

EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

THANKSGIVING RECIPES

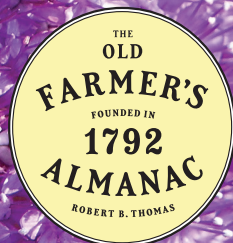
GROW FRESH SALADS ALL WINTER

WHY MY GREAT-UNCLE GAVE UP THE MINISTRY

ONIONS FOR THE FLOWER BED



NOVEMBER 2017



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FEATURES

GARDENING

Onions for the Flower Bed

FOOD

Thanksgiving Recipes

LIVING NATURALLY

Grow Fresh Salads All Winter

ANNIVERSARY

Why My Great-Uncle Gave Up the Ministry

DEPARTMENTS

CALENDAR

Holidays, History, and Folklore for November



ASTROLOGY

Best Days to Do Things

Gardening by the Moon's Sign

ASTRONOMY

Sky Map for November

HOT PRODUCTS

Gifts Galore!

WEATHER FORECASTS

How We Make Our Predictions

November 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 December issue!



THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

HOLIDAYS, HISTORY, AND FOLKLORE



NOVEMBER'S BIRTHSTONE: TOPAZ OR CITRINE

- Topaz was once the name for any yellow gem; today, it describes the mineral aluminum fluoro-hydroxy silicate, the hardest of all silicate minerals. Topaz is colorless, but impurities turn it almost any hue, with yellow to amber being the traditional tones. Blue topaz is rare in nature; those available for sale commonly have been treated. Imperial topaz, a reddish orange gem with pink undertones, is the most valuable form.

 TAP FOR MORE ON TOPAZ AND CITRINE


 TAP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NOVEMBER'S BIRTHSTONE

Moon View

November's full Moon, the **Full Beaver Moon**, occurs on the 4th, at 1:23 A.M. EDT.



 TAP FOR MORE MOON PHASES

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT THE FULL BEAVER MOON

Folklore Fun

A heavy November snow will last until April.

ALMANAC 225TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE

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

*The summer's past!—and
all its bloom
Is giving way to winter's
gloom;
The flow'ry fields have lost
their pride,
And smiling pleasure's
turn'd aside.*

• Nov. 19–21: *Clouds up for a storm of snow or rain.*

• Nov. 25: N.York eva. [evacuated by British troops] 1783.

• Thrash your grain of all sorts, as it will never thrash better.



TOPAZ AND CITRINE TRIVIA

- The ancient Greeks believed that topaz could make a wearer invisible. The gem was also thought to reduce fever and calm anger, as well as to relieve asthma, improve vision, and prevent premature death. A symbol of honor and strength, topaz was also believed to bring longevity and wisdom.

- Citrine, an alternate November birthstone, is a form of pale yellow to dark amber quartz, with its yellow tones coming from iron. Natural citrines are rare; most for sale are actually amethyst or smoky quartz that has been heat-treated to produce the yellow hue, turning the gem to citrine. The gemstone is thought to offer the same benefits as topaz, including the ability to calm, heal, encourage prosperity, and protect against snake venom. Citrine, often confused with topaz, is sometimes called “Madeira topaz.”

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



NOVEMBER 11: FAREWELLS

On this day in 1917, Lili'uokalani, the Kingdom of Hawaii's last reigning monarch, died at age 79. Born as Lydia Lili'u Loloku Walania Wewehi Kamaka'eha on September 2, 1838, in Honolulu, O'ahu, she had ties to royalty. When on January 29, 1891, news arrived that her older brother, Kalakaua, the reigning monarch, had died 9 days earlier while visiting California, Lili'uokalani became the kingdom's first and only queen.

Her reign came at a time of turbulence and transition, when Americans, English, and other Europeans held strong influence over the Hawaiian government and its subjects. Some Hawaiians believed that the monarchy should be overthrown and in fact had forced her predecessor, on pain of death, to sign a document—nicknamed the Bayonet Constitution—that stripped away much of the monarch's power. When during her reign Queen Lili'uokalani attempted to rewrite the constitution to restore that power and certain rights of her native subjects, it led to the government's overthrow on January 17, 1893.

TAP TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
**QUEEN
LILI'UOKALANI**

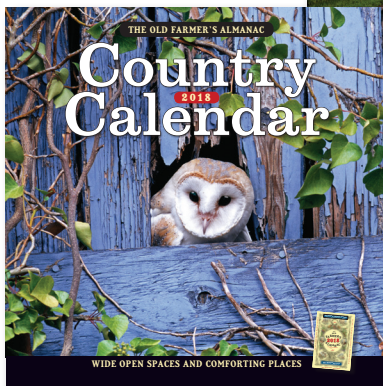
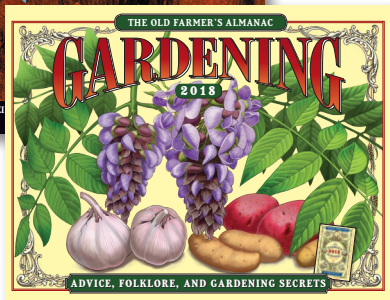
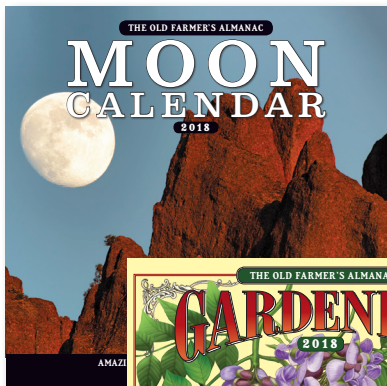


DID YOU KNOW?

Queen Lili'uokalani was highly regarded for her writing and musical talents. Perhaps her most famous work is the 1878 song *Aloha 'Oe*, or “Farewell to Thee.” Originally written as a parting of lovers, it has come to represent farewells in general, and also was considered a lament for the loss of Hawaii’s independence when it became annexed to the United States. *Aloha 'Oe* is now Hawaii’s unofficial anthem and a traditional melody for good-byes.

