

EXTRA!

FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC



IT'S TULIP TIME!

**SUPER-YUMMY
PIE RECIPES**

**THERE'S MORE
TO A POTATO THAN
MEETS ITS EYE**

**TALLER-THAN-
TYPICAL TALES**



NOVEMBER 2018

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FOLLOW US:



THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Holidays, History, and More



BILLIE JEAN KING

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

60 YEARS AGO (1958)

Nov. 1: John McEnery
(English actor)

Nov. 2: Willie Dean
McGee (American
baseball player)

70 YEARS AGO (1948)

Nov. 8: Dale Allan
Gardner (American
astronaut)

75 YEARS AGO (1943)

Nov. 22: Billie Jean King
(American tennis player)

100 YEARS AGO (1918)

Nov. 7: Billy Graham
(American evangelist)

150 YEARS AGO (1868)

Nov. 11: Édouard
Vuillard (French

painter)

Nov 24: Scott Joplin
(American composer,
“King of Ragtime”;
exact birth date
unknown, but is thought
to be on this date)

145 YEARS AGO (1873)

Nov. 16: William
Christopher (“W. C.”)
Handy (American
composer, “Father of
the Blues”)

200 YEARS AGO (1818)

Nov. 11: James Renwick
Jr. (American architect,
designer of N.Y.C.’s
St. Patrick’s Cathedral
and D.C.’s Smithsonian
Institution Building)

MOON WATCH

New Moon:

November 7, at
11:02 A.M. EST

First Quarter:

November 15, at
9:54 A.M. EST

Full Beaver Moon:

November 23, at
12:39 A.M. EST

Last Quarter:

November 29, at
7:19 P.M. EST



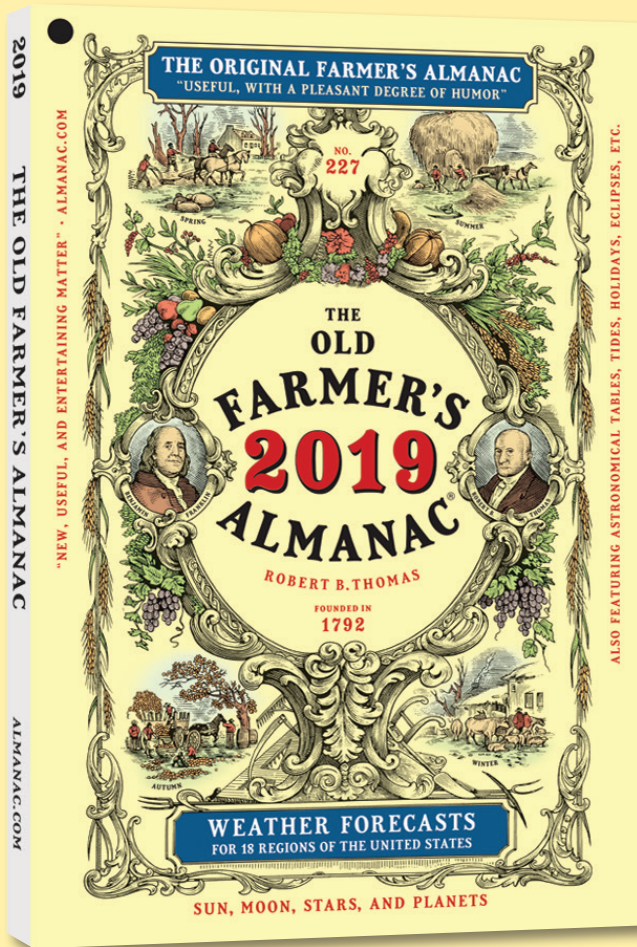
TAP FOR MORE ABOUT
MOON PHASES



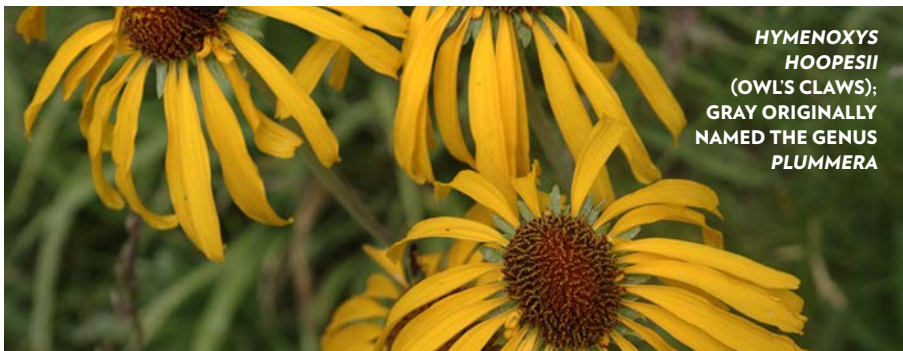
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NOVEMBER’S FULL MOON

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**HYMENOXYS
HOOPESII
(OWL'S CLAWS);
GRAY ORIGINALLY
NAMED THE GENUS
PLUMMERA**

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Nov. 4: Daylight Saving Time ends, 2:00 A.M.

Nov. 6: Election Day

Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Nov. 11: Remembrance Day (Canada)

Nov. 19: Discovery of Puerto Rico Day

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Day

PLANT ENTHUSIAST EXTRAORDINAIRE

Asa Gray was born on November 18, 1810, in Paris, New York. One of the most acclaimed North American botanists of the 1800s, he wrote more than 350 articles, essays, and books. His most

famous work, the *Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States* (also simply called *Gray's Manual*), is a standard reference in the field.



