

EXTRA!

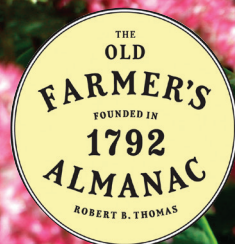
FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

AN APPLE A DAY—
AND NOT JUST FOR EATING!

GETTING ALL SQUIRRELLY

HAPPY HALLOWEEN RECIPES

AUTUMN ALL-STARS



OCTOBER 2022

PHOTO: CONSTANTGARDENER/BETTY IMAGES

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Humor Me
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WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have in store for our November issue!



FOLLOW US:



OCTOBER

Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More

OCTOBER'S BIRTHSTONES: OPAL AND TOURMALINE

- Gem-quality opals are known for their play of color, caused by the diffraction of light, and are available in black, fire, white, and other types. These gems symbolize hope, purity, faithfulness, and confidence. Opal necklaces once were worn to repel evil and to protect eyesight.
- Tourmaline, an alternate October birthstone, comes in a kaleidoscope of colors and was once confused with other gems. It symbolizes inspiration.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- Oct. 3:** Child Health Day
Oct. 4: Yom Kippur begins at sundown
Oct. 9: Leif Eriksson Day
Oct. 10: Columbus Day, observed
Oct. 10: Indigenous Peoples' Day
Oct. 10: Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
Oct. 12: National Farmer's Day
Oct. 24: United Nations Day
Oct. 31: Halloween

Get ready for 2023! Order your calendars at Almanac.com/Shop.



EYE ON THE SKY

OCTOBER'S FULL MOON NAMES

Hunter's Moon, Migrating Moon,
Falling Leaves Moon

MOON PHASES

First Quarter: Oct. 2, 8:14 P.M. EDT
Full Moon: Oct. 9, 4:55 P.M. EDT
Last Quarter: Oct. 17, 1:15 P.M. EDT
New Moon: Oct. 25, 6:49 A.M. EDT



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT OCTOBER'S
FULL MOON



BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These October 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: 2, 3, 26

Ask for a loan: 11, 12

Begin diet to gain weight: 8, 26

Begin diet to lose weight: 12, 22

Buy a home: 6, 7, 26

Color hair: 11, 12

Cut hair to discourage growth:
11, 12

Cut hair to encourage growth: 6, 7

Entertain: 18, 19

Get married: 23, 24

Have dental care: 20–22

Move (house/household): 13, 14



Perm hair: 4, 5, 31
Quit smoking: 12, 22
Straighten hair: 1, 27, 28
Travel for pleasure: 18, 19
Wean children: 12, 22

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 15–17
Brew: 25, 26
Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut:
15–17
Demolish: 25, 26
Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat: 18, 19
End projects: 24
Lay shingles: 18, 19
Make jams or jellies: 6, 7
Paint: 23, 24
Start projects: 26
Wash floors: 6, 7
Wash windows: 8–10

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 2, 3, 29, 30
Go camping: 1, 27, 28
Go fishing: 1–9, 25–31

Set posts or pour concrete: 2, 3,
29, 30

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 8–10
Graft or pollinate: 15–17
Harvest aboveground crops: 2, 3
Harvest belowground crops: 20–22
Mow to promote growth: 8, 9
Mow to slow growth: 11, 12
Pick fruit: 20–22
Plant aboveground crops: 6, 7
Plant belowground crops: 15–17
Prune to discourage growth: 18, 19
Prune to encourage growth: 27, 28

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 25, 26
Castrate animals: 4, 5, 31
Cut hay: 8–10
Purchase animals: 15–17
Set eggs: 4, 5, 13, 14
Slaughter livestock: 25, 26
Wean animals: 12, 22

Take your pick!



2023 Almanac Calendars are Now Available!

ORDER NOW!



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the October 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 OCTOBER

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



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



TAP FOR
OCTOBER
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*.

