

EXTRA!

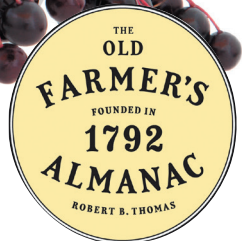
FROM THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC

HOW TO MAKE ELDERBERRY SYRUP

KING NEPTUNE'S AMAZING MAIL SERVICE

FRESH ZUCCHINI RECIPES

THREE TREES FOR FOUR SEASONS



SEPTEMBER 2020

PHOTO: MARILYNA/GETTY IMAGES

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How to Make
Elderberry Syrup

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FOLLOW US:





SEPTEMBER

Holidays, Fun Facts, and More

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

International Day of Peace (Global)



On September 21 each year, people across the world celebrate the International Day of Peace (aka Peace Day), which was established by the United Nations

as a day to honor and promote peace within and among nations. First observed in 1981 on the opening day of the UN regular session, the annual date was changed in

2001 to September 21. Observances range from a moment of silence or peace prayers to events such as peace walks, concerts, themed exhibits, or volunteering in the community.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Sept. 7: Labor Day

Sept. 11: Patriot Day

Sept. 13: Grandparents
Day

Sept. 17: Constitution
Day

Sept. 18: Rosh
Hashanah begins at
sundown

Sept. 21: International
Day of Peace

Sept. 27: Yom Kippur
begins at sundown



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q: What is the cutest season?

A: Awwtumn!



EYE ON THE SKY

MOON PHASES

Full Corn Moon: Sept. 2, 1:22 A.M. EDT

Last Quarter: Sept. 10, 5:26 A.M. EDT

New Moon: Sept. 17, 7:00 A.M. EDT

First Quarter: Sept. 23, 9:55 P.M. EDT

SPECIAL EVENT

The September equinox occurs on the 22nd at 9:31 A.M. EDT. In the Northern Hemisphere, it is known as the autumnal, or fall, equinox and marks the start of the fall season. In the Southern Hemisphere, spring begins.

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT MOON PHASES

 TAP FOR MORE ABOUT SEPTEMBER'S FULL MOON

New for 2021!

Get Everything Under the Sun!

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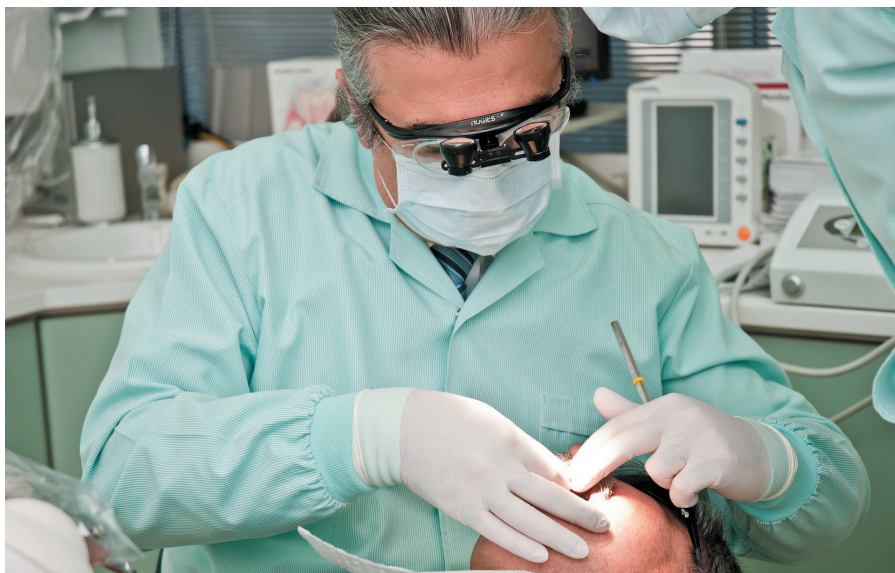
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BEST DAYS TO DO THINGS

These September dates, deemed to be propitious in astrology, are based on the astrological passage of the Moon. However, consider all indicators before making any major decisions. —*Celeste Longacre*

