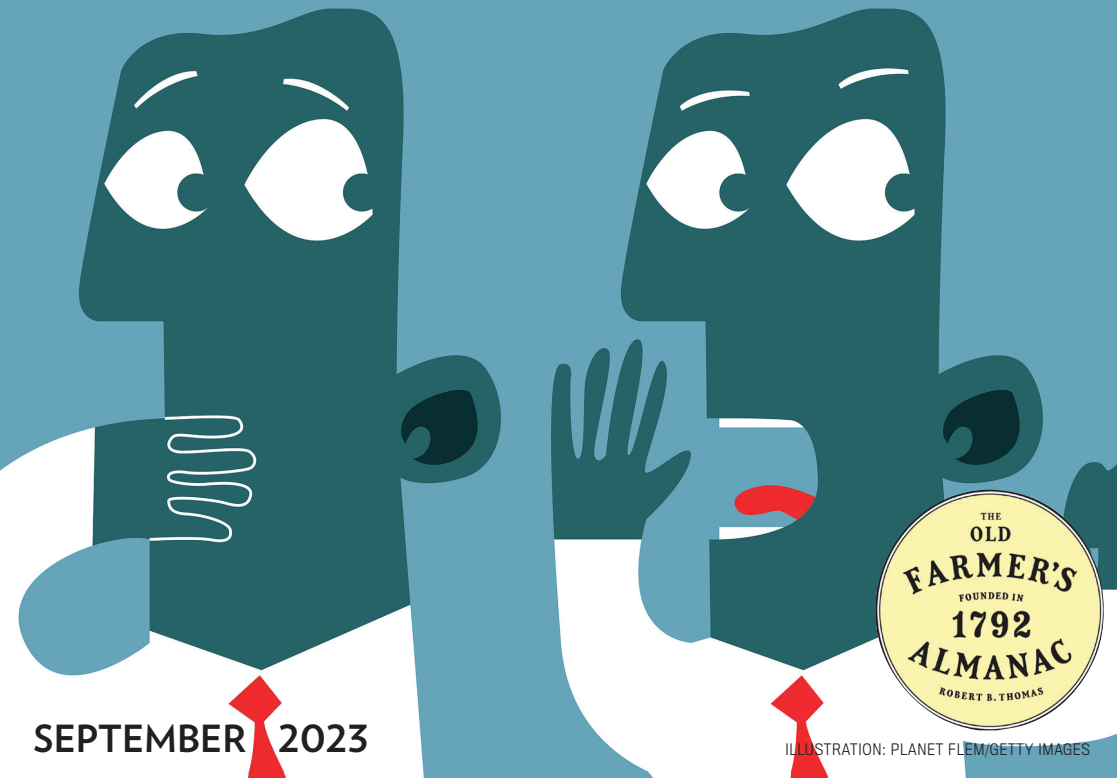


EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

HOW TO GET OUT OF DOING WHAT YOU DON'T WANT TO DO

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



SEPTEMBER 2023

ILLUSTRATION: PLANET FLEM/GETTY IMAGES

SEPTEMBER

Holidays, Full Moon Names, and More

CALENDAR THIS 'N' THAT

The forget-me-not is the official flower of Grandparents Day, which falls on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- Sept. 4:** Labor Day
- Sept. 10:** Grandparents Day
- Sept. 11:** Patriot Day
- Sept. 15:** Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
- Sept. 15:** First day of National Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month
- Sept. 17:** Constitution Day
- Sept. 18:** U.S. Air Force Birthday
- Sept. 21:** International Day of Peace
- Sept. 23:** Autumnal Equinox (at 2:50 A.M. EDT)
- Sept. 24:** Yom Kippur begins at sundown
- Sept. 30:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Canada)