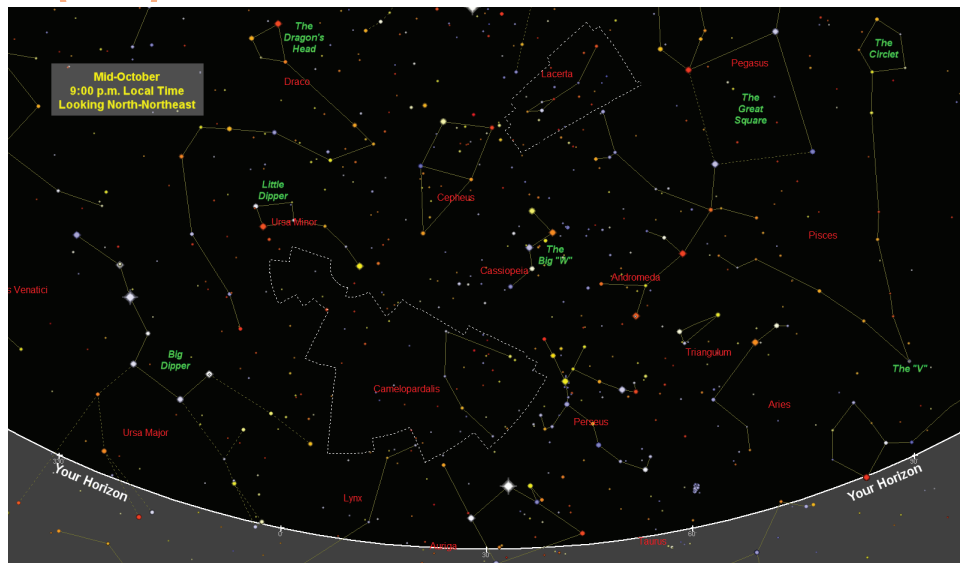
Mercury's retrograde periods can cause our plans to go awry. However, this is an excellent time to reflect on the past. Intuition is high during these periods, and coincidences can be extraordinary.

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 2022 retrograde periods: **September 9–October 1** and **December 28–(January 18, 2023)**.

–Celeste Longacre

Celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2022, the best-selling *Old Farmer's Almanac Gardening Calendar* features beautiful art, helpful tips, insightful quotes, and an easy-to-use grid with holidays and Moon phases. Order your 2023 calendar today at [Almanac.com/Shop](https://www.almanac.com/shop).



CONSTELLATIONS, THEN AND NOW

As human beings, it is in our nature to seek order from chaos, to find patterns even where none exist. It's no surprise, then, that no matter how far back we look into recorded history, we find ancient peoples drawing sky maps and inventing names for what they observed.

Inevitably, ancient observers of the sky saw patterns in the stars—patterns that we now call “constellations.” Beginning at least 7,000 years ago, early astronomers were documenting mythological creatures, supernatural beings—even ordinary tools and weapons—all composed of stars. Over time, the names and even patterns of most constellations have changed as different cultures have applied their own mythology to the night sky. In fact, the 88 constellations that we recognize today were not agreed upon until the 20th century.

For most of recorded history, only the brightest or most distinctive star patterns were recognized as constellations. For millennia, some parts of the sky belonged to no constellation

TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
OCTOBER
SKY MAP

TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES



at all. This was still the case in the 2nd century when Greek-Roman astronomer Claudius Ptolemy produced one of history's most important scientific writings, the *Almagest*. This colossal work comprised 13 books, each devoted to a different aspect of astronomy. Books VII and VIII concerned the stars and identified 48 constellations.

Over the next many centuries, astronomers slowly invented additional constellations from stars that Ptolemy had failed to include in his original 48.

This month's sky map shows two of them. In 1612, Dutch astronomer Petrus Plancius created the constellation **Camelopardalis, the Giraffe**, from a jumble of faint stars between Ursa Major and Perseus. The constellation **Lacerta, the Lizard**, was invented in 1690 by Polish astronomer Johannes Hevelius from otherwise unassigned stars between Cepheus and Pegasus. A prolific constellation inventor, Hevelius created seven new constellations where none had existed before.