PERSONAL

Advertise to sell: 20, 21

Ask for a loan: 3, 8

Begin diet to lose weight: 3, 8

Begin diet to gain weight: 21, 30

Buy a home: 21, 30

Color hair: 6–8

Cut hair to discourage growth: 6–8

Cut hair to encourage growth: 18, 19

Get married: 18, 19

Have dental care: 16, 17

Move (house/household): 9, 10

Perm hair: 26, 27

Quit smoking: 1, 5, 28

Straighten hair: 22, 23



Travel for pleasure: 13–15

Wean children: 1, 5, 28

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bake: 11, 12

Brew: 20, 21

Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut: 11, 12

Demolish: 20, 21

Dry fruit/vegetables/meat: 4, 5

End projects: 16

Lay shingles: 13–15

Make jams/jellies: 1–3, 28–30

Paint: 18, 19

Start projects: 18

Wash floors: 1–3, 28–30

Wash windows: 4, 5

OUTDOORS

Begin logging: 24, 25

Go camping: 22, 23

Go fishing: 1, 2, 17–30

Set posts or pour concrete: 24, 25

IN THE GARDEN

Destroy pests and weeds: 4, 5

Graft or pollinate: 20, 21

Harvest aboveground crops: 17, 24, 25

Harvest belowground crops: 6–8

Mow to slow growth: 4, 5

Mow to promote growth: 20, 21

Pick fruit: 16, 17

Plant aboveground crops: 1, 20, 21, 29, 30

Plant belowground crops: 11, 12

Prune to discourage growth: 4, 5

Prune to encourage growth: 22, 23

ON THE FARM

Breed animals: 20, 21

Castrate animals: 26, 27

Cut hay: 4, 5

Purchase animals: 11, 12

Set eggs: 7–9, 26, 27

Slaughter livestock: 20, 21

Wean animals: 1, 5, 28



GARDENING BY THE MOON'S SIGN

Use the September 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 SEPTEMBER

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

+ TAP FOR
MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE
DATES

▶ TAP FOR
SEPTEMBER
MOON PHASES

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE

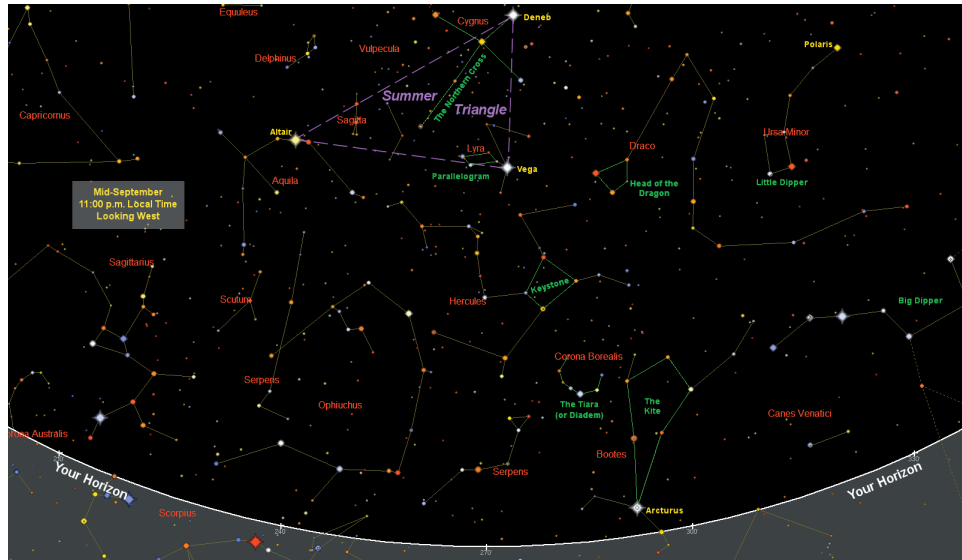
Sometimes the other planets appear to be traveling backward through the zodiac; this is an illusion. We call this illusion *retrograde motion*.

Mercury's retrograde periods can cause our plans to go awry. However, this is an excellent time to reflect on the past. Intuition is high during these periods, and coincidences can be extraordinary.

When Mercury is retrograde, remain flexible, allow extra time for travel, and avoid signing contracts. Review projects and plans at these times, but wait until Mercury is direct again to make any final decisions.

Mercury's remaining 2020 retrograde period: **Oct. 14–Nov. 3.**

—Celeste Longacre



Mid-September
11:00 p.m. Local Time
Looking West

DISCOVERING THE LATE-SUMMER TRIANGLE



TAP TO GET A PRINTABLE SEPTEMBER SKY MAP



TAP TO FOLLOW OHIOAN JEFF DETRAY'S SKY ADVENTURES

Although the calendar tells us that autumn begins this month, the sights of summer are still prominent in the night sky. The distinctive Summer Triangle can help you to navigate the heavens on warm September nights.