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2018 Old Farmer's Almanac Calendars



JANUARY 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Quick Notes **Birthdays** **In The** **Not To Be**

This is the first of the year, and the best time to start your resolutions. The weather is still cold, but the days are getting longer. The first snow is usually here by the end of the month. The first frost is usually here by the end of the month. The first snow is usually here by the end of the month. The first frost is usually here by the end of the month.

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BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These November 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: 8, 12
 Begin diet to gain weight: 26, 27
 Cut hair to encourage growth: 3, 26, 27
 Cut hair to discourage growth: 14, 15
 Have dental care: 11–13
 Quit smoking: 8, 12
 Wean children: 8, 12

AROUND THE HOUSE

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 7, 8
 End projects: 17
 Start projects: 19

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 21–23
 Go camping: 19, 20
 Go fishing: 1–4, 18–30
 Set posts or pour concrete: 21–23

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 1, 2, 28–30
 Graft or pollinate: 7, 8
 Prune to encourage growth: 1, 2, 28–30
 Prune to discourage growth: 9, 10
 Plant aboveground crops: 26, 27
 Plant belowground crops: 7, 8
 Harvest aboveground crops: 3, 21, 22
 Harvest belowground crops: 11–13

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 16–18
 Castrate animals: 24, 25
 Cut hay: 1, 2, 28–30
 Set eggs: 5, 6
 Slaughter livestock: 16–18
 Wean animals: 8, 12



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the November 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 NOVEMBER

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

TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES



APP EXTRA!
TAP FOR
NOVEMBER
MOON PHASES



MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

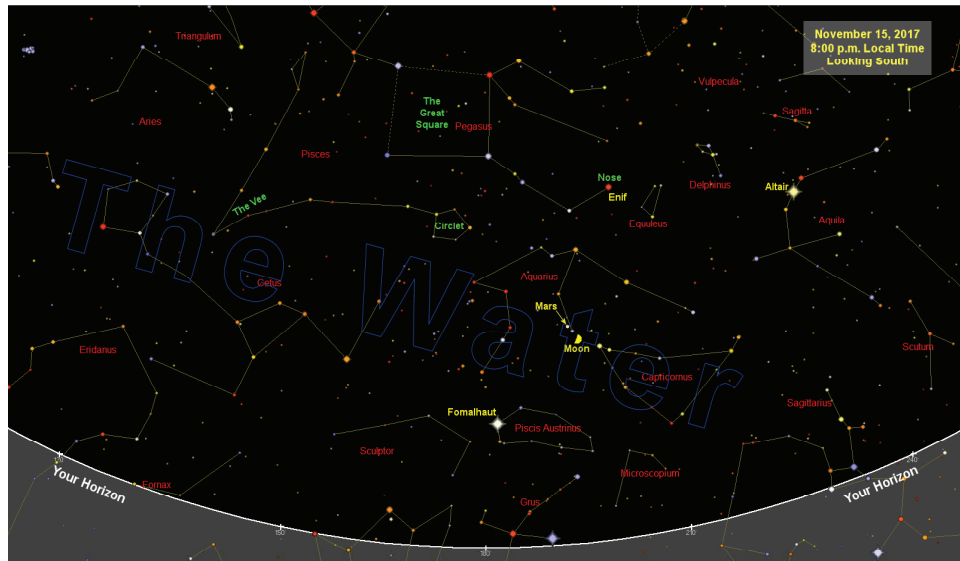
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion retrograde motion.

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 next be retrograde during December 3–23.

—Celeste Longacre



TWO HORSES, THREE FISH, AND ONE HAPPY DOLPHIN

APP EXTRA!

TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
NOVEMBER
SKY MAP

APP EXTRA!

TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES

When you look to the south on November evenings, your view of the sky is dominated by the Water. This region of the night sky is full of constellations both wet and wild. However, in order to get our bearings, our tour of the Water begins with an airborne equine.

High in the south lies Pegasus, the Winged Horse. He's flying upside down from our point of view, but the distinctive Great Square that comprises his body is easy to find. Pegasus's neck and head arc from the lower right corner of the Great Square, ending in the star Enif (Nose). Just off the nose of Pegasus is his offspring, Equuleus, the Foal. No word on whether Equuleus inherited his father's ability to fly!

Now we can dive into the Water. Look immediately below the Great Square for a small pentagon of stars called the



Circllet. It's the head of the first fish on our tour, one of two scaly swimmers that make up the constellation Pisces. From the Circllet, follow a gentle arc of stars to the left until it meets a sparse line of stars coming down from above at the Vee. The line leads upward to the second member of the Pisces twosome. In Greek mythology, the two fish represent Eros and Aphrodite, joined together with ropes where the two lines of stars meet at the Vee. In this way, the two lovers will never be parted from one another.

Starting again at the Great Square, gaze down past the Circllet to the star Fomalhaut. It's by far the brightest star in the otherwise dim constellation Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish and third member of our Sky Map's fishy trio. One translation of Fomalhaut is "the mouth of the southern fish."

Stretched out across this region of sky are several more constellations with watery connections. At lower left flows a large bend of the river Eridanus. Above Eridanus swims sprawling Cetus, the Sea Monster (or Whale).

Above Fomalhaut are the stars of Aquarius, the Water Bearer. Aquarius is often depicted as pouring water from an urn down into Fomalhaut, "the mouth" of Piscis Austrinus. On November 15, the Moon and the planet Mars are near one another in Aquarius. Before and after the 15th, the Moon will be elsewhere, but Mars remains in the vicinity all month long.

Below and to the right of Aquarius is another denizen of the Water: Capricornus, the Sea Goat. This unusual creature with the head of a goat and the tail of a fish has mythological origins dating back more than 4,000 years. It remains a mystery how this group of dim stars became the stuff of legend for many ancient peoples.

The final creature of the celestial sea is not found in the Water itself. Return your attention to the Nose of Pegasus, look past Equuleus, the Foal, and find the little constellation Delphinus, the Dolphin. Despite ranking as one of the smallest constellations, it's one that truly resembles its name. But what's a Dolphin doing up there where the horses frolic? Why, it's doing what dolphins do: leaping out of the Water for the sheer joy of it!

