

EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

VERTICAL
GARDENING

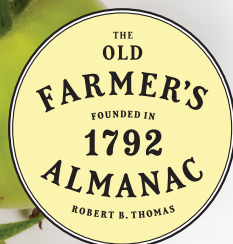
“HIDDEN VEGGIES”
RECIPES

A WALK
THROUGH TIME

REMARKABLE
RHUBARB

GARDENING BY
THE MOON'S SIGN

MAY 2017



Lightning was **powering** through
the clouds outside. Thanks to **your**
planning, their story time, and **life**
as you know it, continued inside.



Cummins Connect Series
home standby generators

Safeguard against power line failure with a
Cummins standby generator. Call your authorized
Cummins dealer today so you are prepared for
when the next storm arrives.

Learn more at powertohomes.com

Powering your life.



FEATURES

GARDENING

Vertical Gardening

LIVING NATURALLY

Remarkable Rhubarb

FOOD

“Hidden Veggies”
Recipes

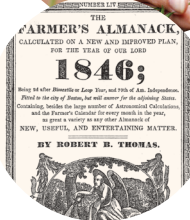
ANNIVERSARY

A Walk Through Time
*Tales from early
editions of the
Almanac*

DEPARTMENTS

CALENDAR

Holidays, History,
and Folklore for May



ASTROLOGY

Best Days to
Do Things

Gardening by the
Moon's Sign

ASTRONOMY

Sky Map for May

HOT PRODUCTS

New This Month!

WEATHER FORECASTS

How We Make Our
Predictions

May U.S.
and Canadian
Weather Forecasts

Weather Update

WIT

Humor Me
*Grins and groans from
the Almanac*

WHAT'S NEXT

See what we have
in store for our
June issue!



THE MONTH OF MAY

HOLIDAYS, HISTORY, AND FOLKLORE

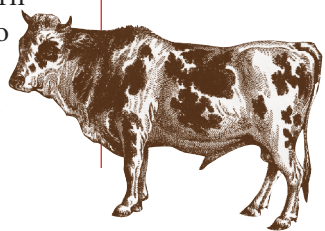
ALMANAC 225TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE

The following excerpts are from the May Right-Hand Calendar Page of The 1793 [Old] Farmer's Almanac:

*Enraptur'd Spring returns again,
The farmer plants the golden grain;
Hark, hark, the joy-inspiring grove,
Echoes to the voice of love.*

- **May 6:** *Somewhat windy.*
- **May 19:** Dark d. 1780 [Editor's note: This refers to the "Dark Day," when daytime skies blackened in New England and parts of eastern Canada, likely because of ash from forest fires in Ontario.]

• This is a very busy month with the farmers and gardeners. . . . Turn your young cattle into the woodlands, so as to save your pastures, till they get ahead.



Moon View

May's full Moon, the **Full Flower Moon**, occurs on the 10th, at 5:42 P.M. EDT.



 TAP FOR MORE MOON PHASES

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT THE FULL FLOWER MOON



MAY'S BIRTHSTONE: EMERALD

- The emerald is a green type of beryl. Its color ranges from light to rich green; the more saturated hues are more valuable, especially if pure- or blue-green.
- Natural emeralds are flawed, with fractures or other materials mixed in, called inclusions, which may appear as needles, columns, or cubes of minerals or bubbles of gas or liquid. Sometimes oil or resin is added to fill fractures and improve appearance.

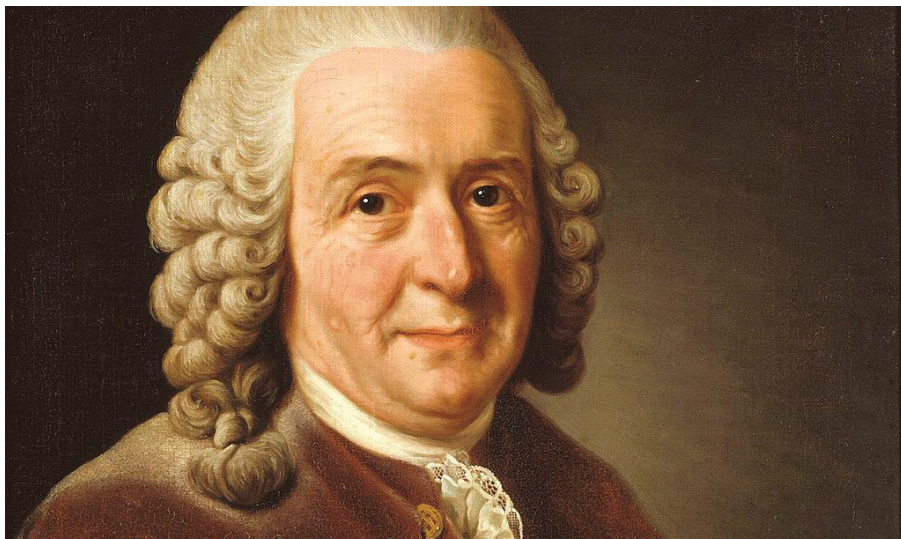
 TAP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EMERALDS

 TAP TO FOR EVEN MORE ABOUT MAY'S BIRTHSTONE

MORE ABOUT EMERALDS

- Some of the best emeralds come from South American mines, although perhaps the oldest known came from Egypt. The emerald was a favorite gem of Cleopatra.
- The emerald symbolizes rebirth and fertility and was thought to grant foresight, cure various diseases, soothe nerves, improve memory, and ensure loyalty.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



DID YOU KNOW?

Carl Linnaeus originated the use of ♂ (the symbol for Mars) to mean male and ♀ (the symbol for Venus) to mean female.

MAY 23: WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

On this day in 1707, Swedish botanist and naturalist Carl Linnaeus was born. One of his major achievements was the formal introduction of a system of classifying and naming organisms according to genus and species, called binomial nomenclature. The method uses Latin words (a language commonly used by scholars in his day). For example, humans are classified as *Homo sapiens*. *Homo*, meaning “man,” is the genus and *sapiens*, meaning “wise,” is the species. Several species may exist within one genus, but each species only has one scientific name. Scientists today use a modified version of Linnaeus’s system. Because the same naming convention is used throughout the world, it eliminates much confusion when discussing organisms.



MAY 26: TERRIFYING TWISTERS

On this day in 1917, tornadoes struck central Illinois, killing 101 people. Originally thought to be just one tornado that wreaked havoc along a 293-mile-long path, the outbreak was later determined to be four to eight tornadoes. One of them lasted 4 hours and followed a track 155 miles long (including the distance traveled while in the air). Mattoon and Charleston were especially hard hit by an F4 tornado (original Fujita scale). In Mattoon, almost 500 houses were destroyed.