Gray served as a Fisher Professor of Natural History at Harvard University from 1842 to 1873. In 1864, he donated

2,200 botanical works and 200,000 plants to Harvard, which led to an esteemed botanical library and one of the most valued herbariums in the United States.

Today, this resource, now called the Gray Herbarium and Library, houses nearly 2 million specimens. During his career, Gray identified hundreds of new plant species and had many named for him, including the genus *Grayia* and the southern wildflower *Lilium grayi*, often called Gray's lily.



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*

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 25, 26

Brew: 6–8

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 6, 25, 26

Demolish: 6–8

Dry fruit/vegetables/meat: 1, 27, 28

End projects: 6

Lay shingles: 1, 27, 28

Make jams/jellies: 16, 17

Paint: 4, 5, 21, 22

Start projects: 8



Wash floors: 16, 17

Wash windows: 18–20

PERSONAL

Advertise to sell: 17, 22

Ask for a loan: 3, 30

Begin diet to gain weight: 17, 22

Begin diet to lose weight: 3, 30

Buy a home: 17, 22

Color hair: 21, 22

Cut hair to discourage growth: 4, 5

Cut hair to encourage growth: 16, 17

Get married: 4, 5

Have dental care: 2, 3, 29, 30

Move (house/household): 23, 24

Perm hair: 13–15

Quit smoking: 3, 30

Straighten hair: 9, 10

Travel for pleasure: 1, 27, 28

Wean children: 3, 30

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 18–20

Graft or pollinate: 25, 26

Harvest aboveground crops: 11, 12

Harvest belowground crops: 2, 3, 29, 30

Mow to decrease growth: 3, 30

Mow to increase growth: 9, 10, 18–20

Pick fruit: 2, 3, 29–30

Plant aboveground crops: 16, 17

Plant belowground crops: 6, 25, 26

Prune to discourage growth: 27, 28

Prune to encourage growth: 18–20

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 11, 12

Go camping: 9, 10

Go fishing: 7–23

Set posts or pour concrete: 11, 12

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 6–8

Castrate animals: 13–15

Cut hay: 18–20

Purchase animals: 25, 26

Set eggs: 22–24

Slaughter livestock: 6–8

Wean animals: 3, 30



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

TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES

APP EXTRA!
TAP FOR
NOVEMBER
MOON PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

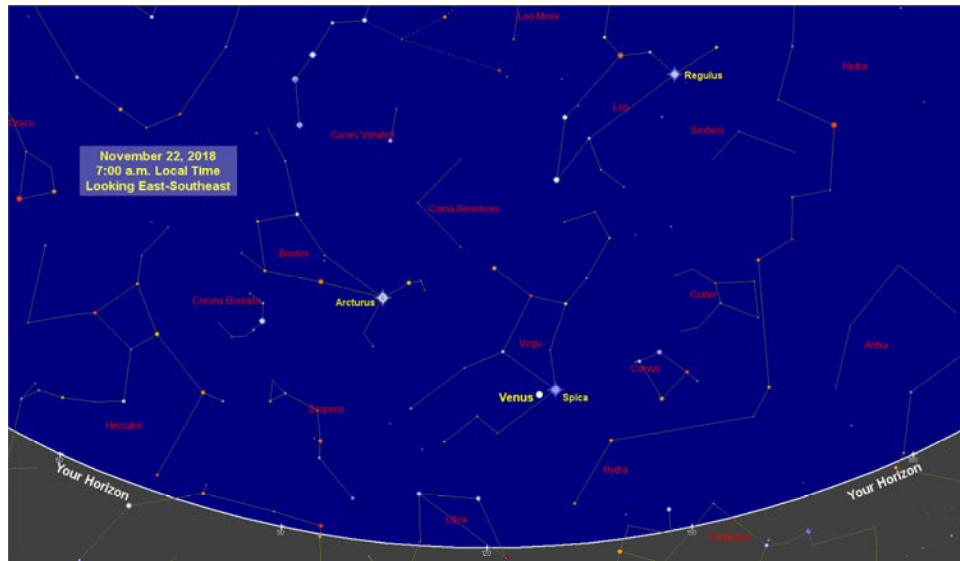
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion *retrograde motion*.

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.

In 2018 to come, Mercury will be retrograde during November 17–December 6.

—Celeste Longacre



November 22, 2018
7:00 a.m. Local Time
Looking East-Southeast

VENUS AT ITS BRIGHTEST!

The ancient Romans worshipped her as the goddess of love and beauty. Frankie Avalon recorded a #1 hit song about her. She is the brightest thing in the sky after the Sun and Moon. We're talking about Venus, once thought to be Earth's planetary twin.

In the second half of November, Venus will be as bright as it ever gets. To see the Venus show, you'll need to wake up before sunrise and look toward the east-southeast. Venus will be—by far—the brightest object in the sky. The planet never ventures very far from the Sun, so it's best viewed only a few times a year, when the planetary geometry is just right, and then only shortly after sunset or shortly before sunrise. On these occasions, Venus is known as either the evening star or the morning star.