The star pattern of Camelopardalis looks nothing like its namesake, but the stars of Lacerta can at least be imagined as a reptile of some sort.

Throughout the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, new constellations were gradually invented to fill in those parts of the sky that had none. Occasionally, there were conflicts, such as when Edmund Halley (of Halley's Comet fame) proposed a new constellation to honor King Charles II of England. Other astronomers rejected the idea of naming constellations for contemporary persons, so Charles's constellation never came to be.

The haphazard nature of constellations was on the agenda of the newly formed International Astronomical Union (IAU) at its first General Assembly in 1922. The assembled delegates decided that the sky would be divided into exactly 88 constellations and that their boundaries would be drawn so that every part of the sky lay within a constellation. No more unassigned stars!

All but one of Ptolemy's ancient 48 constellations made the IAU's modern list of 88. Because every point on the sky must lie within a constellation, the boundaries of some constellations resemble a gerrymandered Congressional district. Note the very convoluted outline of Camelopardalis on our sky map. The 88 IAU constellations are still in use today.

The items highlighted in green on our sky map are known as "asterisms." These are distinctive (but unofficial) star patterns that lie within constellations. When getting your bearings under the stars, it's often easiest to first spot an asterism and then use it as a guide to finding the parent constellation.

-Jeff DeTray

GARDENING



Sedum 'Autumn Joy'

Autumn All-Stars

PHOTO: SEVEN75/GETTY IMAGES

There are so many glorious ornamental plants at this time of year; more should find their way into plantings that we can enjoy just by looking out the window and not having to brave the chilly air.

We set out to discover plants for the home landscape that peak late in the year. On behalf of beginners and cold-climate gardeners, we sought plants that are reasonably vigorous, available, and hardy. Here's a selection of perennials that can hold their own in the garden when days grow short.

These first three stalwarts all have handsome summer foliage, late bloom, a USDA Zone 3 rating—and work well together. Sedum 'Autumn Joy' is one of the best for fall—and it really is a four-season plant. It has milky green succulent leaves and stems in spring, followed by flat pink flower heads in summer; these turn

rich orange/bronze shades in autumn, followed by dark seed heads that stand sentinel in the snow-covered landscape or can be used in dried arrangements. Although sedums can be slow to multiply, established plantings are quite long-lived and self-grooming. This fall classic grows to about 2 feet tall.

A newer, similar border sedum, 'Matrona', is also worth consideration. It's taller and has a longer bloom time. Another is Canadian burnet (*Sanguisorba canadensis*), a large, showy, back-of-the-border affair, 3 to 6 feet tall, with white "bottle brush" flowers that add a pop of color and a form that contrasts with all of the daisies—the asters, sunflowers, dahlias, and mums so prevalent in autumn.

A little smaller, late azure monkshood (*Aconitum carmichaelii*) fits the setting for *Alice in Wonderland*—with its broody blue blooms

(blue, prized at any time, is at a premium in fall)—but it's not child's play. Monkshood is poisonous. Suited for partial shade, monkshood works nicely on the eastern edge of a deciduous woodland. Although the sedum and burnet become quite substantial at maturity, you'll need more monkshood plants for a good effect because each one puts up only a few flowering stems.

What about hardy chrysanthemums? These flower in October, and you buy them as rooted cuttings in spring, not potted plants in fall. Two good ones are 'Venus', which is pink with a white eye zone, and 'Sheffield', a salmon-pink single; both grow to 3 feet tall and are nice in borders.

Now for something really different: *Lycoris squamigera* puts up beautiful, fragrant, pastel-pink lilies in fall. Formed from bulbs planted 5 inches deep in spring, lycoris produces narrow



Boltonia asteroides
‘Snowbank’

leaves that die back in early summer. Then—surprise—2- to 3-foot-tall stems rise up in autumn. Lycoris will naturalize; gardeners in cold Zone 4 have been successful with it. Also known as the autumn amaryllis, lycoris often waits until its second year to bloom and deeply resents being moved.

