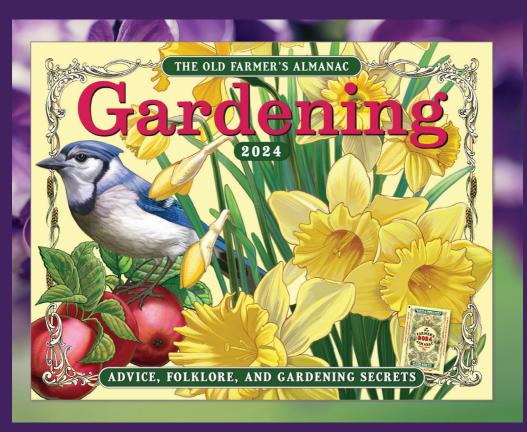
TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT **NOVEMBER'S FULL MOON** 

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# A perennial favorite of gardeners for 47 years



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## **BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS**

These November 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: 25, 26

Ask for a loan: 12, 13

Begin diet to gain weight: 22, 26

Begin diet to lose weight: 9, 12

Buy a home: 25, 26

Color hair: 25, 26

Cut hair to discourage growth:

9-11

Cut hair to encourage growth: 25, 26

Entertain: 4-6

Get married: 9-11



Have dental care: 7, 8

Move (house/household): 1, 27, 28

Perm hair: 18, 19

Quit smoking: 9, 12

Straighten hair: 14, 15

Travel for pleasure: 4–6

Wean children: 9, 12

### **AROUND THE HOUSE**

Bake: 2, 3, 29, 30

Brew: 12, 13

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 2, 3

Demolish: 12, 13

Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat: 4-6

End projects: 26

Lay shingles: 4-6

Make jams or jellies: 20-22

Paint: 9-11

Start projects: 14

Wash floors: 20–22

Wash windows: 23, 24

### **OUTDOORS**

Begin logging: 16, 17

Go camping: 14, 15

Go fishing: 13–27

Set posts or pour concrete: 16, 17

### IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 23, 24

Graft or pollinate: 2, 3, 29, 30

Harvest aboveground crops: 25, 26

Harvest belowground crops: 7, 8

Mow to promote growth: 20–22

Mow to slow growth: 4-6

Pick fruit: 7, 8

Plant aboveground crops: 20–22

Plant belowground crops: 2, 3

Prune to discourage growth: 4–6

Prune to encourage growth: 23, 24

### ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 12, 13

Castrate animals: 18, 19

Cut hay: 23, 24

Purchase animals: 2, 3, 29, 30

Set eggs: 1, 27, 28

Slaughter livestock: 12, 13

Wean animals: 9, 12





# **GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN**

Use the November 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.

### TAP FOR **MERCURY IN** RETROGRADE DATES

TAP FOR NOVEMBER MOON **PHASES** 

### THE MOON'S ASTROLOGICAL PLACE IN NOVEMBER

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

### 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.

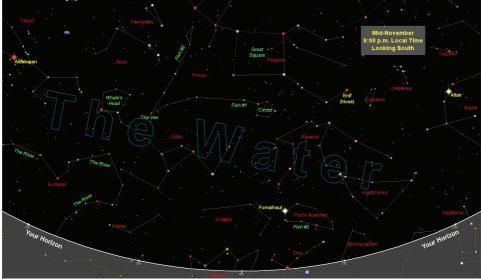
When Mercury is retrograde, remain flexible, allow extra time for travel, and avoid signing contracts. Review projects and plans at these times, but wait until Mercury is direct again to make any final decisions.

Mercury's remaining 2023 retrograde period: **December 13–(January 1, 2024).** 

-Celeste Longacre

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.





# TWO HORSES, THREE FISH, AND ONE HAPPY DOLPHIN

hen you look to the south on November evenings, your view of the sky is dominated by The Water. This region of the night sky is full of constellations both wet and wild. Our tour of The Water begins with an airborne equine.

Note: You'll need to do your star gazing from a very dark location to see many of the sights described here.

High in the south lies Pegasus, the Winged Horse. He's flying upside down from our point of view, but the distinctive Great Square that comprises his body is easy to find. Pegasus's neck and head arc from the lower right corner of the Great Square, ending in the star Enif (Nose). How can a horse, flying or not, be a part of the sky's water world? In Greek mythology, Pegasus is the son of Poseidon, the god of the sea, who just happens to be the horse god as



TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES



well. Due to his unusual father, Pegasus can be considered a seahorse as well as a flying horse!

