

EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

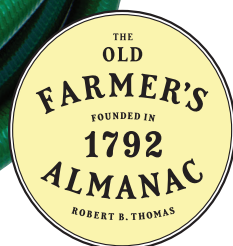
WHEN AND HOW
TO WATER VEGETABLES

FARMERS' MARKET RECIPES

SOUP STOCKS FROM
KITCHEN SCRAPS



JULY 2017



*It wasn't just love **powering** us
through the outage and the storm,
it was preparation.*

*Times like this remind you
how **your life**, and how you
live, are worth **overprotecting**.*



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See what we have in store for our August issue!



THE MONTH OF JULY

HOLIDAYS, HISTORY, AND FOLKLORE




Moon View

July's full Moon, the **Full Buck Moon**, occurs on the 9th, at 12:07 A.M. EDT.

SEASONAL NOTE

On July 3, Earth is at aphelion, the point in its orbit at which it is farthest from the Sun. The distance between the two orbs will be 94,505,982 miles.

 TAP FOR MORE MOON PHASES

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT THE FULL BUCK MOON



FOLKLORE FUN

*No tempest,
good July,
Lest the corn
look rueful.*

ALMANAC 225TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE

The following are excerpts from the July Right-Hand Calendar Page of The 1793 [Old] Farmer's Almanac:
*The farmers grind and whet their scythes,
While hay-stacks in the meadows rise:
Green fields and shady groves appear,
And rip'ning harvest crowns the year.*

- July 4: American Independ. 1776.
- July 10–11: *Look out for a storm.*
- Now all hands to haying; begin by mowing the ripest and thinnest first.
- Look to your gardens; see that you destroy all kinds of weeds before they go to seed.



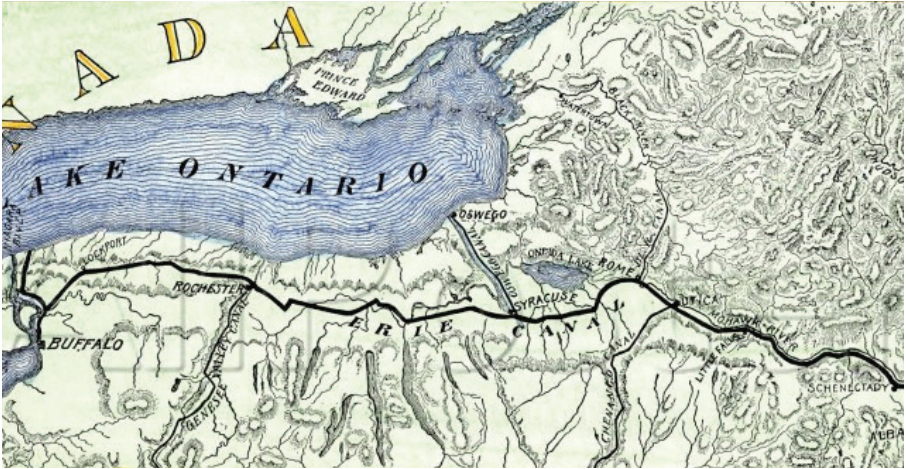


TAP TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
JULY'S
BIRTHSTONE

JULY'S BIRTHSTONE: RUBY

- “Ruby” is derived from the Latin *rubeus*, which means “red.”
- This gem is a red form of corundum; all other colors are sapphires. The ruby’s color is due to the presence of chromium, which also makes the gem subject to cracks. High-quality rubies are a transparent, vibrant, purplish red; cloudier samples, or ones containing brown, orange, or pink tones, are less valuable. Many rubies nowadays are heat-treated to improve color saturation and transparency.
- The ruby, along with the related sapphire, are the second hardest natural gemstones, with only the diamond being harder.
- The gem was once thought to protect warriors if worn on their armor or embedded in their skin.
- Considered the king of gems, the ruby symbolizes love, passion, energy, and success.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



JULY 4: TESTING THE WATERS

On this day in 1817, construction of the Erie Canal began in Rome, New York. The manmade waterway linked Lake Erie at Buffalo to the Hudson River at Albany. It took 8 years to dig the 40-foot-wide, 4-foot-deep canal through 363 miles of wilderness.

The canal was originally called “Clinton’s Folly,” referring to Gov. DeWitt Clinton, who had sponsored the massive \$7 million project. When the canal opened on October 26, 1825, the governor, in the packet boat *Seneca Chief*, traveled on it from Buffalo to Albany and then went down the Hudson River to New York City, where he emptied two casks of Lake Erie water into New York Harbor to celebrate the “Wedding of the Waters.”

The Erie Canal was a huge success. It brought the cost of freight down from \$100 per ton by road to just \$10 per ton by canal and cut the 2-week travel time from Buffalo to Albany to 3 or 4 days. The dramatic increase in trade brought financial success to the state and turned New York City into a major center for commerce. The tolls along the route more than made



up for the cost of the canal's construction. The waterway also encouraged settlement west of the Appalachians and along the canal route.