EYE ON THE SKY

SEPTEMBER'S FULL MOON NAMES

Harvest Moon, Autumn Moon,
Moon of Brown Leaves

MOON PHASES

Last Quarter: September 6, 6:21 P.M. EDT

New Moon: September 14, 9:40 P.M. EDT

First Quarter: September 22, 3:32 P.M. EDT

Full Moon: September 29, 5:58 A.M. EDT



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT SEPTEMBER'S FULL MOON

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BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These September 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*

OUTDOORS

- Begin logging: 23, 24
- Go camping: 20–22
- Go fishing: 14–29
- Set posts or pour concrete: 23, 24

IN THE GARDEN

- Destroy pests and weeds: 1, 2, 29, 30
- Graft or pollinate: 8, 9
- Harvest aboveground crops: 23, 24
- Harvest belowground crops: 3–5
- Mow to promote growth: 18, 19



Mow to slow growth: 8, 9
Pick fruit: 13, 14
Plant aboveground crops: 18, 19
Plant belowground crops: 3–5
Prune to discourage growth: 10–12
Prune to encourage growth: 20–22

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 18, 19
Castrate animals: 25, 26
Cut hay: 1, 2, 29, 30
Purchase animals: 8, 9
Set eggs: 6, 7, 24–26
Slaughter livestock: 18, 19
Wean animals: 1, 5

PERSONAL

Advertise to sell: 18, 19
Ask for a loan: 3–5
Begin diet to gain weight: 20, 28
Begin diet to lose weight: 1, 5
Buy a home: 18, 19
Color hair: 3–5
Cut hair to discourage growth: 3–5
Cut hair to encourage growth: 15–17

Entertain: 10–12
Get married: 15–17
Have dental care: 13, 14
Move (house/household): 6, 7
Perm hair: 25, 26
Quit smoking: 1, 5
Straighten hair: 20–22
Travel for pleasure: 10–12
Wean children: 1, 5

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 8, 9
Brew: 18, 19
Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut:
8, 9
Demolish: 18, 19
Dry fruit, vegetables, or meat:
10–12
End projects: 28
Lay shingles: 10–12
Make jams or jellies: 27, 28
Paint: 15–17
Start projects: 15
Wash floors: 27, 28
Wash windows: 1, 2, 29, 30



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the September 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 SEPTEMBER

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



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



TAP FOR
SEPTEMBER
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*.

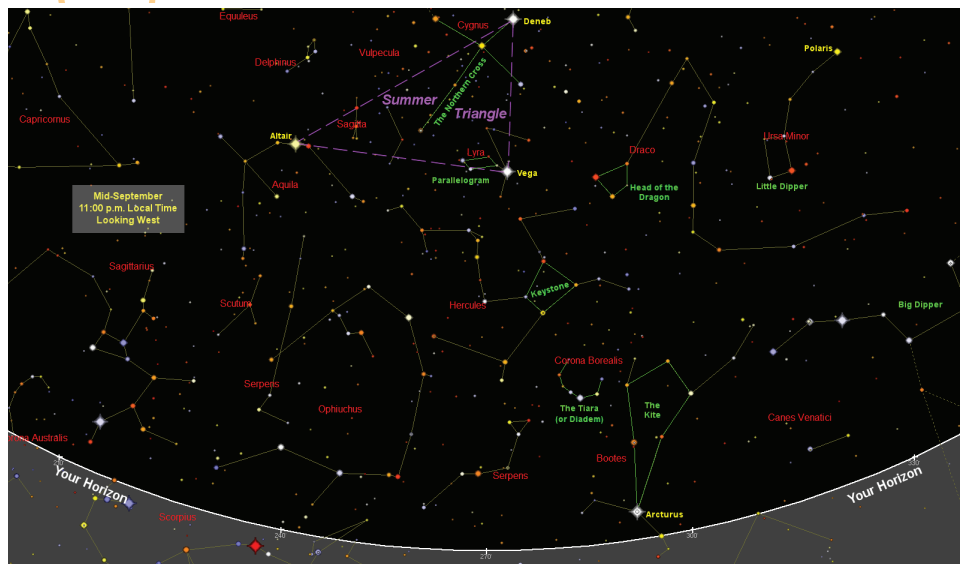
Mercury's retrograde periods can cause our plans to go awry. However, this is an excellent time to reflect on the past. Intuition is high during these periods, and coincidences can be extraordinary.