Just off the nose of Pegasus is his offspring, Equuleus, the Foal. There's never been any word on whether Equuleus inherited his father's ability to fly!

Now we can dive more deeply into The Water. Look immediately below the Great Square for a small pentagon of dim stars called the Circlet. It's the head of the first fish (Fish #1) on our tour, one of two scaly swimmers that make up the constellation Pisces, the Fishes. From the Circlet, follow a long, dim arc of stars to the left until it meets a sparse line of stars coming down from above at The Vee. This line leads upward to the second fish (Fish #2) of the Pisces twosome. In Greek mythology, the fish represent Aphrodite and her son Eros, joined together with ropes at The Vee. In this way, mother and son will never be parted.

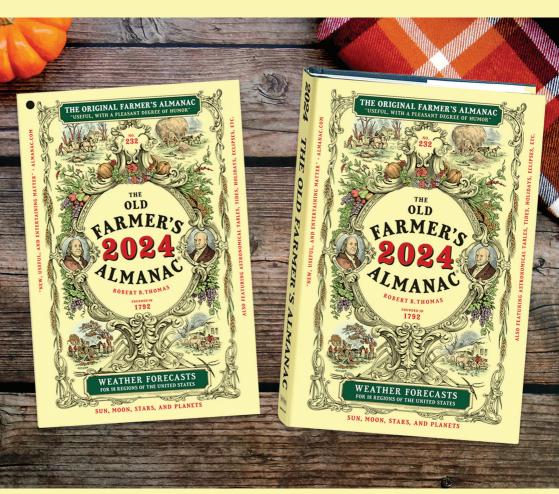
tarting again at the Great Square, gaze down past the Circlet to the bright star Fomalhaut. It's by far the brightest star in the otherwise dim constellation Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish, and the third member of our Sky Map's fishy trio (Fish #3). One translation of Fomalhaut is "the mouth of the southern fish."

Above Fomalhaut are the stars of Aquarius, the Water Bearer. Aquarius is often depicted as pouring water from an urn down into the fish's "mouth" (Fomalhaut). Below and to the right of Aquarius is another denizen of The Water: Capricornus, the Sea Goat. This unusual creature with the head of a goat and tail of a fish has mythological origins dating back more than 4,000 years.

At lower left flows a large bend of the River Eridanus. Much of this ancient river lies out of sight below the horizon at this time of year. Above Eridanus swims sprawling Cetus, the Sea Monster (or Whale).

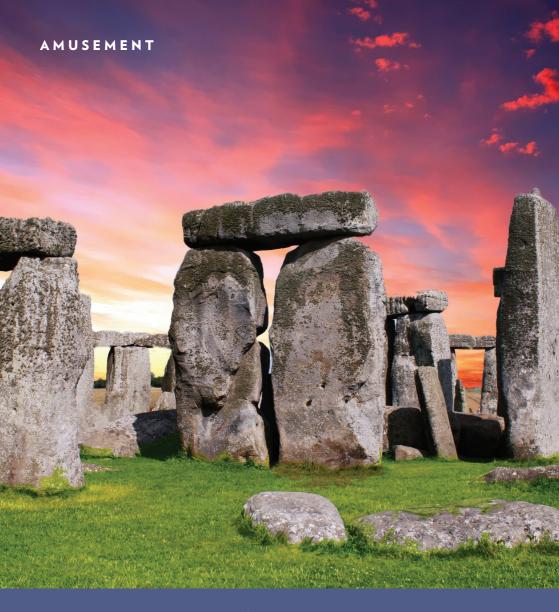
The final creature of the celestial sea is not found in The Water itself. Return your attention to Enif, the Nose of Pegasus; look past Equuleus, the Foal; and find the little constellation Delphinus, the Dolphin. Despite ranking as one of the smallest constellations, Delphinus is one that truly resembles its name. But what's a dolphin doing up there where the horses frolic? Why, it's doing what dolphins do: leaping out of The Water for the sheer joy of it!

# WHICH ALMANAC DO YOU PREFER?



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# The Greatest Deals in History!

### AMUSEMENT

ometimes, an agreement works out for all involved. Then there are times when a deal turns into quite a bargain for one side.

Read on to learn more about some interesting deals that have been struck throughout history.