—Jeff DeTray

GIFTS GALORE!

**GIFTS FOR THE
BACKYARD
BEAUTIFIER**

SHOP NOW



**GIFTS FOR THE
DECORATOR**

SHOP NOW

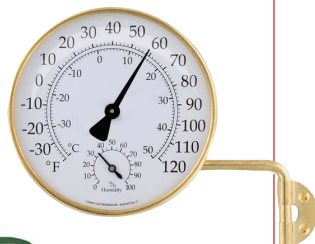


**GIFTS FOR
THE ALMANAC
READER**

SHOP NOW

**GIFTS
FOR THE
WEATHER
BUG**

SHOP NOW



**GIFTS FOR THE
COOK**

SHOP NOW



GARDENING

Onions for the Flower Bed

Plant now for showstopping blooms from spring into summer.

PHOTO: PIXABAY



Eye-catching and easy to grow, ornamental onions, of the genus *Allium*, deserve a place in every garden. The blooms, towering high in the air and waving globes of color at the end of long, slender stalks, make long-lasting cut flowers and can be dried as well. Although their leaves and stems give off an oniony scent when bruised, most allium flowers are sweet-scented.

Deer disdain allium, and rodents are often repelled by their strong flavors. In fact, a ring of alliums might serve to protect other plants from grazers.

Most often, ornamental alliums bloom in rich pinks and purples, but some are creamy white (*A. neapolitanum*), sky blue (*A. caeruleum*), and sunny yellow (*A. moly*). Although most form globes of clustered

flowers, others, such as *A. sicutum*, *A. triquetrum*, and *A. cernuum*, a North American native, droop demurely. Here are some choices to plant for a stunning performance:

Surely the biggest is the aptly called giant onion, *A. giganteum*. Shooting up to 6 feet tall, it tosses huge, round, 6-inch heads of small, lilac-pink florets. ‘Globemaster’, a hybrid, bears deep-violet, 6- to 8-inch, globe-shape flower heads.



Commonly called ornamental garlic, *A. aflatanense* is one of the loveliest species. Dozens of small, star-shaped flowers form a lilac-purple globe, which rises about 10 inches above narrow blue-green leaves. ‘Lucy Ball’ and ‘Purple Sensation’, two *aflatanense* hybrids, are deep, dark purple and naturalize well in the garden.

A. christophii (also called *A. albopilosum*), or

stars of Persia, has a huge flower head consisting of up to 100 individual pinkish-purple flowers that can be 8 to even 10 inches across. It stands 12 to 24 inches tall.

A. moly, the golden onion or lily leek, with its bright-yellow flowers and long-lasting gray-green leaves, blooms profusely, doesn’t mind a bit of shade, and naturalizes well. It’s only about a foot tall—good for a rock garden or in beds

and borders. (*A. flavum* is yellow, too, and taller, with bell-shaped florets.)

Sweet-scented *A. neapolitanum*, aka the bride’s onion, bears pure-white, star-shaped flowers forming loose umbels. It’s about a foot tall and needs full sun but lacks winter hardiness, becoming perennial only

+ TAP FOR CUTTING ADVICE

+ TAP FOR COMPANION PLANTS

CUTTING ADVICE

For indoor arrangements, cut alliums when the flower heads are just one-quarter open. Any faint oniony scent released by cutting the stems will disperse as soon as you put them into water.

—C.V.H.

COMPANION PLANTS

Plant alliums among mounding perennials such as lady's mantle, true geraniums, irises, or sedums. Hostas, silver-leaved artemesias, and peonies also make good companions. These will help to hide the alliums' foliage, which tends to get brown by the time they flower.

—C.V.H.



in Zones 7 and 8. *A. roseum* has much the same form, but its flower heads are pink.

A. azureum, or blue of the heavens, is a true cornflower blue and grows up to 2 feet tall.

A. sphaerocephalon, or drumsticks, varies in color from green to pink and dark red-brown, with flower heads that are distinctly percussive-looking and fragrant. They grow to 2 feet tall and naturalize easily in Zones 4 to 10.

The best allium to grow in pots is *A. karataviense*. Although only 8 to 10 inches tall, it has 4-inch, slightly scented blossoms. It usually flowers in pink and pale lilac shades. —*Cynthia Van Hazinga*

GROUND RULES

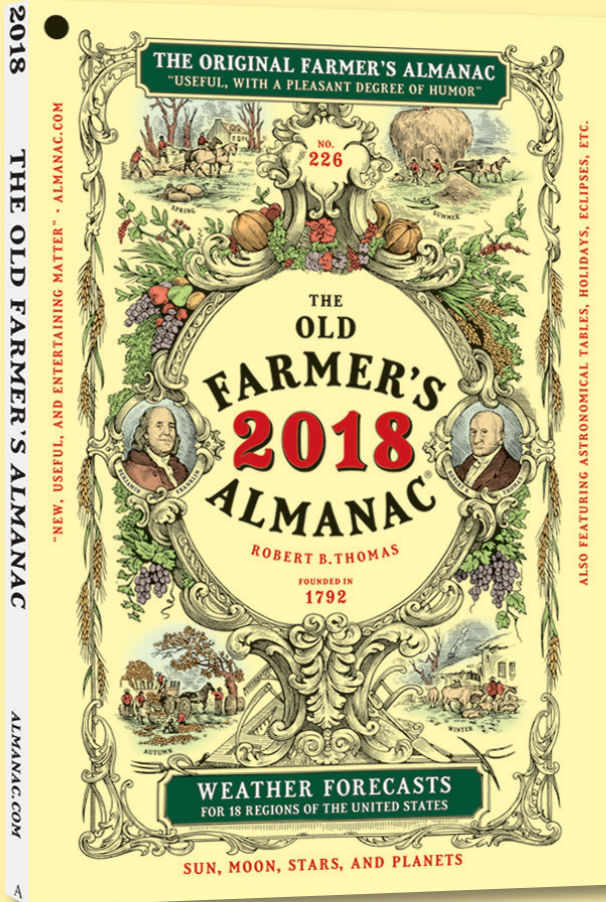
All alliums like rich, well-drained soil and prefer a sunny site, although many species will tolerate shade. Most will naturalize in Zones 4 to 8, and they bloom on a most timely basis, in May or June or even July, between the carnival of spring bloom and the full flowering of summer.