Venus and Earth *do* have some things in common, though not as many as once thought. They are the second and third closest planets to the Sun. Being closer to the Sun means that

APP EXTRA!
TAP TO GET
A PRINTABLE
NOVEMBER
SKY MAP

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TAP TO
FOLLOW
OHIOAN JEFF
DETRAY'S SKY
ADVENTURES



a year on Venus—the time it takes to revolve once around the Sun—lasts 224.7 days compared to Earth’s 365 days. The two planets are composed mainly of rocky material and are nearly the same size, with Venus just slightly smaller. If you weigh 125 pounds on Earth, you would weigh about 113 pounds on Venus. Venus comes closer to Earth than any other planet, a mere 24 million miles, and this is the main reason why it’s so bright.

Because of its similarities to Earth, Venus became the subject of some very fanciful (and quite incorrect) theories. Among the most popular was the supposed existence of complex life on Venus. It was imagined that because it is closer to the Sun than to Earth, Venus might simply be a warmer, wetter version of our planet. Some believed Venus to be a world of rain forests and jungles, replete with giant trees, dinosaurs, and even intelligent Venusians.

As our scientific knowledge advanced, astronomers learned that Venus is not just warm, it’s excruciatingly hot. The surface temperature reaches 872°F, hot enough to melt lead. Venus is also a world of volcanoes, and the whole planet is wrapped in a thick atmosphere composed mostly of carbon dioxide. This dense atmosphere insulates the planet, preventing heat from escaping and resulting in a runaway greenhouse effect. Venus is an intensely inhospitable place. So much for the rain forest theory!

When the age of space exploration began, Venus’s close proximity meant that it became the very first target for interplanetary spacecraft. America’s *Mariner 2* was the first successful probe, flying past Venus in 1962. The first successful landing did not come until 1970, when the Soviets’ *Venera 7* unmanned probe touched down. Due to the extreme conditions on the planet, it is highly unlikely that a manned landing on Venus will ever be attempted.

This month’s sky map shows Venus where it appears early on Thanksgiving morning, blazing near the bright star Spica in the constellation Virgo, the Virgin. The map is accurate anytime during the last 2 weeks of November, so bundle up if necessary and enjoy Venus at its best!

In the words of Frankie Avalon’s “Venus” from 1959:

Hey, Venus! Oh, Venus!

Make my dreams come true!

—Jeff DeTray

“At night, the petals close up tight into a red bulb shape. In the morning, they lean toward the east, and by 10:30, as they begin to open, you start to see the red-and-white pattern of the petals. By noon, they have opened out as flat as a star. Throughout the afternoon, the flower will continue to track the Sun and then, at sunset, it will close up tight again, fully erect.”

—Central Texas gardener Scott Ogden, author of *Garden Bulbs for the South* (Timber Press, 2007), describing *T. clusiana* ‘Peppermint Stick’

It's Tulip Time!

Go “wild” with species varieties.



Tulipa tarda is one of the many varieties of “wild” tulips.

Every day in spring, I search the entrance to my wooded garden, looking for signs that *Tulipa tarda* may soon appear. The bright yellow and white blooms of this tiny tulip open up each day to catch the Sun’s rays and spread cheer. *T. tarda* is one of the many varieties of species tulips, sometimes called “wild” tulips or botanical tulips. Although typically not as showy as their tall hybrid relatives, these smaller tulips have a lot

going for them:

- Most come back every year.
- Single bulbs often multiply to create generous clumps.
- Several varieties can be grown easily in all gardening regions. Consider planting species tulips this fall to complement your standard bulbs.

Most species tulips are star- or bowl-shape. The star-shape tulips usually stand 4 to 8 inches high, with flowers in softer shades of purple,

pink, white, or yellow. Bowl-shape species tulips, reaching up to 14 inches in height, usually bloom in brilliant red, although some are yellow. The stems—shorter and sturdier than those of most hybrid tulips—make them less susceptible to the sudden harsh winds of erratic spring weather.

Many species tulips originated in the rocky areas surrounding the Mediterranean. This is why rock gardens are ideal places in which to plant



‘Little Beauty’ planted in a mat of thyme is delightful.

them. These dry sites, with good drainage, imitate their native growing conditions. Plus, the bulb’s small size fits the scale of most rock gardens.

The dry, well-drained conditions of herb gardens also support wild tulips. One eye-catching treatment is star-shape species hybrid ‘Little Beauty’ planted to sprout in the midst of a mat of thyme. The effect in bloom is delightful.

In the garden, species tulips attract attention when viewed against a solid-color background of ground covers such

as vinca and ajuga. They can also hold their own in a colorful mixed display of other spring bulbs, such as narcissus, hyacinth, scilla, and chionodoxa. To encourage naturalizing, avoid deadheading.

Apartment and urban enthusiasts, do not despair: Any species tulips will produce more than one flower per stem, making them perfect for containers.

CHOOSE YOUR BLOOMS . . .

Species tulip options can seem endless—but

it’s the wide variety that makes them fun!

BY BLOOM TIME (Usually between February and April)

Some species tulips, such as *T. bakeri*, *T. batalinii*, *T. humilis*, *T. kaufmanniana*, and *T. turkestanica*, bloom in early to midspring.

Later-blooming varieties include *T. linifolia*, *T. neustreuveae*, *T. sprengeri*, and *T. vvedenskyi*.

BY BLOOMS

Multiflower varieties include *T. biflora*, *T.*



T. sylvestris creates more impact in mass plantings.

greigii ‘Quebec’, *T. praestans* ‘Fusilier’ and ‘Unicum’, *T. tarda*, and *T. turkestanica*.

BY COLOR

If color is your key criterion, you can not go wrong with bright red *T. eichleri* (also known as *T. undulatifolia*).