When you face westward at this time of year, the night sky is dominated by three bright stars: Altair, Vega, and Deneb. These three form the Summer Triangle, as illustrated in purple on this month's sky map.

To spot the top of the Summer Triangle, look nearly straight up to find the bright star Deneb. It sits at the top of the Northern Cross asterism (unofficial star pattern), itself a part of the large constellation Cygnus, the Swan. The Northern Cross is one of those asterisms that, once seen, is easily recognized in the future.



Directly below Deneb, you'll find the even brighter star Vega, in the constellation Lyra, the Lyre. Moviegoers were introduced to Vega in the 1997 film *Contact*, starring Jodie Foster. In the movie, a planet orbiting Vega was home to the first alien civilization to contact Earth. To the left of Vega is a small group of four stars that form the Lyre, a delicate, near perfect parallelogram.

Look to the left to find Altair, the third member of the Summer Triangle, in the constellation Aquila, the Eagle. Altair is midway in brightness between Deneb and Vega. Its name derives from an Arabic phrase that translates as "the flying eagle." So, both the star and its constellation have roughly the same name. As interstellar distances go, Altair is a close neighbor—a mere 17 light-years (99.9 trillion miles) from us!

The three stars of the Summer Triangle are helpful for guiding you to other celestial sights. Following the line from Altair rightward past Vega brings you to the head of Draco, the Dragon. Once you have spotted its head, try to follow the sinuous body of the Dragon that slants upward and then bends downward to curl under the Little Dipper.

Below Vega lies the sprawling constellation Hercules, the mighty hero of Roman and Greek mythology. (The Greeks called him Heracles.) Four of the brighter stars of Hercules form the nicely symmetrical Keystone asterism. The Keystone is often visible even when most other stars in Hercules are obscured by streetlights and other manmade light pollution.

Just beneath the Keystone is the lovely constellation Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. To me, Corona Borealis more closely resembles a Tiara or, if you are a Harry Potter fan, the Lost Diadem of Ravenclaw. In Harry's magical world, the Diadem was said to grant wisdom to its wearer and to carry the famous inscription: "Wit beyond measure is man's greatest treasure."

Just to the right of Corona Borealis and very near the horizon stands the kite-shape form of Boötes, the Herdsman. You'll need a dark location that's free of trees and buildings to get a good view of the Kite and its brightest star, Arcturus.

September nights are among the most pleasant of the year. Plan to spend at least one of them enjoying the Summer Triangle and the many sights within and around it.

—Jeff DeTray

LIVING NATURALLY



How to Make Elderberry Syrup

PHOTO: STEINBACH/GETTY IMAGES

Elderberries! The branches of these humble roadside and streambank shrubs, festooned in June with flat-topped clusters of airy white flowers, now drip with gorgeous, deep-purple clusters of berries.

Botanists treat our common American elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) as a subspecies of the European black elderberry (*S. nigra*), used since prehistoric times for food, drink, and medicine. The plant also boasts a rich folklore.

Only the blossoms and the very ripe, cooked berries are considered edible; unripe berries and leaves and stems contain mildly toxic amounts of cyanide compounds.

The berries of some elder species are toxic, too. If you want to use elder flowers or berries, make sure that you have identified the plant and its berries correctly. Pay close attention to the cautions at the end of

this article.

In past years, I've harvested the flower clusters and battered them into fritters or dried them for winter teas. I've used the berries in jams (great with blackberries) and to add crunch to pie fillings. Although I don't make them myself, elderberry wines and cordials have served humans since prehistoric times to foster both health and conviviality.

This year, I made elderberry syrup. Herbalists consider both the flowers and (especially) the berries potent antivirals; they've been used for centuries as both preventatives and treatments for respiratory illnesses.

An elderberry patch half a mile down the road yielded so abundantly that I harvested 2 quarts of berries in less than 10 minutes.

It was easy to remove the berries from their stems by using a gentle,

downward, milking motion. Then I rinsed them in cool water. I've learned to wear ratty shorts and T-shirts when handling elderberries, and I take care not to let them scatter on the floor or countertops. Elderberry juice serves as a strong dyestuff that's difficult to remove once it has soaked into anything porous.

I froze most of the elderberries that I harvested, reserving only a cup for making my syrup. Here's how I did it:

First, I put the cup of berries, 3 cups of water, a cinnamon stick, four whole cloves, and 2 tablespoons of grated ginger into a stainless saucepan, brought the mixture to a boil, and then reduced the heat and simmered the liquid on low until it was reduced to about half of its original volume.

