

EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

COOL SUMMER BEVERAGES

A SALUTE TO
"YANKEE DOODLE"

PINING FOR A
PANTRY

TOWN DUMP:
FRIEND OR FOE?



JULY 2020

PHOTO: JENIFOTO/GETTY IMAGES

FEATURES

FOOD

Cool Summer Beverages

GARDENING

Pining for a Pantry

LIVING NATURALLY

Town Dump: Friend or Foe?

HISTORY

A Salute to “Yankee Doodle”



WEATHER FORECASTS

How We Make Our Predictions

July U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

DEPARTMENTS

CALENDAR

July Holidays, Fun Facts, and More

ASTROLOGY

Best Days to Do Things

Gardening by the Moon’s Sign

ASTRONOMY

Sky Map for July

WIT

Humor Me
Grins and groans from the Almanac

WHAT’S NEXT

See what we have in store for our August issue!



FOLLOW US:



JULY

Holidays, Fun Facts, and More

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Bastille Day (France)

On July 14 each year, people in France, parts of North America, and elsewhere celebrate La Fête Nationale (which is not the same as the eponymous Quebec June holiday), or Le Quatorze (14th) Juillet. Known as Bastille Day outside of France, the holiday commemorates the storming of the Bastille, which ignited the French Revolution. Built in the late 1300s, the Bastille was a fortress that protected Paris, France, from attack.

By the late 1700s, during the reign of King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette, the fortress had become infamous for holding



political prisoners. To the common people, who were suffering from a food shortage and the burden of high taxes, it also had become a symbol of the monarchy's oppression.

Over time, several political and economic events had increased tensions between nobles and commoners.

On July 14, 1789,

things came to a head: Angry revolutionaries took over a military hospital to gather muskets. Their next target was the Bastille, for its supply of gunpowder. (At the time, only seven prisoners were being held there.)

When negotiations with the prison's governor took longer



than expected, the people lost patience and stormed the Bastille, an action that resulted in the loss of 100 lives but eventually led to the overthrow of King Louis XVI and the French monarchy. This violent period of transition ended 10 years later, when Napoleon Bonaparte became France's leader, as First Consul.

Bastille Day com-

memorates the beginnings of a modern French republic and its evolution toward liberty, equality, and fraternity.

It also is celebrated in remembrance of La Fête de la Fédération, an event that took place on July 14, 1790, to mark the (short-lived) constitutional monarchy and serve as a symbol of national unity and

reconciliation.

Today, Bastille Day festivities often include military and civilian parades, dances and firemen's balls, musical events, and fireworks.

People also explore museums, such as the Louvre, to learn more about French history and culture. Or, they may go on picnics with family and friends or enjoy French cuisine at restaurants and cafés.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

July 1: Canada Day

July 4: Independence Day

July 14: Bastille Day

July 25: National Day of the Cowboy

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q: What kind of tea did the American colonists want?

A: Liberty ("Liber-tea")

EYE ON THE SKY

MOON PHASES

Full Buck Moon: July 5, at 12:44 A.M. EDT

Last Quarter: July 12, at 7:29 P.M. EDT

New Moon: July 20, at 1:33 P.M. EDT

First Quarter: July 27, at 8:33 A.M. EDT

SPECIAL EVENTS

• **July 4:** Earth is at aphelion (the point in a planet's orbit that is farthest from the Sun) on July 4, when it will be 94,507,635 miles from the Sun.

• **July 4–5:** Penumbra lunar eclipse (visible in parts of N.Am.)