Know someone growing *Boltonia asteroides*? Ask for a bit of it in spring, when it’s easy to divide. Perhaps, you can hope, it will be ‘Snowbank’, with its gray-green foliage and blizzard of small

daisylike flowers that go right through the first frosts. This 4-foot cousin of true asters is a North American native that doesn’t need staking and is beautiful with anything variegated or blue.

Another tall, white favorite is black cohosh, snakeroot, or bugbane (*Actaea racemosa*); aesthetically similar to burnet, it needs more moisture and some shade. ‘Hillside Black Beauty’ has purple-bronze leaves and a candelabra of flowers that can reach 3 to 5 feet tall. *Boltonia* and black cohosh should both prove

hardy to Zone 3. For blue, choose the hybrid *Aster x frikartii* ‘Mönch’, 2 to 3 feet tall and thankfully not as rangy or prone to mildew as so many other asters. ‘Wunder von Stäfa’ is taller and more open in habit, with dramatic violet-blue flowers and yellow centers, and just as lovely. Hardy to about Zone 5, it benefits from a light mulch over the crown—or even replanting each spring if you love them and lose them.

Autumn doesn’t have to be just golds and reds and oranges.

—*Almanac editors*



FOOD

Happy Halloween Recipes

When Halloween comes around, most people think first of the costumes. Not us! We immediately conjure up homemade Halloween treats to share with our friends, family, and neighbors.

PHOTO: KATHY CLARK/SHUTTERSTOCK

FOOD



Apple Monsters

PHOTO: MARGO LETOURNEAU

APPLE MONSTERS

apples
slivered almonds
miniature marshmallows
special equipment: toothpicks

Quarter the apples. On the skin side, cut out a wedge, without slicing through to the core. Eat the wedges, if desired. Push almond slivers into the top and bottom portions of the wedge cuts.

Break some toothpicks in half and stick two halves into the top of each apple section. Push a marshmallow onto each toothpick.

Makes 4 per apple.

FOOD

Caramel Popcorn Balls

CARAMEL POPCORN BALLS

1 cup sugar

1/2 cup light corn syrup

1/2 teaspoon white or apple cider vinegar

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 cup (1/2 stick) salted butter

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

12 cups popped popcorn

Grease a large bowl with butter or cooking spray.

In a large, heavy saucepan, combine sugar, corn syrup, vinegar, and salt. Bring to a boil and stir in butter.

Reduce heat to medium-low and boil gently for 3 minutes, or until light golden brown, stirring often.

Remove from heat and stir in vanilla.

Put popcorn into prepared bowl. Pour syrup mixture over popcorn and stir until popcorn is evenly coated.

As soon as mixture is cool enough to handle, grease your hands and shape popcorn into 2- to 3-inch balls. When balls are cool, wrap in plastic or wax paper.

Makes 12 to 14 balls.

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

Candy Apples

CANDY APPLES

9 apples

3 cups sugar

1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar

1/4 teaspoon salt

red food coloring

special equipment: 9 wooden pop sticks or skewers

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Wash and dry apples. Make sure that apples are completely dry, then chill in refrigerator.

Remove stems and insert pop sticks into stem end of apple.

In a deep saucepan, combine sugar, cream of tartar, salt, and 1 cup of water. Add enough food coloring to get your desired color. Cook over medium heat, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Increase heat to medium-high and bring to a full rolling boil without stirring for 8 to 9 minutes. (On a candy thermometer, syrup registers 290°F.) A small amount of syrup dropped into cold water should form hard threads.

Remove from heat and immediately dip apples. Twirl to cover evenly, holding apple over pan to catch drips. Place, stick up, onto prepared baking sheet and allow to harden for 10 minutes.

Serve immediately or refrigerate and eat within 2 days.

Makes 9 apples.