Fall is the best time to plant them. Set all but the largest bulbs 4 inches deep; set the giants 8 inches deep—measured from the base of the bulb.

Spread alliums throughout the garden in clusters—standing alone, they tend to look odd. The best effect is gained by planting a clump of bulbs—three to five spaced well apart for large alliums or a group of 10 to 15 for smaller species.

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THE 2018 OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC



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A collage of Thanksgiving dishes. In the foreground, a white plate holds a slice of roasted turkey with golden-brown skin, a portion of stuffing garnished with a rosemary sprig, and a pat of butter. To the left, a white scalloped-edge bowl is filled with bright red cranberry sauce. In the background, a white bowl contains rice with green herbs, and another bowl shows more stuffing with a rosemary garnish. The dishes are arranged on a textured, light-colored surface.

FOOD

Thanksgiving Recipes

The turkey may be the centerpiece of the Thanksgiving meal, but it's the mix of delicious sides and dessert that make it memorable. Here are three scrumptious ideas for your table.

PHOTO: BRENT HOFACKER/SHUTTERSTOCK

Fall Harvest Squash Rolls

 TAP FOR
RECIPE



 SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

FALL HARVEST SQUASH ROLLS

- 4 tablespoons active dry yeast
- 1 cup lukewarm (105° to 115°F) water
- 1-1/3 cups vegetable shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups cooked and mashed winter squash
- 2 cups warm milk
- 8 cups all-purpose flour, plus more as needed
- 2 teaspoons salt

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Set aside until foamy.

In a bowl, cream shortening with sugar. Beat in eggs. Add squash and mix until blended. Add warm milk and yeast mixture. Slowly add flour and salt. Continue to mix until dough pulls away from side of bowl. Add flour as needed to make a soft dough, being careful not to add too much. Let dough rise, covered, until doubled in size. Punch down, cover, then let rise again until doubled.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease two 9-inch cake pans. Divide dough into four equal pieces, then divide each quarter into 12 pieces. Shape each piece into a ball. Place balls in a single layer, touching, in prepared pans. Cover and let rise until doubled. Bake for 20 minutes, or until lightly browned. Remove from pans and set aside to cool.

Makes 4 dozen rolls.

FOOD

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes



 TAP FOR
RECIPE



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

ROASTED GARLIC MASHED POTATOES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 large heads garlic | 6 tablespoons (3/4 stick) unsalted butter, in pieces, softened |
| 1 tablespoon olive oil | 1/4 cup sour cream, at room temperature |
| 4 large baking potatoes, peeled and cut into coarse chunks | freshly ground black pepper, to taste |
| 2-1/2 teaspoons salt, divided | 2 to 3 tablespoons finely grated Parmesan cheese (optional) |
| 1/2 to 2/3 cup warm half-and-half or milk | |

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Rub off the papery outer skin of the garlic. Slice off the upper third of each head, exposing the cloves. Stand heads on a square piece of aluminum foil and drizzle with olive oil. Wrap foil around garlic and bake for 50 to 60 minutes.

Remove garlic from foil and cool for 15 minutes. Squeeze out the soft garlic in the cloves into a small bowl and mash well with a fork.

Put potatoes into a large pot and add enough water to cover by about 2 inches. Bring to a boil, add 2 teaspoons salt, and cook, uncovered, for 15 to 20 minutes, or until tender but not falling apart. Drain and return potatoes to the pot. Shake the pot gently several times, letting the heat of the pan dry up any moisture clinging to the potatoes. Add half-and-half, butter, mashed garlic, and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Using a hand masher or fork, mash potatoes, leaving them a little lumpy.

Add sour cream, pepper, and Parmesan (if using) and mash to blend.

Makes 6 or more servings.

 TAP FOR
RECIPE

Caramel Apple Crumb Pie

CARAMEL APPLE CRUMB PIE

your favorite piecrust

TOPPING:

3/4 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup old-fashioned rolled oats

1/2 cup packed light-brown sugar

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon salt

6 tablespoons (3/4 stick) cold
unsalted butter, cut into 1/4-inch
pieces

FILLING:

8 cups peeled, cored, and sliced apples

1/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar,
divided

1 tablespoon lemon juice

2 tablespoons cornstarch

1/8 teaspoon salt

CARAMEL SAUCE:

1/2 cup heavy or whipping cream

1/3 cup packed light-brown sugar

2 tablespoons (1/4 stick) unsalted
butter, in pieces

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/2 cup chopped pecans

Roll pie pastry into a 13-inch circle and line a 9-1/2-inch deep-dish pie plate with it. Pinch overhanging pastry into an upstanding rim. Refrigerate for 15 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375°F.

For topping: Combine flour, oats, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt in a food processor. Pulse several times to mix. Scatter butter pieces over the mixture. Pulse to a sandlike consistency. Transfer to a bowl and rub well with your fingers until texture is uniform. Refrigerate.

For filling: In a large bowl, combine apples, 1/3 cup sugar, and lemon juice. Set aside for 10 minutes.

In a small bowl, combine cornstarch and salt with remaining sugar and mix to blend. Add mixture to fruit and stir. Pour filling into chilled piecrust.

Bake on center oven rack for 35 minutes. Remove pie from oven. Spread crumbs on top. Tamp lightly, to compact. Bake for 25 to 35 minutes more, or until juices bubble thickly around the edge.

Transfer to a cooling rack for at least 1 hour before serving.

For sauce: Combine cream, brown sugar, and butter in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook for 2 minutes, whisking constantly. Remove from heat, add vanilla and pecans, and stir.

Transfer to a small bowl and cool completely. Refrigerate briefly for a thicker sauce. Serve pie with sauce drizzled on each slice.

Makes 8 servings.



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE



LIVING NATURALLY

Grow Fresh Salads All Winter

PHOTO: PIXABAY



Before we built a small food-producing greenhouse to replace a collapsing south-facing porch, I successfully grew salad greens all winter long in recycled plastic containers under a couple of inexpensive fluorescent shop lights. You can, too!