According to newspaper reports:

- straw was driven 1/2 inch deep into a tree
- a flagpole with flag was blown four blocks and planted upright in the ground
- books and other items were carried 50 to 70 miles away

Folklore Fun

*A snowstorm
in May*

*Is worth a
wagonload
of hay.*





BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These May 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: 20, 24
 Begin diet to gain weight: 5
 Cut hair to encourage growth: 7, 8
 Cut hair to discourage growth: 19, 20
 Have dental care: 4–6
 Quit smoking: 20, 24
 Wean children: 20, 24

AROUND THE HOUSE

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 18–20
 End projects: 24
 Start projects: 26

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 14, 15
 Go camping: 11–13
 Go fishing: 1–10, 25–31
 Set posts or pour concrete: 14, 15

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 21, 22
 Graft or pollinate: 27, 28
 Prune to encourage growth: 2, 3, 29, 30
 Prune to discourage growth: 12, 13, 21, 22
 Plant aboveground crops: 1, 27, 28
 Plant belowground crops: 19, 20
 Harvest aboveground crops: 4–6
 Harvest belowground crops: 23, 24

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 9, 10
 Castrate animals: 16–18
 Cut hay: 21, 22
 Set eggs: 6, 7, 15–17
 Slaughter livestock: 9, 10
 Wean animals: 20, 24



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the May 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 MAY

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



TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



APP EXTRA!
TAP FOR MAY
MOON PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

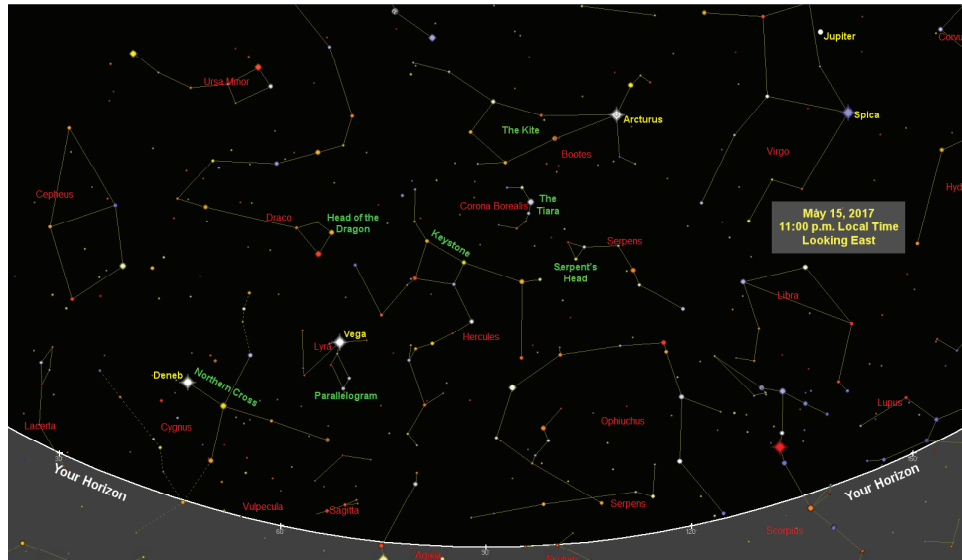
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion retrograde motion.

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 will be retrograde from April 9–May 3, August 13–September 5, and December 3–23.

–Celeste Longacre



ASTERISM EXTRAVAGANZA

APP EXTRA!

TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
MAY SKY MAP

APP EXTRA!

TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES

The night sky is divided into 88 constellations, per an agreement by the member countries of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). The constellation boundaries were formalized by the IAU in 1922, and every star in the sky lies within one of the 88 regions.

Sometimes, stars within constellations form distinctive patterns or shapes that have earned them unofficial names of their own, apart from the name of the constellation. These entirely unofficial star patterns are known as “asterisms,” and this month’s Sky Map is loaded with them.

In May, the sky is not fully dark until about 11:00 p.m. Because it takes your eyes 20 to 30 minutes to become fully dark-adapted, you should go outside at about 10:30 to prepare for stargazing. To preserve your night vision, avoid streetlights and conventional flashlights. Veteran stargazers use red light only, which does not harm your night vision



like other colors of light. You can fashion a red flashlight by placing red plastic or a red balloon over the end of a regular flashlight.

When you are fully prepared, look due east and find the four-sided Keystone asterism in the constellation Hercules. The Keystone is so named because its shape resembles the keystone at the center of an arched doorway or stone bridge. The Keystone asterism will be the center of our asterism tour.

To the left of the Keystone is a smaller four-sided asterism comprising the head of Draco the Dragon. Below the Head of the Dragon, near blazing Vega, is yet another four-sided figure, the exquisite Parallelogram in Lyra, the Lyre.

Draco is not the only reptile on this month's map. Look to the right of the Keystone for the small triangle that forms the head of Serpens, the Serpent, whose body slithers to the right and downward. Serpens is unique among the 88 constellations because it is split into two parts. If you look near the bottom of the map, you'll see Serpens's other half—its tail. For a better look, stay up until 1:30 or 2:00 A.M., when the tail of Serpens will rise higher in the sky and be much easier to see.

To the upper right of the Keystone sits the constellation Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. Its brightest stars form a lovely semicircle that I call the Tiara. In a dark sky, the Tiara is a beautiful, delicate sight. In mythology, the stars that comprise the Tiara are the diamonds of a royal crown worn by the Cretan princess Ariadne.

Directly above the Tiara is the Kite asterism in the constellation Boötes, the Herdsman. It's a lopsided Kite, to be sure, and it's lying on its side from our point of view. Nevertheless, once you recognize the shape, you always see a Kite when you gaze in the direction of Boötes.

Also lying sideways, in the lower left near the horizon, is the Northern Cross asterism. The Northern Cross forms the main body of Cygnus, the Swan. Like all objects on the eastern horizon, Cygnus will rise higher in the sky as the night wears on. In fact, by about 2:00 A.M., the Northern Cross will be located right where the Keystone sits at 11:00 P.M.!

—Jeff DeTray

NEW THIS MONTH!

NEST AND EGGS KITCHEN CANISTER SET

Fill our graduated carbon steel canisters with flour, sugar, tea, cookies, or doggie treats!

\$49.99

[LEARN MORE](#)



TREE OF LIFE— 3-D LIGHT REFLECTIVE WALL ART

Each piece is handcrafted with an exclusive 7-step color infusion process! The resulting finish is very deep and radiant.

\$39.97

[LEARN MORE](#)



ART GLASS BIRDBATH/ FEEDER STAKES

Choose from 6 different iridescent colors!

\$28.99

[LEARN MORE](#)



GARDENING

VERTICAL Gardening

**FOR GREATER
CAPACITY, GROW UP**

PHOTO: THINKSTOCK



THE VERTICAL APPROACH MAKES GOOD SENSE, ESPECIALLY FOR GARDENERS WITH LIMITED SPACE

Vertical gardening—also called intensive gardening—is not a new idea, but it has gained momentum in recent years with a lengthening list of ideas for how to grow up. The approach makes good sense, especially for gardeners with limited space who

want to plant more than a few small pots.

To successfully “grow on the vertical,” there are some things to bear in mind:

- Choosing the right crops and cultivars is key; vining, rambling, and sprawling plants are readily trained to grow up and off the ground, unlike bush-type species.
- Using containers that will accommodate adult-size plants is also critical—growth will be stunted if

pots are too small.

- Locating plants where they won’t shade out other crops is important; a smart strategy is to place them away from sun-loving species and near shade dwellers.
- Watering, too, is something to consider—you may have to do it more frequently, as the soil surface of plants growing vertically is often exposed and therefore quick to dry out.

+ TAP FOR THE BEST VERTICAL VEGETABLES

RECOMMENDED PLANTS FOR A VERTICAL VEGETABLE GARDEN

Crops and cultivars that are easy to train on a vertical structure include . . .

- **Cherry tomato:** ‘Sungold’, ‘Black Cherry’, ‘Gardener’s Delight’, ‘Blondkopfchen’
- **Cucumber:** ‘Burpee Hybrid II’, ‘County Fair 83’, ‘Dasher 11’, ‘Saladin’
- **Green bean:** ‘Romano Italian’, ‘Meraviglia Venezia’, ‘Gold of Bacau’
- **Lima bean:** ‘Doctor Martin’, ‘King of the Garden’
- **Melon:** ‘Delicious 51’, ‘Tigger’, ‘Sleeping Beauty’ (musk melon); ‘White Wonder’, ‘Yellow Doll’ (watermelon)
- **Pea:** ‘Dual’, ‘Garden Sweet’, ‘Maestro’, ‘Sugar Snap’, ‘Super Sugar Snap’
- **Squash:** acorn, delicata, yellow summer, zucchini

GARDENING

With these few precautions taken, vertical gardens offer myriad benefits.