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FOLKLORE



Getting All Squirrely

PHOTO: SUEFELDBERG/GETTY IMAGES

FOLKLORE

At this time of year, we see squirrels busily dashing hither and yon, jumping from tree to tree, and generally frolicking blissfully. Like a lot of people, we begin to wonder if all of their activity is a clue to the upcoming winter's weather. Here's what we found when we delved into our archives . . . and we're still wondering.

The number of nuts gathered by squirrels in the fall is a commonly used winter indicator. Many nuts, tough winter. Thus, these age-old proverbs . . .

When squirrels early start to hoard, winter will pierce us like a sword.

Squirrels gathering nuts in a flurry will cause snow to gather in a hurry.

If squirrels stash their nuts high in the trees, the snow will be deep.

When the squirrel eats them [nuts] on a tree,

weather as warm as warm can be.

The problem, of course, has always been to count the nuts gathered by an individual squirrel and then to judge this amount in comparison with the number of nuts gathered by the same squirrel during the previous fall. Latch onto a lazy or sick squirrel in either year, for instance, and the entire forecast is skewed.

The wise observer, it seems, may be better off in counting the squirrels and not their quarry. One adage suggests . . .

When squirrels are scarce in autumn, expect a cold winter.

However, squirrel abundance, not scarcity, may in fact hold the clue. The following account was originally published in the *St. Louis Express* and reprinted in the *Corpus Christi Ranchero* on November 5, 1859:

About 10 days ago, a tremendous drove of gray squirrels, numbering hundreds of thousands, suddenly made their appearance on the Meramac [sic] [River], covering the trees and water like a pall. Thousands of them were afterwards found dead in the river and on the ground.

They crossed the Mississippi at that point and worked their way down the river, until on Wednesday they reached Cape Girardue [sic], crossing the river at that point in countless myriads. The citizens turned out en masse and killed them by the hundreds. Every tree and bush in that vicinity swarmed with them until night when they all disappeared, and have not been heard from since. Their route was marked as by a devastating storm. Trees were girdled, and fields destroyed. Old French settlers predict a very



severe winter, as it was noticed in 1834 and '52 that immense droves of squirrels suddenly made their appearance, followed by intensely severe weather.

So, you can see we have come to no firm conclusions about squirrels' ability to divine the weather. But a long-lost essay—the second-prize winner in

the 1984 Almanac Essay Contest for which the topic was “The Tallest Tale I Ever Heard”—suggests that squirrels may know something about when to go fishing:

A man was fishing at a lake. His eye caught a gray squirrel in the trees near the shore. The tree limbs hung over the lake. In the lake was a stump with two nuts on it. The

squirrel was desperately trying all of his acrobatic gyrations in an effort to reach the nuts. Just as he grabbed them, he lost his grip and fell into the water. Instantly the biggest fish the man had ever seen lunged up and swallowed the squirrel. The lake got calm again. Then the big fish jumped up out of the water and put the two nuts back on the stump.

—Almanac editors

LIVING NATURALLY



**An Apple a Day—and
Not Just for Eating!**

LIVING NATURALLY

It's apple season again! Here are some of the numerous health benefits of apples, as well as some of their other interesting uses!

At our farm, we don't grow tree fruit, but we do buy and enjoy a lot of local apples from late September through the winter months.

In seasons when the Baldwins or Northern Spy apples are abundant, I generally buy a bushel to stash in the root cellar, alongside the homegrown cabbages and carrots. (They store best in a cold, humid environment.)

We eat apples fresh, baked (stuffed with walnuts and drizzled with honey and a little cinnamon), in sauce(s), in poultry stuffings, cut up and sautéed as a side dish, and in pies and

pandowdies.

Some households also make their own cider (including hard cider, the drink of choice of the colonial ancestors of some of us), cider vinegar, pectin, and "leather."

HEALTH BENEFITS OF APPLES

Science is providing new relevance for the old adage, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." A study published in the *British Medical Journal* comparing cardiovascular mortality rates between people taking statin drugs and those eating an apple a day concluded, "We find that [the] 150-year-old proverb is able to match modern medicine and is likely to have fewer side effects."

