

EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

GETTING INTO THE SWIM

PUTTING TO USE BOULDERS,
ROCKS, AND STONES

WEATHER SIGNS FROM
YOUR GARDEN

SUPER SUMMER
SALADS



AUGUST 2020

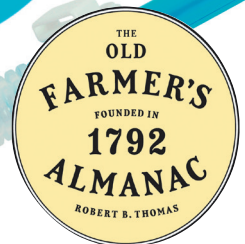


PHOTO: SULJO/GETTY IMAGES

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AUGUST

Holidays, Fun Facts, and More

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Farmers' Day (Zambia)



On the first Monday in August (August 3 this year), the people of Zambia observe Farmers' Day. This public holiday celebrates the contributions of those who work in agriculture-related pursuits as well as emphasizes the importance of farming to the country's

communities and economy.

Although Zambia's main income comes from copper exports, about 85 percent of the population works on farms, plantations, and cattle ranches or in related agricultural industries. However, only about 15 percent of the arable land is now being utilized.

The main crop is maize (corn), but cassava, cotton, millet, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, sugarcane, sunflowers, wheat, and others are also grown, mostly on small farms. Cattle, chickens, goats, and sheep are common livestock.

On the days surrounding Farmers' Day, various shows



and activities take place at the local and national levels, including the multiday National Agricultural and Commercial Show, which is held in the capital of Lusaka each year. This event, one of the largest in southern Africa, attracts thousands of people, including farmers, politicians, businesspeople, and families. Companies,

organizations, co-ops, and others attend to discuss the latest advances, products, methods, and services. In addition, carnival rides for children, foods, exhibits, games, agricultural demonstrations, awards, and live performances make it a fun day for everyone.

DID YOU KNOW?

Because Zambia

is in the Southern Hemisphere, August arrives during winter, astronomically speaking. Climate-wise, however, the country experiences three seasons: the cool/dry season from about May to August; the hot/dry season from about September to November; and the warm/wet (rainy) season from around December to April.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Aug. 3: Civic Holiday
(parts of Canada)

Aug. 19: National Aviation Day

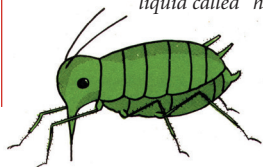
Aug. 26: Women's Equality Day

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q. What did the aphid say to its offspring when it complained about the drought?

A. You'll have to make dew, honey.

(Editors' note: Aphid insects secrete a sugary liquid called "honeydew.")



EYE ON THE SKY

MOON PHASES

Full Sturgeon Moon:

Aug. 3, at 11:59 A.M. EDT

Last Quarter:

Aug. 11, at 12:45 P.M. EDT

New Moon:

Aug. 18, at 10:42 P.M. EDT

First Quarter:

Aug. 25, at 1:58 P.M. EDT



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT AUGUST'S FULL MOON

New for 2021!

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BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These August 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: 23, 24

Castrate animals: 3, 4, 30, 31

Cut hay: 7–9

Purchase animals: 15, 16

Set eggs: 2, 3, 11, 12, 30, 31

Slaughter livestock: 23, 24

Wean animals: 5, 9, 27

PERSONAL

Advertise to sell: 23, 24

Ask for a loan: 5, 11

Begin diet to lose weight: 5, 11

Begin diet to gain weight: 20, 24

Buy a home: 20, 24

Color hair: 10, 11

Cut hair to discourage growth: 5, 6



Cut hair to encourage growth: 21, 22

Get married: 21, 22

Have dental care: 19, 20

Move (house/household): 12–14

Perm hair: 3, 4, 30, 31

Quit smoking: 5, 9, 27

Straighten hair: 25–27

Travel for pleasure: 17, 18

Wean children: 5, 9, 27

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 15, 16

Brew: 23, 24

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 5, 6

Demolish: 23, 24

Dry fruit/vegetables/meat: 7–9

End projects: 17

Lay shingles: 17, 18

Make jams/jellies: 5, 6

Paint: 21, 22

Start projects: 19

Wash floors: 5, 6

Wash windows: 7–9

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 1, 2, 28, 29

Go camping: 25–27

Go fishing: 1–3, 18–31

Set posts or pour concrete: 1, 2, 28, 29

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 7–9

Graft or pollinate: 15, 16

Harvest aboveground crops: 19, 20

Harvest belowground crops: 10, 11

Mow to slow growth: 7–9

Mow to promote growth: 23, 24

Pick fruit: 19, 20

Plant aboveground crops: 23, 24

Plant belowground crops: 5, 6

Prune to discourage growth: 7–9

Prune to encourage growth: 25–27



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the August 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 AUGUST