First and foremost: increased yields. Making maximum use of space means a heartier harvest. Maintaining and harvesting from a vertical planting is also physically easier—plants reach a higher level, so

the need to bend and kneel is minimal.

Furthermore, because foliage and fruit are up off the ground, they are less susceptible to disease; upward growth provides better air circulation, which means that plants dry faster after watering, thereby reducing the risk of moisture-loving fungi like powdery mildew and rusts taking hold.

Typically, too,

symptoms of disease and evidence of pests are more visible and can therefore be addressed sooner rather than later. Also, more leaf surface is exposed to the sun when plants aren't sprawling on the ground, which can result in healthier growth.

When it comes time to choose plants for your vertical garden, consider their growing habits—the most important factor affecting success.

WITH A FEW PRECAUTIONS TAKEN, VERTICAL GARDENS OFFER MYRIAD BENEFITS.





TRY TO MATCH THE STRUCTURE WITH THE PLANT'S CHARACTERISTICS.

When deciding on the type of support to use for your vertically growing plants, think about sun and wind exposure, plant size, and maintenance requirements. Try to match the structure with the plant's characteristics. For example, leafy plants with tendrils, such as pole beans, do well on light supports like trellises and tripods, while more substantial

plants, such as grapevines, benefit from sturdier structures—perhaps an arch or pergola. Keep in mind that a structure must be able to accommodate a mature plant's weight, and it should be well anchored to keep it from toppling over.

There are many types of supports from which to choose. In addition to trellises, tripods, arches, and pergolas, there are gazebos, wire cages, netting, and poles, among others.

Some gardeners have even invented ways to use 2-liter plastic soda bottles, gutters, and PVC pipe to great effect.

TIP: Look for materials to repurpose, such as wood pallets, which are often discarded by businesses.

There you have it . . . the ABCs of vertical gardening. Now try your hand at growing up—the sky's the limit!



TAP FOR MORE ON
VERTICAL GARDENING



The easy-care rose!

- The original environmentally-friendly rose
- No spraying or fussy pruning required
- Non-stop blooms from early summer to late autumn
- Glossy green foliage adds interest in early spring
- Ask for Flower Carpet, the Rose in the Pink Pot®



www.flowercarpet.com

LIVING NATURALLY

REMARKABLE RHUBARB

... AND HOW TO LIGHTEN YOUR HAIR WITH IT

YOU'VE HEARD OF champagne blond, strawberry blond, and honey blond. Since it's rhubarb season here in New England, let me introduce the Rhubarb Blond.

But first a bit of background. Rhubarb has a history of medicinal and cosmetic use that spans more than 3,000 years, and people didn't even begin eating rhubarb stalks until the late 1700s.

Rhubarb originated in Central Asia and still occupies a revered place in traditional Chinese medicine. Scientists around the world continue exploring various rhubarb species for their potential in treating ailments as diverse as dermatitis, pancreatic cancer, and diabetes. (Note: The *Rheum* genus contains at least 60 species and many hybrids; the succulent species that we bake into pies differs from the medicinal rhubarbs,



TAP FOR MORE
ON RHUBARB

which are generally considered inedible.)

Because of its high concentration of oxalic acid (the compound that makes the leaves and roots toxic to eat), rhubarb has also found use as an agent for cleaning metal, tanning leather, and controlling insects.

One of the more intriguing uses for the root (actually a rhizome) of this ancient plant: as a lightening agent for blond or light brown hair. The oxalic acid serves as a fixative, so a rhubarb rinse will last much longer than most herbal rinses.

THE HAIR DARE

Brave enough to give it a try? Purchase some dried, chopped rhubarb root in a local health food store; if you have rhubarb growing in your garden, dig up a chunk of the rhizome, scrub it well, and dice it.

Herbalists say that the strongest dye comes from the medicinal rhubarb species, but the roots of homegrown pie rhubarb will work, too, with a milder effect. Keep all rhubarb root away from children and pets.

Simmer 3 to 4 tablespoons of dried rhubarb root or half a

cup of fresh, chopped root in a quart of water for 20 minutes in a covered stainless-steel pot. (Don't breathe the steam.) Let the decoction steep overnight, then strain in the morning.

Test the liquid dye on a strand of hair first to see if you like the color. If you do, wash your hair as usual, then pour the rhubarb dye through it, catching the liquid in the pan and repeating two or three times. Air dry without further rinsing.

Did I try it myself? Yes! It gave a soft, golden glow to my tired gray-white locks. —Margaret Boyles

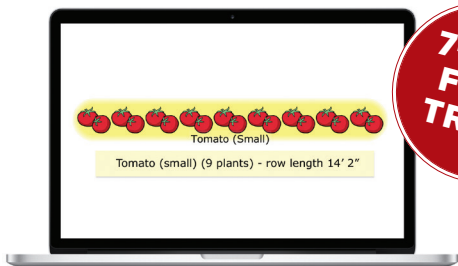


TAP TO READ MORE OF MARGARET BOYLES'S POSTS IN HER "LIVING NATURALLY" BLOG

Plan Your BEST Garden

Good luck is the result of good planning.

And we've done the homework for you! Described as “the world’s best garden planning software,” the *Almanac Garden Planner* helps you create the best layout for your plant beds right on your computer!

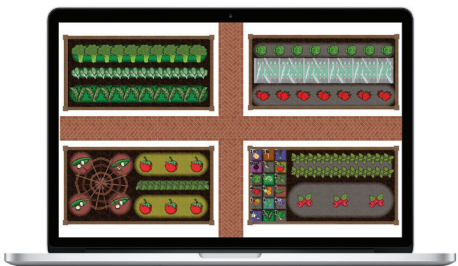


**7-DAY
FREE
TRIAL!**

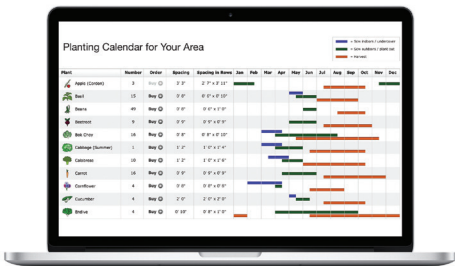


- shows how many plants to set in a space, plus when to sow, plant, and harvest

- contains 250 vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers



- works for raised beds, square-foot gardens, and traditional rows



- customizes planting dates to YOUR location, based on local weather history

PLUS:

- keeps track of your planting to ensure proper rotation every year
- emails you twice a month, with details on which of your plants you need to sow now

**GET GROWING NOW: USE THE GARDEN PLANNER
FREE FOR 7 DAYS!**

The no-obligation 7-day trial gives you access to all the features of the software for one garden plan. If you like the *Almanac Garden Planner*, subscribe for only **\$29 per year**. Or subscribe anytime—the *Planner* will remember your plot!

PLAN TODAY AND PLANT TOMORROW! SIGN UP AT ALMANAC.COM/GARDENPLANNER



“Hidden Veggies” RECIPES

When our parents told us to eat all of our vegetables, we might have been more cooperative if they had been disguised in cakes, pies, and brownies. It's easy to enjoy vegetables when they're incorporated into delicious baked goods. Don't believe us? Find out for yourself by trying these recipes with “hidden” vegetables.