A growing body of research suggests that

eating apples and apple products may help to prevent cardiovascular diseases, Alzheimer's, asthma, allergies, diabetes, some cancers, and osteoporosis, as well as help with weight management.

Apples contain unique combinations of phytochemicals, which apple trees produce to help combat environmental stresses such as diseases and ultraviolet radiation. When we eat apples, some of these anti-inflammatory and antioxidant compounds may help to protect our own organs and tissues.

WHAT ELSE CAN APPLES DO?

Fresh apples have uses around the house, too. Use them to . . .

- **Ripen other fruit:** Fresh apples give off

Science is providing new relevance for the old adage, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."



ethylene gas, which will speed up the ripening of other fruit. Just set unripe pears, tomatoes, or bananas in a bowl or paper bag with a couple of apples, and the unripe fruit will ripen more quickly than they would otherwise. Because of the ethylene gas, it's a good idea not to store apples in your refrigerator or in the same storage space as potatoes, as they tend to make the potatoes sprout earlier.

• **Keep baked goods from drying out:** Cakes, muffins, and homemade breads will stay moist longer if you store them

in a bag or container along with a cut apple. Additionally, using apple cider in place of water can give your baked goods a richer apple taste.

• **Soften a lump of hardened brown sugar:**

Just tuck a piece of cut apple in a sealed bag with the brown sugar for a few hours, and it will soften up enough to break apart.

• **Reduce inflammation:**

Grate the peel of an apple into a bowl, then apply the grated peel to your skin. Let it sit for about 15 minutes before washing it off



TAP FOR **HOW TO MAKE SHRUNKEN APPLE HEADS**

with warm water. Anti-inflammatory compounds in the apple peel help to reduce inflammation.

• **Make a spooky apple head:** Great for Halloween, shrunken apple heads are an easy and creepy way to decorate! Plus, making them is a fun activity for kids.

–Margaret Boyles



TAP TO READ MORE OF MARGARET BOYLES'S POSTS IN HER "LIVING NATURALLY" BLOG

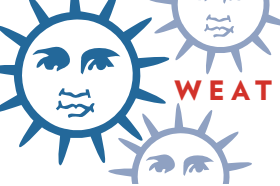
Everything you need to stay on track in 2023!



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WEATHER FORECASTS

IF IN THE OCTOBER FALL OF LEAVES MANY WITHER AND HANG ON THE BOUGHS, IT BETOKENS A FROSTY WINTER AND MUCH SNOW.



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.

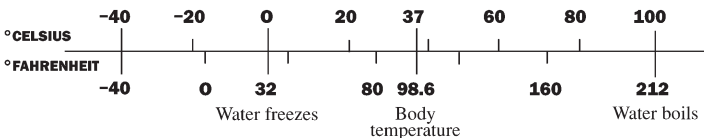


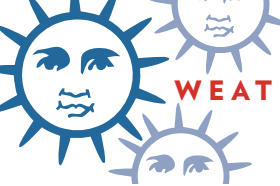
TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

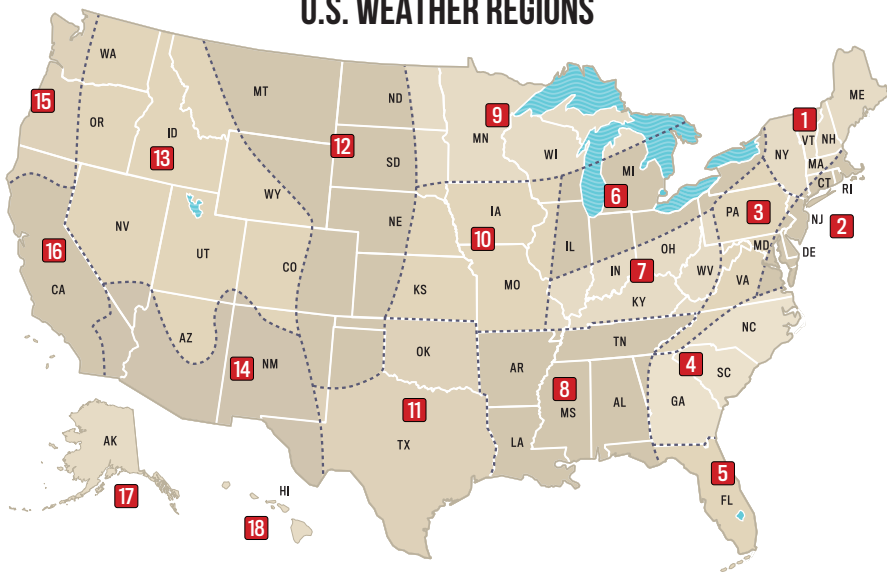
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