In later years, the Erie Canal was enlarged to 70 feet wide and 7 feet deep to allow for heavier traffic and larger boats; lateral canals were also built. Eventually, however, competition with railroads, highways, and the St. Lawrence Seaway (completed in 1959) contributed to the canal's decline. Today, parts of the Erie Canal have been merged with the New York State Canal System, which is a popular attraction for historical tours, as well as boating, fishing, hiking, and cycling.

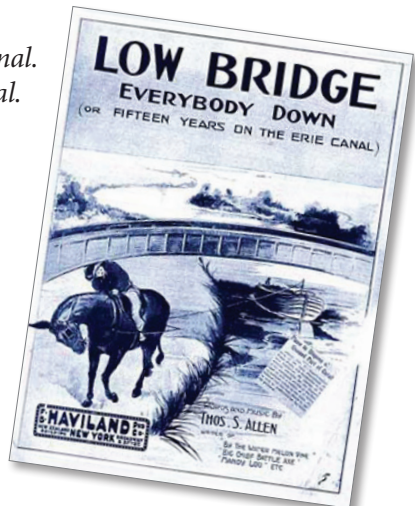
DID YOU KNOW?

- Canal boats had no sails or motors. Instead, teams of mules or horses towed the boats from a 10-foot-wide towpath along the bank of the canal, often driven by a boy called a “hoggee.”
- The famous folk song “Low Bridge, Everybody Down,” also called “The Erie Canal Song,” was written by Thomas S. Allen in 1905. It began:

*I've got a mule and her name is Sal.
Fifteen years [or “miles”] on the Erie Canal.
She's a good old worker and a good old pal.
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal.*

*We've hauled some barges in our day.
Filled with lumber, coal, and hay.
And every inch of the way we know
From Albany to Buffalo.*

Chorus:
*Low bridge, everybody down,
Low bridge, for we're coming to a town.
And you'll always know your neighbor
And you'll always know your pal
If you've ever navigated on the Erie Canal.*





BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These July 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

Begin diet to lose weight: 13, 18
 Begin diet to gain weight: 4, 26
 Cut hair to encourage growth: 1, 28, 29
 Cut hair to discourage growth: 17, 18
 Have dental care: 25, 26
 Quit smoking: 13, 18
 Wean children: 13, 18

AROUND THE HOUSE

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 12–14
 End projects: 22
 Start projects: 24

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 7–9
 Go camping: 5, 6
 Go fishing: 1–9, 23–31
 Set posts or pour concrete: 7–9

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 15, 16
 Graft or pollinate: 21, 22
 Prune to encourage growth: 5, 6, 24
 Prune to discourage growth: 15, 16
 Plant aboveground crops: 3, 4, 30, 31
 Plant belowground crops: 12–14
 Harvest aboveground crops: 8, 25, 26
 Harvest belowground crops: 17, 18

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 3, 4, 30, 31
 Castrate animals: 10, 11
 Cut hay: 15, 16
 Set eggs: 9, 10
 Slaughter livestock: 3, 4, 30, 31
 Wean animals: 13, 18



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the July 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 JULY

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



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



APP EXTRA!
TAP FOR JULY
MOON PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

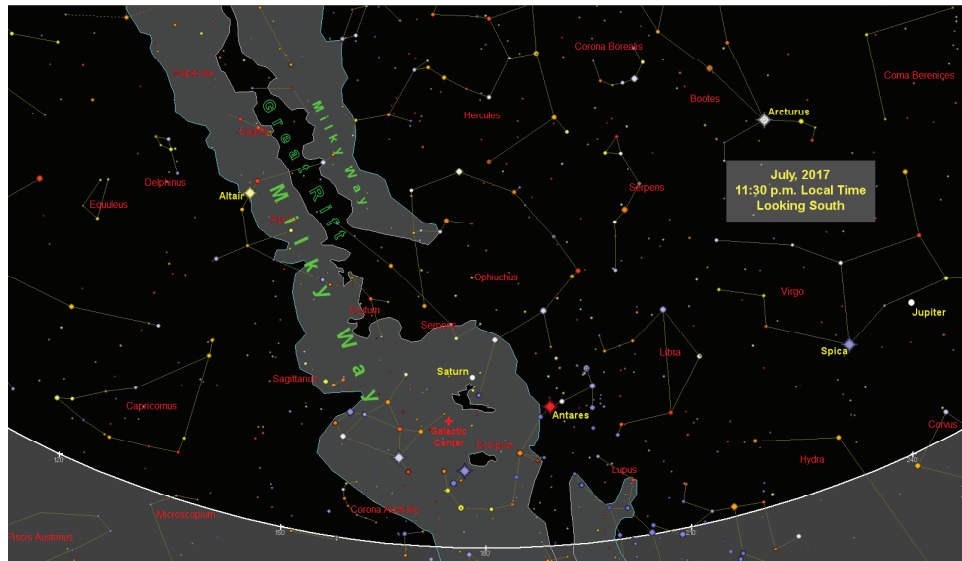
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion retrograde motion.

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.

In 2017, Mercury will be retrograde from August 13–September 5 and December 3–23.