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



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



TAP FOR
AUGUST
MOON PHASES

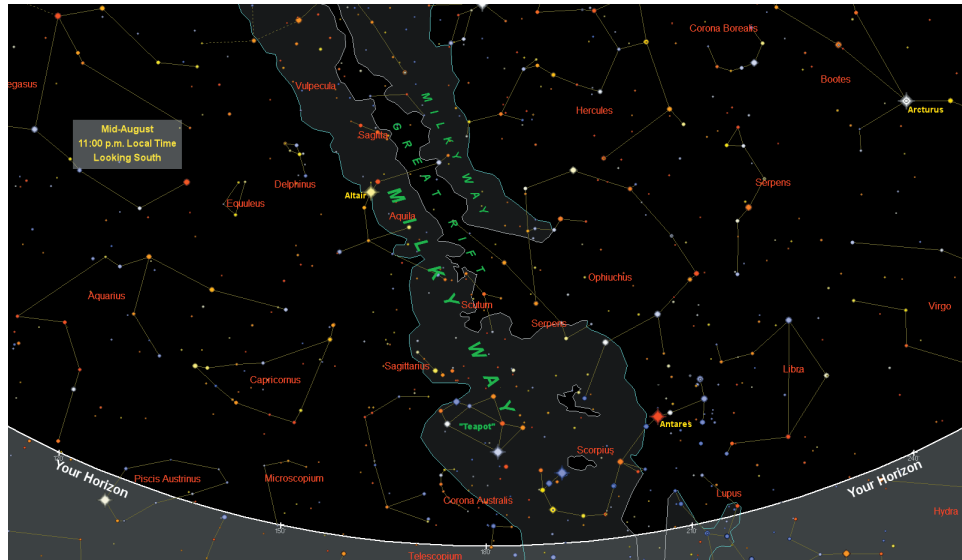
MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

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 period: **October 14–November 3**. –*Celeste Longacre*



METEORS AND THE MILKY WAY

Every year in August, we welcome the Perseid Meteor Shower to our skies. The Perseids are one of the best meteor showers of the year, and they reach their peak on the night of August 12–13.

Known as shooting stars, meteors appear as brief streaks of light when small space rocks called meteoroids plunge into Earth’s atmosphere. Friction with the atmosphere heats the meteoroids to the point where they burn up, each creating a bright flash that we call a meteor.

Most meteoroids are no larger than grains of sand, but occasionally pieces of a big one survive the fiery trip through the atmosphere to reach the ground. These surviving fragments are known as meteorites.

In summary, when moving through space, a tiny rock is a *meteoroid*. When we see it burn up in Earth’s atmosphere, it’s a *meteor*. If any part of the object survives its passage



TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
AUGUST
SKY MAP



TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY’S SKY
ADVENTURES



through the atmosphere and reaches the ground, it's a *meteorite*.

Several times a year, Earth passes through streams of cosmic debris. When this happens, we may be treated to a meteor shower in which the number of meteors jumps dramatically to anywhere from 10 to 100 meteors per hour.

In the case of the annual Perseid Meteor Shower, every August, Earth encounters debris left behind by Comet Swift-Tuttle, which was discovered in 1862. As Earth plows through the cometary debris, each little particle appears in the sky as a momentary streak of light—a meteor.

Perseid meteors can appear anywhere in the sky, so your best viewing strategy is to recline or lie on the ground and look toward the darkest and most unobstructed region of the sky. A sleeping bag or air mattress makes meteor watching a *lot* more comfortable.

If you watch the Perseids from a truly dark location, use the opportunity to also observe one of the night sky's most magnificent sights—the summer Milky Way, which is the galaxy in which our Sun and all of its planets are located.

From our vantage point within the galaxy, it appears as a huge, shimmering cloud of light arching from the southern horizon to high overhead. It glows with the combined light of billions upon billions of faraway stars, each too faint for our eyes to resolve. Added together, these myriad stars produced the soft glow that we see as the Milky Way.

Sadly, the increase in light pollution over the past century has turned the Milky Way from a common sight into one that many folks have never seen. In 1994, when the Northridge earthquake knocked out power (and therefore light) to Los Angeles, emergency centers received calls from concerned citizens who reported a “giant silvery cloud” hovering over the city. Was it dangerous? Not to worry: The city dwellers were merely seeing the Milky Way for the first time in their lives!