FOOD

 TAP FOR
RECIPE

Beet Cake With Cream Cheese Frosting

PHOTO: SARAH PERREAULT

BEEF CAKE WITH CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

CAKE:

1-3/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground allspice
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 eggs
1 cup shredded cooked or canned beets

1/2 cup raisins or currants

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

FROSTING:

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/2 pound confectioners' sugar
small amount of milk, as needed

For cake: Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter an 8x4-inch loaf pan.

In a bowl, sift together flour, salt, allspice, baking powder, and baking soda.

In another bowl, combine sugar, oil, and vanilla. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Add flour mixture, a little at a time, and mix until smooth. Add beets, raisins, and walnuts. Pour mixture into prepared pan. Bake for 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Turn cake out on a cooling rack.

For frosting: In a bowl, beat together butter, cream cheese, and vanilla. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar. If mixture is too thick, add a small amount of milk.

Spread frosting on cooled cake.

Makes 1 loaf.



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

FOOD

Carrot Pecan Pie



TAP FOR
RECIPE

CARROT PECAN PIE

PIE:

2 cups thinly sliced carrots
1/2 cup plus dash of sugar
1/4 teaspoon plus dash of salt
2 eggs
1 cup milk
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon ground ginger
1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell

PECANS:

1 tablespoon butter
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1/2 cup pecan halves
whipped cream, for topping (optional)

For pie: Preheat oven to 375°F.

In a heavy saucepan, cover carrots with water and add dashes of sugar and salt. Cover and cook over low heat for 30 minutes or until very tender. Drain.

In a food processor or blender, process carrots until smooth.

In a bowl, beat eggs, then add carrots, remaining sugar and salt, milk, butter, nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger. Pour into pie shell.

For pecans: In a saucepan over low heat, melt butter. Stir in brown sugar just until melted. Add pecans and stir until coated with brown sugar mixture.

Set aside to cool slightly.

Top pie with pecans. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes, or until pie is set. Cool completely and serve with whipped cream (if using).

Makes 1 pie.

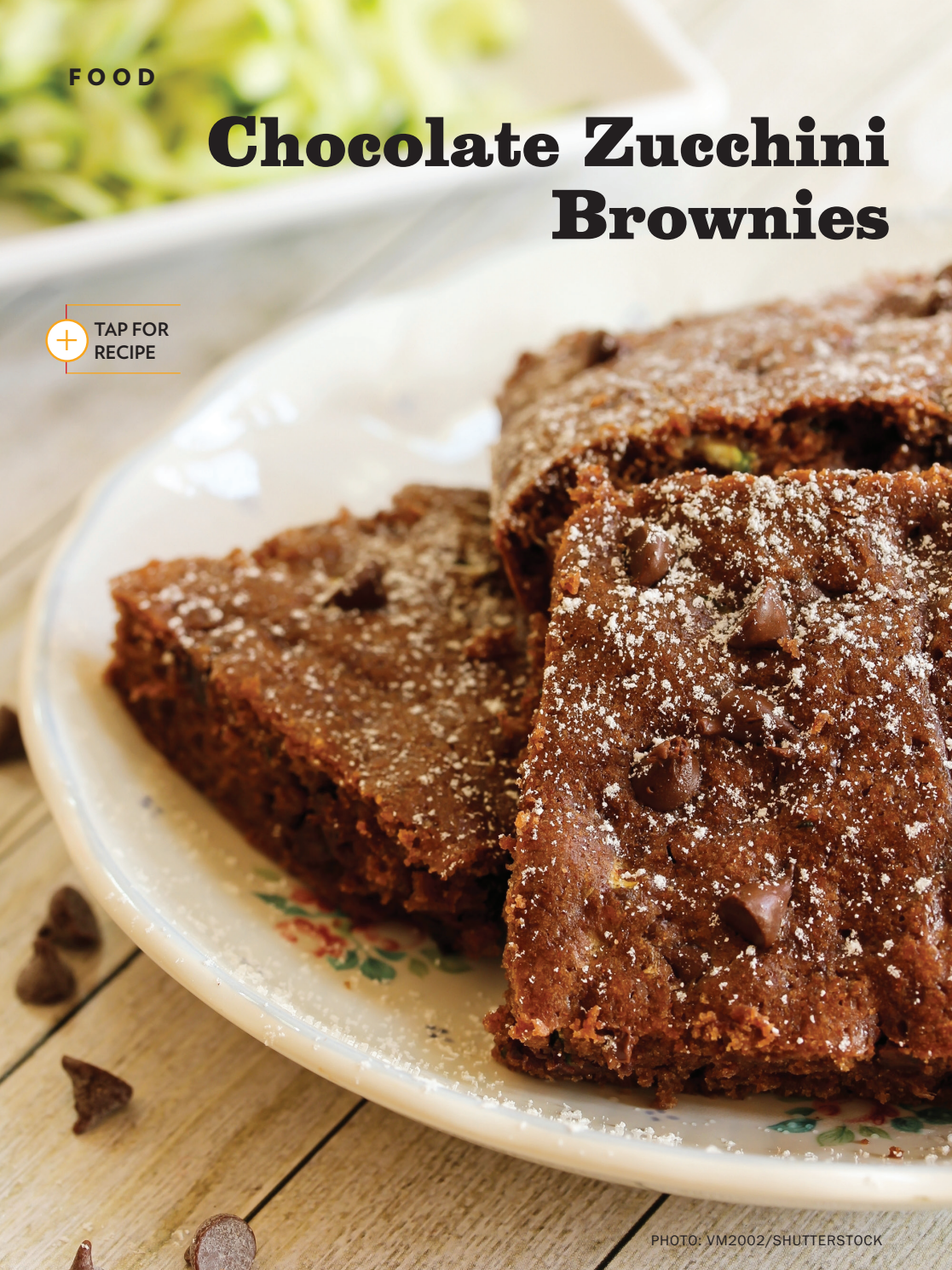


SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

FOOD

Chocolate Zucchini Brownies

+ TAP FOR RECIPE



 SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

CHOCOLATE ZUCCHINI BROWNIES

- 1-3/4 cups sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk with 1 teaspoon lemon juice added to sour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 cups shredded zucchini
- 2/3 cup chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease and flour a 13x9-inch baking pan.

In a bowl, cream together sugar, butter, and oil. Add eggs, sour milk, and vanilla and beat until well blended.

In another bowl, sift the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, and cloves. Stir in zucchini. Add to egg mixture and stir until well blended. Spread batter into prepared pan and sprinkle with chocolate chips. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Makes 20 brownies.

Grow Your Best Garden Ever!

Colorful and comprehensive, our 2017 *Garden Guide* covers it all—from veggies, fruit, and herbs to flowers and unique landscaping.

On sale now!

INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

A little know-how goes a long way. Learn to grow . . .

- tasty tiny tomatoes
- a picklers' paradise
- small-space fruit trees
- unusual veggies
- easy herbs

OFFBEAT ORNAMENTALS

Go out on a limb and try growing something different, such as . . .

- domesticated wildflowers
- bygone-era biennials

IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

There's a world of wonder right outside your door. With the right plants and tools, you can . . .

- attract pollinating bumblebees
- weave a wattle fence
- build a Hügelkultur bed

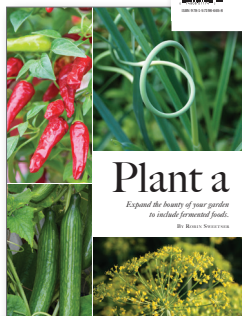
CALLING ALL COOKS!

Check out our great dishes straight from the garden . . .

- nasturtium salad
- kraut and kimchi
- winning apple recipes

PLUS:

Hot new trends, amazing garden apps, watering wisdom, reader Q&As, composting, new products, and much more!