The softer-tone, smaller, star-shape varieties create more impact when incorporated into sweeps of mass plantings, such as yellow *T. sylvestris*, which can commonly be seen

naturalized in woodlands on the U.S. East Coast.

BY FOLIAGE

T. greigii often displays mottled or striped leaves.

T. kaufmanniana ‘Heart’s Delight’ has purple mottled foliage.

T. fosteriana ‘Juan’, one of the tallest and earliest of the early Emperor tulips, has mottled foliage as well.

BY LOCATION

If you live in the colder northern regions (Zones 3 to 6), you’re in luck:

Just about any species bulb will thrive for you.

If you reside in the South or mild-winter areas of the West and want to avoid putting your bulbs through a chilling period, choose varieties that overwinter in Zones 8 to 10, such as the lady tulip (*T. clusiana*), Candia tulip (*T. saxatilis*), and Florentine tulip (*T. sylvestris*).

BY SCENT

The most fragrant wild tulips are *T. aucheriana*, *T. biflora*, *T. saxatilis*, *T.*



***T. fosteriana* ‘Juan’ has mottled foliage.**

GARDENING

sylvestris, and *T. turkestanica*.

PLANTING AND CARE

Choose a sunny site for best display, although your tulips will tolerate some shade. Soil should be either humus-rich or sandy loam, with good drainage. Plant the bulbs with their roots or basal plate downward at a depth that is three to four times the width of the bulb. Water well after planting.

Most species tulips naturalize by seeds or underground stems called stolons. Encourage reseeding by leaving the faded flower heads on the plant. Just as with other tulips, let the foliage die back naturally to recharge the bulbs.

You do not need to fertilize bulbs in

the first year after planting, but in successive years, top them with compost, well-rotted manure, or a commercial organic fertilizer in the fall.

PREVENT PESTS FROM SPOILING THE SHOW

Place screening over the planting area to keep rabbits and squirrels from digging.

Deter rodents such as voles and gophers by adding a handful of sharp gravel to the planting hole or planting the bulbs in a mesh cage or bag. Avoid bonemeal; it actually attracts critters—such as your dog.

Sprinkle your planting area with smelly stuff, such as soap or puréed garlic bulbs.

—Shirley Remes



Super-Yummy Pie Recipes

When it comes to Thanksgiving, turkey may be the centerpiece of the table, but it's dessert that can make the meal extraordinary. Here are three scrumptious pie recipes using everything from classic ingredients like apples and cranberries to the slightly more adventurous combination of maple and bacon. Yes, bacon for dessert!

FOOD

Sour Cream Apple Pie



TAP FOR
RECIPE

PHOTO: SAM JONES/QUINN BREIN



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

SOUR CREAM APPLE PIE

- 1 cup sour cream
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons plus 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3 to 4 cups peeled, cored, diced apples
- 1 unbaked piecrust
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
- 1/4 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 400°F.

In a bowl, combine sour cream, sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, vanilla, salt, and egg and beat well. Add apples and mix well. Pour into piecrust and bake for 25 minutes.

In a separate bowl, combine brown sugar, remaining 1/3 cup flour, butter, and nuts (if using) and mix well.

Remove pie from oven and reduce heat to 250°F. Sprinkle brown sugar mixture over pie, then return to oven and bake for an additional 25 minutes.

Makes 8 servings.

Cranberry Dream Pie



TAP FOR
RECIPE

CRANBERRY DREAM PIE

CRUST:

1-1/2 to 2 cups chocolate
cookie crumbs
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
2 tablespoons sugar
pinch of salt

FILLING:

8 ounces cream cheese
1/2 cup heavy cream
3/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 can (16 ounces) whole
berry cranberry sauce

Preheat oven to 350°F.

For crust: In a bowl, combine all ingredients. Press mixture into a 9-inch pie pan. Bake for 10 minutes. Let cool before adding filling.

For filling: Using a hand or stand mixer, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Beat in heavy cream, sugar, and vanilla. By hand, stir in cranberry sauce. Pour into prepared crust and freeze.

Let thaw for 15 to 30 minutes before serving.

Makes 8 servings.

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

Bacon Maple Cream Pie



TAP FOR
RECIPE

BACON MAPLE CREAM PIE

- 2-1/4 cups whole milk
- 2-1/4 cups maple syrup (preferably grade B), divided
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract, divided
- 1 baked single 9-inch piecrust, cooled
- 1-1/4 cups whipping cream, chilled
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 4 slices thick-cut bacon
- 1 teaspoon Dijon-style mustard
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste

In a saucepan, whisk together milk, 2 cups maple syrup, and egg yolks.

In a bowl, sift together flour and cornstarch. Gradually whisk flour mixture into milk mixture. Stir in 2 teaspoons vanilla. Heat to boiling, cooking for 8 minutes, or until very thick, stirring constantly.

Pour into prepared crust. Refrigerate.

In a separate bowl, whip the cream with sugar and remaining 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. Spread over chilled pie. Refrigerate.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil. Set a cooling rack on top of foil. Arrange bacon slices across rack in rows, not overlapping.

Whisk together remaining 1/4 cup maple syrup and mustard. Generously spoon over bacon. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes. Turn over bacon slices and baste again. Bake for 5 to 10 minutes more, or until bacon reaches desired crispness. Remove from oven and sprinkle with freshly ground black pepper. Set aside for 5 minutes. Coarsely chop cooled bacon. Sprinkle on top of pie.