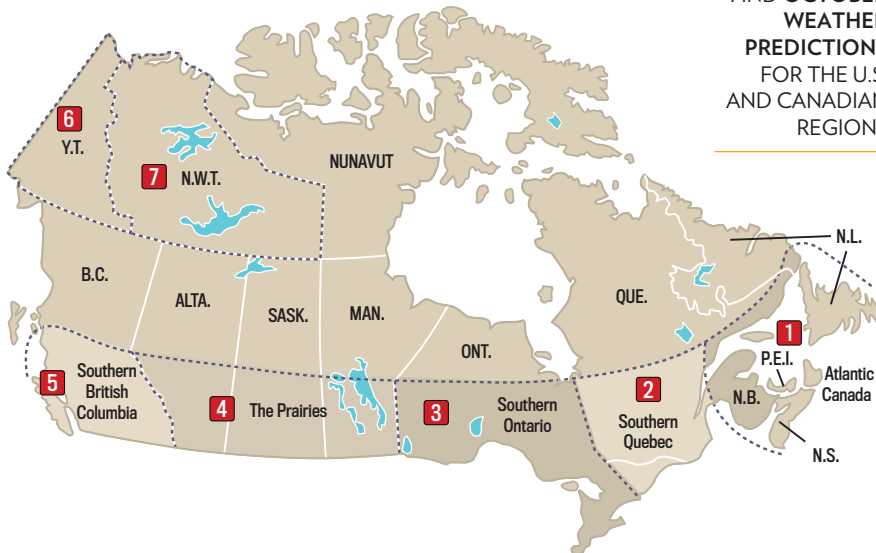


WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





WEATHER TREATS AND TRICKS

October 3 marks Child Health Day across the U.S., so make sure that your children have their jackets and umbrellas readily at hand in most areas east of the Mississippi, as it will be rainy and cool. The kids may even need hats, gloves, and boots in the northern Plains and Upper Midwest, as snow is expected there. Sunshine and sunscreen for the youngsters will be the rule in Florida, from Arizona into southern California, and across central and eastern Hawaii.

On October 10—Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day in the U.S. and Thanksgiving Day in Canada—skies will be sunny and dry for observances across most of the two nations. Still, rain could dampen outdoor plans from New

England and the mid-Atlantic states westward across the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes, as well as into the Pacific Northwest. Folks in Alaska will need to plan for snowy and cold conditions. Canada's east and west coasts will be rainy, but otherwise the weather will be sunny and dry for traveling.

Alaska Day, October 18, commemorates the transfer of the land that would become our 49th state from Russia to the United States in 1867. Folks in The Last Frontier on this day will find the weather mild, with rain and snow showers.

October 28 is Nevada Day, which celebrates the entrance of the 36th state into the Union on October 31, 1864. Those heading out and about for entertainment will need to keep the



jacket and the umbrella handy, as it will be cool with a few showers around.

Halloween will feature spookily rainy conditions, with trick-or-treaters in need of raincoats from the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states across the Appalachians, through the Heartland and the Upper Midwest, from the Rockies to the West Coast, and across much of Hawaii. Meanwhile, a **tropical storm** may play a big trick, with wind and heavy rain across the Deep South. The kids will have dry conditions for gathering treats from the High Plains through Texas. Across Canada, trick-or-treaters will enjoy dry and mild conditions in Atlantic Canada and the western Prairies, while the weather will be mild with rain showers across much of the rest of the country.