Then I poured the mixture into a stainless-steel mesh strainer set over a glass bowl and used a wooden pestle to

push the pulp through the mesh to separate it from the spices and the seeds.

I added a cup of raw honey to the warm elderberry liquid, stirred well, waited for the mixture to cool, and decanted it into a sterilized, 3/4-quart canning jar.

After putting a lid on the jar, I set it into the refrigerator. As long as I keep it cold, my elderberry syrup should last the winter.

I'll take (or administer) a "medicinal" teaspoonful after exposure to a respiratory infection or at the first sign of one

and then every 3 hours or so if a cold or flu does attack.

The honeyed syrup also makes an effective cough suppressant.

The sweet syrup can also flavor a cup of winter tea or top a fruit dessert.

CAUTIONS

- Collect only deep-blue/purple berry clusters that droop downward and grow from woody shrubs. Don't collect berry clusters that grow upright, and don't collect red elderberries.
- Don't eat raw elderberries, and don't

use the leaves, bark, or twigs (even though they have their uses under the care of experienced herbalists).

- Because honey poses a risk of causing infant botulism, don't give elderberry syrup to children younger than 2.
- If you're pregnant or taking prescription medicines, don't use elderberry tinctures or syrups without consulting your health professional first.

—Margaret Boyles

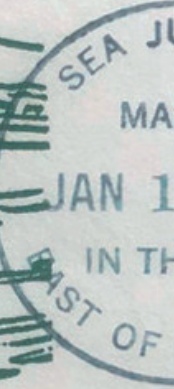
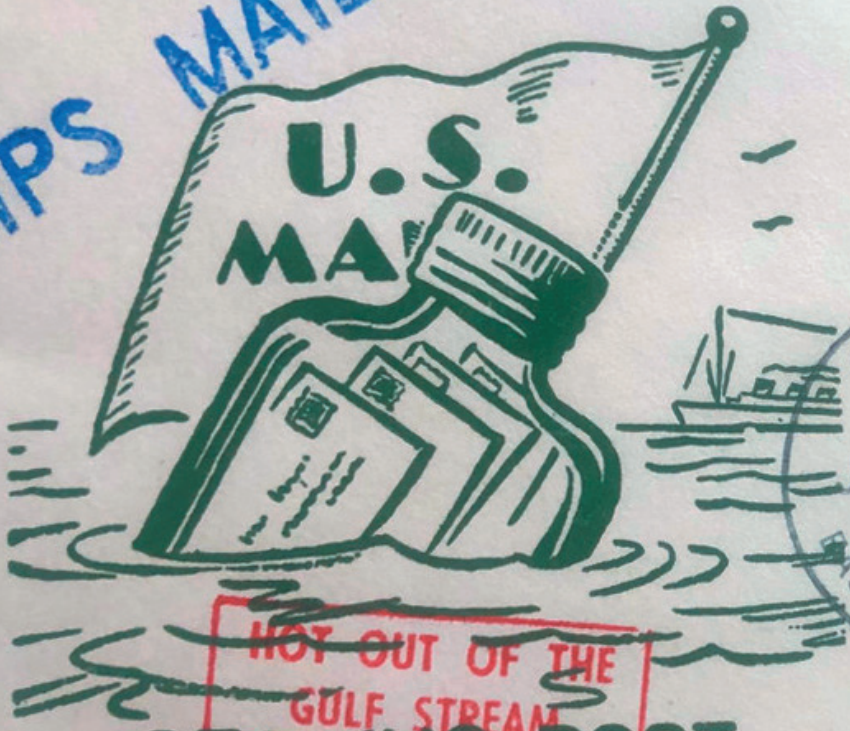
TAP TO READ MORE OF MARGARET BOYLES'S POSTS IN HER "LIVING NATURALLY" BLOG



M. V. OREGON SWORD

AMUSEMENT

SHIPS MAIL



HOT OUT OF THE GULF STREAM

SEA-JUG POST

Mailed At Sea - - In The Sea

King Neptune's Amazing Mail Service

Forget RFD! This was OFD—Ocean Free Delivery—for messages in a bottle.

If you happen to find a bottle drifting in from the sea, pick it up. It may only be an empty that someone has tossed away—or it may contain a message, which would certainly be a fascination. However, if the bottle bears a tiny flag in its stopper, it may be a relic of a once-official and routine service performed by the U.S. Post Office to speed delivery of mariners' correspondence.