Makes 8 servings.

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE



LIVING NATURALLY

There's More to a Potato Than Meets Its Eye

PHOTO: GOLDHAFEN/GETTY IMAGES



Potatoes are easy to grow and fit into any meal plan.

Our modern potato came from southern Peru, domesticated there 7,000 to 10,000 years ago. Humble, homely, and earthy, the potato has traveled around the world, exerting an extraordinary influence on global civilizations for centuries.

No wonder. Potatoes are productive and easy to grow. They keep for a long time without processing and fit into

any meal plan. Serve them for breakfast (hash browns), scalloped, mashed with roasted garlic, in a shepherd's pie, or even in a piecrust. Cook up a potato dessert to rival anything that zucchini can serve up.

Despite their bad rap for fueling the obesity epidemic (french fries represent one-quarter of the “vegetables” that Americans eat each day), potatoes are nutritious, too, especially served skin-

and-all without gravy or other fatty toppings.

They offer a good source of potassium, vitamin C, some B vitamins, and antioxidants. And although they don't contain much of it, potatoes boast very high-quality (complete) protein.

MORE THAN GOOD NUTRITION AND TASTE

But you can also put potatoes to many good, if unusual, uses around the home:



Potatoes help to reduce puffiness under your eyes.

- **Remove a broken light bulb** from its socket safely. Just cut a thick slice from one end of a large, raw potato and press the cut surface of the remaining potato into the jagged glass. Twist to unscrew and toss into the trash, potato and all. (Probably a good idea to make sure the socket is switched off).
- **Remove excess salt** from a soup or stew. Just cut up a raw potato or two and add to the broth.
- **Reduce puffy under-eyes.** Lay a slice of raw potato over each eye and lie back for a few minutes.
- **Remove stains on clothing, carpets, and upholstery.** Grate a couple of raw potatoes into a cup or two of water and allow to soak. Squeeze out the potato shreds and daub the water on the stain. Alternatively, try rubbing the stain with the cut edge of a raw potato.
- **Remove stains on hands** that come from working with berries, beets, and other plant materials. Just rub hands with the cut surfaces of a raw potato.
- **Hold decorative arrangements** (flowers, branches) in place. Poke holes in a large potato set at the bottom of a bowl and arrange your flowers, herbs, or branches in the holes to keep them in place. Add water if needed.
- **Remove tarnish** from



Potato printing is fun for children and adults alike.

silverware and other items by soaking them in potato water (left after boiling potatoes). Of course, if you don't have any tarnish to remove, add the potato water to a soup stock. (Or soak your feet in it. Many swear by this folk remedy for tired, aching feet.)

• **Make potato prints.**

Potato printing is an old art form that's fun for children and adults, who can use simple stamps

cut from raw potatoes for homemade note cards, wrapping paper, T-shirts and other fabric items, and even door frames, mantels, and floors, depending on which paint you choose.

• **Use as folk medicine.**

Most parts of the world that grow and eat potatoes also use potatoes for a wide variety of traditional medical applications. Raw, juiced, or cooked,

applied externally or taken internally, potatoes have been used to treat conditions as diverse as burns, infections, various cancers, constipation, and acne, as well as to soothe pain, treat migraines, and ease mild to moderate depression.

—Margaret Boyles



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

AMUSEMENT



Taller-Than- Typical Tales

Through the years, we've heard yarns that take the cake, but these tall tales took the prize—first, second, and third prizes—in our 1984 Essay Contest based on the theme “The Tallest Tale I Ever Heard.”

PHOTO: SILFOX/GETTY IMAGES

FIRST PRIZE

Zeke Thompson was a God-fearing man, but when it came to cursing, he was as intemperate as he was forcible. He had a talent for it. Zeke's oaths got to be infamous, so when folks got their danders up, they'd stop in and have him supply the high-quality abusive language that they were after.

One spring, Zeke planted blueberry

was positively purple. The beavers came out, took the dam apart, and moved it 2 miles upstream. Zeke kept railing. The maple trees started pouring out sap into buckets, and when that didn't help, they pumped out preformed maple sugar candies in the shapes of heroes from Vermont history. The beavers took apart the second dam and cut and stacked two cords

under a bush and sneer, and the blueberries would jump right in.

—Tom Hill, *Francestown, New Hampshire*

SECOND PRIZE

The tallest tale I ever heard is about a man who was fishing at a lake. His eye caught a gray squirrel in the trees near the shore. The tree limbs hung over the lake. In the lake was a stump

Some beavers had built a dam that put a pond over the new planting. Well! He let out a whoop that turned three flocks of migrating birds back south again.

bushes in his meadow. A week later, he went to check their progress and found that some beavers had built a dam that put a pond over the new planting. Well! He let out a whoop that turned three flocks of migrating birds back south again. The language wasn't blue; it

of firewood.

It seemed like nothing would stop Zeke, but eventually he left off, although he claimed that he still had plenty of new and interesting things to say. Even those berry bushes were mightily impressed. The next summer, all Zeke had to do was to hold a basket

with two nuts on it. The squirrel was desperately trying all of his acrobatic gyrations in an effort to reach the nuts. Just as he grabbed them, he lost his grip and fell into the water. Instantly the biggest fish the man had ever seen lunged up and swallowed the squirrel. The lake got calm again.

Then the big fish jumped up out of the water and put the two nuts back on the stump.

