

EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

“READY FOR RHUBARB” RECIPES

THE CENSUS: 24 AND COUNTING

HORSERADISH: THE ROOT WITH A WALLOP

RETHINK YOUR DRINK



APRIL 2020

PHOTO: DIANA TALIUN/GETTY IMAGES

FEATURES

FOOD

“Ready for Rhubarb” Recipes

AMUSEMENT

The Census: 24 and Counting

GARDENING

Horseradish: The Root With a Wallop

LIVING NATURALLY

Rethink Your Drink



WEATHER FORECASTS

How We Make Our Predictions

April U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

DEPARTMENTS

CALENDAR

April Holidays, Fun Facts, and More

ASTROLOGY

Best Days to Do Things

Gardening by the Moon’s Sign

ASTRONOMY

Sky Map for April

WIT

Humor Me
Grins and groans from the Almanac

WHAT’S NEXT

See what we have in store for our May issue!



FOLLOW US:



APRIL

Holidays, Fun Facts, and More

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Good Friday (Bermuda)



In Bermuda, people celebrate Good Friday (April 10 this year) by flying kites of all shapes and sizes. Often handcrafted with wood or bamboo and glue, Bermuda kites may feature colorful tissue paper designs, often with long tails—some even hum cheerfully in the breeze.

Legend says that this kite-flying tradition began when a Sunday school teacher, in an effort to explain to his students about how Jesus ascended to Heaven, launched a cross stick kite decorated with an image of Christ. After it took to the air, he cut the string and

it continued to soar upward.

Today, many families and tourists join the fun at the famous kite-flying spot of Horseshoe Bay Beach in Southampton, as well as at other areas throughout the island. Traditional foods on this day include codfish cakes and hot cross buns.



EYE ON THE SKY

MOON PHASES

First Quarter: Apr. 1, at 6:21 A.M. EDT

Full Pink Moon: Apr. 7, at 10:35 P.M. EDT

Last Quarter: Apr. 14, at 6:56 P.M. EDT

New Moon: Apr. 22, at 10:26 P.M. EDT

First Quarter: Apr. 30, at 4:38 P.M. EDT

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT APRIL'S FULL MOON

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Apr. 1: All Fools' Day

Apr. 5: Palm Sunday

Apr. 8: Passover begins at sundown

Apr. 10: Good Friday

Apr. 12: Easter

Apr. 13: Easter Monday

Apr. 19: Orthodox Easter

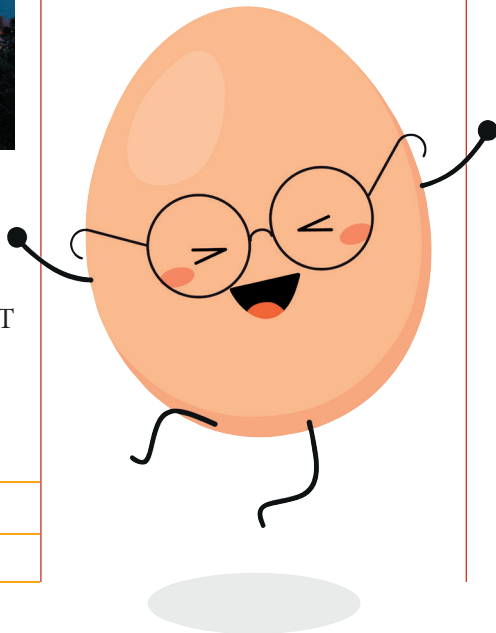
Apr. 22: Earth Day

Apr. 24: National Arbor Day

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q: Why do eggs like All Fools' Day?

A: They love practical yolks.



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BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These April 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*

ON THE FARM

- Breed animals: 9, 10
- Castrate animals: 15–17
- Cut hay: 20–22
- Purchase animals: 1, 2, 27–29
- Set eggs: 6–8, 15, 16
- Slaughter livestock: 9, 10
- Wean animals: 3, 13

IN THE GARDEN

- Destroy pests and weeds: 20–22
- Graft or pollinate: 1, 2, 27–29
- Harvest aboveground crops: 23, 24
- Harvest belowground crops: 13, 14
- Mow to slow growth: 9, 10
- Mow to promote growth: 1, 2, 24
- Pick fruit: 5, 6