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES



TAP FOR MORE ABOUT JULY'S FULL MOON

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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

Advertise to sell: 1, 27, 28

Ask for a loan: 10, 15

Begin diet to lose weight: 10, 15

Begin diet to gain weight: 1, 28

Buy a home: 1, 28

Color hair: 13–15

Cut hair to discourage growth: 9, 10

Cut hair to encourage growth: 25, 26

Get married: 25, 26

Have dental care: 23, 24

Move (house/household): 16, 17

Perm hair: 6–8

Quit smoking: 4, 9, 31

Straighten hair: 2, 3, 29, 30



Travel for pleasure: 21, 22

Wean children: 4, 9, 31

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 18–20

Brew: 1, 27, 28

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut:
9, 10

Demolish: 1, 27, 28

Dry fruit/vegetables/meat: 11, 12

End projects: 19

Lay shingles: 21, 22

Make jams/jellies: 9, 10

Paint: 25, 26

Start projects: 21

Wash floors: 9, 10

Wash windows: 11, 12

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 4, 5, 31

Go camping: 2, 3, 29, 30

Go fishing: 1–5, 20–31

Set posts or pour concrete: 4, 5, 31

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 11, 12

Graft or pollinate: 18–20

Harvest aboveground crops: 23, 24

Harvest belowground crops: 14, 15

Mow to slow growth: 11, 12

Mow to promote growth: 1, 22

Pick fruit: 23, 24

Plant aboveground crops: 1, 27, 28

Plant belowground crops: 9, 10, 19

Prune to discourage growth: 11, 12

Prune to encourage growth: 21, 22

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 1, 27, 28

Castrate animals: 6–8

Cut hay: 11, 12

Purchase animals: 18–20

Set eggs: 6, 7

Slaughter livestock: 1, 27, 28

Wean animals: 4, 9, 31



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



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



TAP FOR
JULY MOON
PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

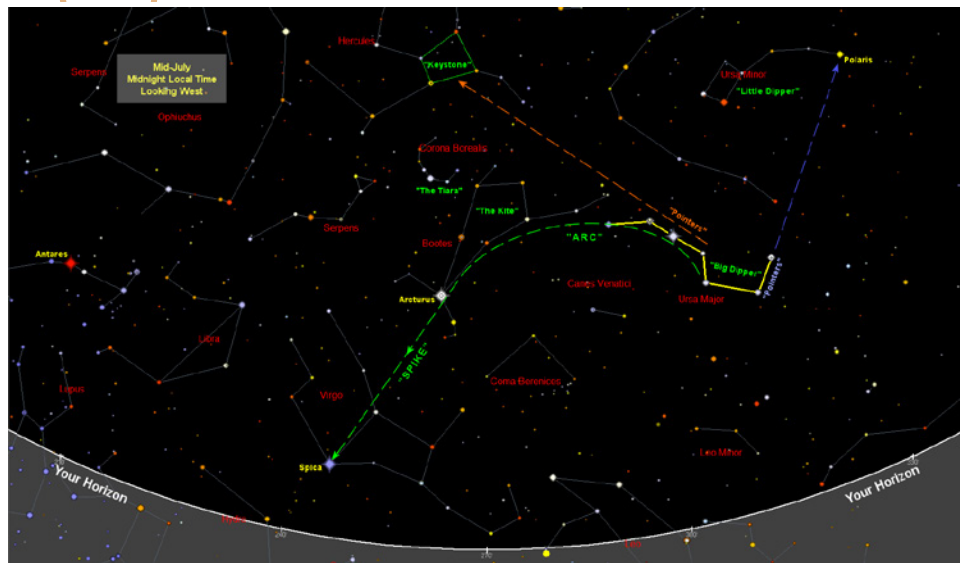
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion *retrograde motion*.

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.

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

–*Celeste Longacre*



THE BIG DIPPER POINTS THE WAY

The Big Dipper, in the constellation Ursa Major, the Greater Bear, is one of the brightest and most easily recognized asterisms (unofficial star patterns) in the night sky. Depending on the time of year and time of night, the Big Dipper will often appear upside down or sideways. Late at night in mid-July, however, the Big Dipper is very easy to spot. It's almost right-side up, with its handle curving to the upper left and its bowl on the right, as shown on this month's sky map. This makes July an ideal time to learn how the Big Dipper can help you to navigate the sky.