—Celeste Longacre



THE DEPTHS OF SPACE

For countless years, observers of the night sky perceived the heavens as an enormous upturned bowl. In one of more than 1,000 quatrains attributed to astronomer and mathematician Omar Khayyám (1048?–1131), the author wrote:

*And that inverted Bowl we call The Sky,
Whereunder crawling coop't we live and die,
Lift not thy hands to It for help—for It
Rolls impotently on as Thou or I.*

In this 12th-century vision of the sky, all of us are inside the inverted bowl, looking up at its inner surface. The stars are thought to be tiny glowing lights (candles, perhaps?) affixed to the inside of the bowl. Or possibly the stars are holes in the bowl, which is illuminated from the outside by a sort of celestial light. All of the stars are thought to be the same distance from us, arrayed on the inside of the bowl.

Only recently has the true scale of the cosmos become

APP EXTRA!

TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
JULY SKY MAP

APP EXTRA!

TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES



known. In the early 1920s, the development of ever-larger telescopes allowed Edwin Hubble and other cosmologists to make observations that led to our current understanding of the size of the universe. This remains one of the most profound scientific achievements in all of human history. We finally understand that the universe is much larger than it appears at first glance. And we've learned that celestial objects lie at different distances from us.

You can conduct your own investigation of the depths of space simply by observing objects in the night sky.

The Moon (not depicted on this month's sky map) is by far the closest bit of heavenly real estate. It's a mere 235,000 miles away, close enough that humans have actually been able to walk on its surface.

Now turn your attention to an object that's a lot farther away but still in our celestial backyard: Looking due south, the planet Saturn is the bright object in the lower center of the map. Saturn is currently 8.5 *billion* miles from Earth. The *Cassini* spacecraft required nearly 7 years to make the trip to Saturn. Yet compared to most other objects in the sky, Saturn is a stone's throw away.

To the lower right of Saturn lies the orange-ish star Antares. To us, Antares appears just a bit dimmer than Saturn. It's no surprise, then, that ancient observers assumed Antares and other stars to be no farther away than the planets. But looks can be deceiving! Antares is approximately 600 light-years away. That's a whopping 3.5 *quintillion* miles—a number too large to wrap our heads around. But even Antares is relatively nearby, cosmically speaking.

From a truly dark location, you will notice what appears to be a narrow, hazy cloud rising from the southern horizon and then angling up and to the left. A clue to the true nature of this cloud is that instead of hiding the stars, it seems to lie behind them. This is the Milky Way, a portion of the galaxy in which the Sun and Earth—and you and I—are located. The Milky Way is the combined light of billions of stars, each too faint and far away to be seen individually. In the thickest part of the Milky Way, in the constellation Sagittarius, lies the center of our galaxy. It's a staggering 26,000 light-years away (one light-year equals almost 6 trillion miles!).

The night sky is neither a flat surface nor a curved bowl. It is a vast, three-dimensional volume, deeper than our imaginations.

—Jeff DeTray



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When and How to Water Vegetables

How much water do you really need? When is the best time to water?



According to some experts, less is often more when it comes to watering your vegetable crops. Historically, gardeners have been advised to make sure that vegetables are getting an inch of water a week. The old rule of thumb of watering 1 inch per week originated from an understanding that, on average, it takes about 1 inch of precipitation at one time to deliver enough moisture to the deep root zone. In fact, this is not the case. For example, clay-based soils hold more water than sandier soils, so an inch of water a week could

result in overwatering.

More important, there are methods and practices that can result in using less water but achieving better results with your plants.

START WITH GOOD SOIL

The best garden results start with good soil.



TAP TO LEARN ABOUT
SOIL TYPES



TAP TO LEARN ABOUT
SOIL TESTS



TAP TO LEARN ABOUT
SOIL AMENDMENTS

CULTIVATE YOUR CROPS

Before the advent of hoses, water pumps,

and trickle irrigation, farmers and gardeners practiced regular cultivation. Frequent cultivation prevents the wicking up process that draws water from the lower levels to the surface of the soil, where it is lost to evaporation. By aerating the upper layer of soil, cultivation also greatly improves the capture and retention of rainfall. Plus, it disrupts the germination and growth of weeds that would compete with crops for water.

Cultivate your garden early and often. A rototiller or push cultivator is good for large beds, but hand

GARDENING

tools work fine in small plots. Alternate between fluffing up only the first inch or two of soil and tilling down 5 or 6 inches—always being careful not to disturb crop roots.

Timing is important: Many gardeners stop cultivating their gardens in midsummer once crops are established enough to out-compete weeds. But midsummer is the hottest time of year, when soil and plants are most vulnerable to moisture losses through evaporation

and transpiration. Also, midsummer rains often come fast and furious, in the form of violent cloudbursts that dump a lot of rain in a short time. Frequent cultivation prepares your plots for dramatic percolation, allowing you to capture as much of that rainfall as possible, rather than have it run off or just puddle on the ground.