You need a dark location to observe the Milky Way in all its glory. A typical suburban neighborhood won't be sufficiently dark. Moonlight, security lights, and streetlights are enough to spoil the view. From a properly dark, moonless viewing site, you can see the huge, hazy band of the Milky Way and maybe even the Great Rift, a large, dark strip of cosmic dust and gas that hides part of the Milky Way and appears to divide it in two, as shown on this month's Sky Map.

A meteor shower lasts just a night or two, but the Milky Way is on display every night of the year, and it's especially grand in the summer. Find yourself to a really dark spot and check it out!

—Jeff DeTray

AMUSEMENT



Getting Into the Swim

PHOTO: AVID CREATIVE/GETTY IMAGES

Mankind's desire to swim like a fish is as old as time. Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519) is believed to have been one of the first people (if not the very first) to design swim fins—webbed gloves for the hands—to propel a swimmer through the water. However, there is no evidence that this idea ever left the drawing board.

American statesman Benjamin Franklin (1706–90) loved to swim. As a boy, he experimented with two wooden oval paddles for his hands, each with a thumb hole, to help him swim faster. He also developed paddles for his feet.

Franklin had a good idea, but it was not until 1933 that Frenchman Louis de Corlieu (1888–1967) patented swim fins, which he called swimming propellers. The fins gained immediate popularity

with skin divers and sport fishermen.

In 1940, American yacht racer Owen P. Churchill licensed de Corlieu's concept, manufactured the propellers using black rubber, and called them swim fins. Later, production

Swimmer's Ear Fear?

Don't let the risk of swimmer's ear—an infection in the outer ear canal—keep you from getting into the pool. If it occurs, carefully place a few drops of white vinegar inside the aching ear and let it drain out. Vinegar has antibacterial and antifungal properties.

improvements enabled Churchill to add color to the rubber as well as enable the fins to float.

Franklin's paddle-style fins—the model

for today's flippers—underwent a startling improvement in 1998, the year of issue for physicist Pete McCarthy's patent on a more flexible style. His fin was split down the middle, which, according to the principles of aerodynamics, increases the fin's lift while decreasing its drag. For the same investment of exertion, split fins gave a swimmer greater speed than paddle fins.

Today, there are numerous colors, styles, and weights of swim fins/flippers on the market, and speed is not their only benefit. When swimming with flippers, a body lies higher in the water, enabling the swimmer to build up leg muscle strength and practice the proper kicking technique.

To get a true sense of your skill and power, try swimming without fins, too—just for the sake of comparison.

FOOD



Super Summer Salads

Summer is the perfect time of year to enjoy salads with fresh vegetables from the garden or farmers' market. We've gathered some creative, fresh, and flavorful recipes to help you celebrate the season.

FOOD

Summer Corn Salad



TAP FOR
RECIPE

SUMMER CORN SALAD

- 1/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons avocado oil
- 2 bell peppers, thinly sliced
- 4 large ears corn, cooked
- 2 cups small red new potatoes, cooked
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped red onion
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh tarragon
- 1 tablespoon white or tarragon vinegar
- 2 teaspoons Dijon-style mustard
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

In a skillet over medium-high heat, warm 2 tablespoons of the oil. Add peppers and cook until lightly browned. Set aside.

Cut corn from the cobs and dice potatoes fairly small. Set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk together remaining 1/3 cup of oil, onions, herbs, vinegar, mustard, and soy sauce. Add peppers, corn, and potatoes and season with salt and black pepper. Stir well and chill in a tightly covered bowl for at least 2 hours, to allow flavors to blend.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

FOOD

Garden Patch Potato Salad

 TAP FOR
RECIPE

GARDEN PATCH POTATO SALAD

- 1 cup green beans
- 5 small potatoes, peeled
- 1 cup fresh or frozen green peas
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced zucchini
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced carrot
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1-1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- chives, for garnish

In a pot of salted water, simmer the green beans until just tender and bright green, about 3 to 5 minutes. Remove and transfer to a bowl of ice water to stop cooking, then drain.

Add potatoes to cooking water and simmer until tender, about 12 minutes. Remove potatoes and cut them in half. Set aside.

Add peas to cooking water and simmer until tender, about 2 to 3 minutes.

In a bowl, combine raw zucchini, carrots, and onions with beans, potatoes, and peas. Add mayonnaise, salt, and pepper and stir to coat vegetables. Garnish with chives.

Serve warm or chilled.

Makes 8 servings.