Various parts of the Big Dipper's bowl and handle can serve you as "pointers" to other stars and constellations.

The first set of pointers that every budding stargazer should learn is the two stars forming the outermost side of the Big Dipper's bowl. These are labeled in purple on the Sky Map. If you mentally extend the line of these two stars up

TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
JULY SKY MAP

TAP TO
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DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES



and away from the bowl, you'll find Polaris, the North Star. Polaris, in turn, marks the end of the handle of the Little Dipper. Most of the stars of the Little Dipper are rather dim. You may not see them unless you are far from city lights, but Polaris should be visible from the suburbs, and the pointers of the Big Dipper's bowl will help you to find it.

There is another set of pointers in the Big Dipper. The first three stars of the Big Dipper's handle point directly to the four-sided Keystone asterism in the constellation Hercules, the Hero. The Keystone pointers are labeled in orange on this month's map. Once you have located the Keystone, look directly below it for Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown, or "Tiara."

The final example of Big Dipper's helpfulness is a bit more complicated, but once learned, it's easy to remember. A simple phrase summarizes this bit of celestial navigation: "Arc to Arcturus, then drive a Spike to Spica." Look for the green dashed lines on the sky map.

If you extend the arc of the Big Dipper's handle, you'll see that it points directly to the bright star Arcturus in the constellation Boötes, the Herdsman. The body of Boötes is often described as "kite-shape," and the extended arc of the Big Dipper's handle follows the curved edge of the Kite on its way to Arcturus.

Once you arrive at Arcturus, straighten out the arc and drive a spike directly to the star Spica (pronounced SPY-kuh) in Virgo, the Virgin. And there you have it: "Arc to Arcturus, then drive a Spike to Spica." Like the Big Dipper's other pointers, it's an easy way to remember the arrangement of the stars and constellations in the northern sky.

Bear in mind that at other times of year, the Big Dipper may appear at a different angle or even upside down. However, it is a very distinctive asterism, and with practice you'll learn to recognize it no matter how it's oriented.

For those of us who live in the 48 contiguous states, southern Canada, and most of Europe, it is visible every night of the year. Being able to find the Big Dipper is an essential part of your stargazing education, so look for it every time you are under the stars.

-Jeff DeTray

FOOD



Cool Summer Beverages

Thirsting for a refreshing summer drink on a hot day? Here are some deliciously cool recipes to try when nothing but an iced cold beverage will do.

FOOD

Watermelon Punch



TAP FOR
RECIPE



PHOTO: PIXABAY

WATERMELON PUNCH

6 cups watermelon juice (see Note)

2 cups pineapple juice

**1 can (12 ounces) frozen raspberry juice
blend**

**1 small can (6 ounces) frozen orange juice
concentrate**

**1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
crushed ice**

In a large jar or pitcher, combine all of the ingredients. Serve chilled over crushed ice.

Makes 12 servings.

Note: To make watermelon juice, start with a 10-pound watermelon. Process small chunks of watermelon flesh, with seeds removed, in a blender or food processor until they turn to liquid. We recommend making more than you need for this punch and then freezing the extra in ice-cube trays. Use the watermelon cubes to chill the punch.



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

FOOD

Mint Lemonade



TAP FOR
RECIPE

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

MINT LEMONADE

1 cup sugar
2 cups fresh mint leaves
1 cup fresh lemon juice
1 cup fresh orange juice
1 cup ginger ale
crushed ice

In a small saucepan, combine the sugar with 3 cups of water. Bring to a boil over high heat, reduce the heat, and simmer for 5 minutes. Add mint, remove the pan from the heat, cover, and let liquid steep for 1 hour.

Strain the liquid into a bowl. In a large pitcher, combine mint syrup, lemon juice, orange juice, and ginger ale. Stir until well blended. Serve over crushed ice.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Berry Iced Tea

 TAP FOR
RECIPE



BERRY ICED TEA

2 cups berries, crushed

6 cups strong tea

1 cup sugar

1 cup fresh lemon juice

ice cubes

Put crushed berries into a pitcher.