Plant aboveground crops: 1, 2, 27–29

Plant belowground crops: 9, 10, 18, 19

Prune to discourage growth: 11, 12

Prune to encourage growth: 3, 4, 22

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 13, 14

Go camping: 11, 12

Go fishing: 1–7, 22–30

Set posts or pour concrete: 13, 14

PERSONAL

Advertise to sell: 23, 24

Ask for a loan: 19

Begin diet to lose weight: 10, 19

Begin diet to gain weight: 6, 24

Buy a home: 6, 24

Color hair: 23, 24

Cut hair to discourage growth: 8, 18, 19

Cut hair to encourage growth: 23, 24

Get married: 7, 8

Have dental care: 5, 6

Move (house/household): 25, 26

Perm hair: 15–17

Quit smoking: 3, 13

Straighten hair: 11, 12

Travel for pleasure: 3, 4, 30

Wean children: 3, 13

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 1, 2, 27–29

Brew: 9, 10

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 9, 10

Demolish: 9, 10

Dry fruit/vegetables/meat: 20, 21

End projects: 21

Lay shingles: 3, 4, 30

Make jams/jellies: 18, 19

Paint: 7, 8

Start projects: 23

Wash floors: 18, 19

Wash windows: 20–22



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the April 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 APRIL

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

+ TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES

▶ TAP FOR
APRIL MOON
PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

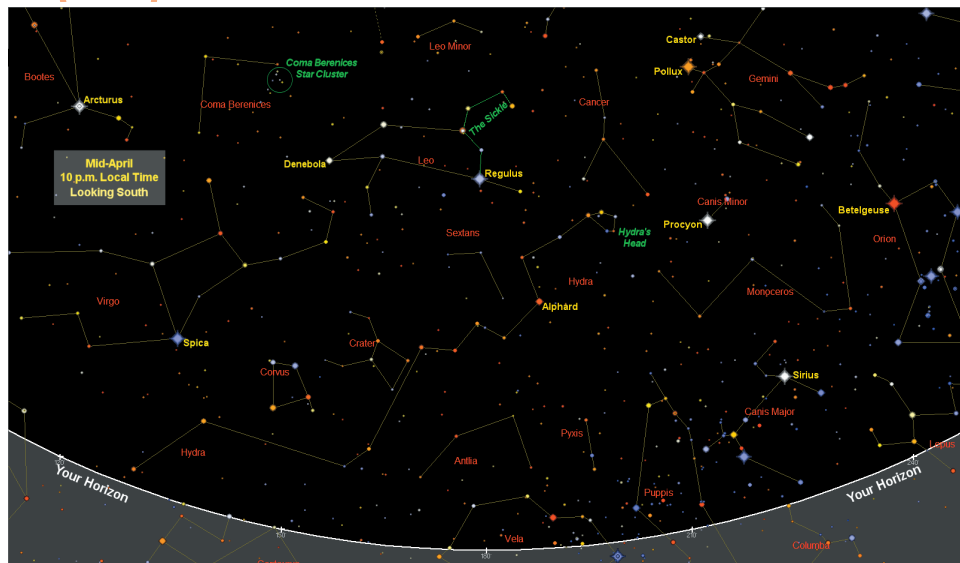
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion *retrograde motion*.

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 2020 retrograde periods: **June 18–July 12** and **October 14–November 3**.

–*Celeste Longacre*




THE MINOR LEAGUERS

With the start of baseball season upon us, this seems an appropriate time to look at constellations that haven't made the Big Leagues. These are the night sky's lesser lights, constellations that are either too small or too faint to make the celestial all-star team. To maximize your ability to see the Minor Leaguers, choose a moonless night during April and a viewing location as far as possible from city lights.

First, let's get our bearings. When you look to the south on April evenings, mighty Leo, the Lion, dominates the scene. The most distinctive part of Leo is the Sickle asterism, a pattern of six stars anchored by Regulus, the 21st brightest star in the night sky. Once you've spotted the Sickle, you should have little trouble tracing out the rest of Leo, culmination with bright Denebola, whose name comes from an Arabic phrase meaning "tail of the lion."

With Leo clearly in view, we can now make our way to the

 TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
APRIL SKY MAP

 TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES



first few Minor Leaguers. Just above Leo lies the Smaller Lion, Leo Minor. You'll have to make good use of your imagination, because only three of Leo Minor's stars are easily visible, arranged in a much-flattened triangle. Moving to the east (leftward), we find Coma Berenices, Berenice's Hair, named for Queen Berenice of ancient Egypt. It seems Berenice pledged to cut her long, flowing hair if her husband, King Ptolemy III, returned safely from battle. When he did, Berenice lopped off her golden locks, and astronomers of the time declared that they would be forever preserved in the night sky.

Like Leo Minor, Coma Berenices consists of just three main stars. However, the constellation is also home to the Coma Berenices Star Cluster, which is highlighted on our map. With your eyes alone, you will see only about five stars in the cluster, but even small binoculars will reveal several more.