Traditionally, farmers and gardeners have cultivated their crops 3 days after a good, soaking rainfall to prepare the soil for the

next rainstorm. And they often cultivate again just before a predicted thunderstorm.

After a rainfall, stay off (do not step into) freshly cultivated soil for 3 days. This will prevent soil compaction, allowing the rainwater to percolate down to the lower root zone. You want plants to root deeply so that they do not become dependent on surface watering.

MAKE MULCH MATTER

Mulching is perhaps the #1 water-conserving



GARDENING

technique for areas that receive less than 40 inches of rainfall annually. Organic mulches reduce evaporative moisture losses from the soil surface, and because the soil stays cooler, they also reduce transpiration water losses.

Mulching goes hand in hand with cultivation. After starting with bare ground, cultivate your crops in the early part of the season to keep the soil well oxygenated, until plants become established. If you are growing vining crops—cucumbers, melons, and squashes—apply mulch as soon as the plants begin to set runners. With fruiting crops such as tomatoes and peppers, wait until the blossoms drop and the plants begin to set their main crop.

LOSE YOUR GUILT ABOUT WILT

Temporary wilting during the heat of midday does not mean that it's time to water.

Some plants go through an obvious midday slump, which is an indication of the plant's natural adaptation to its environment. Visit your garden again in the early evening and see if the wilted plants have regained some turgidity. If they have come back—that is, if they look perkier—do not water.

Don't baby your crops: Plants are incredibly adaptable. They have the ability to draw water from deep in the soil. Periodically, take a trowel and dig down several inches into the zone where the roots are most active. If the soil there is still moist, there would be no benefit from watering.

HOW AND WHEN TO WATER

What you want in a healthy plant is deep root penetration, and the only way that you're going to get deep roots is if there is water down deep.

Start at the very beginning: Saturate each plant hole when you

transplant seedlings. When you do water, make sure that you get the soil saturated enough that the moisture percolates several inches down.

Believe it or not, sometimes the best time to water is during or immediately after a rainfall, especially if the rain shower amounts only to a half-inch or so of water. The reason for this is that you want to add sufficient water at the same time to ensure penetration down to 5 or 6 inches. If you wait another day or two to water, you will be adding only surface water, which evaporates rapidly. With only frequent, light watering (or rain showers), you never build up a reserve of water in the soil.

So, cultivate, mulch, and water in the rain. And learn from nature: Spend more time observing your garden and less time watering.



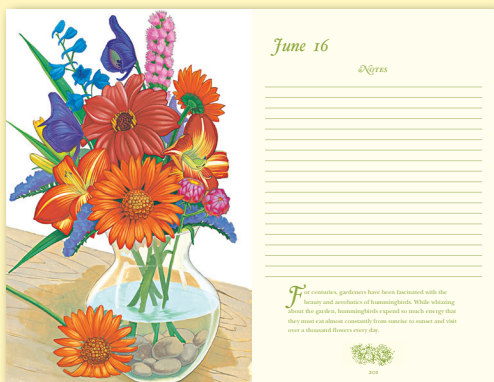
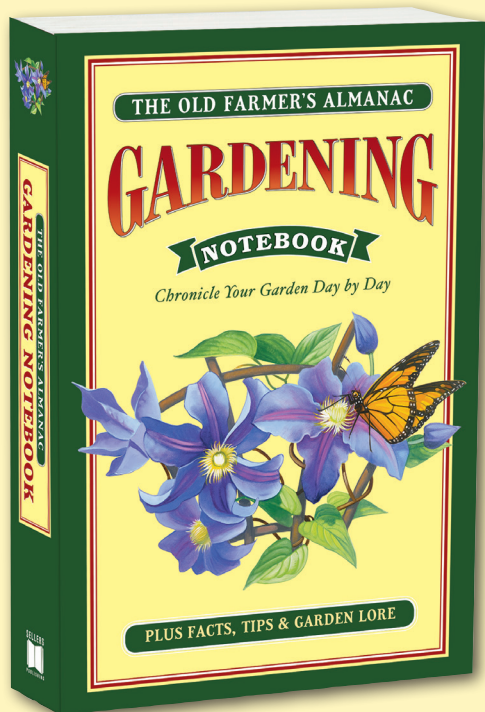
TAP TO LEARN ABOUT
MEASURING RAIN

MEASURE YOUR WATER

If you set up a rain gauge or bucket in the garden, you can measure how much rain or irrigation water your garden is getting and time how long it takes your watering system—or a good steady rain—to drop an inch of water. Use a clean, empty tuna or vegetable can as a gauge. Measure its contents by putting a ruler into the water it collects.

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FOOD

Peach, Red Onion, and Tomato Salsa

 TAP FOR RECIPE



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

PEACH, RED ONION, AND TOMATO SALSA

- 1-1/2 cups peeled and finely diced fresh, ripe peaches
- 1-1/2 cups cored, seeded, and finely diced tomatoes
- 1/2 cup finely chopped red onion
- 1/2 cup finely chopped bell pepper
- 1 to 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1/4 cup chopped pickled jalapeños, plus 1 teaspoon juice
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh Italian parsley
- 2 to 3 teaspoons sugar
- salt, to taste

Combine all of the ingredients in a bowl. Refrigerate for several hours. Stir and taste occasionally, adjusting the seasoning as needed.