—Mrs. H. R. Publitz,
Waterford, New Jersey

THIRD PRIZE

There once was a farmer who owned an old mule with a large, open sore on his back. Unable to heal the sore, the farmer turned the mule out to pasture for his final days. Winters came

and went with no sign of the old mule, so the farmer assumed that he had died.

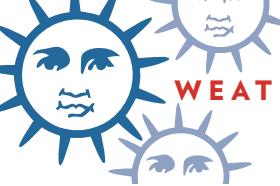
Then, one fall day, the farmer set out to hunt for squirrels. To his amazement, he saw something that looked like a tree moving. Upon closer inspection, he discovered the old mule walking along with a large oak and a smaller maple growing from his back. It seemed that an acorn and a maple

seed had fallen into the sore on the mule's back, taken root, and grown. So, being a resourceful man, the farmer cut down the oak tree and whittled a beautiful saddle from the stump. To this day, the farmer can often be seen riding through his fields on the old mule. He left the maple tree standing, because he liked to ride in the shade.

—Arthur E. Nolder Jr.,
Luthersburg, Pennsylvania

ENTER THE 2019 ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is a tradition at *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. We name the topic, and you send in your best story—and for 2019, that would be 200 words or less on the subject “Kids Say the Funniest Things.” Entries must be yours, original, and unpublished. All entries become the property of Yankee Publishing, which reserves all rights to the material. The deadline for entries is January 25, 2019. Enter at Almanac.com/EssayContest or mail your entry to *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, P.O. Box 520, Dublin, New Hampshire 03444. Winners will receive cash prizes (first, \$300; second, \$200; third \$100), and the essays will appear in *The 2020 Old Farmer's Almanac* and on Almanac.com.



WEATHER FORECASTS

TURKEYS PERCHED ON TREES AND REFUSING TO DESCEND INDICATES SNOW.



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.

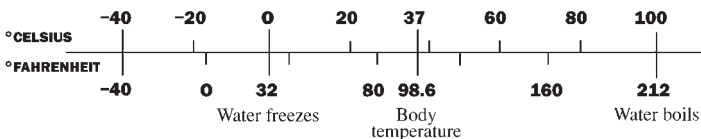


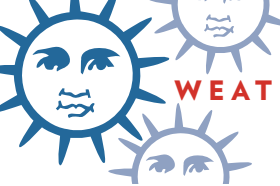
TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY



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

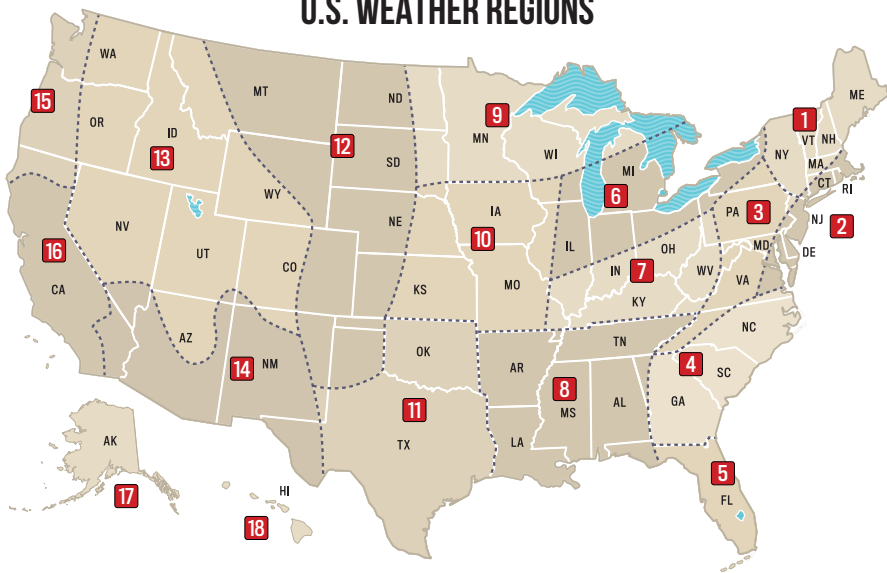
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



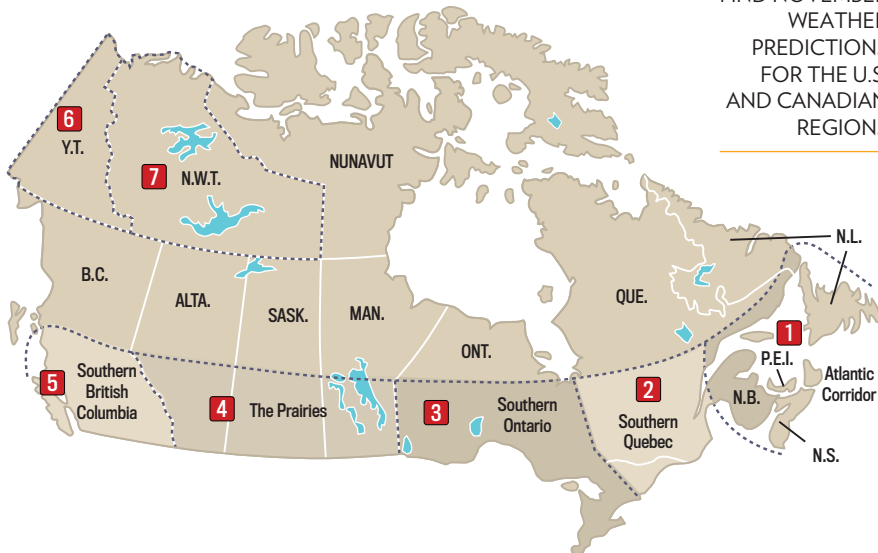


WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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