For starting my spring transplants, I'd already installed six two-bulb shop lights outfitted with full-spectrum grow lights and suspended by chains and S-hooks from

the ceiling of my living-room alcove. I used a couple of them for my experiment growing winter greens.

You could hang your lights in an attic, basement, or even a large closet. As long as the space can maintain average temperatures of around 50°F and has an electrical outlet for the lights, you can grow delicious, nutritious greens.

For planting containers, I used some of the recycled polystyrene (both

foam and transparent) containers I collect for starting my spring transplants, filling them with a mixture of half soilless potting mix and half compost.

WHAT CAN YOU PLANT?

The simple answer: almost any type of salad or cooking greens—the faster-growing the better—and leafy herbs.

During my first experiments, I mixed together seeds left over from my spring–summer



garden, dividing them into three categories with similar germination and growth habits:

- various leaf lettuces
- kale, arugula, and leafy Asian brassicas (bok choi, mizuna, tatsoi, etc.)
- spinach, chard, and beets (for greens)

I also planted a few seeds each of basil, parsley, and cilantro in smaller, separate containers.

If you're buying new seeds for winter planting, I suggest one of the

fast-growing mesclun or braising mixes (also called stir-fry mixes) sold by most seed companies.

I scattered the seeds thickly across the soil surface, covered them with a bit of compost, and watered them well with a small watering can.

CARE AND HARVEST

I turned the lights on when I got up each morning and shut them off around supper time. I watered them every

couple of days, when the top of the planting medium felt dry. Every week to 10 days, I watered with a weak solution of seaweed and fish emulsion (available at garden stores).

I started thinning the plants as soon as they'd developed two or three sets of leaves, gently

TAP TO SEE A SLIDE SHOW OF MARGARET'S GREENS FROM 2 WEEKS AFTER GERMINATION TO ABOUT 5 WEEKS LATER





pulling them out by the roots, rinsing them, and tossing them into soups and cabbage salads.

As the plants grew bigger, I harvested the outer leaves and left the rest to grow. Alternatively, you can clip greens from throughout the whole container with fingernail scissors, making sure to leave the growing tips to produce another crop.

After 5 weeks of

growth, six to eight containers of greens began producing robust, two-person salads three or four times a week for about 6 weeks, as well as quite a few handfuls of greens to toss into our frequent winter soups.

By the way, producing winter salad greens under lights makes a wonderful project for children of

any age. Great science project possibilities, too!

The alcove where I keep my containers is also home to my stationary bike, which I ride almost every day or evening all winter long. Good food and good exercise: What a combo!

—Margaret Boyles



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

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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

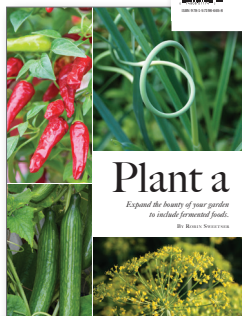
CALLING ALL COOKS!

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

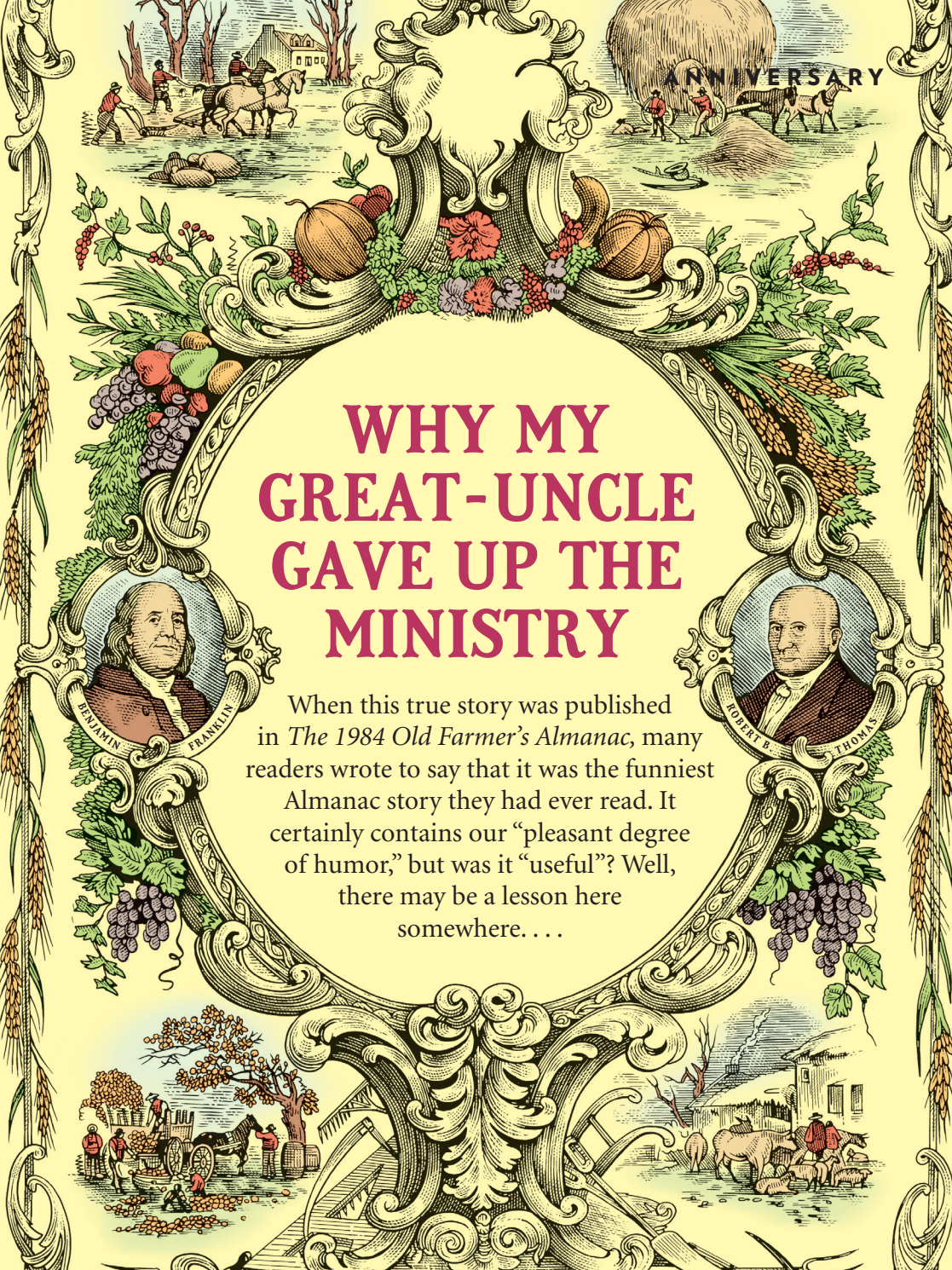
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WHY MY GREAT-UNCLE GAVE UP THE MINISTRY