Transfer to one or more jars with a lid, cover, and refrigerate for up to a week.

Makes about 4 cups.



FOOD

Gazpacho



TAP FOR
RECIPE

GAZPACHO

- 3 pounds tomatoes, diced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 large or 2 small green bell peppers, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 slice white bread, crust cut off, saturated with cold water
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tablespoons sherry vinegar or vinegar of your choice
- 1/2 tablespoon hot pepper sauce
- 2 teaspoons salt, or to taste

In a blender or food processor, purée (separately) tomatoes, onions, and peppers until smooth.

In a bowl, combine processed vegetables with remaining ingredients and stir to blend. Set soup aside for 30 minutes to 1 hour to allow the flavors to meld. Serve cold.

Makes 6 servings.



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

French Strawberry Pie

 TAP FOR RECIPE



FRENCH STRAWBERRY PIE

3/4 package (6 ounces) cream cheese, softened

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

3/4 cup heavy cream, at room temperature

1/2 cup sugar

1 prepared 9-inch graham cracker crust

2 cups strawberries, hulled

2 squares (2 ounces total) bittersweet chocolate, melted

In a bowl, beat cream cheese and vanilla until blended and light. Set aside.

In a chilled bowl, whip the cream until it doubles in volume. Continue beating on high speed while adding sugar a little at a time. Add cream cheese mixture and beat briefly, or just until combined. Pour mixture into prepared crust and cover with strawberries. Drizzle with melted chocolate. Refrigerate, uncovered, for at least 4 hours before serving.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

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THIS
RECIPE

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- weave a wattle fence
- build a Hügelkultur bed

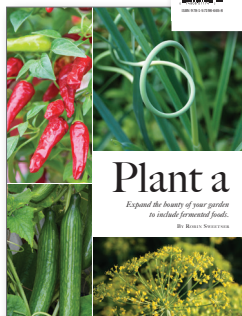
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LIVING NATURALLY



Soup Stocks From Kitchen Scraps

Why throw out what may be the most healthful and flavorful parts of the foods you prepare regularly? Toss them together into the stockpot first to brew up a tasty, nutritious broth that adds a gourmet kick to a soup, stew, chowder, or casserole.

**HEALTHFUL?**

You bet! Potato peelings, for example, concentrate most of the potato's potassium, a nutrient deficient in many American diets. Onion skins and celery leaves contain lots of the antioxidant/anti-microbial phytochemical quercetin. Bone broths, as well as those simmered from shellfish shells and eggshells, recover many of the minerals that gave them structure and strength.

WHAT GOES INTO THE POT?

Besides potato peelings, onion skins, and celery leaves, use cast-offs such as the tough outer leaves of cabbage or lettuce, leek tops, carrot foliage and scrapings, pea and bean shells, broccoli leaves and stems, the pomace left over from tomato processing, the tops and innards of green or red peppers, and wilted (but not spoiled or moldy) greens. You can probably think of more.

Keep washed and rinsed eggshells (I actually bake or boil empty eggshells to ensure safe storage and handling) and meat/poultry bones in another container. (Make shellfish shell broths immediately after removing the meat from them.)

HOW TO MAKE IT

Save a week's worth of vegetable scraps in a container in the fridge, then make stock on the weekend. Add a bay leaf



or two, a handful of your favorite fresh or dried herbs, a few cloves of garlic if you like it, and a little salt (or not). Simmer on the stovetop for at least half an hour or in a big ovenproof pot when you're baking something else. Strain the broth and toss the residues into the compost.

I keep the animal-product broths separate from the vegetable broths. The acid from a splash of cider vinegar added to the pot will help to draw more minerals from a broth made from shells or bones.

Unless you plan to use your stock immediately, cool it quickly by adding

a tray of ice cubes, then refrigerate immediately. Freeze whatever you won't use within a week. Leave half an inch of headroom at the top of the container and don't forget to label.

DON'T FORGET THE CORNCOBS

I don't like to consign those cobs to the compost before simmering them into a delicate corncob broth.

Once I've eaten or sliced off the kernels, I plop the cobs into a pot of water, bring it to a boil, and simmer for 15 minutes with a bay leaf. Corncob broth provides a subtle, fresh-corn

flavor to just about any soup or stew.

ONE MORE FRUGAL TIP

Take the clean leg and foot from a discarded pair of panty hose or knee-high stocking, add a cup or two of rice or barley to the foot, tie it loosely to allow the grain to expand, and add it to the boiling broth. As it cooks, the grain will absorb the liquid and flavor and become the basis for another tasty, nutritious meal.

—Margaret Boyles



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

ANNIVERSARY

THE BEST ADVICE

BY JUDSON D. HALE SR.

I'm pretty sure that the best advice I've ever received (so far) was from my uncle, the late Robb Sagendorph (11th editor of the Almanac). No, it was not about doing everything in moderation. That has become tiresome. It wasn't that you should treat other people as you would like to be treated



yourself either. I would never be so presumptuous. No, it was far better than those old bromides.