A LOOK AT LAST SUMMER

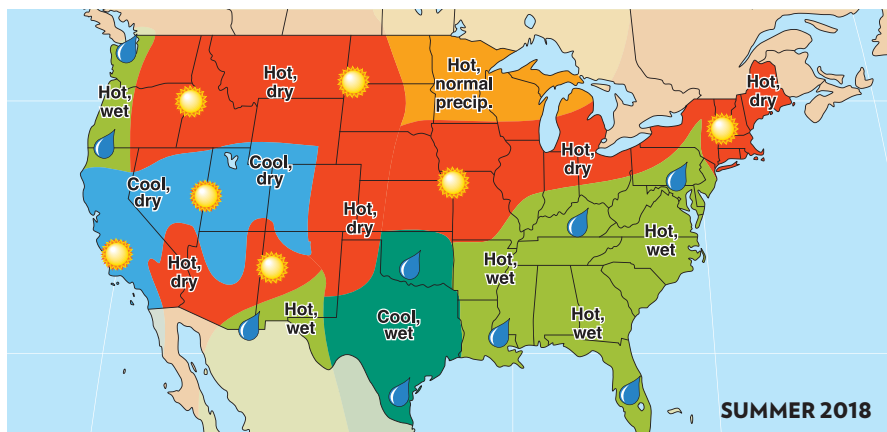
We include verifications of our winter forecast in the print edition of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, showing how accurate our forecast was for the previous winter. However, because the publication cycle requires that we finalize the weather for the print edition in the spring, before summer weather occurs, we have not been able to include analyses of our summer season forecasts in the Almanac.

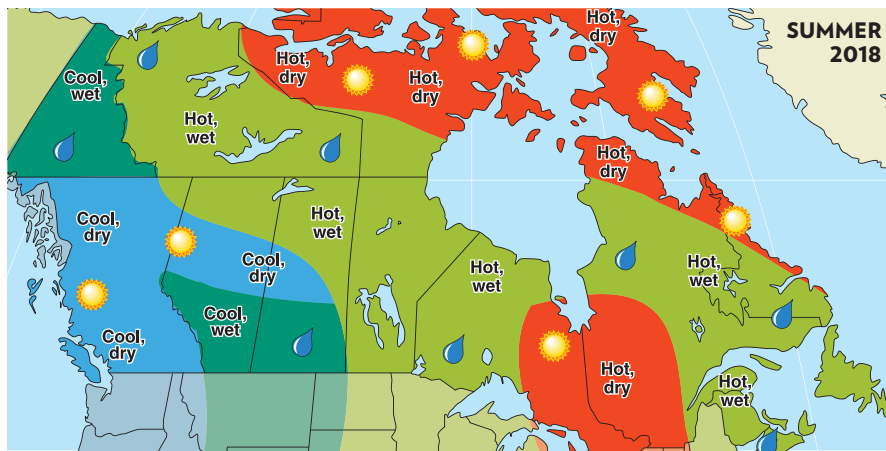
You may find it surprising that in the 22 years that I have been the lead meteorologist with final responsibility for these forecasts, our accuracy rate for the summer forecasts has been nearly the same as that for the winter forecasts (80%), even though our

forecast year starts with winter and summer is half a year later.

Usually, the further in advance forecasts are made, the lower their accuracy rate. But the methodology that we follow, basing our forecasts on solar cycles, seems to enable us to forecast the summer weather with about the same level of accuracy as achieved by our shorter-term winter forecasts.

In *The 2019 Old Farmer's Almanac*, we noted that “Our overall accuracy rate in forecasting the direction of temperature change from normal in the 2017–18 winter ... was 83%,” while our “forecast for the change in precipitation from last winter was correct in 72% of the regions.”





When we look at how we did in the forecast for the 2018 summer season (June through August), we find that our accuracy rate was even higher.

In both our temperature and precipitation forecasts, we correctly forecast the correct direction of departure from normal for at least one of the cities in 16 of the 18 U.S. regions and in 6 of the 7 Canadian regions. This is an accuracy rate of 88.9% for the United States, 85.7% for Canada, and 88.0% overall.

We did miss in our temperature forecasts for U.S. regions 16 and 18 (Pacific Southwest and Hawaii) and Canadian region 5 (Southern British Columbia), and we were wrong in our precipitation forecasts for U.S. regions 15 and 18 (Pacific Northwest and Hawaii) and Canadian region 6

(Yukon). Everywhere else, we were correct in our forecasts.

I apologize to our many, many friends in Hawaii, the only region where we were wrong in both our temperature and precipitation forecast departures from normal—we expect better results from our forecasts there for next summer!