Continuing downward, past the large constellation Virgo, we come to the compact figures of Corvus, the Crow, and Crater, the Cup. Corvus is an ancient constellation, dating back to at least 1,100 B.C., when it was known to the Babylonians as The Raven. Its four main stars form an asterism that is easy to spot, even though it bears scant resemblance to a crow. Crater is much fainter but equally old, and it does actually resemble its namesake.

To the upper right of Crater and directly below Regulus is Sextans, the Sextant, one of the least impressive constellations of all. It's another three-star constellation, but unlike very ancient Corvus and Crater, Sextans is a modern invention. It was first designated as a constellation in 1687 by noted Polish astronomer Johannes Hevelius.

Slithering beneath the small constellations Corvus, Crater, and Sextans is Hydra, the Water Snake. Hydra is the largest of all constellations, an impressive meandering figure that spans nearly one-quarter of the sky, from its head high in the south to its tail near the eastern horizon. This constellation has been recognized since very ancient times, despite being home to only one bright star, Alphard, known as "The Solitary One."

Hydra seems to be meandering westward toward Monoceros, the Unicorn, a faint W-shape grouping that will require you to have dark skies if you are to see it at all. The final Minor Leaguer in this part of the sky is Cancer, the Crab, which sits just above the head of Hydra and directly to the right of the Sickle, where we began our journey.

—Jeff DeTray



“Ready for Rhubarb” Recipes

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

FOOD

Rhubarb Chutney



TAP FOR
RECIPE



PHOTO: SAM JONES/QUINN BREIN

RHUBARB CHUTNEY

2 cups chopped fresh rhubarb
1 tart apple, peeled and chopped
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup raisins
1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin

In a heavy nonaluminum saucepan, combine all of the ingredients. Slowly bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes, or until rhubarb and apples are very soft but still hold their shape. Do not allow them to turn into mush. Taste and adjust seasonings. Cool and chill before serving.

Makes about 2-1/2 cups.

 SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

Raspberry Rhubarb Pie

 TAP FOR
RECIPE



RASPBERRY RHUBARB PIE

unbaked pastry for double-crust pie

3 cups chopped fresh rhubarb

1-1/4 cups sugar, divided

3 tablespoons all-purpose flour

pinch of salt

2 cups fresh or frozen raspberries

1 tablespoon butter, cut into several pieces

Preheat oven to 450°F. Line a 9-inch pie plate with pastry for the bottom crust.

In a bowl, combine rhubarb with 1 cup of sugar, flour, and salt. Allow to stand for about 10 minutes. In a separate bowl, combine raspberries with remaining 1/4 of cup of sugar.

Pour rhubarb mixture into pie plate. Drain raspberries and layer on top of rhubarb, then dot with butter. Cover with the top crust and seal edges.

Bake for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 325°F and bake for 30 more minutes, or until pie is golden brown.

Makes 8 servings.

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THIS
RECIPE

FOOD

Rhubarb Coffee Cake

 TAP FOR
RECIPE



PHOTO: SAM JONES/QUINN BREIN

RHUBARB COFFEE CAKE

CAKE:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1-1/2 cups brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2-1/2 cups chopped fresh rhubarb

TOPPING:

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour a 13x9-inch baking dish.

For cake: In a bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, and salt; set aside.

In a separate bowl, cream together butter and brown sugar for 4 to 6 minutes, or until fluffy. Beat in egg. Add a third of the flour mixture and stir gently. Add half of the sour cream and stir. Repeat with flour mixture, remaining sour cream, and remaining flour mixture. Stir in vanilla and rhubarb and spread batter into prepared pan.

For topping: In a bowl, combine all of the ingredients. Sprinkle topping over the cake.

Bake for 40 to 50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Makes 8 to 10 servings.

 SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

AMUSEMENT



24 and Counting

Now that the latest census is under way, let's look back at the first.

April 1 marks National Census Day, which signals the kickoff of the 2020 census, the 24th such event in U.S. history. Conducted every 10 years since 1790, this head count has seen a lot of changes over the years—not only in methodology (this year, for the first time, responses can be made by phone or online) but also in the names of citizens.

Where, for example, are the Snows who appeared in the first U.S. census? Or, for that matter, the Rainses, Sprinkles, Showers, Hails, Slushes, and Blizzards? To judge from telephone directories as recent as the 1980s, the surnames Snow, Rains, Sprinkle, and even Blizzard had survived, but the Showers,

Hails, and Slushes were no longer much in evidence. Similarly, other colonial surnames are seldom heard today: Among the residents of the original 13 states were families named Bony, Careless, Dumb, Daft, Fickle, Gaudy, Gushing, Lazy, Miserly, Quaint, Sallow, and Sullen.