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: **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).



DISCOVERING THE LATE-SUMMER TRIANGLE

Although the calendar tells us that autumn begins this month, the sights of summer are still prominent in the night sky. The distinctive Summer Triangle can help you to navigate the heavens on warm September nights.

When you face westward at this time of year, the night sky is dominated by three bright stars: Altair, Vega, and Deneb. These three form the Summer Triangle, as illustrated in purple on this month's Sky Map.

To spot the top of the Summer Triangle, look nearly straight up to find the bright star Deneb. It sits at the top of the Northern Cross asterism (unofficial star pattern), itself a part of the large constellation Cygnus, the Swan. The Northern Cross is one of those asterisms that, once seen, is easily recognized in the future.

TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
SEPTEMBER
SKY MAP

TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES



Directly below Deneb, you'll find the even brighter star Vega, in the constellation Lyra, the Lyre. Moviegoers were introduced to Vega in the 1997 film *Contact*, starring Jodie Foster. In the movie, a planet orbiting Vega was home to the first alien civilization to contact Earth. To the left of Vega is a small group of four stars that form the Lyre, a delicate, near perfect parallelogram.

Look to the left to find Altair, the third member of the Summer Triangle, in the constellation Aquila, the Eagle. Altair is midway in brightness between Deneb and Vega. Its name derives from an Arabic phrase that translates as "the flying eagle." So, both the star and its constellation have roughly the same name. As interstellar distances go, Altair is a close neighbor—a mere 17 light-years (99.9 trillion miles) from us!

The three stars of the Summer Triangle are helpful for guiding you to other celestial sights. Following the line from Altair rightward past Vega brings you to the head of Draco, the Dragon. Once you have spotted its head, try to follow the sinuous body of the Dragon that slants upward and then bends downward to curl under the Little Dipper.

Below Vega lies the sprawling constellation Hercules, the mighty hero of Roman and Greek mythology. (The Greeks called him Heracles.) Four of the brighter stars of Hercules form the nicely symmetrical Keystone asterism. The Keystone is often visible even when most other stars in Hercules are obscured by streetlights and other manmade light pollution.