UnCLE Robb was talking with one of the young women in our circulation department for a half-hour or so at our office in Dublin, New Hampshire. I sat across the room from him in those days and could catch snatches of the conversation.

It was apparent that they were discussing a certain local dandy she'd been seeing, a fellow who had a reputation for getting into fights at the bars over in Brattleboro, Vermont, breaking ladies hearts at the

drop of a hat, and all that sort of thing. Uncle Robb was advising her to drop him. She was crying and saying that she



ROBB SAGENDORPH

cared for him. When she finally left, it didn't seem to me that Uncle Robb had made much headway. In fact, she sounded more determined than ever that, despite his urgings to the contrary, this particular dandy don

was the man for her.

Uncle Robb sat quietly for a few minutes, staring out at the pear tree next to his window. Then he got up slowly and ambled over to my desk. I looked up at him standing there in front of me, all 6 feet 4 inches of him, and pretended that I'd just noticed his presence. Then he came forth with what I believe to be the best advice I've ever received.

“Don't ever give advice,” he said solemnly. I nodded, waiting for more. I wasn't disappointed. “Unless,” he said, after a long, thoughtful pause, “. . . unless you can somehow determine

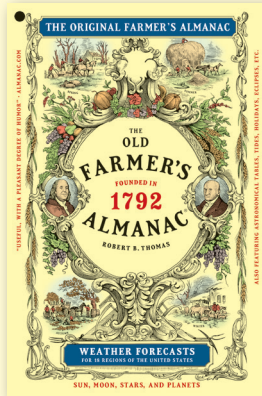
**IT WAS THEN THAT HE CAME FORTH
WITH WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE THE BEST ADVICE
I'VE EVER RECEIVED.**

the advice that the person wants to hear. Then give that.”

In the ensuing years, I’ve learned a lot about advice and advice-giving because that’s what *The Old Farmer’s Almanac* does every year. Aside, that is, from presenting the astronomical structure for each day—Moon and Sun risings and settings, and so on—and aside from the monthly weather forecast for all of North America and aside from maybe a little history based on that year’s particular anniversaries. Aside from those areas, it can truly be said that the Almanac has been an annual book of advice ever since 1792,

when the first edition appeared on the American scene.

Right from the beginning, the



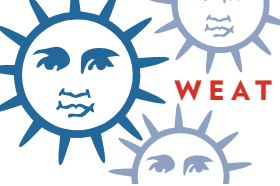
Almanac advised its readers—whether they were farmers or not—on everything from the best times for planting peas and catching the most fish to when to castrate bulls. It has had advice for lovers, advice for curing sickness and staying healthy, advice

for making money, advice for restoring energy, advice for proper social behavior, and on and on, year after year. It’s all good advice—advice that a person wants to hear.

Incidentally, the young woman to whom Uncle Robb was giving advice that day in our office soon married the dandy don. He gave up his wicked ways and became a deacon of the church, and the couple proceeded to raise three lovely children. As Uncle Robb said himself later on, he should have taken the advice he gave to me that day. But then that wasn’t the sort of advice he really wanted to hear.

—adapted from *The Old Farmer’s Almanac Book of Everyday Advice* by Judson D. Hale Sr.

**IT CAN TRULY BE SAID THAT THE
ALMANAC HAS BEEN AN ANNUAL BOOK OF
ADVICE EVER SINCE 1792.**



EVENING RED AND MORNING GRAY,
TWO SURE SIGNS OF ONE FINE 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

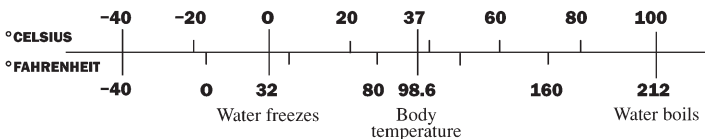
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

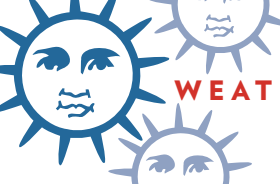
Over the years, we have refined and enhanced this formula with state-of-the-art technology and modern scientific calculations. We employ three scientific disciplines to make our long-range predictions: solar science, the study of sunspots and other solar activity; climatology, the study of prevailing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