SHARE
THIS
RECÍPE

FOOD

 TAP FOR RECIPE

Chicken Spinach Salad

PHOTO: SAMANTHA JONES/QUINN BREIN COMMUNICATIONS

 SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

CHICKEN SPINACH SALAD WITH ORANGES, DATES, AND GOAT CHEESE

- 12 cups baby spinach
- 2 navel oranges, peeled, sectioned, and sliced into chunks
- 1/4 cup roughly chopped dates
- 1/4 cup thawed frozen orange juice concentrate
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dijon-style mustard
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 12 ounces boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into bite-size pieces
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 ounces goat cheese, crumbled

In a large salad bowl, arrange spinach, oranges, and dates.

In a small bowl, whisk together orange juice concentrate, vinegar, and mustard.

In a skillet over medium-high heat, warm oil. Add chicken and cook for about 3 minutes. Add garlic and cook for 2 minutes more. Stir in juice mixture and cook for 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

Spoon warm chicken mixture over salad and gently toss to mix. Top with goat cheese and serve immediately.

Makes 4 servings.



GARDENING

Weather Signs From Your Garden

Look to these plants for short-range weather predictions.

PHOTO: BORCHEE/GETTY IMAGES

Wondering what the weather will be? Look no further than your garden!

If the small white flower of common chickweed, or stitchwort (*Stellaria media*), is closed, this means that rain is close at hand. In dry weather, it is regularly open from about 9:00 in the morning until noon.

So it is also with the purple sandwort and the pimpernel. The latter, also known as the “poor man’s weatherglass,” closes when the air’s humidity reaches about 80 percent—hence the adage:

*Pimpernel, pimpernel,
tell me true,
Whether the weather be
fine or no.*

On the other hand,

don’t put too much faith in *Tragopogon pratensis* (aka yellow goat’s beard or Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon), as this sleeper does indeed nod off, regardless of the weather.

When the African marigold opens later than 8:00 A.M. or closes before 5:00 P.M., rain can be expected. Keep an eye, too, on morning glory blooms: Wide-open flowers are a sign of fair weather, but closed petals indicate that rain’s on the way.

Many other flower varieties close their petals as rain or night approaches, to open them again after the rain or on the next morning: common daisies, germander speedwell, hieraciums, red campion, succory, tulips, white water lily, wintergreen, and wood sorrel, to

name a few.

If any of the following open later or close earlier than their usual times, watch for rain: daylily (opens at 7:00 A.M., closes at 7:00 P.M.); dandelion (opens at 7:00 A.M., closes at 8:00 P.M.); lettuce (opens at 8:00 A.M., closes at 9:00 P.M.).

In a pine forest, your friend is the pinecone. While not a traditional bloom, it is believed to be one of the most reliable precipitation prognosticators. In dry conditions, a cone’s scales stand separately and stiffly; in dampness, the scales soften a bit and close up to assume the cone’s familiar shape.

Watch for these signs—only a few of nature’s weather indicators—and look for others.



AGE-OLD WISDOM

Encourage pollinators with companion planting

Reduce pests and diseases with crop rotation

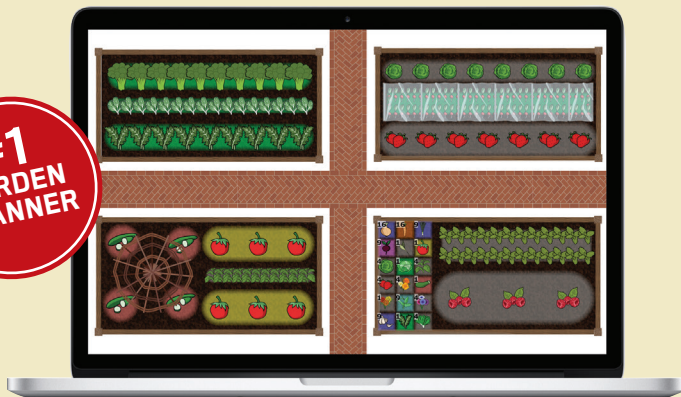
Maximize harvests with succession planting