Census takers in 1790 made note of every name, no matter how curious. Also in the records are the surnames Ache, Boils, Corn, Cough, Gout, Fever, Measles, and even Warts. There are also a few surname remedies on the rolls, most notably Balm and Pill. And there were several with a fatal association—for example, Death, Deadman, Ghost, Hearse, Moregraves, Murder, and Mummy.

What happened to the Deaths and Murders and other oddities of early American nomenclature? One explanation offered by the Census Bureau some years ago is that names that “tended to cause a distinct loss of dignity to the bearer have . . . been so modified, with the social advance of the possessors, as to lose unpleasant characteristics.”

There were, of course, many surnames noted in 1790 that are still popular and common today. The most frequently listed surname in the first census, and still the nation’s ranking surname in at least the past three counts (1990, 2000, and 2010), is—can you guess?—Smith!

—Elizabeth Pierce

WHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE THE SNOWS WHO APPEARED IN THE FIRST U.S. CENSUS? OR, FOR THAT MATTER, THE RAINSES, SPRINKLES, SHOWERS, HAILS, SLUSHES, AND BLIZZARDS?

GARDENING



Horseradish: The Root With a Wallop

Wow—does it ever clear out your sinuses!

PHOTO: KUTTELVASEROVA STUCHELOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

A few days after our wedding, I caught my new husband preparing his workday lunch: two slices of whole wheat bread embracing a slab of Vermont cheddar and a large yellow onion sliced in rings. He spread one slice of bread with brown mustard and a thick overlay of peanut butter, the second with a half-inch of prepared horseradish.

Not only was the sandwich toothsome, he insisted, but also the daily dose of raw onion and horseradish was responsible for his freedom from colds and flus.

Not long afterward, I began taking a secret liking to horseradish, albeit in smaller doses. And never with peanut butter. When our grocery purchases started running to five or six bottles of the stuff each week, we decided that it was time for us to grow and prepare it for ourselves.

If you want to plant it,

now is the time. Spring is the season—but only in places where winters freeze hard.

An exceptionally hardy perennial, horseradish belongs to the venerable plant family Cruciferae (“cross-bearing,” for the tiny, cross-shape flowers characteristic of all members of this family), which includes cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, and others.

Horseradish sends up coarse, elongated, emerald green leaves that resemble those of common curly dock. This foliage, which rarely grows more than 2 feet tall, belies the real action underground: In rich soil, the fleshy horseradish taproot can penetrate as deep as 10 feet if left undisturbed for several years and will send out a tangled mass of horizontal secondary roots and rootlets over a diameter of several feet. If severed from the main taproot, any rootlet can give rise to a new

plant; this is one way to start a crop. Aspiring horseradish growers can also obtain root cuttings—sometimes called “starts” or “sets”—from seed companies and from many local garden supply stores.

Horseradish will flourish under fairly adverse conditions but will produce the biggest, sweetest, most flavorful roots and greens if planted



TAP FOR HORSE RADISH BENEFITS

in deep, fertile loam with a near-neutral pH and constant moisture supply. Plant it well away from other garden crops, or follow the practice of savvy intensive gardeners and plant the roots in buried lengths of drainage tile or even a bottomless 5-gallon bucket, to check their spread.

Plant horseradish by laying sets or pieces of roots about 18 inches apart and nearly horizontal on a slight incline, in a trench 3 to 4 inches deep. Sets

GARDENING

generally come with the lower end sliced off on the diagonal to indicate which end should slant down. With horizontal planting, leaves will sprout forth from several points along the length of the set. Cover over with topsoil.

Most gardening books recommend fertilizing horseradish in the early spring (the plants make vigorous top growth all summer and then begin storing starch in the root in the fall, which fattens them), watering and weeding regularly, and protecting the crops against those pests that commonly attack cabbage family members. To prevent the rampant spread of the roots and a buildup of disease organisms, harvest the roots regularly—ideally, every spring or fall—and rotate the bed to a new place every so often, setting pencil-size sets broken off the main roots.

Gardeners disagree as to whether spring-dug or late-fall-dug horseradish

gives the finest flavor, but most agree that roots dug in summer are unpalatable. We tend to dig our main supply of roots in November, just ahead of a solid freeze, storing them in damp sand in the root cellar. A smaller supply of roots will keep well in a plastic bag in the refrigerator.