October temperatures will be cooler than normal in Florida, the Southeast, and the Deep South but warmer than normal elsewhere in the U.S. Precipitation will be above average from Maine to Georgia and westward through the Appalachians, with a **tropical storm** and heavy rain possible across the Deep South late in the month. It will be drier than normal in most other locations.

In Canada, October temperatures will be warmer than normal across much of the country. Precipitation will be above normal in southern

Quebec, southern British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories and generally below normal in most other areas. A **hurricane** may impact Atlantic Canada around the middle of the month.

Looking ahead, the La Niña that has been in place for the past 2 years could persist throughout the upcoming winter; such conditions rarely last for three consecutive winters, which has happened only twice since 1950. The Atlantic Multi-Decadal Oscillation (AMO) remains in a warm phase, while the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) is currently in a negative, or cool phase. Oscillations are linked to ocean-atmosphere patterns that influence the weather over periods of weeks to years.

Sunspot activity has dramatically increased during the past 6 months and now is at its highest level since late 2014. The relationship between increased solar activity and the future phase of the stratospheric winds near the equator (known as the QBO) could lead to the **polar vortex** becoming displaced from the North Pole. This would open the door for some cold shots across the eastern U.S. and Canada this winter.

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



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

An artist in New Jersey was showing her lady friend around the studio.

“Absolutely perfect!” exclaimed the visitor, looking at a painting. “These ostriches are simply superb! You

should never paint anything but birds.”

“They’re angels,” said the artist.

STRUNG OUT

Two men met on the city street in the evening and had a number of drinks together. The one who

lived in the suburbs became confidential and exhibited a string tied around a finger.

“I don’t dare to go home,” he explained. “There’s something my wife told me to do, without fail, and to make sure that I wouldn’t forget, she



tied this string around my finger. But, for the life of me, I can't remember what the thing was that I am supposed to do. And I don't dare to go home!"

A few days later, the two men met again, this time in the afternoon.

"Well," the one asked, "did you finally remember what that string was to remind you of?"

The other showed great gloom in his expression, as he replied:

"I didn't go home until the next night, just because I was scared, and then my wife told me what the string was for, all right—she certainly did!"

There was a note of pain in his voice.

"The string was to remind me to be sure to come home early."

POINT OF VIEW

At a reception in Boston, a lady who had been reading up on health mistook Attorney Williams for his brother, who was a doctor.

"Tell me," she said confidentially. "Is it better to lie on the right side or the left?"

"Madam," replied the lawyer, "if one is on the right side, it should not be necessary to lie at all."

HARPING ON THE WRONG NOTE

Nat Goodwin was at a club with an English friend and became the center of an appreciative group.

A cigar man approached the comedian and offered him a cigar, saying that it was a new product with a new promotion.

"With each cigar, you understand," the

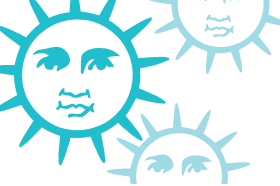
promoter said, "I will give you a coupon, and when you have 3,000 of them, you may bring the coupons to me and exchange them for a grand piano."

Nat sniffed at the cigar, pinched it gently, and then replied: "If I smoked 3,000 of these, I think I would need a harp instead of a grand piano."

There was a burst of laughter in which the dour Englishman did not join, until suddenly he exploded with merriment.

"I see the point!" he exclaimed. "Being an actor and traveling around the country a great deal, you would find a harp so much more convenient to carry."

"Exactly!" said Nat—to another round of laughs paid for by his friend.



WHAT'S NEXT



AMUSEMENT

The Best Seat in the House—how the rocking chair got rockin’



CALENDAR

Moon phases; November birthstones, holidays, and full Moon names



ASTRONOMY

Explore with our Sky Map



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The Case for Vine-Cooling Your Home



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