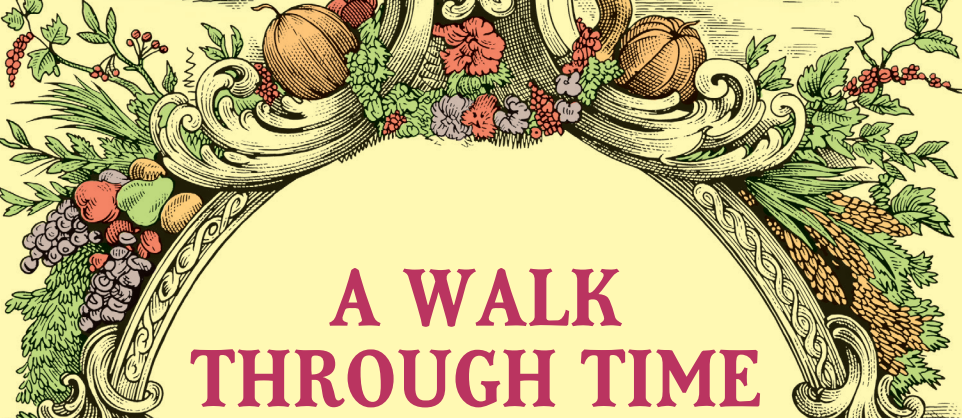
LEARN MORE

ANNIVERSARY

A WALK THROUGH TIME

Tales of and from this Almanac as we celebrate its 225th anniversary

From the beginning, this Almanac has been calculated on astronomy, not astrology. But just as we include a few pages of astrology in each edition, so too did founder Robert B. Thomas include an annual table designating "The Names and Characters of the Signs of the Zodiac." After each sign is a body part: Virgo, belly;



Sagittarius, thighs; Capricorn, knees, and so forth.

Early Almanac readers were very familiar with “The Man of Signs.” Before someone had a diseased arm bled, for instance, he or she wanted to be very sure that the Moon was located in Gemini (Gemini is in charge of the arms). Along with the signs, or separate from them, the phases of the Moon were used to determine the most propitious times for a variety of activities: weaning a baby, planting certain vegetables, quitting smoking, making sauerkraut—you name it.

Just as in Thomas’s time, Almanac readers today use both our



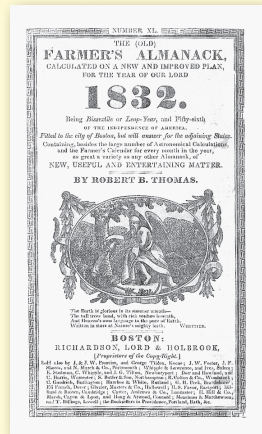
astronomical data and astrological tables to determine the timing of a variety of events. The astrological “Best Days” (to do things) advice continues to be one of the most popular features and traditional practices of the Almanac.

“OLD” AND NOT

In the 1832 edition, founder Robert B. Thomas inserts the word “Old” into the title of his annual. After all, the Almanac was almost

40 and, back then, that was *old*.

Two years later, under that mantle, Thomas reaffirms his no-nonsense approach to life. In the 1834 issue are 10 illustrated pages designed to convince readers to stop drinking hard liquor, a dominant Almanac theme in the years to come. “Never drink ardent spirit,” the article concludes, “even temporarily; for all

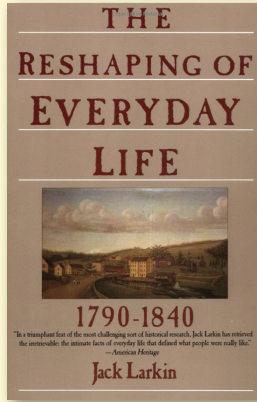


EARLY ALMANAC READERS WERE VERY FAMILIAR WITH “THE MAN OF SIGNS.”

drunkards were once temperate drinkers.” Perhaps there’s a smidgen of irony in the fact that not many pages removed from that advice is a chart indicating the distances “from one established tavern to another.”

He also actually comes out against good old-fashioned barn raisings and husking bees (social gatherings, common at the time, for the purpose of husking corn). “If you love fun and frolic and waste and slovenliness more than economy and profit,” he writes, “then make a husking.”

But Thomas may have been on to something: According to historian



Jack Larkin (in his book *The Reshaping of Everyday Life—1790–1840*), New England farmers of this time took the Almanac’s advice very seriously. The husking done at husking bees was not “clean,” and much of the work had to be redone after the party. Plus, barn raisings involved lots of rum and hard cider. Bad stuff. So, increasingly influenced by the scoldings of the

Almanac, gatherings combining socializing and work began to decline.

After the 1835 edition, Thomas inexplicably drops the word “Old”; the publication is simply *The Farmer’s Almanac* again (until 1848, 2 years after Thomas’s death).

Four years prior to his final (1846) edition, Thomas writes several compact pages about the previous 50 years of America and his Almanac, already the oldest continuously published periodical in the country. It seems as though he’s even become a little sentimental in his old age. He titles the piece “Fifty Years Ago” and celebrates his publication’s longevity and the changes since that time:

**NEW ENGLAND FARMERS OF THIS TIME TOOK
THE ALMANAC’S ADVICE VERY SERIOUSLY.**

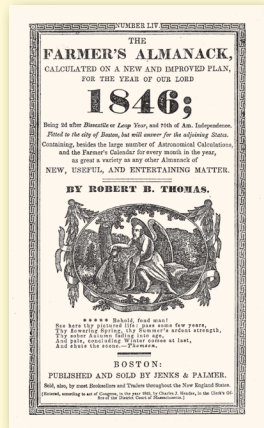
... Fifty years ago, the worthy fathers and mothers of the present generation were willing to dress in their own homespun . . . [Now] the waterfall and steam engine, the improved spindles and other machines manufacture millions of yards . . . [Though] we may not reach the 100th number of The Old Farmer's Almanac, yet we shall endeavor to improve as we progress . . . and hope our Patrons will not be disposed to cut our acquaintance as a modern dandy would a rusty cousin from the backwoods. Because we look, as we pride ourselves in looking, a little old-fashioned, a little too independent to hang our dress for each "new-fangled notion"—a little t'other side of fifty.

In a sign of the times, the

advertisements in the 1835 issue expanded to include more than just Bibles, psalm books, primers, schoolbooks, and stationery, all of which had been included—off and on—from the beginning. Now, offerings include steel pens and pen holders, slates, toothpowder, ink, and “camel’s hair” pencils, as well as maps of all 30 states in the Union.

END OF ONE ERA

Robert B. Thomas's last edition is not much different from his first. His last weather forecast covers December 26–31, 1846. “Very fine for the season,” it reads. To the end, he was not one to venture way out on a limb. Next to the final weather forecasts



are these prophetic words: “So, then, my friends, with whom I have associated for many a year, I sincerely bid you a cheerful *good-bye*.”

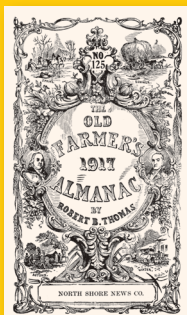
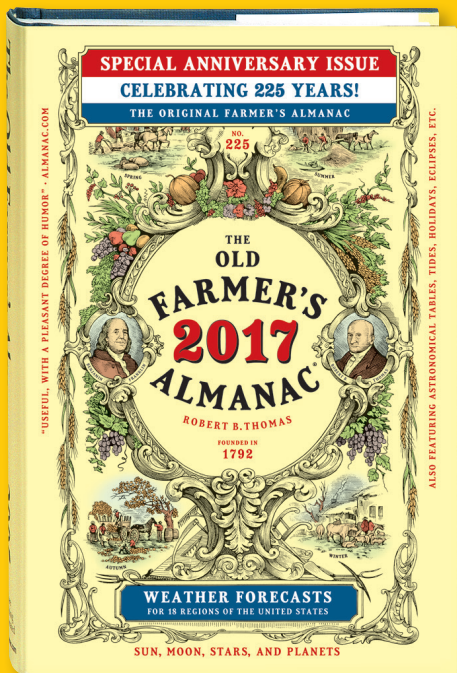
Thomas died of typhus in his home on May 19, 1846, 9 years before his wife, Hannah. Much of his estate went to the sons of his then deceased brother, Aaron.