Two caveats govern both culinary uses of horseradish: Keep the roots refrigerated to maintain flavor and nutritional value, grating them only as needed, and use them raw. When adding horseradish to hot foods, such as rarebits, sauces, or fondues, stir it in just before serving.

To prepare the condiment, scrub and scrape some large root sections well, then grind them in a blender or grate very fine by hand. (If using the hand method, hold your breath, stopper the nose, and wear eye protection throughout.) Add as much white vinegar as

the grated roots will hold without becoming runny. Cap the container tightly and refrigerate.

There are those who warn that overconsumption of horseradish root will irritate the sensitive lining of the digestive tract; they suggest limiting use to a quarter teaspoon at a time. To them, I offer the remark of a Yankee



**TAP FOR HOW
HORSERADISH GETS
ITS BITE**

octogenarian who has grown, processed, and eaten horseradish all of his adult life and takes his daily dose of homemade horseradish sauce straight, by the tablespoonful, accompanied by much lip-smacking, tearing, sniffing, and sweating.

“Oh, that’s good stuff!” he exclaims. “Question in my mind is not how I’d get hurt from eatin’ it, but how much worse off I’d be without it.”

—Margaret Boyles

HORSERADISH BENEFITS

Horseradish roots pack a nutritional wallop that few cultivated plants, and certainly no other root crop, can match. The freshly grated root contains more vitamin C than most common fruit, including oranges. The root is rich in calcium, iron, thiamine, potassium, magnesium, trace minerals, and proteins, yet desirably low in phosphorus and sodium. Horseradish is 20 times richer in calcium than the potato (with skin) and contains nearly four times the vitamin C and three times the iron.

HOW HORSERADISH GETS ITS BITE

Horseradish gets its characteristic bite from the interaction of two compounds, isolated from each other in separate cells of the plant. Intact roots and leaves have no horseradish-y smell but must be bruised, chopped, shredded, or chewed to bring the two compounds together. The finer the grating or grinding, the more pungent and richly flavored the root becomes.

AGE-OLD WISDOM

Encourage pollinators with companion planting

Reduce pests and diseases with crop rotation

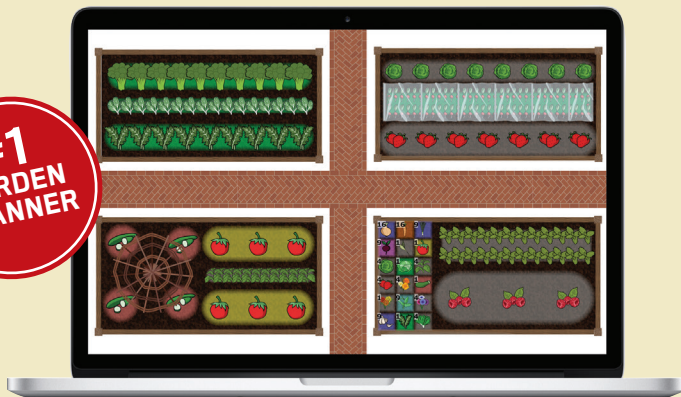
Maximize harvests with succession planting

Learn more from your garden with detailed records



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LIVING NATURALLY

Rethink Your Drink

PHOTO: JIRI VACLAVEK/SHUTTERSTOCK

What exactly is in bottled drinks?

Many advertise that they are good for you, but what are the ingredients in bottled drinks anyway?

Aggressively marketed as important for health and hydration, a mind-boggling array of packaged beverages vie for our attention in the marketplace: sports drinks, energy drinks, fitness waters, vitamin waters—even “designer waters.” And that’s not even counting the dozens of varieties of plain bottled water.

To see and hear the advertisements, you’d think that before bottled beverages, human beings were unable to manage their thirst or replace the “electrolytes” lost through everyday living.

For sure, water makes up as much as 65 percent of adult body weight. It’s essential for most bodily functions, so staying well hydrated is essential to good health.

INGREDIENTS IN BOTTLED DRINKS

Many of these supposedly health-promoting drinks have come under scrutiny and even attack by public health advocates.

Experts have concerns about the long-term health effects of many of today’s “enhanced waters” and “energy” drinks, especially on children, teens, young adults, and people with or at risk for chronic health conditions such as diabetes and obesity.

Here are a few reasons why:

- The average American adult drinks about 400 calories a day, mostly from sugary sodas, sweetened teas, sports and energy drinks, juice drinks, and alcohol.

Those **calories add up**. Drinking 400 calories of sugary beverages each day can pack on more than a pound’s worth of calories (3,500) every 9 days—more than 40 pounds a year.