Add tea, sugar, and lemon juice; stir to dissolve sugar. Add ice cubes and serve.

Makes 8 servings.



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

GARDENING



Pining for a Pantry

*When it comes to preserving the harvest,
nothing comes in handier than America's Favorite Closet.*

PHOTO: YINYANG/GETTY IMAGES

Some women dream of passion, of pearls, of Paris fashion.

My dreams are of another sort of perfection, expressed in shelves, cupboards, drawers, bins, and baskets. I want a pantry just like the one my grandmother used to have: the perfect pantry.

It's a small airy room of the sort that Yankees used to call a buttery. Opening off the kitchen, it's a serene retreat—small and snug, fitted with a door, preferably facing north for coolness and large enough to allow for a tall window to shed natural light and provide ventilation. Floor-to-ceiling shelves offer reassuring storage space, providing for plenty.

Everything has its place. High shelves lined with carefully cut paper house special-occasion dishes and equipment—the eggnog bowl and cups, the huge turkey platter and plates, the meat grinder, fluted

tin molds for steamed puddings, service trays standing on end.

A wide, waist-high counter built in a U-shape around the room provides extra workspace and even a place to eat a little meal perched on the wooden step-seat while watching birds flit among the backyard grapevines.

The counter space under the window is the ideal place for rolling out cookies or pastry; bins of flour and sugar are within easy reach, and cookie cutters lie in wait in the nearest drawer. Ceiling hooks dangle herbs, braids of garlic, and onions. And behind doors in the cool lower cupboard, baskets and barrels shelter squashes, more onions, potatoes, and reserves of flour for baking bread.

One whole wall of this platonic pantry is devoted to canning equipment. (Those of us without ideal pantries can surely testify that canning gear is always

either in the way or impossible to find.) Here, in the canning cupboard, all of those odd little jars—the ones that turn up on counters and shelves and gather under the sink—keep company. Jar rings, funnels, strainers, and paraffin sit neatly in a drawer, awaiting jelly- or pickle-making time. On the lower shelves rest the black enamel canning kettles.

What would an analyst make of my craving for this compartmentalized cupboard? It's easy to see a desire for order; a need to have favorite tools and possessions nearby but contained by the pantry door; an ancient comfort in knowing that food is safely stored, the lullaby of the larder. All of this, perhaps. Plus, nostalgia for a sweet-spicy-smelling, good old-fashioned pantry, with a pie or two cooling on the counter.

Wouldn't it be wonderful?

—*Cynthia Van Hazinga*

LIVING NATURALLY



Town Dump: Friend or Foe?

In my town, we still call it “the dump,” even though it’s no longer a final resting place for trash but a “transfer station,” where residents deposit trash and recyclables into containers that then get transported to appropriate destination sites.

In our household, we make a game of seeing how few trips we need to make to the dump. So, most anything that rots ends up in some form or another in one of the vegetable gardens. Kitchen scraps and yard waste become compost. Most of the discarded paper that doesn’t end up as weed-suppressing mulch between our garden beds moves first through the woodstoves as fire-starters, with the resulting ashes spread on lawn and gardens to help raise the soil pH. We buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste. And so forth.

But the dump serves as an important social center, and we enjoy our visits there. Neighbors chat, chortle, and grumble about gardens, politics, families, vacations, the weather, and more as we move among the various receptacles for trash, aluminum cans, steel and plastic containers, paper, glass, and construction debris.

We toss scrap metal items on the ground, where they will collect into a mountain of metal before being baled into giant cubes and shipped off to recycling markets. We leave still-usable items at the small building that we call the “Free Mall.”

For frugal folks like us, the town dump gives as much as it receives—maybe more. The manager has never discouraged dump-picking, except for aluminum cans, which generate revenue for the town.

Over the years, I’ll bet that I’ve recycled a ton or more of cardboard pulled from the paper container to use as mulch. Discarded carpets and rugs serve a similar purpose.