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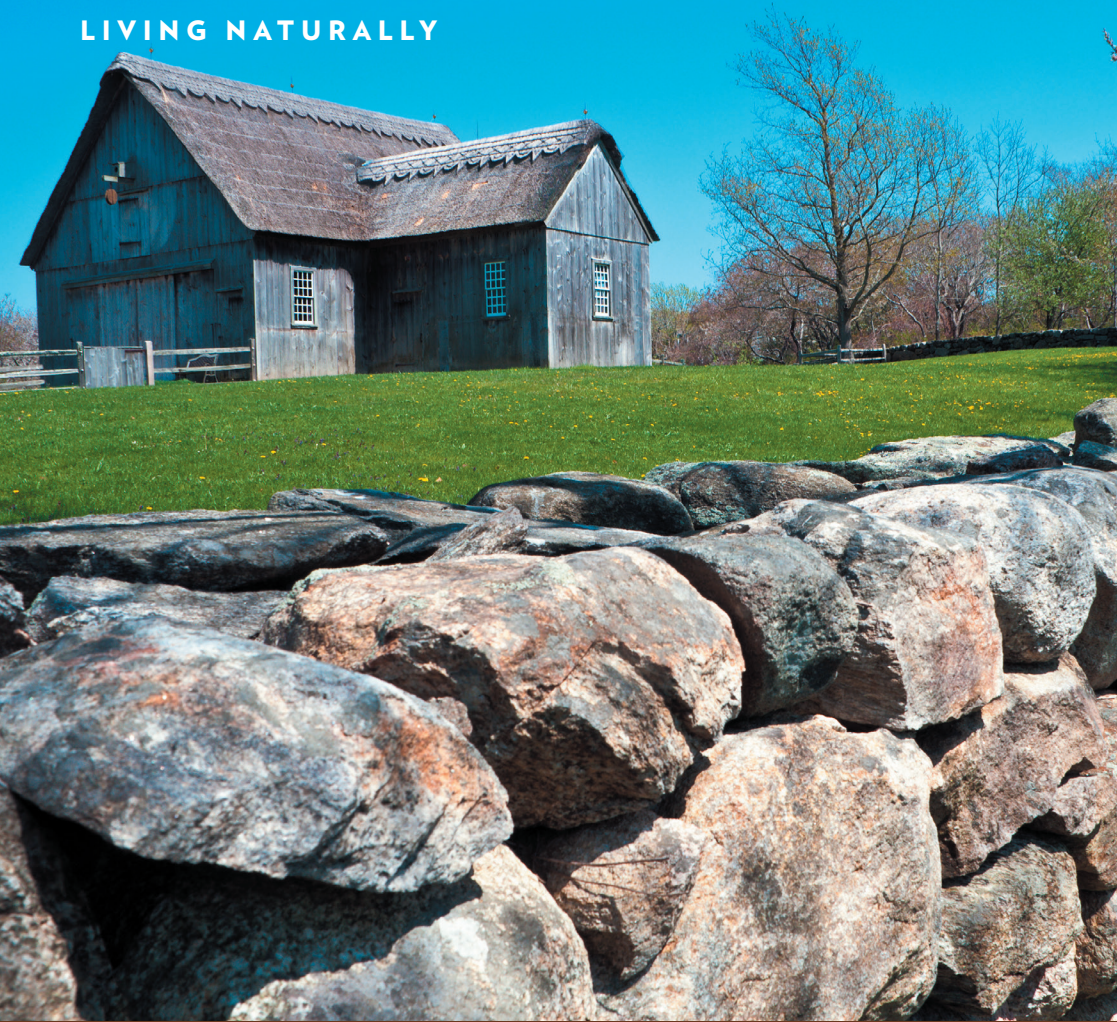
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LIVING NATURALLY



Putting to Use Boulders, Rocks, and Stones

PHOTO: KEN WIEDEMANN/GETTY IMAGES

I love rocks! Do you? Just like the early Americans, I put them to good use, too.

In my state of New Hampshire, the Granite State, you see evidence everywhere of the boulders that our forefathers and their sturdy beasts dug up and hauled away to make room for pastures and row crops.

It's a hardscrabble landscape, where the soil's freeze-thaw cycles break up and thrust rocks deposited by the last glacier to the surface every spring. Highways and secondary roads bulge with "frost heaves," boulders heaved up under the asphalt, which often create yawning crevasses in the pavement that will challenge bicyclists spinning by later.

Historically, our colonial ancestors put them to good use as walls to mark property boundaries and shore up

slopes, as foundations for homes and barns, and as liners for the shallow wells that still serve many rural households.

They used smaller rocks indoors, too. I grew up hearing stories about how my Vermont grandmother Carrie Martin heated fist-size stones in her kitchen woodstove, removed them with tongs, and dropped them into the long-handled brass bed warmer, which she slid up and down between the sheets to warm them before putting her nine children to sleep, two and three to a bed.