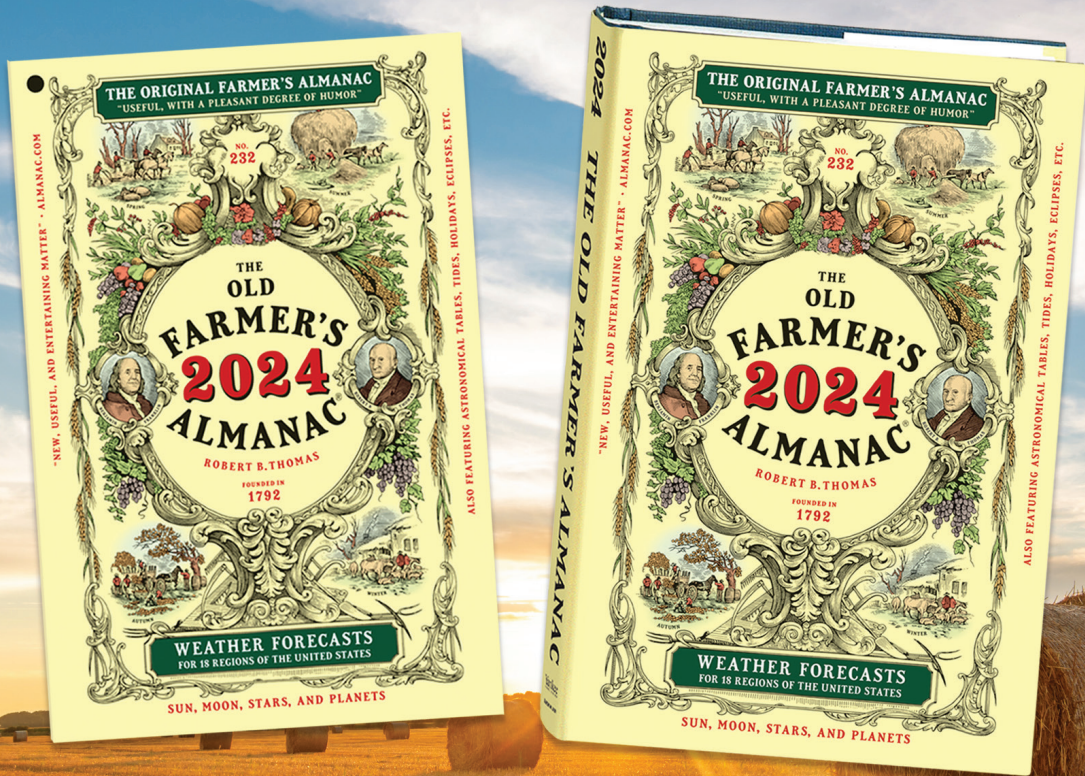
Just beneath the Keystone is the lovely constellation Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. To me, Corona Borealis more closely resembles a Tiara or, if you are a Harry Potter fan, the Lost Diadem of Ravenclaw. In Harry's magical world, the Diadem was said to grant wisdom to its wearer and to carry the famous inscription: "Wit beyond measure is man's greatest treasure."

Just to the right of Corona Borealis and very near the horizon stands the kite-shape form of Boötes, the Herdsman. You'll need a dark location that's free of trees and buildings to get a good view of the Kite and its brightest star, Arcturus.

September nights are among the most pleasant of the year. Plan to spend at least one of them enjoying the Summer Triangle and the many sights within and around it.

—Jeff DeTray

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AMUSEMENT



How to Get Out of Doing What You Don't Want to Do

All it takes is a lively imagination and a healthy disregard for the truth.

AMUSEMENT

Let's face it: There are moments in each person's life when what you need is a polite way to say no. You may have heard about the best-selling book *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In* by Roger Fisher and William Ury (Houghton Mifflin, 1981), but what if you're on the other side and really don't want to say yes?

There are a host of options from which you can choose when you don't feel like going somewhere or doing something. All it takes is a lively imagination and a healthy disregard for the truth.

THREE THINGS ON A PLATE

A wise friend introduced me to the "three things on a plate" excuse. When asked to serve on a board, for example, he would say, "I never have more than three things on my plate at once. If I

accept any more obligations, I won't have time to fulfill them adequately." Then he'd list the three things currently on his plate. The beauty of it is that you can list three different things every time you're asked. To your civic-minded friend, the three things are your job, your family, and your church. To the deacon who wants you to lead a Bible study group, it's your job, your family, and the volunteer fire department. To your boss or your spouse—well, don't carry this one too far.

ICKY MEDICAL PROBLEM

A sudden illness is always a good excuse, but don't overdo it or you may never be invited anywhere. The illness should be disabling but brief and, if possible, so intimate a problem as to discourage further inquiries. "Intestinal difficulties" is good, as is any reference to a

gynecological crisis or a foot fungus. And, as none of these presents obvious symptoms, you can show up at work or a different party the next day without embarrassment.

I'M BUSY

Pleading other plans is good, but don't use the old "I have to wash my hair" gag unless you really don't care what the other person thinks. "I have to wash my dog" is more convincing, especially if you toss in a few fragrant details about Fido's water phobia, skin disease, or parasites.

THE SECRET AGENT

If you're the type who likes to live dangerously, try being mysterious:

"I'd love to come, really I would, but I can't, and I'm afraid I can't tell you why. I swore never to tell anyone about . . . well, you understand."

"It's in litigation. I can't comment."