Stair runners are especially good for preventing grass and weeds from growing under the low electric fencing that keeps woodchucks out of our veggies.

I always give the metal pile close scrutiny. Stuff I’ve found there: a lawn-mower tire, an almost-new pressure-canner that I used for years, a metal laundry rack (that I also press into service for drying herbs, garlic, and onions), and the six homemade wire tomato cages that currently support a heavy crop of ‘Defiant’ tomatoes.

Among the many items that we’ve scrounged from the mall: several colorful ceramic coffee and soup mugs, numerous



children's toys (including a Big Wheel tricycle in great shape), many books, two cast-iron skillets, and a collection (but not a set) of stainless-steel cooking pots, most of them with handles and lids intact.

If you were ready to start canning this season and were rummaging through the mall last Saturday, you could have found several dozen clean and perfect glass canning jars to take home and put to

immediate use.

As Americans, we generate around 5 pounds of household trash per person each day, at an aggregate cost of many billions of dollars, not counting the health and environmental costs.

A market economy based on growth seems to mandate ever-increasing volumes of waste. I've read many books/papers by folks advocating all sorts of business models and

policy options that they say could create a "zero waste" society with robust, continuous growth. I'm not all that optimistic about the prospects of getting there anytime soon.

If we didn't have a dump as a destination for excess, would there be less waste?

—Margaret Boyles



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

AGE-OLD WISDOM

Encourage pollinators with companion planting

Reduce pests and diseases with crop rotation

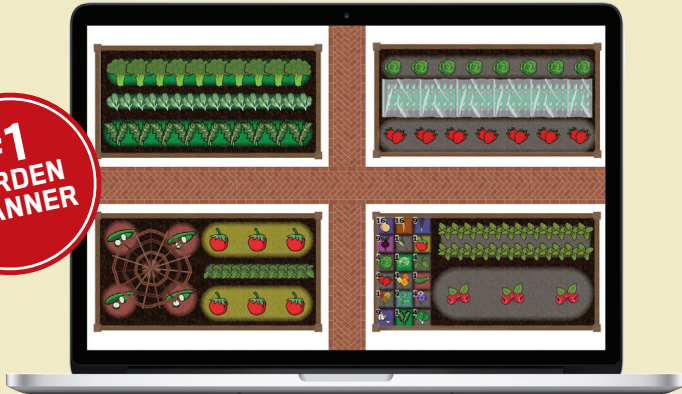
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36. Yankee Doodle

1. Fath'r and I went down to camp, A - long with Cap - tain Good - 'in, And
 2. And there we saw a thou - san men, As rich as Squire Da - vid; And
 3. And there was Cap - tain Wash - ing - ton Up - on a slap - ping stal - lion, A -
 4. And there I saw a swamp - ing gun, Big as a log of ma - ple, Up -

5

CHORUS

there we saw the men and boys As thick as has - ty pud - din'.
 what they wast - ed ev - 'ry day, I wish it could be sav - ed.
 giv - ing or - ders to his men; I guess there was a mil - lion.
 on a might - y lit - tle cart; A load for fa - ther's cat - tle.

Yan - kee Doo - dle keep it up,

11

Yan - kee Doo - dle dan - dy, Mind the mu - sic and the step, And with the girls be hand - y.

A Salute to "Yankee Doodle"

Here's why it's so dandy . . .

Not many are aware that the melody for “Yankee Doodle” was once upon a time (as far back as Shakespeare, in the 16th century) a nursery rhyme sung to children. Later—a century and a quarter before the American Revolution—the tune, as well as the style of words, was in vogue in a version composed in derision, one theory goes, of Britain’s Oliver Cromwell. That treatment began this way:

*Nankey doodle came to town
Riding on a pony
With a feather in his hat,
Upon a macaroni.*

Here’s what few of those words meant in those days:

“Nankey” was “nankeen,” a sturdy, yellow-brown, cotton fabric used in work clothes.