The program was invented in September 1949 by two merchant marine captains in order to get crew and passenger mail ashore without slowing down their vessels. Envelopes were stamped to indicate their ship of origin.

Letters from Captain C. E. Milbury's ship MV *Arizona Sword* bear the printed cachet, or mark, "Sea-Jug-Post, mailed at sea—in the sea, via sea jug."

Missives from the SS *Mexico*, skippered by Captain O. H. Martinson, carry a "Via Pickle Bottle" cancellation.

Some pieces of mail are stamped with indications of their course, such as "Off Miami," "Hot out of the Gulf Stream," or "Long Drift Mail."

The system was simple: When either ship was due east of Miami, the skipper collected mail from those on board—sometimes dozens of pieces—and put it into an empty gallon jar ballasted

with sand or cement so that it could stand up in the water. Jugs from the *Arizona Sword* were fitted with a sealed top from which projected a tiny flag: "U.S. Mail—Sea-Jug-Post."

The jar was tossed overboard and drifted away to be picked up by fishermen, cruisers, or swimmers on the nearby beach. "Letters mailed by jug seem to reach their destination far sooner than those saved for mailboxes in foreign countries," one of the skippers explained.

Surviving pieces of postmarked mail suggest that this program was active in the early to mid-1950s before being discontinued.

—Henry L. Miller



Mr. Stanley Zygmunt
316 Austin St.
Buffalo 7

N.Y.

FOOD



Fresh Zucchini Recipes

The next time you find yourself with more zucchini than you can handle, whether they're from your own garden or a friend's, don't despair. Once you've sampled these tasty dishes, you may find yourself thinking about ways to increase next year's zucchini harvest.

Zucchini and Pecan Sour Cream Pancakes



[+](#) TAP FOR RECIPE



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

ZUCCHINI AND PECAN SOUR CREAM PANCAKES

1-1/3 cups milk
1 cup sour cream
2 eggs
2 tablespoons butter, melted
2 cups all-purpose flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup grated zucchini
1/4 cup chopped pecans
1-1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
butter and maple syrup, for servings

In a bowl, combine milk, sour cream, eggs, and butter. Mix thoroughly. Add flour, baking powder, sugar, and salt; stir until just combined. (The batter will be lumpy.) Add zucchini, pecans, and lemon juice.

Measure out 1/4 cup of batter; pour onto hot griddle or skillet. Cook until bubbles appear on the surface. Turn once and cook until underside is slightly brown. Serve with soft butter and warm maple syrup.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.



FOOD

+ TAP FOR RECIPE

Zucchini Marmalade



SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

ZUCCHINI MARMALADE

- 2 pounds zucchini, grated
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- juice from 1/2 lemon
- 1 can (13 ounces) crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 package (1-3/4 ounces) powdered fruit pectin
- 5 cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped crystallized ginger

In a large kettle, combine zucchini, lemon zest, lemon juice, and pineapple. Bring to a boil over high heat. Lower heat and simmer, uncovered, until zucchini is tender. Add pectin. Bring to a boil and stir in sugar and ginger. Boil hard for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and skim off foam. Stir for 5 minutes to prevent zucchini from floating. Ladle into hot, sterilized jars, leaving a 1/4-inch headspace. Seal and process for 5 minutes in a boiling water bath.

Makes 6 pints.

FOOD



TAP FOR
RECIPE

Kale, Bean, and Zucchini Soup

PHOTO: SAMANTHA JONES/QUINN BREIN COMMUNICATIONS

SHARE
THIS
RECIPE

KALE, BEAN, AND ZUCCHINI SOUP

- 1 package (1 pound) dried beans for soup
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 8 cups chicken, beef, or vegetable stock
- 1 cup tomato sauce or stewed tomatoes
- 3 cups chopped kale leaves
- 1 zucchini, diced
- 3 tablespoons coarsely chopped cilantro
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Rinse beans and soak in water to cover for several hours or overnight.

Drain beans, rinse again, and put into a soup pot. Add onions, garlic, and stock. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for 1-1/2 hours, or until beans are cooked through but still retain some texture. Add tomato sauce, kale, and zucchini. Bring to a boil and cook, stirring constantly, for 2 to 3 minutes. Add cilantro and season with salt and pepper.

Makes 8 to 10 servings.