- “Energy” drinks can simultaneously contribute to obesity and poor nutrition. Drinking high-calorie beverages doesn’t give you the sense of fullness that solid food does, so you keep **sipping those empty calories**.

- Many also contain **a big jolt of caffeine and other stimulants**, which may be harmful to and even addictive

Experts have concerns about the long-term health effects of many of today’s “enhanced waters” and “energy” drinks, especially on children, teens, young adults, and people with or at risk for chronic health conditions such as diabetes and obesity.

for children, teens, and some adults.

- Other energy drinks contain vitamins, amino acids, and unregulated herbs in **ratios, amounts, combinations, and forms that may be harmful.**

- Many bottled drinks may cause **irreversible damage to teeth**, because the high acidity levels of energy drinks erode tooth enamel.

Health experts suggest drinking plain tap water to stay hydrated throughout the day, especially during and after exercise. Carried in a refillable water bottle, it's convenient, no-cost, and calorie-free. I find that a squirt of lemon or lime and a few ice cubes makes it seem more special.

A diet of healthy meals and snacks each

day offers all of the calories, vitamins, and “electrolytes” that you need to replace what you ordinarily lose.

Exceptions include hours-long periods of hard physical work or intense exercise, and cases of extreme diarrhea and vomiting, which call for more serious and sustained hydration.

COSTS OF BOTTLED DRINKS AND WATER

According to one report, Americans spend \$21 billion a year on bottled water, as compared to only \$29 billion spent in maintaining the infrastructure of our public water system. Some critics of bottled water think that this pits private drinking habits against

maintaining municipal water supplies.

Closer to home, the bottled waters at my local supermarket range from less than a buck for plain bottled water to \$6 or more for a can of high-end energy drink. My frugal household long ago switched to drinking tap water, along with home-brewed coffee and various teas.

Hot-topic related costs also include the steep energy and environmental expense of bottling water and the social and economic impacts of turning water into a private commodity for sale and profit.

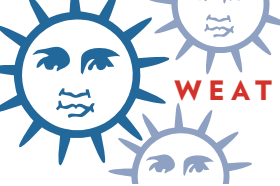
Time to rethink?

—Margaret Boyles



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

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A VINE THAT BUDS IN APRIL WILL NOT THE BARREL FILL.

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. Most-recent tabulations span the period 1981 through 2010.

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.

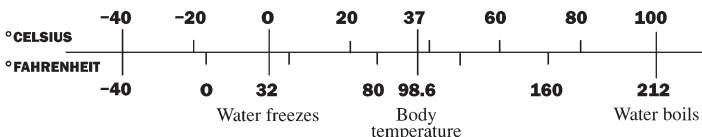


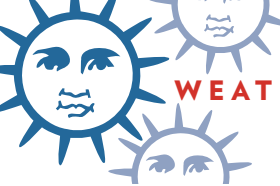
TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

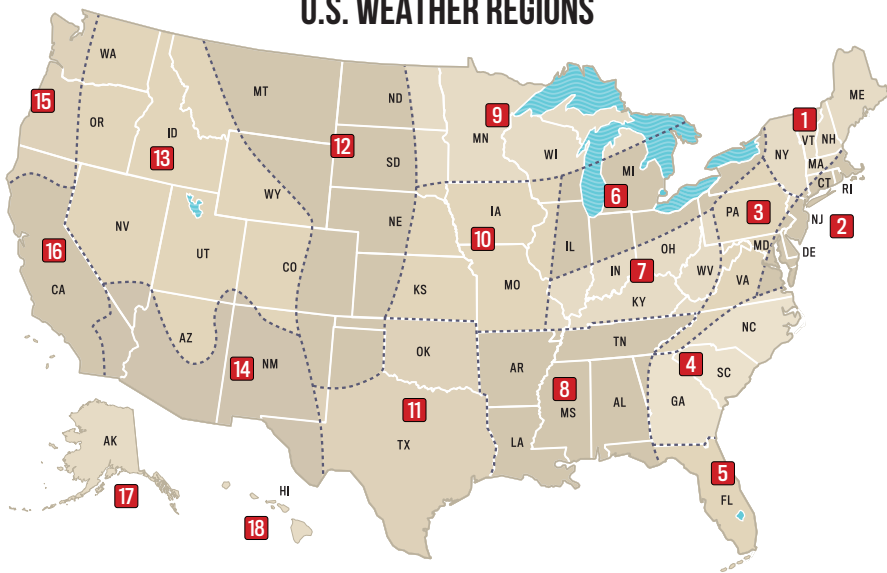
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