A “doodle” in old

English dictionaries was a “sorry, trifling fellow.”

A “macaroni” was defined as a knot on which a feather was fastened. Later, a macaroni was a hairstyle effected by a group of American loyalists who were aping the wealthy British encamped in New York. The British had picked up the hairstyle from foppish young students at Oxford University in England who had formed a club named after the famous pasta dish of the same name. The Macaroni was a toupée that rose so high above the forehead that in order to lift the tiny tricorne hat that sat on top of this hairpiece, the dandy had to use his gold-tasseled walking stick.

The wearer of one was also called a “macaroni”—the swell (dude) of his day. He wore clothes so ornate—be-ruffled, be-frogged,

and festooned, with a bunch of fresh flowers in his buttonhole—as to make 20th-century “flower children” look drab. If the ducktail haircut of the 1950s or later male long-hair styles seem absurd, what of the “staircase,” the “snail back,” the “royal bird,” and the “she-dragon” of Revolutionary days, worn by this same avant-garde?

When disaffected Americans tried to imitate their British cousins, they had neither the money nor the materials to get the proper effect and looked ludicrous to British eyes in their homespun uniforms.

A surgeon in the British army at Albany in 1755, a certain Dr. Schuckburg, composed a song to the tune, now known in New England as “Lydia Fisher’s Jig”:

A “MACARONI” WAS DEFINED AS A KNOT ON WHICH A FEATHER WAS FASTENED.

HISTORY

*Lucy Locket lost her pocket;
Lydia Fisher found it.
Not a bit of money in it,
Only binding round it.*

He meant to deride the uncouth appearance of the poverty-stricken and ill-equipped New England troops assembled there, so he called it “Yankey Doodle” instead of “Nankey doodle.”

The melody was popular with the British as martial music, and when, in 1768, British troops arrived in Boston Harbor, what we know as “Yankee Doodle” was the tune that they played. The change in spelling to “Yankee” was not made until after the Revolution.

Dr. Thatcher, in his *Military Journal*, writes that Jonathan Hastings, a farmer from Cambridge, Massachusetts, who was living at around the time of 1713, used

“yankee” as a favorite cant (slang) word to express excellence, as in a “yankee good horse” or “yankee good cider.” Students at Harvard University, hearing Hastings use the term so much, began calling him “Yankee Jonathan.”

As with other cant words, this spread and finally came to be applied to New Englanders as a term of reproach. (Some suppose the term to be the Native American corruption of the word “English”: Yenglees, Yangles, Yankles, and, finally, Yankee.)

However, with the passage of centuries, the meaning reversed itself. What started out as a derisive word came to connote certain virtuous qualities, especially when coupled with another

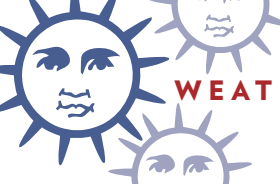
term, such as integrity, thrift, stick-to-it-iveness, and ingenuity.

To the dismay of the British, their song, derisive in intent, became a battle hymn. It was adopted by the rough-and-ready spirits of the American army for their own and smote the delicate ears of the British in defeat on many occasions. When nearly 6,000 British, German, and Hessian soldiers laid down their arms to 13,000 American soldiers and militia at the surrender of British General John Burgoyne to English-born General Horatio Lloyd Gates at Saratoga, they did so to the lively tune of “Yankee Doodle.”

Thus, the British learned that fancy uniforms do not make the soldier, nor does name-calling disturb him.

—Dorothy Cheney Quinan

**TO THE DISMAY OF THE BRITISH,
THEIR SONG, DERISIVE IN INTENT, BECAME
A BATTLE HYMN.**



NE'ER TRUST A JULY SKY.

HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

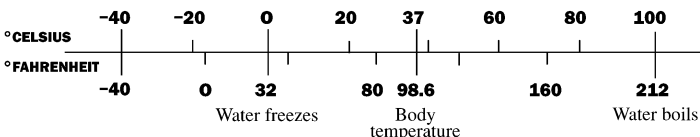
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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.