"Is a security check

AMUSEMENT

required?”

“I can’t go anywhere out of range of my ankle bracelet.”

THAT’S NOT MY DEPARTMENT

A good bet for anyone who works in a large corporation or government agency is “I’m not authorized to do that, but if you’ll submit your request in writing, I’ll pass it along to the proper authorities.”

FALSE HUMILITY

If you’ve been invited to a dinner with a lot of stuffed shirts, you could improvise by saying, “Oh, they’re much too smart! I’d feel like an idiot and embarrass us both.” Or, if you’ve been asked to make a speech, you might say, “The last time I made a speech, you could hear the snoring for miles. Better find somebody really good.”

THE SLOWDOWN

Stalling is often effective, especially when the

person asking you to do something is in a hurry. “I’d like to sleep on that,” you can say, which is probably perfectly true, and you may never have to reply at all. Or you might say, “I never accept an invitation without checking my calendar, and I left it at home/at work/at the doctor’s office.” (If you use the last, you can easily segue into Option B by adding something about how shaken you were by the results of the blood test.)

“X” WON’T LET ME

When I was a child, I could always say, “My parents won’t let me.” (And when our children were growing up, we told them we’d always be willing to “not let them” do things they wanted to get out of doing.) It’s harder to get away with this one when you’re grown up, but there are adult variations on the theme:

“My husband/wife

won’t let me.”

“My pastor won’t let me.”

“My therapist won’t let me.”

“My lawyer won’t let me.”

“My personal trainer won’t let me.”

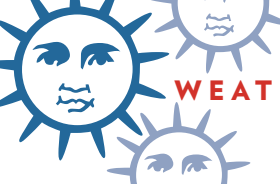
“My parole officer won’t let me.”

Choose the one that best suits the occasion.

THE NON SEQUITUR

Just before an election, a campaign worker for a local candidate called to ask me to stand at the polling place and hold a sign. Stunned (I had just passed a sign-holder at a busy intersection and wondered why anyone would do something as silly as that), I spluttered out the first thing that came into my head: “I can’t. I’m a teacher!” The caller quickly apologized and hung up.

—Norm D. Bloom



FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 1, FAIR FOR THE MONTH.

HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

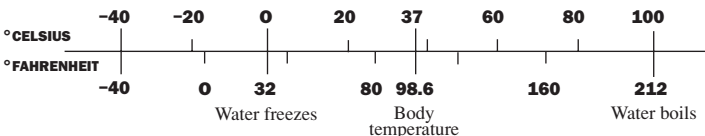
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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.

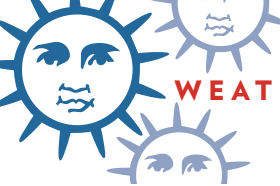
We believe that nothing in the universe happens haphazardly, that there is a cause-and-effect pattern to all phenomena. However, although neither we nor any other forecasters have as yet gained sufficient insight into the mysteries of the universe to predict the weather with total accuracy, our results are almost always very close to our traditional claim of 80 percent.

CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



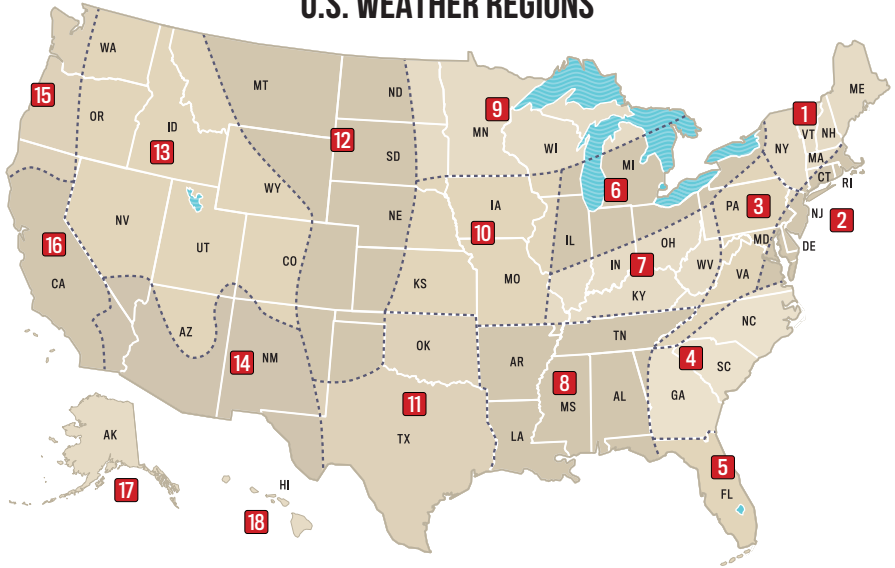
TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