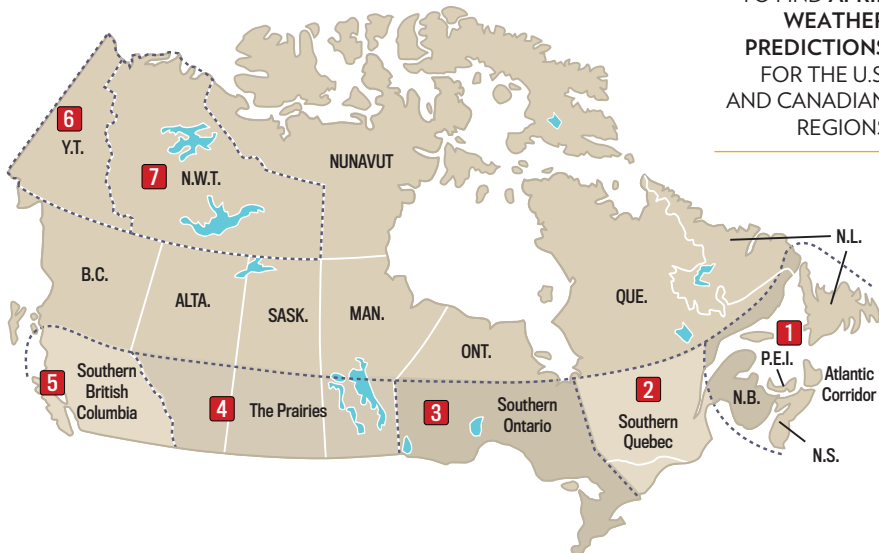


WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS

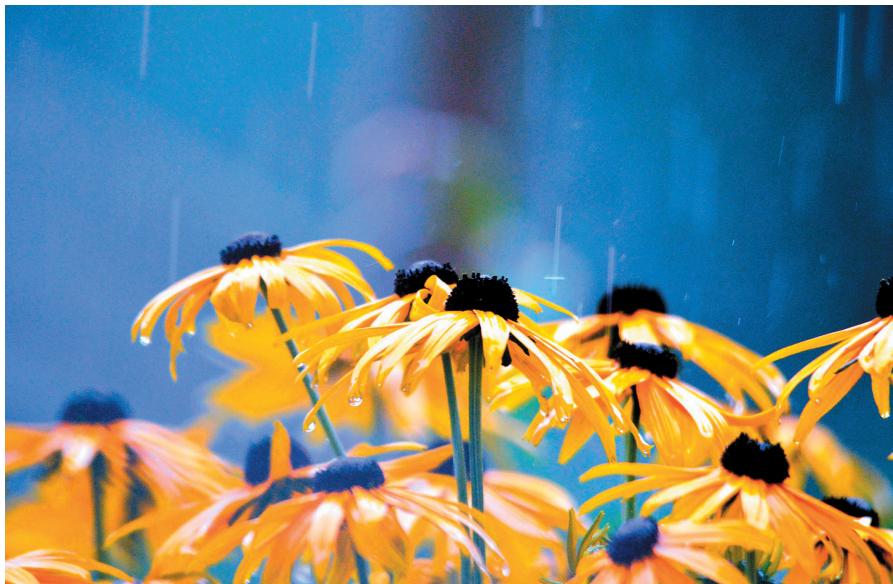


CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





APRIL'S WELL-VERSED FORECAST

Since April is National Poetry Month time,
I'll give you the weather within silly rhyme.

*On the 1st comes a day some say named for me,
But I hope when they say this that joking they'll be.*

*In the Upper Midwest, April Fools' won't be funny—
You may get a snowstorm and not weather sunny.*

*For the eve of the 8th, I call for night's fall
And send Passover tidings to one and to all.*

*The 10th is Good Friday, plus Siblings Day—
My brother and sister are well, I do pray!*

*Easter Sunday the 12th should be sunny and flowery,
Except from the Plains to the Lakes, where 'twill be showery.*



*In the U.S., the 15th means income tax due,
And even with gray skies, I always feel blue.*

*On the 19th comes National Garlic Day,
When I eat it to keep werewolves and family away.*

*The 22nd brings Earth Day edition #50:
Remember to reuse, recycle, and be thrifty!*

*It's also Administrative Professionals Day,
Which is something my assistant told me to say.*

*The 24th is Arbor Day, so go plant a tree.
Please do me a favor: Don't plant it on me.*

*The 26th is Pretzel Day, so eat one with glee,
But don't expect one as twisted as me.*

*Morse Code Day's the 27th, but I'll do nothing rash
Beyond ending this line with dot dash dot dash dot dash.*

*Of course, it's time for the end of the jokes,
So I'll just finish with "Dot's all, folks!"*

Now, for those who can barely tolerate my poetry but want more details about the weather (most notably, my editor), let me provide a closer look at Easter Sunday.