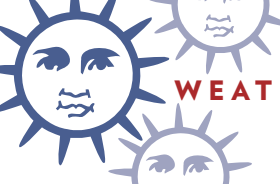
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

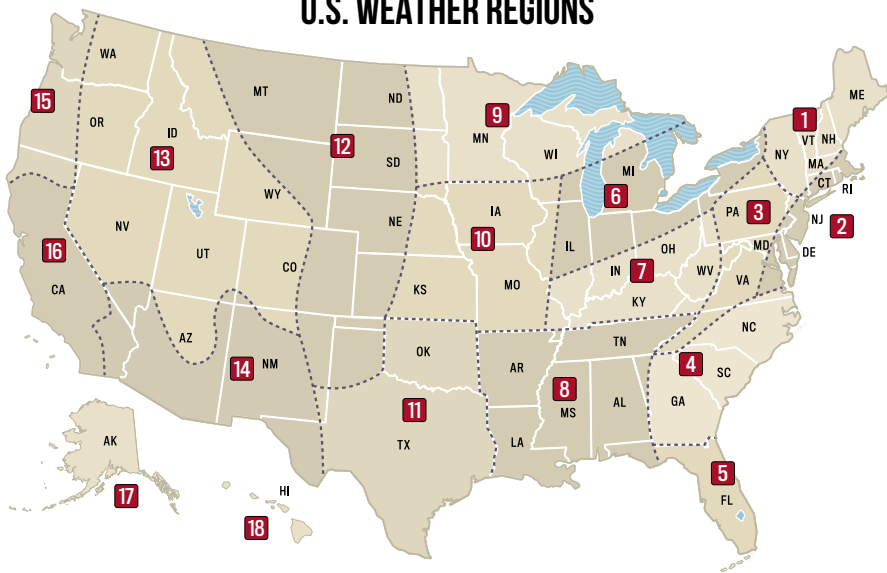


LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY



WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





STEAMY SUMMER AHEAD

July will bring opportunities for plenty of fireworks, with Canada Day on the 1st and U.S. Independence Day on the 4th.

Canada Day weather will be on the hot side in nearly the entire Commonwealth, with cooler temperatures limited to Nova Scotia, Nunavut, and northern portions of the Northwest Territories. Most of us will have dry weather, despite a few showers scattered about.

U.S. Independence Day will be a warm one in New England and most of the western states, but on the cool side for summertime elsewhere—pleasant temperatures for barbecues and most other outdoor activities, although a bit cool for the beach (provided that public gatherings are OK). Thunderstorms



or at least showers will be scattered about nearly every state, but most will be short-lived and not put a damper on evening fireworks displays, even if private (where legal and safe).

Another day of note in July is Parents' Day, on July 26. A hurricane may threaten to send kids in Texas to bed without supper, but in most other areas, the weather will be favorable for picnics or for making the kids mow the lawn.

July will bring mostly good weather for vacations, with temperatures above normal in nearly all of the northern half of the United States and the southern three-quarters of Canada. In the Heartland and across the southern half of the United States, although temperatures will be near or slightly below normal, on average, there will still be plenty of hot days. Northern Canada will be on the cool side during July.

July rainfall will be below normal from the Northeast westward across the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley through the Upper Midwest and Heartland. Rainfall will also be below normal in the High Plains, Desert Southwest, and Pacific Northwest. Elsewhere in the United States, rainfall will be near or above normal, with well above-normal rainfall and many thunder bumpers in the Atlantic Corridor, Southeast, Deep South, Texas, and Oklahoma. July rainfall will be above normal in most of the Canadian Commonwealth, although Atlantic Canada and the Prairies will be on the dry side.