Some gardeners today make stone pathways and pile rocks around plants as a weed-suppressing and heat-storing mulch. Some home owners paint rocks and use them to edge walks and driveways.

Rocks litter the surface of my vegetable garden, and more emerge from

the ground every year. I have found some that have poked up to be far too huge to move, so I simply plant around them. In the working gravel pit a few hundred yards through the woods from my house, I can see the soil profile of my garden in the cutaway and understand why it was so difficult to plant asparagus 30 years ago.

I've always loved these rocks. They lie there so humbly and seemingly passive, yet the minerals leached and weathered from them stiffen the trees, the underbrush, and even my own backbone, since I eat the food that grows among them.

Despite the ways in which they thwart my hoe and cultivators, I love handling and rearranging the stones in my garden. I find it strangely calming. Over the years, I've talked to many gardeners who feel the same way.

I've always loved these rocks. They lie there so humbly and seemingly passive.

I have neither the skill nor the patience to build beautiful dry stone walls, although I admire the artisans who still do. But when I find a stone that I especially like, I often bring it inside to admire for a while before tossing it back out.

Three years ago, we replaced a sagging porch with a small solar greenhouse and replaced the lawn in front of it with six raised beds. We dug a foot-deep trench between the greenhouse wall and the raised beds and over three gardening seasons collected buckets of small stones every time that we weeded the garden, using them to gradually fill the trench.

This allows for good drainage, as well as prevents weeds from growing there and shedding their seeds into the soil of the garden beds.

I also hired my neighbor to dig a trench between the house and

driveway and fill it with pea gravel screened from the pit next door. Not ideal, but cheap and attractive.

In the process of taking down the old porch, we unearthed a stunning granite step, more than 6 feet long and 2 feet wide, which now serves as the entryway to the greenhouse. This chunk of unpolished rock was probably mined more than a century ago from the Swenson Granite quarry still operating a few miles down the road in Concord.

The poet in me also loves the symbolism of rocks. Think of the concrete idiomatic uses of rock and stone in everyday speech: rock-solid, rock-steady, rock bottom, between a rock and a hard place, stone cold, stone sober, written in stone, etched in stone, leave no stone unturned, stone's throw.

Robert Frost's

"Mending Wall"—among my favorite poems—uses the imagery of New England rock walls to get at even deeper themes. Here's a snippet. I hope that you give the whole poem a careful read.

*Something there is that
doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-
ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper
boulders in the sun:
And makes gaps even two
can pass abreast.*

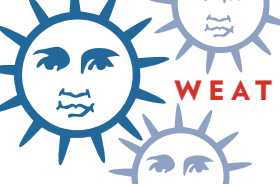
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*We keep the wall between
us as we go.
To each the boulders that
have fallen to each.
And some are loaves and
some so nearly balls
We have to use a spell to
make them balance:
"Stay where you are until
our backs are turned!"*

—Margaret Boyles

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

**When I find a stone that I especially like,
I often bring it inside to admire for a while.**



AFTER LAMMAS [AUG. 1], CORN RIPENS AS MUCH BY NIGHT AS BY DAY.



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

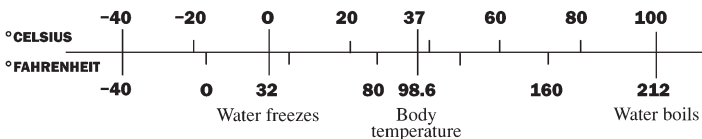
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

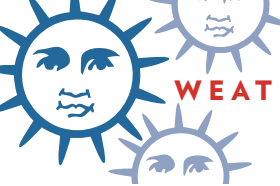
Over the years, we have refined and enhanced this formula with state-of-the-art technology and modern scientific calculations. We employ three scientific disciplines to make our long-range predictions: solar science, the study of sunspots and other solar activity; climatology, the study of prevailing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