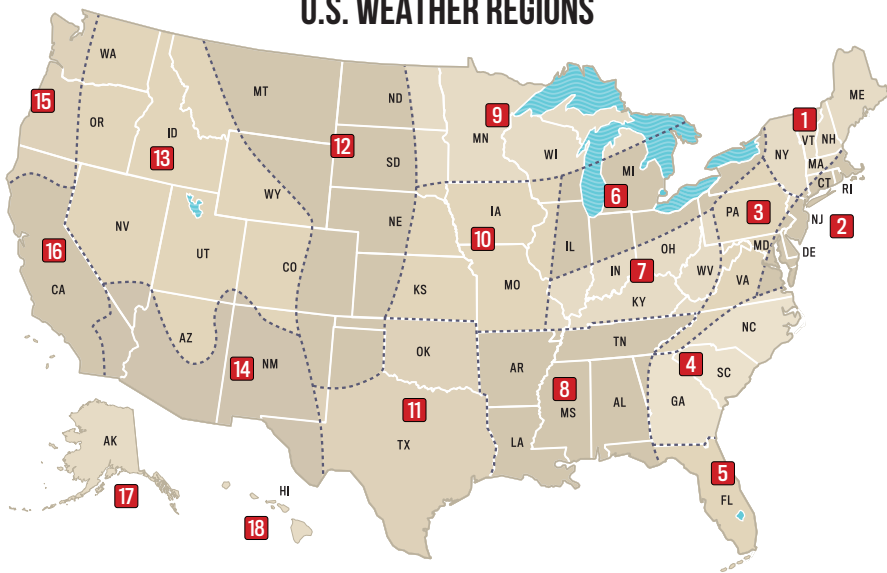
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE





WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS

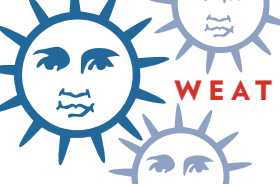


CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





RHODE ISLAND'S EDGEWOOD YACHT CLUB WITHSTANDS THE STORM SURGE FROM HURRICANE CAROL.

EVEN MORE HURRICANE HAVOC

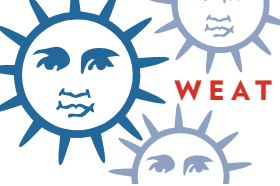
With the beginning of hurricane season in June, last month we began to look back on some of the most notable hurricanes that hit the United States in the early 20th century. Time marches on: Hurricane season will continue until November 30, and this month we spotlight the most severe late-20th-century hurricanes.

HURRICANE CAROL, in August 1954, caused 72 fatalities and \$462 million in damage, making it at the time the costliest hurricane in U.S. history. Following the storm, the name “Carol” was retired, becoming the first name to be removed from the nam-

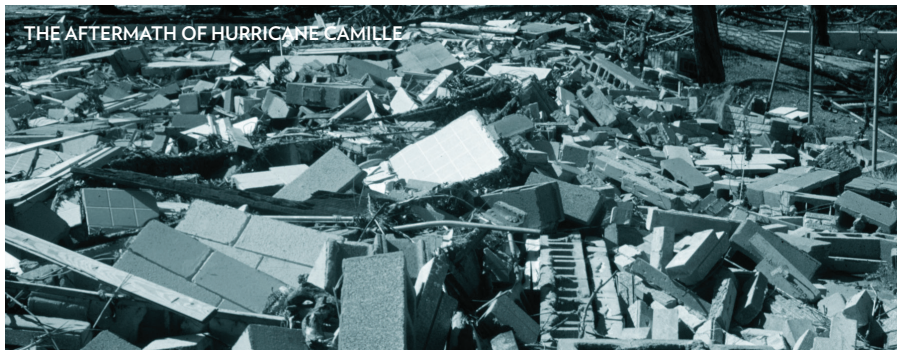
ing lists in the Atlantic basin.

While paralleling the mid-Atlantic and southeastern United States, the storm produced strong winds and rough seas that caused minor coastal flooding and slight damage to houses in North Carolina; Virginia; Washington, D.C.; Delaware; and New Jersey. The storm then accelerated north-northeastward, making landfall on eastern Long Island and then eastern Connecticut on August 31, with sustained winds estimated at 110 miles per hour.

Strong winds from Carol left about a half-million people on Long Island and in southern New England without power, downed many trees, and brought heavy crop losses.



WEATHER UPDATE



HURRICANE HAZEL, in October 1954, was the deadliest and costliest hurricane of the 1954 Atlantic hurricane season and the second storm to have its name retired. The storm killed at least 400 people in Haiti before striking the United States as a Category 4 hurricane near the border between North and South Carolina. After causing 95 fatalities in the United States, Hazel consolidated with a cold front in Pennsylvania and then struck Canada as an extra-tropical storm, raising the death toll by 81 people (mostly in Toronto).

HURRICANE DONNA, in September 1960, holds the record for sustaining hurricane status for 17 days, as it had separate landfalls in the Florida Keys; Fort Myers, Florida; Topsail Island, North Carolina; and Long Island, New York, before finally moving through New England. Donna had wind gusts ranging as high as 200 mph, killed 50 people, and caused more than \$1 bil-

lion in damage. Most notably for me, Donna hit Queens, New York, where I lived, on the first day of school. My third-grade teacher was also named Donna, and I took that coincidence to be an omen for the coming school year.

HURRICANE CAMILLE made landfall at Gulfport, Mississippi, on August 1, 1969, as a Category 5 hurricane and eventually killed 143 people near the Gulf Coast. Wind speeds at landfall were estimated at 180 mph, but actual maximum sustained winds will never be known, because the hurricane destroyed all of the wind-recording instruments in the landfall area. At the time, the total damage was around \$1.4 billion, but if the same storm struck today, residents would face more than \$20 billion in damages. Camille weakened to a tropical depression as it moved from Mississippi into Tennessee. It then brought 10 to as much as 31 inches of rain to West Vir-



ginia and Virginia, with most of the deluge occurring within 3 to 5 hours and bringing catastrophic flooding that killed another 113 people.