## HISTORIC PROPORTIONS

On September 21, 1915, an Englishman named Cecil Chubb (1876–1934) attended an auction in Salisbury, England. On a whim and, some say, as a gift for his wife, he bid 6,600 pounds on Lot 15, 30 acres of land and a prehistoric monument that had been in private hands since the Middle Ages. Chubb's bid won.

Eventually, Chubb decided that the property should remain in local hands, so 3 years later he turned it over to the English government, on condition that the entrance fee never be

more than a shilling. An arrangement with the Parish Council ensured that an adjacent road would be moved and area residents would be granted free access to the site—Stonehenge.

### A NET PROFIT

In 1974, brothers Daniel and Ozzie Silna were owners of a successful New Jersey knitting company. Daniel's passion was basketball, yet he knew that the only position that he could ever hold on a team would be "owner." So. with Ozzie, he bought the Carolina Cougars, an American Basketball Association (ABA) team, for \$1 million. Hoping to profit in the largest U.S. television market without a professional basketball team, the brothers moved the team to St. Louis and changed the name to the Spirits of St. Louis.

Two years later, the National Basketball Association (NBA)

merged with some teams in the fledgling ABA, but the Spirits were left out of the deal. The brothers turned down \$3 million in compensation, choosing instead to settle for a smaller amount of upfront cash and an ongoing share of the television revenue from the four ABA teams included in the merger. As a business deal, this was a slam dunk. In the years thereafter, the Silnas (and their lawyer) earned an estimated \$300 million in TV profits, causing some to call theirs the "greatest sports deal of all time."

The deal got even sweeter in 2014, when the NBA agreed to pay the Silnas \$500 million to end the arrangement for good. The brothers ended up collecting \$800 million from their initial \$1 million investment.

### A MEAGER HARVEST

Ephraim Wales Bull (1806–95) worked in Boston, Massachusetts,



as a gold beater, producing gold leaf.
The constant dust of his trade irritated his lungs, and his real passion was growing grapes, so in 1836 he moved to nearby Concord, to pursue this love.

In search of a hardy grape with a great taste, Bull got to work. He grafted grape varieties with a wild vine that he had found growing on his property. The result was a robust variety, whose seedlings he cultivated for years. In

1853, he presented his new "Concord grape" to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which awarded it a prize. The next year, Bull began to sell Concord grape seedlings and cuttings for \$5 each, earning \$3,200.

Nurseries that had purchased Bull's plants cultivated and freely sold the seedlings. People loved the fruit. In 1869, Thomas Bramwell Welch, a communion steward at a Methodist church in Vineland, New Jersey, with his son Charles, began experimenting with grape juice-making processes so that they could use the juice, instead of wine, at church services. By some 28 years later, Charles had perfected the pasteurization of Concord grape juice, built a factory, and changed the name of the beverage to Welch's Grape Juice.

Forgotten through it all was Ephraim Bull. When he was selling his

### AMUSEMENT

original seedlings, plants had no patent protection. In 1895, he died a poor, embittered man. His tombstone reads: "He Sowed; Others Reaped."

### TAG SALE TRIUMPH

In Summer 2007, a family in New York bought a small white bowl for \$3 at a yard sale. They liked it well enough to display it in their living room for several years and eventually decided to have it appraised. The resulting report brought shocking news: The bowl was a rare, 1,000-yearold specimen of Chinese Northern Song Dynasty pottery, estimated to be worth between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

At an auction in 2013, a London dealer purchased the bowl for \$2.2 million.

### A FINE CATCH

One Sunday in 1799, 12-year-old Conrad Reed went fishing in Little Meadow Creek in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, instead of going to church. In the creek, he spotted a yellow rock, which he promptly lugged home.

Conrad's father, John, used the 17-pound stone as a doorstop. In 1802, a jeweler informed Reed that the rock was gold and that he would like to buy it. They agreed on what Reed felt was a "big" price: \$3.50. In fact, it was worth about \$3,600.

Then John and his family returned to Little Meadow Creek, where he partnered with a wealthy landowner, a minister, and his brother-in-law. Before long, a 28-pound specimen worth more than \$6,600 was found.

Conrad Reed's Sunday diversion, the first documented gold strike in the United States, made his family wealthy over the years. North Carolina led the nation in gold production until the California gold rush began in 1848. The Reed Gold Mine remains open for tours.

### C'EST LA VIE

In 1965, French lawyer André-François Raffray agreed to purchase an apartment in Arles, France, from a 90-year-old woman. Under the arrangement, he would pay her 2,500 francs (about \$500 at the time) a month until she died. Upon her death, the apartment would become his. (Such arrangements still occur in France.)