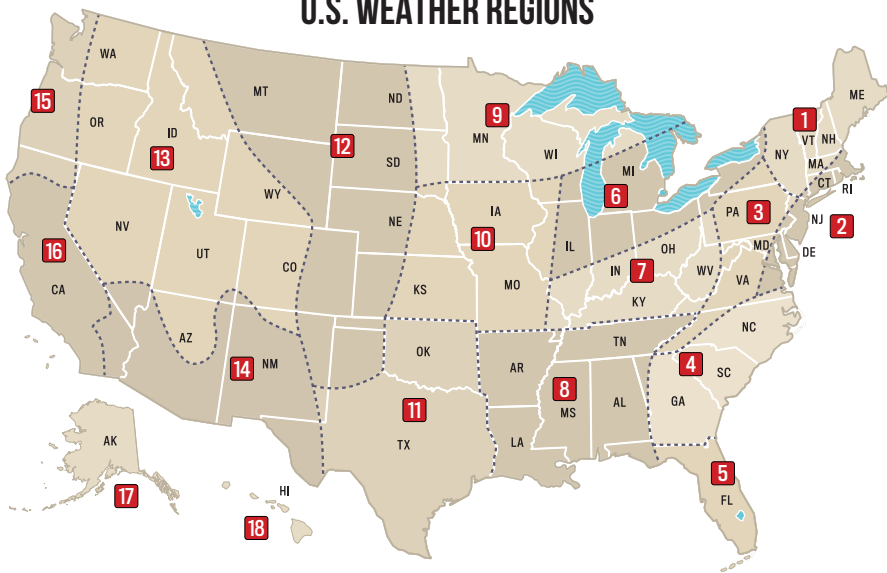
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



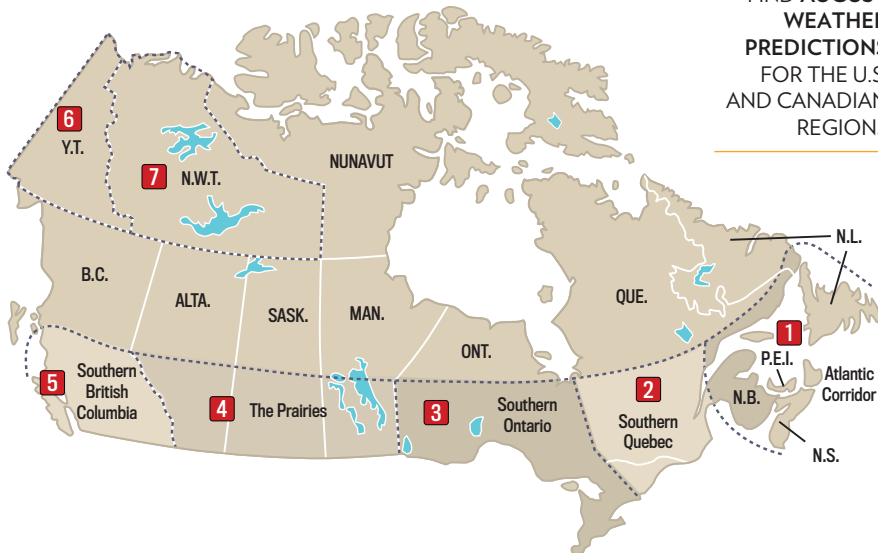


WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





WOO-HOO WEATHER AHEAD!

August 3 marks Canada's Civic Holiday, which is celebrated across most of the country and also known by a number of other more localized names. Although there may be some sun shining through at times, we expect showers to be dampening what celebrations there are in most places—but not Canadians' indomitable spirit, of course!

Several days of note occur between August 9 and 15:

- With rainy periods everywhere except in New England and Ontario, Book Lovers Day on the 9th will be a good one for staying indoors to read.
- The weather on the first day of the National Roller Coaster Weekend Celebration, the 15th, will have its ups and downs. East Coast showers will throw us for a loop, the nation's midsection will coast to sunny weather, and temperatures won't dip much in the west, with hot weather on track to arrive.
- August 10th is National Lazy Day and the 15th is National Relaxation Day, so I should probably just chill instead of presenting the forecast. But chill



won't be in the air in many places, as above-normal temperatures will prevail.

Finally, although August 24 will be National Waffle Day, there is no waffling here as we pick that day to mark the first snow of the season to be sliding across northern Alaska like thick maple syrup, while showers will be scattered about all of Canada and most of the United States.

August will bring mostly good weather for vacations, with summer temperatures near or above normal in most of the United States, although not as hot as normal from New England into Pennsylvania and New Jersey, in the Upper Midwest and Texas, from the Intermountain region and Desert Southwest to the Pacific, in Alaska, and on Oahu. Canadian temperatures will be above normal except from Quebec to central Ontario and in Saskatchewan and portions of British Columbia.

August rainfall will be below normal in Maine, around New York's Finger Lakes, from Florida and the Southeast westward to Texas, and in the High Plains, Desert Southwest, southern Alaska, and Hawaii. Elsewhere in the United States, rainfall will be near or above normal. August rainfall will be below normal in all of Atlantic Canada except Newfoundland and in Quebec and western Ontario and near or above normal elsewhere.