Summer's steamiest weather will hold off until mid-July in most areas. Gardeners almost everywhere—in the Intermountain and Pacific regions, northern Alaska, from most of Texas northward to Canada and eastward to the Atlantic—may be relieved to hear that summer rainfall will be above normal. I'm sorry to say that watering cans will be needed in the Sunshine State (Florida). Farther north, summer temperatures will be hotter than normal across the entire Canadian Commonwealth. Rainfall will be below normal in most of Atlantic Canada and in a swath from western Ontario northward to southeastern Nunavut and above normal elsewhere.

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



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



OLD GLORY-OUS CANDY

A frivolous young English girl, with no love for the Stars and Stripes, once exclaimed at a celebration where the American flag was very much in

evidence: “Oh, what a silly-looking thing the American flag is! It suggests nothing but checker-berry candy.”

“Yes,” replied a bystander, “the kind of candy that has made everybody sick who ever tried to lick it!”

SIGNED ANSWER

The morning class had been duly instructed and enlightened on the subject of our national independence. Feeling that she had made a real and lasting impression



with her explanations and blackboard illustrations, the young teacher began with the usual round of questions:

“Now, tell me, Sammy Smith, just where was the Declaration of Independence signed?”

Sammy, with a shout of glee: “At the bottom, ma’am—that’s what you said!”

THAT’S ALL (S)HE ROTE

Frederick of Prussia had a great mania for enlisting gigantic soldiers in the Royal Guards and paid an enormous bounty to any recruiting officer who got one.

One day, the recruiting sergeant came upon an Englishman who appeared to be well

over 7 feet tall. He accosted him in English and proposed that he should enlist. The idea of a military life plus a substantial enlistment bonus appealed to the man, so he consented.

“But unless you can speak German, the king will not give you much of a bonus,” the recruiter confessed.

“I don’t speak a word of German,” said the man, “so I don’t know . . .”

“Don’t worry,” said the sergeant. “You can learn enough in a short time. The king knows every man in the Guards. As soon as he sees you, he will ride up and ask you how old you are. You will say ‘27’ in German. Then, how long have you been in the service? You will say in German, ‘3 weeks.’ Finally, as to

whether you are being provided with adequate food and clothing, you will answer in German, ‘Both.’”

The recruit quickly learned his answers but never dreamed of becoming familiar with the order of the questions. In 3 weeks, he appeared before the king in review. His Majesty rode up to him, and the recruit stepped forward with “Present arms!”

“How old are you?” asked the king.

“Three weeks,” said the soldier.

“How long have you been in the service?”

“Twenty-seven years.”

“See here!” roared the king. “Am I the fool or are you?!”

“Both!” said the man, who was quickly whisked away to the guardhouse.

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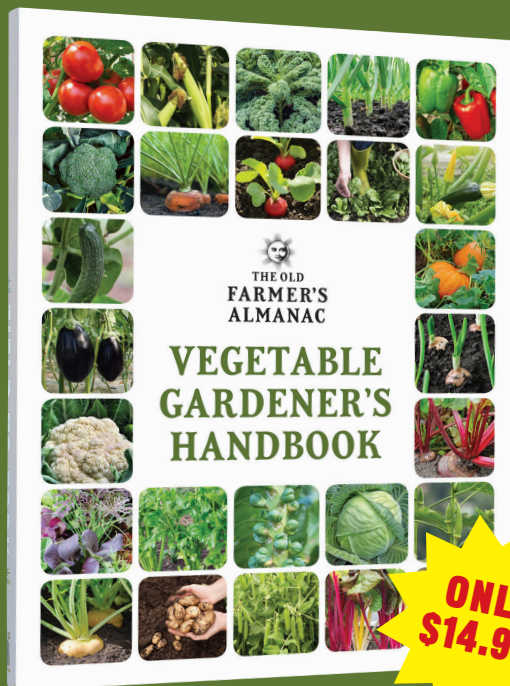
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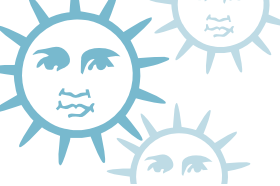
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and Stones



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