Thirty years later, Raffray died at age 77, having paid about \$184,000 for an apartment that he had never used. His widow continued to pay the apartment's owner, Jeanne Calment, until August 4, 1997, when Calment died at age 122, setting a world record for longevity.

-Alice Cary

THREE WHITE FROSTS AND THEN A STORM.

TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

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

## **HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS**

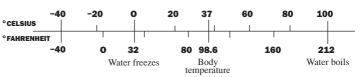
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

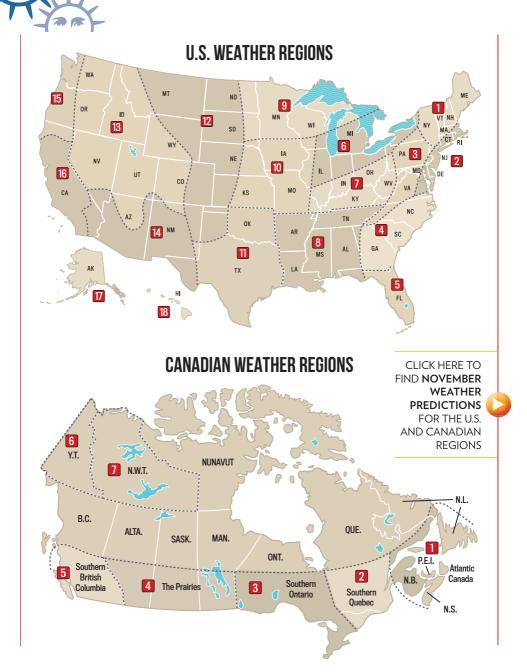
Over the years, we have refined and enhanced this formula with state-of-the-art technology and modern scientific calculations. We employ three scientific disciplines to make our long-range predictions: solar science, the study of sunspots and other solar activity; climatology, the study of prevailing 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**







### **GOING MOSTLY COLD TURKEY**

or Veterans Day in the U.S. on the 11th, rain showers could dampen parades and celebrations across the eastern part of the country. The Sun will be shining in the Deep South and much of the Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, and southern Plains regions. Rain and snow showers may occur from the northern Plains into the Rockies, and some rain is expected in the Pacific Northwest. The Southwest looks sunny but cool. On this Remembrance Day in Canada, a few rain and even snow showers may show up in the Maritimes, contrasting with some sun across Quebec. Pockets of rain and snow will dot central and western Canada with some early season chill, while northern areas will be dry and frigid.

Canada's Grey Cup game will take place at Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton,



Ontario, on the 19th, where the weather is looking to be on the cold side, with the potential for a rain or snow shower. Even though we expect it to be cold for this year's event, it likely will not be quite as cold as it was last year when the Grey Cup was contested in Regina.

Looking ahead to the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday on the 23rd, we expect some rain along parts of the East Coast, which will dampen some football games. It may even be cold enough for some early-season snow to slow the trek to Grandma's house in interior parts of New England. Odds favor a sunny Thanksgiving and Black Friday from the Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, and Upper Midwest down through the Deep South and southern Plains—good weather if you prefer to deep-fry your turkey. There will be some rain and snow showers from the northern Plains to the Rockies, while sunshine is expected across the Desert Southwest. Some rain could dampen travel plans and shopping trips in the Pacific Northwest.

Throughout November, colder-than-normal weather is expected in northern New England, although we do expect a warmer-than-normal month in much of the eastern third of the U.S. Temperatures will likely be near or below normal from the Upper Midwest to the northern Plains and over into the Rockies. November also looks to be a chillier-than-average month along the West Coast, while much of Alaska and Hawaii will be on the warmer side. Most of Canada will likely be on the colder side, with the best chances for near- to above-normal temperatures in southern parts of Ontario and in the Yukon.

We look for the month to be drier than average across the interior Northeast, while the I-95 corridor will be stormier. Above-normal precipitation is likely in the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, western Great Lakes, Upper Midwest, and Plains. The central Gulf Coast and much of the Southeast will also be on the wetter side, although much of Florida will be drier than usual. November will be on the wetter side from the Southwest up through the Rockies, while it will tend to be drier in the Pacific Northwest. In Canada, near- to below-average precipitation is expected from the Maritimes into Quebec, as well as in British Columbia. Above-normal precipitation looks likely from Ontario and the Prairies northward to the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

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