When this true story was published in *The 1984 Old Farmer's Almanac*, many readers wrote to say that it was the funniest Almanac story they had ever read. It certainly contains our "pleasant degree of humor," but was it "useful"? Well, there may be a lesson here somewhere. . . .



ANNIVERSARY

My great-uncle was a wonderful, jolly, beloved man who was over 6 feet 4 inches tall and probably weighed close to 300 pounds. He was also very well educated (Colgate University, Doctor of Divinity) and in the early 1900s became a full-time Baptist minister. A kindly, gentle man despite his size, Uncle Alden Bentley's only real fault seemed to be that he was terribly clumsy. As a young minister, he was paying a pastoral call one day on a woman in Dillon,

South Carolina, when he inadvertently sat on her Chihauhua, Twinkie, and killed it. As the lady searched and called for her dog throughout the house, Uncle Alden felt underneath his hip and, realizing what he had done, panicked and slipped the dead dog into his coat pocket. Although he was devastated, he could not bring himself to tell the woman what had happened.

Five years later, he returned to the same home for an overnight visit and resolved to

unburden himself by finally telling the woman exactly what had happened to Twinkie. She had just had the guest room repapered and had hung brand-new curtains. To make Uncle feel welcome, she had placed on the bedside table a large pitcher of ice water and a glass, as well as a pen and bottle of ink so that he could work on his sermon before retiring.

Uncle liked to sleep with the window open and got up in the night to open it. As he did, he knocked over what he assumed to be a full glass of

**A KINDLY, GENTLE MAN DESPITE
HIS SIZE, UNCLE ALDEN BENTLEY'S ONLY
REAL FAULT SEEMED TO BE THAT HE
WAS TERRIBLY CLUMSY.**

water. Then, groping along the walls in an unsuccessful search for the light switch, he retraced his steps several times before raising the window and settling back on the bed for the night.

When he opened his eyes the next morning, he was horrified. The fresh wallpaper on two walls was covered with great black blobs. The crisp white curtains were thoroughly smudged with the prints of Uncle's huge paws. It had not been the water glass he'd overturned during the night—it had been the ink bottle.

In a shaken state of mind and knowing that he had to face his hostess, Uncle dressed hurriedly and started down the stairs outside the guest room. As he approached the landing, his foot slipped. Reaching wildly for support, he grabbed the nearest object, which happened to be a beautiful, electric, brass candelabra mounted on the stairwell wall. The fixture was hissing and smoking as he ripped it from the wall and toppled down to the landing below, still clutching

it in his hand.

“Are you hurt?” his hostess cried as she rushed to Uncle's side.

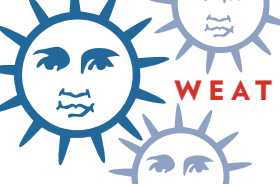
“No,” said Uncle as he rose to his feet, “but I have demolished your home!”

With that, he quickly walked out the front door and, at the end of the walk, turned and said to his hostess with deep reverence, “Twinkie had a Christian burial.”

He then retired from the ministry and became a teacher of philosophy for many years at a private preparatory school in Massachusetts.

—*Marcia Barnard
Chandler*

**IT HAD NOT BEEN THE WATER
GLASS HE'D OVERTURNED DURING THE NIGHT—
IT HAD BEEN THE INK BOTTLE.**



THREE WHITE FROSTS AND THEN A STORM.

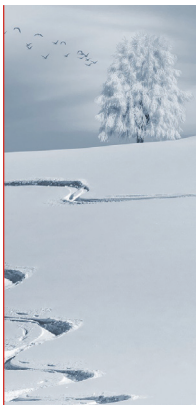
HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

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

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

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

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

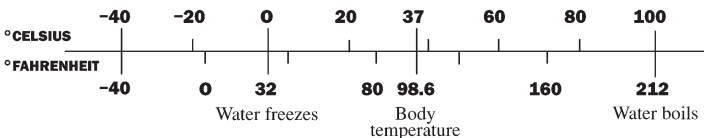


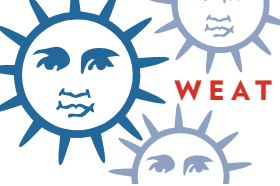
TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

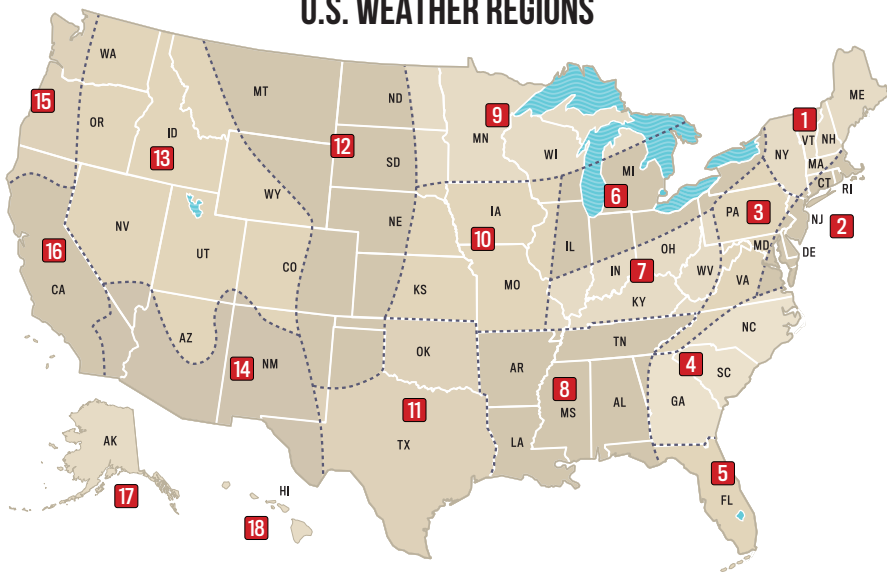
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