—From *The Best of The Old Farmer's Almanac* by Judson Hale, the Almanac's editor in chief from 1971 to 2001 and a contributing editor for many years before and after that period.

To be continued . . .

“I SINCERELY BID YOU A CHEERFUL GOOD-BYE.”

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

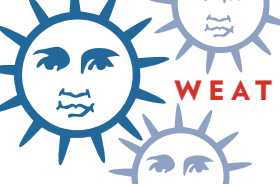


Celebrating 225 Years! THE 2017 OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

GET 3 FREE GIFTS with purchase.

\$15.95 | Printed in the USA

[LEARN MORE](#)



WEATHER FORECASTS

WITH DEW BEFORE MIDNIGHT,
THE NEXT DAY WILL SURE BE BRIGHT.

HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

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

Over the years, we have refined and enhanced this formula with state-of-the-art technology and modern scientific calculations. We employ three scientific disciplines to make our long-range predictions: solar science, the study of sunspots and other solar activity; climatology, the study of prevailing weather patterns; and meteorology, the study of the atmosphere. We predict weather trends and events by comparing solar patterns and historical weather conditions with current solar activity.

Our forecasts emphasize temperature and precipitation deviations from averages, or normals. These are based on 30-year statistical averages prepared by government meteorological agencies and updated every 10 years. Most-recent tabulations span the period 1981 through 2010.

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

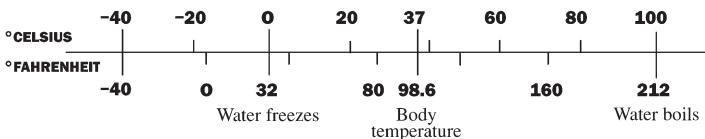


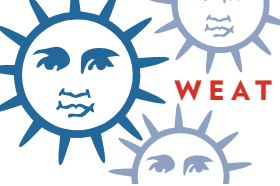
TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE

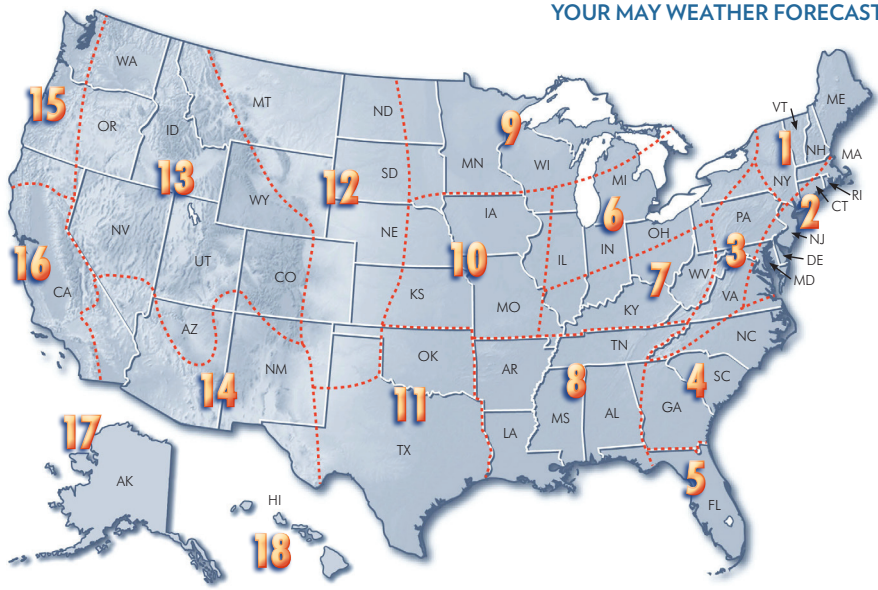




WEATHER FORECASTS

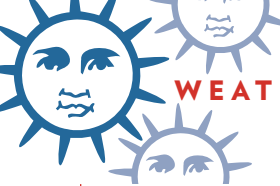
MAP OF U.S. WEATHER REGIONS

CHECK YOUR REGION TO SEE YOUR MAY WEATHER FORECAST.



MAP OF CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS





WEATHER FORECASTS

WITH DEW BEFORE MIDNIGHT,
THE NEXT DAY WILL SURE BE BRIGHT.

U.S. FORECASTS MAY 2017

REGION 1: **NORTHEAST**

Temp. 57° (2° above avg.); precip. 4" (0.5" above avg.). 1–6 A few showers, cool. 7–11 T-storms, warm. 12–23 Sunny, warm. 24–31 T-storms, turning cool.

REGION 2: **ATLANTIC CORRIDOR**

Temp. 60.5° (1.5° below avg.); precip. 5" (2" above avg.). 1–4 Rainy periods, cool. 5–6 Sunny, warm. 7–13 Rainy periods, cool. 14–22 Sunny; warm, then cooler. 23–31 Scattered t-storms, warm.

REGION 3: **APPALACHIANS**

Temp. 60° (avg.); precip. 5" (1" above avg.). 1–6 Showers, then sunny, cool. 7–14 A few showers, warm. 15–22 Sunny, warm. 23–26 T-storms, then sunny, cool. 27–31 Sunny, warm.

REGION 4: **SOUTHEAST**

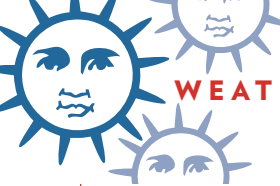
Temp. 69° (2° below avg.); precip. 4.5" (avg. north, 2" above south). 1–5 T-storms, then sunny, cool. 6–11 Scattered t-storms, cool. 12–22 A few t-storms, cool. 23–31 T-storms, then sunny, cool.

REGION 5: **FLORIDA**

Temp. 76° (1° below avg.); precip. 7" (3" above avg.). 1–10 Scattered t-storms, warm. 11–14 Tropical storm threat. 15–22 A few t-storms, cool. 23–29 Sunny north, t-storms south; cool. 30–31 Sunny.

REGION 6: **LOWER LAKES**

Temp. 61° (3° above avg.); precip. 2" (1.5" below avg.). 1–5 T-storms, then sunny. 6–8 T-storms. 9–21 Sunny, warm. 22–25 T-storms, cool. 26–27 Sunny, warm. 28–31 T-storms, then sunny, cool.



WEATHER FORECASTS

REGION 7: OHIO VALLEY

Temp. 63° (1° above avg. east, 1° below west); precip. 3.5" (2" below avg. east, 2" above west). 1–5 Rain, then sunny, cool. 6–10 Rainy periods; warm, then cool. 11–21 Sunny, warm. 22–26 T-storms, then sunny, cool. 27–31 Scattered t-storms.

REGION 8: DEEP SOUTH

Temp. 71° (1° above avg. north, 1° below south); precip. 3" (2" below avg.). 1–3 Sunny, cool. 4–12 Scattered t-storms, cool. 13–23 Isolated t-storms, warm. 24–31 Sunny; cool, then hot.

REGION 9: UPPER MIDWEST

Temp. 61° (6° above avg.); precip. 2.5" (1" below avg. east, avg. west). 1–3 Sunny, cool. 4–13 Showers, then sunny, turning hot. 14–21 Sunny, hot east; a few t-storms, warm west. 22–25 T-storms, cool. 26–31 Sunny, warm.