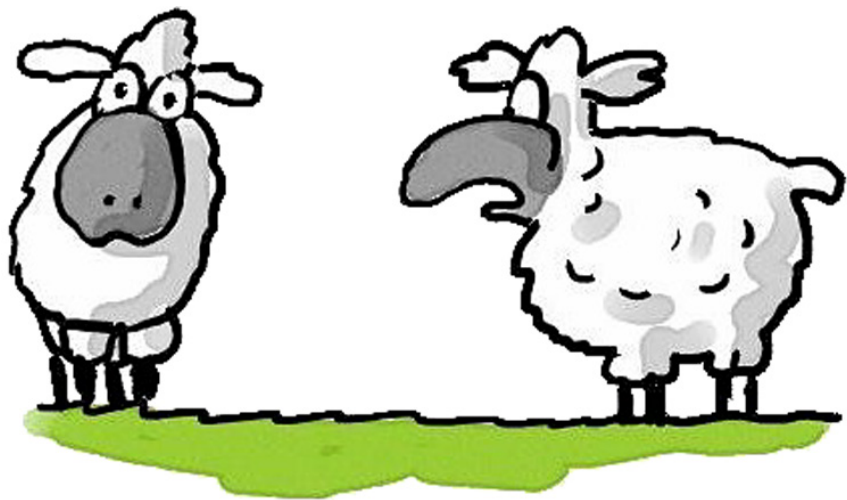
The methodology that we use to make our forecasts is unique and has been developed over decades of use, adjustment, and refinement. While we will likely never be perfect in our forecasts, we do strive to learn from our mistakes and to always provide you, our readers, with the best forecasts possible as of the date that we make them.

—Michael Steinberg, Old Farmer's Almanac meteorologist



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC ARCHIVES



SHEEPISH

A tourist in Vermont got out of his car on a cold, blustery afternoon and walked over to a farm boy who was watching his sheep on the hill below.

“I don’t know about you,” the man said to the boy, “but if I were a sheep, I’d be lying on the

other side of that hill.”

“If you were a sheep,” the farm boy answered, “you’d have more sense than to say that.”

THE REST OF 'EM

A tourist met a farm girl walking barefoot down a country lane.

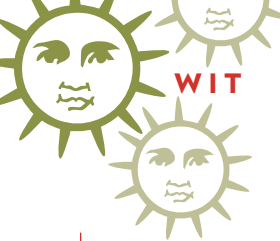
“Do all the people in these parts go around

barefoot?” he asked.

Responded the girl: “Some of ’em do, and the rest of ’em mind their own business.”

PERSPECTIVE

“Will you be good!?” asked a mother of her misbehaving 4-year-old as she held him across her knees.



“I can’t think when I’m this way,” was the reply. “Let me go and I’ll be able to tell!”

SWELLING

Doctor: “There is a curious swelling over the region of the heart, sir, which must be reduced at once.”

Patient: “That is my wallet, doctor—please don’t reduce it too much!”

PRETTY GOOD

A gentleman at a concert was greatly annoyed by the coughing of a lady next to him. Finally, in his despair, he turned to her and said, “That’s a bad cold you have, madam.”

“Yes,” replied the lady, “but it’s the best I’ve got, sir.”

A BETTER SEAT

As they were going in to



dinner, the suitor asked, “May I sit on your right hand?”

“Perhaps a chair would be better,” the fair maiden replied.

FAT CHANCE

In testifying one day, a large witness made many grimaces, writhing and twisting.

“I declare,” remarked one observer, “he looked as though he was swallowing a shoemaker.”

“Not sure he’s capable of that,” came the reply, “but he does look as though he’s downed more than a few cobblers daily.”

BY THE NUMBERS

He was looking for a rich wife and thought he had found one.

“I love you,” he said to her in rich, warm tones, “more than I can tell you in words.”

“Then perhaps you should try numbers,” she replied coldly.

MARRIED RICH

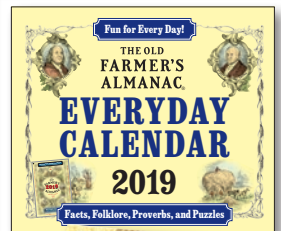
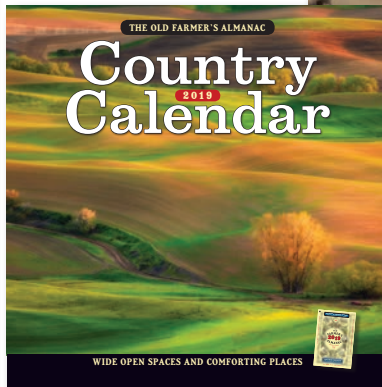
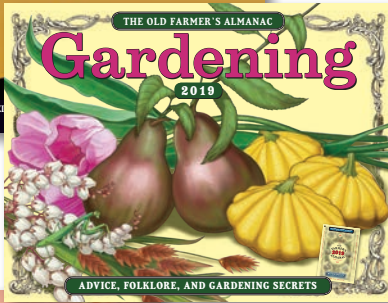
“So, your daughter has married a rich husband?”

“Well,” slowly replied the father, “I believe she has married a rich man, but it turns out that he is a very poor husband.”

2019 Old Farmer's Almanac Calendars

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APRIL 2019

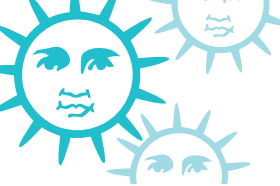
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	Easter Day (observed) Easter Day (observed) Easter Day (observed)		1	2

Good News In the last 100 years, the world's population has grown by 4 billion people. That's a lot of mouths to feed. But with the help of modern farming techniques, we can feed everyone. **Did You Know?** The world's population is expected to reach 10 billion by the year 2050. That's a lot of mouths to feed. But with the help of modern farming techniques, we can feed everyone. **Did You Know?** The world's population is expected to reach 10 billion by the year 2050. That's a lot of mouths to feed. But with the help of modern farming techniques, we can feed everyone.

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