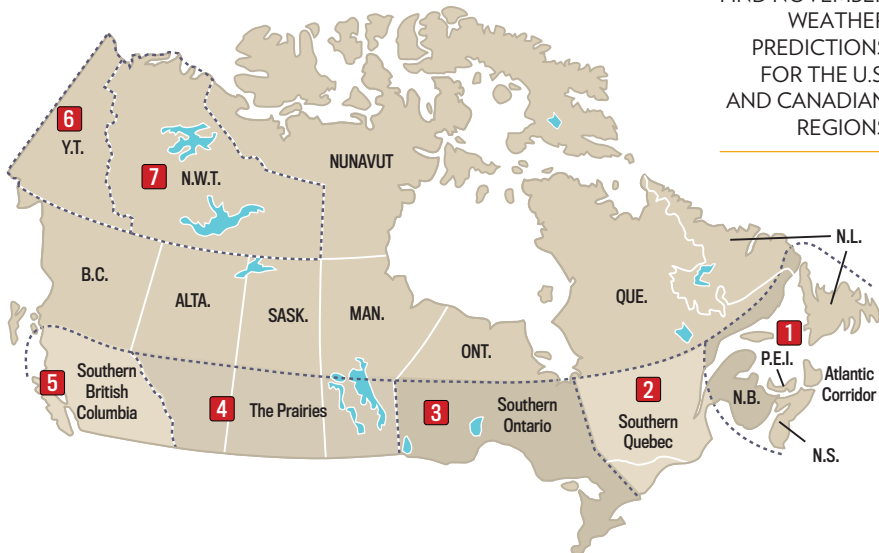


WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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FLOODING FROM THE GREAT NEW ENGLAND HURRICANE
AT BUZZARDS BAY (MASS.) STATION, 1938



TRACKING THE HIGH COSTS OF HURRICANES

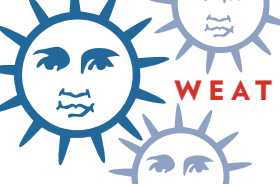
I recently went to Florida to visit my sister and saw damage from Hurricane Irma—mostly downed or damaged palm trees. As I write this in late September, the Atlantic hurricane season still has more than 2 months to go—it does not end until Nov. 30—but four major hurricanes of Category 3 or greater have already occurred. Let's see how this compares with past hurricane seasons.

Keep in mind that since the advent of satellite images in the late 1960s, we have known about every tropical storm and hurricane that forms—no more surprises like the 1900 Galveston

hurricane, which was not forecast until it was almost on top of Galveston.

Since 1900, the U.S. National Hurricane Center has tracked the fatalities and damages brought by hurricanes and tropical storms to the U.S. mainland. The figures in the tables here include only the storms that mainly affected the U.S., so the effects in the Caribbean, Mexico, and other locations are not included.

All numbers in the two charts here are taken from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and/or hurricanescience.noaa.gov. Economic damage estimates



WEATHER UPDATE

TABLE 1. TOP 15 DEADLIEST HURRICANES, MAINLAND U.S., 1900–PRESENT

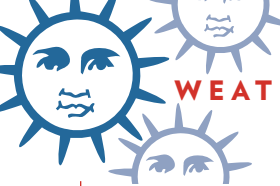
RANK	YEAR	MAJOR HURRICANES	NO. OF DEATHS*	DAMAGE (\$B)*
1	1900	Galveston Hurricane, TX	8,000	104.3
2	1928	Okeechobee (aka San Felipe) Hurricane, FL	2,500	35.3
3	2005	Cindy, Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita, Wilma	1,963	211.2
4	1938	Great New England Hurricane	700	41.1
5	1915	Galveston Hurricane, TX; New Orleans Hurricane, LA	675	74.3
6	1919	Florida Keys Hurricane, FL	600–900	14.4
7	1957	Audrey	500	4
8	1935	Labor Day Hurricane, FL	414	9.2
9	1909	Velasco Hurricane, TX; Grand Isle Hurricane, LA	391	3
10	1926	Great Miami Hurricane, FL	373	169.4
11	1906	FL, MS, SC	341	4.1
12	1969	Camille	256	22.3
13	1954	Carol, Edna, Hazel	187	37.5
14	2017	Harvey, Irma	135	200
15	1972	Agnes	122	18.5

reflect direct property damage only, not indirect damage like lost productivity or increased fuel prices.

TOP 15 DEADLIEST HURRICANES, MAINLAND U.S., 1900–PRESENT

With 135 deaths thus far, the 2017 hurricane season has been the 14th deadliest since 1900. *Table 1* shows

the 15 years with the most deaths in the mainland U.S. from Atlantic hurricanes. The 1900 Galveston hurricane, the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history, killed about 8,000 people and spurred the development of more protected Houston as a major city. Although Houston is not as vulnerable as



WEATHER UPDATE

TABLE 2. TOP 15 COSTLIEST HURRICANES, MAINLAND U.S., 1900–PRESENT

RANK	YEAR	MAJOR HURRICANES	NO. OF DEATHS*	DAMAGE (\$B)*
1	2005	Cindy, Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita, Wilma	1,963	211.2
2	2017	Harvey, Irma	135	200
3	1926	Great Miami Hurricane, FL	373	169.4
4	1900	Galveston Hurricane, TX	8,000	104.3
5	1915	Galveston Hurricane, TX; New Orleans Hurricane, LA	675	74.3
6	2012	Tropical storm Alberto, TS Debby, Isaac, Sandy	120	73.2
7	1938	Great New England Hurricane, CT, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT	700	41.1
8	1954	Carol, Edna, Hazel	187	37.5
9	1928	Okeechobee (aka San Felipe) Hurricane, FL	2,500	35.3
10	1960	Donna, Ethel	51	31.5
11	1955	Connie, Diane, Ione	7	24.4
12	1969	Camille	256	22.3
13	1965	Betsy	81	22.3
14	1972	Agnes	122	18.5
15	1919	Florida Keys Hurricane, FL	600–900	14.4

Galveston (especially to wave and tidal flooding), Harvey’s stall above the city brought the heaviest rainfall ever recorded from one storm in the continental U.S., with more than 50 inches of rain in some Houston-area locations.