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 **SEPTEMBER**
WEATHER
PREDICTIONS
FOR THE U.S.
AND CANADIAN
REGIONS





SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

As summer unofficially comes to an end on September 4 with Labor Day in the U.S., there will be some showers and perhaps even a thunderstorm or two to dodge along the East Coast, although much of this period will turn out to be dry. There will be the threat of some more organized rain from the northern Plains through the Upper Midwest and into parts of the Great Lakes, which could slow travel at times. Even across the West, there is the potential for some rain in the Pacific Northwest and even a shower or two across portions of California. The Desert Southwest and southern Rockies will be the best places to have a late-summer barbecue. There will be a few showers across Alaska, with some sunshine and normal trade wind showers in Hawaii.

Labour Day in Canada is looking to be pretty wet across the Maritimes and western parts of the country. The best chances for some sunshine and drier weather will occur in Ontario, Quebec, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, where any precipitation that is around should be spotty. Much of the country will be on the chillier side.

Grandparents Day, on the 10th, should be a dry day with some sunshine for spending time outside across much of the East, although there could be some late-season heat along the coast. There will be a few spotty showers in the Northeast and Florida, but most locales will be dry. Temperatures look to be warm from the southern Plains through the Ohio Valley, with sunshine and scattered showers and thunderstorms about. The Great Lakes could see some steadier rain



at times. Showers will be moving through the Rockies and Pacific Northwest, while California should be sunny and pleasantly mild. Canada will tend to be cooler than average, with a few showers around. The best opportunities for some sunshine will occur in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Throughout the month of September, we expect cool weather across the northeastern U.S., where there could be some early crispness in the air. Meanwhile, a warmer-than-average month will lead to a summerlike feel across the Southeast. Near- or above-average temperatures are likely from the Midwest back through the Plains. The Northwest, Desert Southwest, and Intermountain West will be cooler than average, while California, Alaska, and Hawaii will be on the warmer side. Cooler-than-average conditions are expected across much of Canada, although the Yukon and Northwest Territories will lean toward the milder side.

September looks like it will be a dry month from the Ohio Valley through the eastern U.S. We're expecting a wetter-than-normal month from the Great Lakes back through the Upper Midwest and northern Plains and from the Heartland down into the Deep South. Early-season wet weather will dampen the Pacific Northwest, with California's precipitation amounts running closer to average. Southern Alaska and Hawaii will be on the dry side. Canada will be pretty wet in most areas, although Quebec and the eastern Prairies will have a better chance of being somewhat drier than other places.

Looking ahead to the winter season, the big change obviously will center on what is happening out in the Pacific. After three straight La Niña years, the pattern is starting to change and an El Niño looks very likely this winter. El Niño years typically bring a more active storm track to California and the southern U.S., while the northern U.S. tends to be drier and warmer than average. Following the unusually wet and snowy winter across California despite the La Niña in place, a second wet winter would continue to help to replenish water supplies in parts of the West that have experienced long-term drought. It is important to note, though, that having an El Niño in place does not automatically mean that winter will be unusually wet in California or that it will be warm and dry across northern areas. El Niño is just one piece of the puzzle.

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

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