Temperatures will fall as fall arrives in September. The cooler-than-normal temperatures, on average, will linger through the month in most places, but don't put away the t-shirts. Just when an early winter seems inevitable, October will roll in with milder-than-normal temperatures nearly everywhere—actually, make that “much warmer than normal” temps in the eastern two-thirds of the United States. But enjoy it while it lasts: As the leaves begin turning color and floating to the ground, above-normal rainfall will visit the Deep South and Southeast and range northeastward to New England, as well as predominate from central California northward through the Pacific Northwest. Most other areas will be dry or nearly so.

Autumn temperatures will be above normal in Atlantic Canada, southern Ontario, the Prairies, British Columbia, and the Yukon and below normal elsewhere across the Canadian commonwealth. Precipitation will be below or near normal in Ontario and the Prairies and above normal in nearly all parts of the other Canadian provinces.

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



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



DRINKING VESSEL

“The trouble with you ladies of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union,” said a man to a member of the organization, “is that instead of opposing the christening of a vessel

with champagne, you should be encouraging it and drawing from it a great temperance lesson.”

“How can that be?” came the reply.

“Well, after the first taste of alcohol, the

ship takes to water and sticks to it ever after.”

QUICK THINKING

“My dear,” said a wife to her husband, “do you realize that you have forgotten that this is my birthday?”



“Uh-huh . . . yes, my dear, I did forget it—but isn’t it only natural that I should, when there is nothing about you to remind me that you are even a day older than you were a year ago?”

UNDER WHERE

A woman was recounting to some ladies the burglar scare in her house the night before.

“Yes,” she said, “I heard a noise and got up, and then from under the bed I saw a man’s legs sticking out!”

“Mercy!” exclaimed a friend. “The burglar’s legs?”

“No, my dear—my husband’s. He had heard the noise, too.”

THE APPLE BUSINESS

The tailor’s sign in the little town was an apple—simply an

apple. People were amazed at it. They came in crowds to the tailor, asking him what on Earth the meaning of the sign was.

With a complacent smile, the tailor replied: “If it hadn’t been for the apple, where would my business be today?”

IN SEARCH OF . . .

The clerk was most obliging, but the young woman customer was hard to please. Rolled blanket after rolled blanket he took down from the shelves to show her; nothing pleased.

After some 15 minutes, the young woman finally said, “Well, I don’t intend to buy. I was just looking for a friend.”

“Wait a moment, please,” said the clerk. “There’s one more blanket left on the

shelf—maybe your friend’s in it.”

“DO IT NOW!”

The proprietor of a large business bought a number of signs reading “Do It Now!” He had them hung around the office, hoping to inspire his people to have promptness and energy in their work.

In his private office one day soon afterward, a friend asked him how the scheme had affected his staff.

“Well,” answered the proprietor, “not exactly in the way that I thought it would. The cashier skipped out with \$30 grand, the head bookkeeper eloped with the staff secretary, three clerks demanded a raise, and the office boy quit to become a burglar.”

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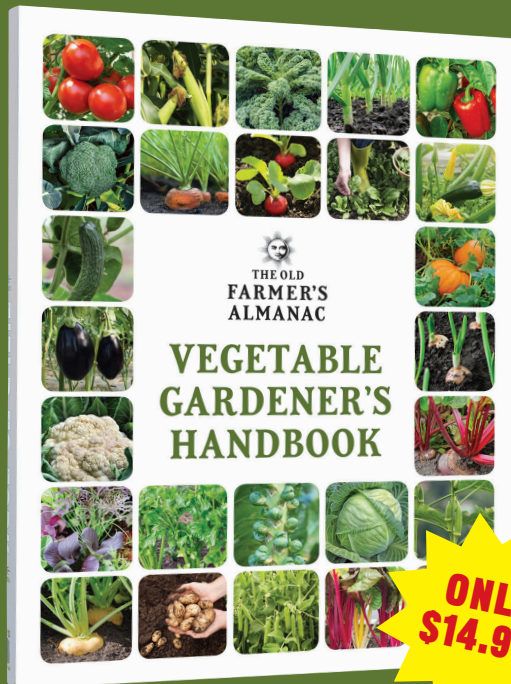
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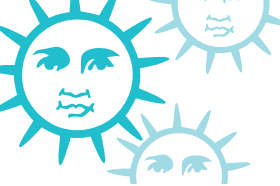
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