If you are traveling that weekend, expect nothing worse than rain showers across the United States—no snowstorms or major severe weather outbreaks are likely.

Although showers may dampen Easter bonnets from the Southeast westward to Texas, you'll find that from the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley westward through the Great Plains, most of the United States will have moderate to warm temperatures—not hot enough to fry eggs on the sidewalk, but warm enough for very pleasant outdoor Easter egg hunts.

And other than for some snow flurry chill in Yukon and the Northwest Territories, temperatures should be on the mild side across much of Canada on Easter. Keep your umbrellas handy, though, as rainy periods may dampen outdoor festivities everywhere but Quebec.

No foolin'!

—Michael Steinberg, *Old Farmer's Almanac meteorologist*



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



STICKY SUBJECT

After weeks of waiting and longing for the sport, everything—rod, reel, creel, net—was in order for the man's first week of trout fishing.

The young wife, smiling joyously, hurried into the room, extending toward her husband some sticky, speckled papers.

"For goodness' sake,"

he exclaimed, "what on Earth are you doing with those old fly papers?"

"I saved them for you from last summer, dear," she answered.



“You know you said that you always have to buy flies when you go fishing.”

DARK COMMENT

Back in the days of the Empire, an Englishman proudly remarked that “the Sun never sets on England’s possessions.”

“No,” retorted an American, “because the good Lord is afraid to trust her in the dark.”

FIRE D UP

On the first day that a young man began his duties as a reporter for a popular paper, word came in from a nearby town that there was a terrible conflagration burning. The editor immediately sent the new reporter to the site.

Upon arriving, the young writer found

that firemen had been unable to get control of the blaze, so he sent this telegram to his editor:

“Fire still raging. How start story?”

Wired back the editor:

“Find where fire hottest and jump right in.”

ARTFUL LAUGHTER

An amateur artist decided to donate a painting to the local library and asked a friend to deliver it.

“Were they happy with it?” the painter asked his friend.

“They seemed to be,” answered the courier. “Didn’t say much, but they were laughing quite a bit.”

BACK TALK

“Which way, please, to the corset

department?” asked a woman of a store clerk.

“Straight back, madam.”

“No, not straight back,” was the reply. “I want a straight front!”

BIGAMY MATH

A suspect was brought before a police magistrate, who looked around and realized that the court clerk, who usually presented the charges, was out of the room.

“Officer,” asked the judge, “what’s this man charged with?”

“Bigotry, your Honor,” replied the policeman. “He’s got three wives.”

The magistrate looked at the officer as though astounded by such ignorance. “Why, officer,” he said, “that’s not bigotry—that’s trigonometry!”

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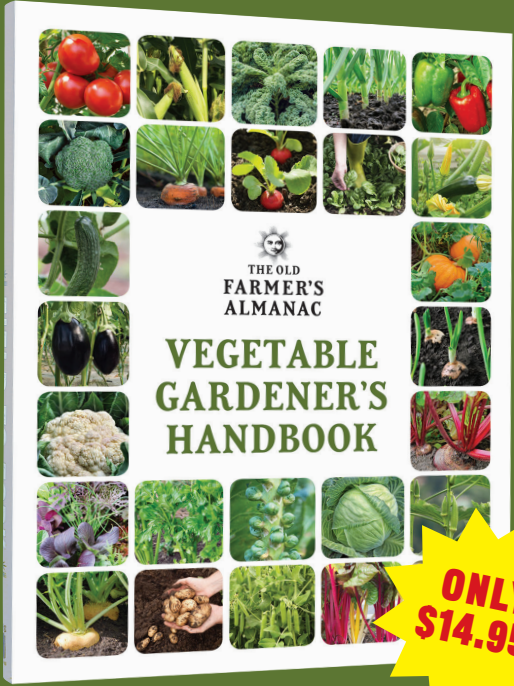
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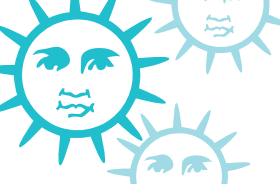
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Stinging Nettles—
Multipurpose
Superplant



CALENDAR

Moon phases, May
holidays, Palau's Senior
Citizens' Day, South
Korea's Children's Day,
Joke of the Month



ASTRONOMY

Explore with
our Sky Map



GARDENING

Surrender to
Succulents!



AMUSEMENT

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organizer Mother Jones



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