REGION 10: HEARTLAND

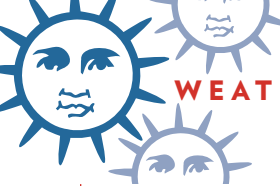
Temp. 67° (3° above avg.); precip. 2.5" (2" below avg.). 1–7 Scattered t-storms, cool. 8–15 Sunny, warm. 16–22 A few t-storms, warm. 23–27 Sunny, turning hot. 28–31 Scattered t-storms, warm.

REGION 11: TEXAS-OKLAHOMA

Temp. 72.5° (1° above avg. north, 2° below south); precip. 3" (2" below avg.). 1–7 Scattered t-storms, turning cool. 8–14 Sunny, warm. 15–22 A few t-storms north, sunny south; warm. 23–31 Sunny, turning hot north; a few t-storms south.

REGION 12: HIGH PLAINS

Temp. 61° (3° above avg.); precip. 2.5" (avg.). 1–5 Showers, cool. 6–10 Sunny, turning warm. 11–19 Rainy, cool north; sunny, warm south. 20–23 Sunny north, showers south; cool. 24–31 Isolated t-storms, warm.



WEATHER FORECASTS

REGION 13: INTERMOUNTAIN

Temp. 60° (3° above avg.); precip. 1" (avg.). 1–8 Showers, then sunny, warm. 9–18 A few showers, then sunny, cool. 19–25 Sunny, warm. 26–31 Scattered showers; warm north, cool south.

REGION 14: DESERT SOUTHWEST

Temp. 73° (1° below avg.); precip. 1" (0.5" above avg.). 1–6 Sunny, nice. 7–10 Scattered t-storms, cool east; sunny, warm west. 11–17 T-storms, then sunny, cool. 18–22 Sunny, warm. 23–31 Scattered t-storms, turning cool.

REGION 15: PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Temp. 58° (3° above avg.); precip. 1.5" (0.5" below avg.). 1–7 Showers, then sunny, warm. 8–15 Rainy periods, cool. 16–21 Sunny, turning hot. 22–31 Sunny, warm.

REGION 16: PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

Temp. 65.5° (2° above avg.); precip. 0.7" (0.2" above avg.). 1–8 Sunny, turning hot inland; A.M. clouds, P.M. sun coast. 9–13 Scattered showers, cool. 14–23 Sunny, turning hot inland; A.M. clouds and sprinkles, P.M. sun coast. 24–28 Sunny, warm. 29–31 Isolated showers, warm.

REGION 17: ALASKA

Temp. 20° N, 46° EW (1° below avg.); precip. 0.6" N, 3" S (avg.). 1–2 Sunny, mild. 3–10 Flurries north, sunny C+S; mild. 11–14 Showers, cool. 15–20 Sunny, warm. 21–31 Flurries and sprinkles N, a few showers C+S; cool.

KEY: , Aleutians (A), central (C), elsewhere (EW), north (N), Panhandle (P), south (S), south-central (SC), west-central (WC),

REGION 18: HAWAII

Temp. 77.5° (0.5° above avg.); precip. 0.3" (0.4" below avg.). 1–10 A few showers E, isolated showers C+W; warm. 11–15 Showers, cool E; sunny, warm C+W. 16–26 A few showers, warm. 27–31 Scattered showers, cool.

KEY: east (E), central (C), west (W)



CANADIAN WEATHER FORECASTS

FLOWERS ARE WORDS WHICH EVEN A BABE MAY UNDERSTAND.

—ARTHUR CLEVELAND COXE, AMERICAN POET (1818-1896)

CANADIAN FORECASTS MAY 2017

REGION 1: ATLANTIC CANADA

Temp. 8.5°C (1°C above avg.); precip. 140mm (20mm above avg.). 1–6 Snowy periods east, a few showers west; cool. 7–9 Sunny, nice. 10–15 Rainy periods, warm. 16–25 Showers, cool. 26–31 Rainy periods.

REGION 2: SOUTHERN QUEBEC

Temp. 13.5°C (1°C above avg.); precip. 45mm (20mm below avg.). 1–4 Sunny, cool. 5–12 Scattered showers, turning warm. 13–23 Sunny, warm. 24–31 A few showers, cool.

RÉGION 2: QUÉBEC DU SUD

Temp. 13,5°C (1°C au-dessus de la moy.); précip. 45mm (20mm en-dessous de la moy.). 1–4 Ensoleillé, frais. 5–12 Averses éparses, devenant chaud. 13–23 Ensoleillé, chaud. 24–31 Quelques averses, frais.

REGION 3: SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Temp. 13.5°C (1°C above avg.); precip. 25mm (40mm below avg.). 1–11 A few showers, cool, then warm. 12–21 Sunny, warm. 22–31 Showers, cool, then warm.

REGION 4: THE PRAIRIES

Temp. 13°C (3°C above avg.); precip. 30mm (10mm below avg.). 1–4 Sunny, cool. 5–12 A few showers; turning hot east, cool west. 13–20 Scattered showers; cool east, warm west. 21–26 Sunny, turning hot. 27–31 Isolated t-storms; hot east, warm west.



CANADIAN WEATHER FORECASTS

REGION 5: SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

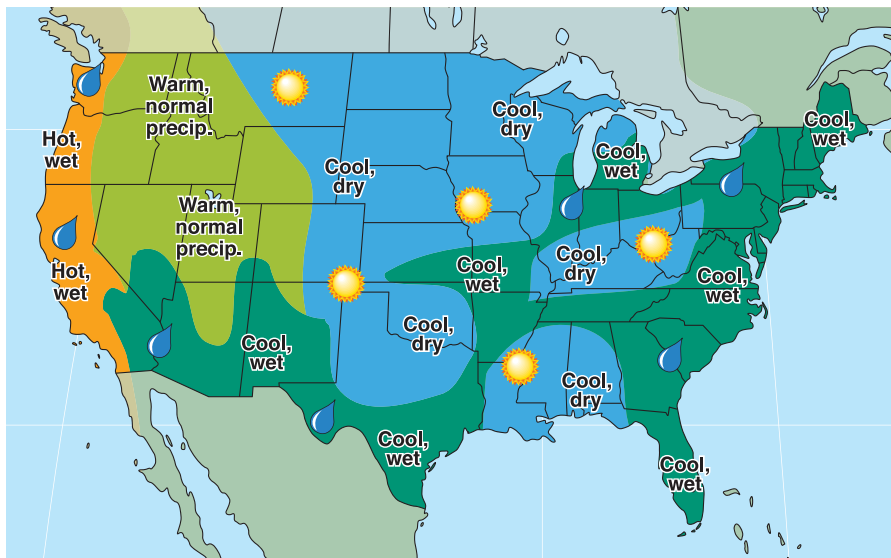
Temp. 12°C (1°C above avg.); precip. 20mm (30mm below avg.). 1–3 A few showers, cool. 4–8 Sunny, warm. 9–17 Scattered showers, mild. 18–28 Sunny, turning warm. 29–31 Showers, warm.

REGION 6: YUKON

Temp. 6°C (1°C below avg.); precip. 20mm (10mm below avg.). 1–3 Sunny, warm. 4–18 Scattered showers and flurries, cool. 19–25 Isolated showers, warm. 26–31 Sunny, cool.

REGION 7: NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Temp. 2°C (1°C below avg.); precip. 4mm (10mm below avg.). 1–6 Snow showers, cold north; sunny, mild south. 7–12 Flurries north, showers south; cool. 13–15 Sunny; cold north, warm south. 16–23 Flurries, seasonable north; sunny, warm south. 24–31 Sunny, mild.