The second deadliest U.S. tropical

storm occurred in 1928, when an estimated 2,500 people drowned after Florida’s Lake Okeechobee overflowed with 10- to 15-foot floods as the result of a Category 4 hurricane.

The 10 deadliest hurricane seasons include only two from within the

FLOODING IN TEXAS FROM HURRICANE HARVEY, 2017



past 60 years, one of these being 2005's Hurricane Katrina, which overwhelmed the levees in New Orleans and ended up killing almost 2,000 people.

TOP 15 COSTLIEST HURRICANES, MAINLAND U.S., 1900–PRESENT

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma are estimated to have cost the U.S. between \$150 billion and \$200 billion in combined property damage, according to Moody's Analytics. The higher figure would make this season the second costliest to date, just behind 2005, when Hurricanes Cindy, Dennis, Katrina, and three other storms left behind \$211 billion in damage, according to

the National Hurricane Center. And any upward change in this estimate or additional storms could still place 2017 as the costliest Atlantic hurricane season ever.

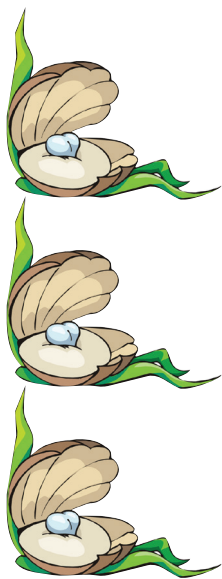
All values in *Table 2* are inflation-adjusted to reflect the damage in current dollars. Although improvements in warnings in recent years have brought substantial reductions in deaths, increased building (especially in vulnerable coastal areas) has resulted in increased damages in recent years, with three of the six highest totals having occurred within the past 13 years.

—Michael Steinberg, Old Farmer's Almanac meteorologist



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC: 19TH-CENTURY NONSENSE



Oysters for My Horse

A gentleman once came into an inn on a very cold day and could find no room near the fire. Calling to the innkeep, he asked that a peck of oysters be delivered to his horse in the stable.

“Your horse will eat oysters?” inquired the host.

“Just try him,” replied the gentleman.

Immediately, the people ran out to see this wonder, and the gentleman had his choice of fireside seats.

Shortly thereafter, the innkeep returned with the oysters, reporting that the horse would have nothing to do with them.

“Well, then,” answered the now comfortably ensconced gentleman, “I guess I shall have to eat them myself.”

THE WONDERS OF BLUNDERS

- There is a tombstone in a New York graveyard on which is this epitaph:

“Erected to the memory of John Phillips, accidentally shot as a mark of affection by his brother.”

- Along with a poetry submittal to an editor



came the introductory letter:

“The following lines were written 50 years ago by one who has for many years slept in his grave merely for his own amusement.”

- A Philadelphia paper, referring to the masses, announced that a certain speaker would address “them asses” at National Hall.

A Dewsy of an Answer

Professor: “When rain falls, does it ever rise again?”

Student: “Yes, sir.”

“When?”

“Why, in dew time.”

NUISANCE

“You are a nuisance; I’ll commit you!” said an offended judge to the noisy person in court.

“But your honor, it’s against the law to commit a nuisance.”



Ashes to Ashes

On being told that a local chimney sweep had passed away while cleaning a flue, a wag remarked: “Well, then, it was a sootable death.”

THE DAMSEL’S PUZZLE

A gentleman paying attentions to a lady at last summoned up sufficient courage to ask if she was pleased by them and if he might flatter himself with a chance of success.

The damsel replied: “Stripes,” telling the gentleman to transpose the letters so as to

form out of them another word that was her answer. (Answer below.)

Sum Brewing Trouble

“What did you have at the first saloon you stopped at?” asked a lawyer of a witness in an assault and battery case.

“Four glasses of ale.”

“What next?”

“Two glasses of whiskey.”

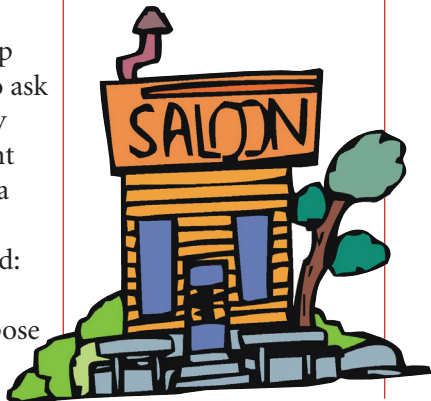
“Next?”

“One glass of brandy.”

“Next?”

“A fight.”

Answer: Persist





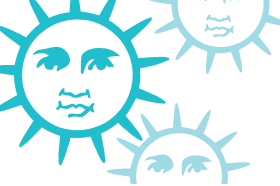
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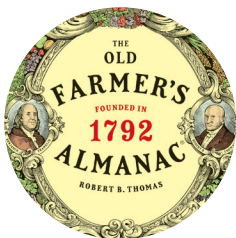
CALENDAR

Full Cold Moon;
birthstones turquoise,
zircon, and tanzanite;
1807’s first recorded New
World meteorite;
1793 Almanac tidbits



LIVING NATURALLY

How to battle the
winter “drys”



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Test your knowledge
and skill with
puzzles from the
archives



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and friends



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• Humor • and much more in the December *EXTRA!*

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