HURRICANE AGNES was only a Category 1 hurricane at its June 1972 landfall in Apalachicola, Florida, but its remnants brought devastating floods to Pennsylvania and New York, killing 122 people and causing damage worth about \$2.1 billion.

▶ KNOW WHAT A HURRICANE IS, HOW TO DIFFERENTIATE CATEGORIES, AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HURRICANE WATCH AND A HURRICANE WARNING.

▶ LEARN HOW TO SURVIVE A HURRICANE.

▶ GET YOUR 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST.

▶ MAKE AN EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT.

▶ BE READY TO SURVIVE A FLOOD.

HURRICANE HUGO came ashore in September 1989 near Charleston, South Carolina, as a Category 4 hurricane with 135-mph winds, killing 21 people and causing an estimated \$7 billion in damage. This made Hugo the third costliest hurricane on record in the United States.

HURRICANE ANDREW struck Dale County, Florida, on August 24, 1992, devastating South Florida with 165-mph winds, killing 23, and causing \$26.5 billion in damage. Andrew produced a 17-foot storm surge near its landfall point in Florida and then crossed into the Gulf of Mexico before making a second landfall along the central Louisiana coast as a Category 3 hurricane. Andrew then turned northeastward, eventually merging with a frontal system over the mid-Atlantic states.

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



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC

Accidental Reporting

True quotes from hapless policyholders . . .



- *Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.*
- *The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions.*
- *I thought my window was down, but found it was up when I put my hand through it.*
- *I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.*
- *The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.*
- *I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the embankment.*
- *In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole.*
- *I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had the accident.*
- *My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle.*
- *I was thrown from my car as it left the road. I*



was later found in a ditch by some stray cows.

- *I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him.*
- The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run, so I ran over him.
- *The indirect cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.*
- An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle, and vanished.
- *The telephone pole was approaching. I was attempting to swerve out of its way when it struck my front end.*

As Usual

“How did you get along with your wife in that argument?”

“Oh, she came crawling to me on her hands and knees.”

“Yeah, what did she say?”

“She called me a coward and dared me to come out from under the bed.”

TWO ENDS

God has given us two ends

With a common link.

With the one, we sit.

With the other, we think.

Success in life depends

On which we choose:

Heads, you win.

Tails, you lose.



19TH-CENTURY NONSENSE: A SCARCITY OF ASSES

The Rev. Mr. Thomas, riding home on a par-



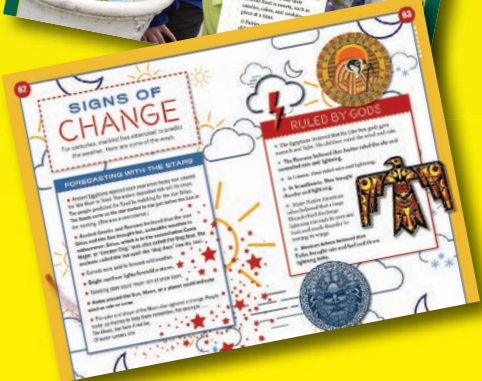
ticular occasion, came upon two members of his parish who had recently been made justices of the peace.

The parishioners, seeing the minister atop a fine steed, decided to tease him by saying: “Well, Mr. Thomas, you are very unlike your Master, for He was content to ride upon an ass.”

“An ass?” exclaimed the minister. “Why, there’s no such beast to be gotten nowadays.”

“Aye, how’s that?”

“Because they now make them justices of the peace.”



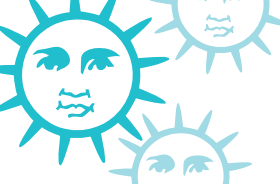
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WHAT'S NEXT



GARDENING

Secrets to saving cut flowers



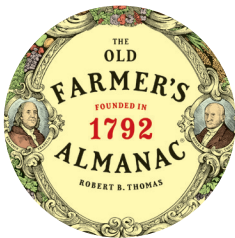
CALENDAR

Full Sturgeon Moon, birthstone peridot, USS *Constitution* (“Old Ironsides”), 1793 Almanac tidbits



LIVING NATURALLY

How to take a mind vacation

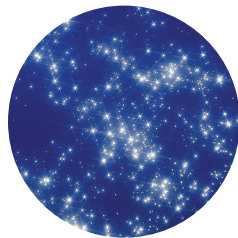


ANNIVERSARY

Everyday advice from past Almanacs

FOOD

Preserve your harvest with great pickling recipes



ASTRONOMY

Explore with our Sky Map

Plus: Weather Update • U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts • Gardening by the Moon's Sign • Best Days to Do Things • Humor • and much more in the August *EXTRA!*

CELEBRATING THE ALMANAC'S 225TH YEAR!