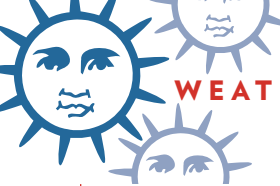


LET'S RECAP SPRING AND SAY HELLO TO SUMMER

With winter behind us, let's look ahead to see our most likely weather over the coming spring and summer.

The key to our upcoming weather is that Solar Cycle 24 is now well into its declining phase after reaching double peaks in late 2011 and early 2014. Despite having two maxima, this cycle is the smallest in more than 100 years; solar activity will continue to decline from these low peaks toward its expected minima in early 2019. With the current neutral ENSO (El Niño–Southern Oscillation) conditions trending toward a weak El Niño by autumn, we expect a normal to above-normal Atlantic hurricane season.

We have predicted spring to be warmer than normal in most of the country, with the exception of the Northeast and the Desert Southwest, where we forecast cooler-than-normal temperatures. As for spring precipitation, we predicted below-normal rainfall from the Upper Midwest southward to the Deep South and in the Pacific Northwest, Intermountain, and Lower Lakes regions. Precipitation is forecast to be above normal in most other areas.



WEATHER UPDATE

Summer temperatures will be above normal in the Pacific and Intermountain states, but below normal elsewhere. Rainfall will be below normal in much of the Ohio Valley, Deep South, Upper Midwest, Heartland, and High Plains and in Oklahoma and northern Texas. It will be near or above normal elsewhere.

Hurricane season will be more active along the Atlantic seaboard than along the Gulf coast. The best chances for a major hurricane strike are in mid-June from Florida to New England and late August and early September from Florida to North Carolina.

In an upcoming issue, we'll let you know more about the autumn and all-important winter predictions.

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



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC

House Buying for Dummies

What the words really mean . . .



“Doll house”: really cramped

“Comfortable”: needs repairs

“Rustic”: badly needs repairs

“Rural setting”: road is bad

“Panoramic view”: just try to get up the drive in winter

“Ideal for entertaining”: you can’t afford it

“Executive”: you really, really can’t afford it

“Immediate occupancy”: has been

hard to sell

“Reduced to sell”: price is still outrageous

“Gleaming”: we really had to work to get this ready for sale

“Decorator’s choice”: you’ll hate the colors

“All-electric kitchen”: has garbage disposal

“Secluded lot”: bushes are way overgrown

“Low taxes”: neighborhood nearly ready for urban renewal

“3 to 4 bedrooms”: if you can find a place to eat in the kitchen

“Centrally located”: you’ll have fun keeping watch on the bar next door

“Modern”: has indoor bathroom

“Chateau-like”: mansard roof leaks

“Baronial living room”: fireplace is too big to draw properly

“Victorian elegance”: the heating bills are interesting

“Unbelievable”: unbelievable



EPIC EPIGRAPHS

Here lies a poor woman,
 Who always was tired;
 She lived in a house
 Where help was not hired.
 Her last words on Earth were,
 “Dear friends, I am going
 Where washing ain’t done,
 Nor sweeping nor sewing.
 But everything there
 Is exact to my wishes,
 For where they don’t eat,
 There’s no washing dishes.
 Don’t mourn for me now,
 Don’t mourn for me never.
 I’m going to do nothing
 For ever and ever.”

—Penobscot, Maine

Beneath this stone, a lump of clay,
 Lies Uncle Peter Daniels,
 Who too early in the month of May,
 Took off his winter flannels.

—Medway, Mass.

Beneath these stones repose the
 bones of Theodosius Grimm;
 He took his beer from year to year
 and then the bier took him.

—Wakefield, Mass.

Beneath these stones do lie,
 Back to back, my wife and I!
 When the last trumpet the air shall fill,
 If she gets up, I’ll just lie still.

—Sargentville, Maine



19TH-CENTURY NONSENSE:

COFFEE AND WHINE

When an old gentleman drinking
 coffee at breakfast began to
 grumble most heartily, his son
 asked him the reason.

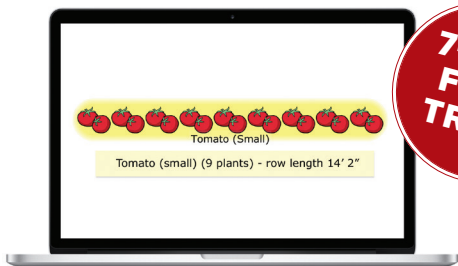
“At the quantity of grounds in my
 cup, boy,” replied the old man.

“Ah,” said the son, “then you
 certainly have many grounds for
 complaint.”

Plan Your BEST Garden

Good luck is the result of good planning.

And we've done the homework for you! Described as “the world’s best garden planning software,” the *Almanac Garden Planner* helps you create the best layout for your plant beds right on your computer!

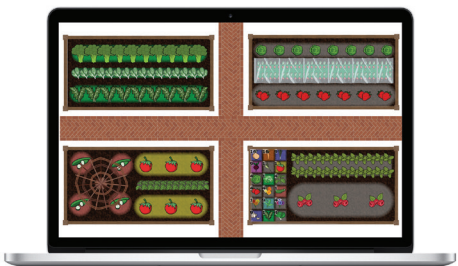


**7-DAY
FREE
TRIAL!**

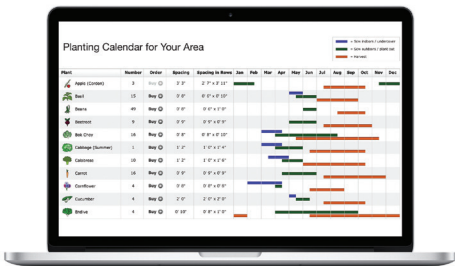


- shows how many plants to set in a space, plus when to sow, plant, and harvest

- contains 250 vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers



- works for raised beds, square-foot gardens, and traditional rows



- customizes planting dates to YOUR location, based on local weather history

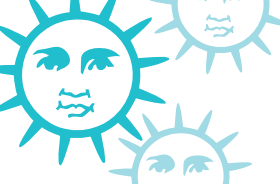
PLUS:

- keeps track of your planting to ensure proper rotation every year
- emails you twice a month, with details on which of your plants you need to sow now

**GET GROWING NOW: USE THE GARDEN PLANNER
FREE FOR 7 DAYS!**

The no-obligation 7-day trial gives you access to all the features of the software for one garden plan. If you like the *Almanac Garden Planner*, subscribe for only **\$29 per year**. Or subscribe anytime—the *Planner* will remember your plot!

PLAN TODAY AND PLANT TOMORROW! SIGN UP AT ALMANAC.COM/GARDENPLANNER



WHAT'S NEXT



GARDENING

Learn the Language of Flowers



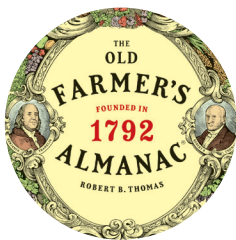
CALENDAR

Full Strawberry Moon, birthstone pearl, first public pay phone, Pulitzer prizes, 1793 Almanac tidbits



LIVING NATURALLY

Oats for Itch Relief



ANNIVERSARY

225 Years of Almanac Editors (all 13 of them)



FOOD

Super-delish picnic recipes



ASTROLOGY

Gardening by the Moon's Sign

Plus: Weather Update • U.S. and Canadian Weather Forecasts • Explore with our Sky Map • Best Days to Do Things • Humor • and much more in the June *EXTRA!*

CELEBRATING THE ALMANAC'S 225TH YEAR!