AGE-OLD WISDOM

Encourage pollinators with companion planting

Reduce pests and diseases with crop rotation

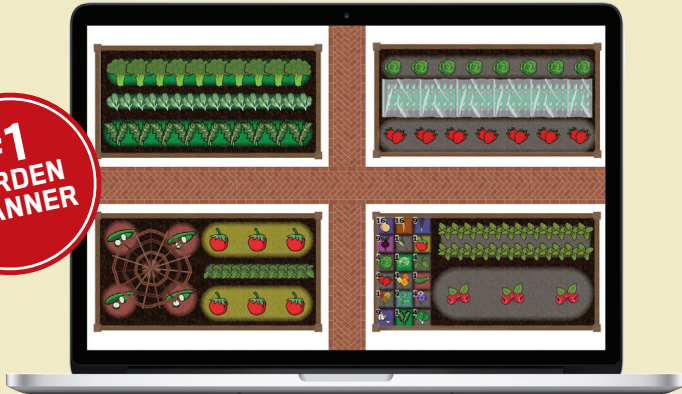
Maximize harvests with succession planting

Learn more from your garden with detailed records



MODERN TOOLS

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GARDENING

katsura tree

Three Trees for Four Seasons

PHOTO: KAREN MASSIER/GETTY IMAGES

If you're looking for an attractive ornamental tree for your yard, chances are that you are probably considering one of the old standbys like crabapple, flowering cherry, hawthorn, or Japanese maple. While any one of these trees will certainly add beauty and interest for part of the season, there are a few less common ones that have four-season value and are sure to have your friends saying, "Wow, what kind of tree is *that*?"

The deciduous **katsura tree**, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, which is native to China and Japan, is just such a specimen. Pyramidal when young, the 40- to 60-foot tree assumes a graceful rounded shape with maturity and ideally serves as a shade tree. The spring foliage emerges a beautiful rosy purple color, changing to a cool blue-green as the season progresses.

With the arrival of autumn, its 2- to 4-inch heart-shaped leaves develop wonderful shades of yellow, orange, and apricot. As the colored leaves drop to the ground, they scent the air with a sweet, spicy fragrance that hints of cinnamon, vanilla, or burnt sugar and gives the tree its nickname, "caramel tree."

Its lightly peeling, shaggy brown bark carries katsura's charm right through the winter. The tree thrives in Zones 4 to 8 and has no serious insect or disease problems, but bear in mind that hot, dry conditions may scorch the fabulous foliage.

The **Persian parrotia** *Parrotia persica*, aka Persian ironwood, is a spectacular performer that is sure to turn heads at any time of the year. It grows to a modest 20 to 40 feet in height eventually (perhaps taking 7 to 8 years to achieve 10 feet), with a

15- to 30-foot canopy.

In March or early April, a haze of small crimson flowers emerge to develop reddish purple leaves that mature to a deep green.

It is parrotia's brilliant autumn foliage, however, that really steals the show, with a breathtaking display of bright yellow, orange, and scarlet leaves.

Exfoliating bark revealing shades of creamy white, green, gray, and brown tones give this tree exceptional winter interest. Hardy in Zones 4 to 8 and with no significant insect or disease problems, it is well suited to small lawns with full sun.

Another attractively small tree that is sure to brighten up any landscape or border in a big way is **Japanese stewartia**, *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, which matures to 12 to 40 feet.

Its 2- to 3-inch white

*Persian parrotia*

flowers with prominent orange anthers resemble camellia blossoms (it is related to *Camellia*) and open in late June or early July, when most other flowering trees are done blooming. The new twig growth is red, and young leaves start out with a purple tint, turning to dark green as they

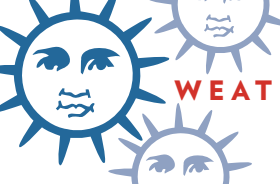
develop.

Stewartia's stunning fall foliage is orange, red, or a mix of the two. Its showy bark unfolds in layers, displaying a mosaic of grays, reds, and orange that won't go unnoticed in any season. Happy in full sun or part shade, this tree is hardy in Zones 5 to 8 and is

generally unaffected by disease or insects.

It is probably just a coincidence that all three of these trees end in the letter "a," but if this were a grade, we think that their outstanding performance in the landscape would really merit raising it to "A+."

—George Lohmiller



WEATHER FORECASTS

SAID OF HURRICANE SEASON: SEPTEMBER—REMEMBER.

HOW WE MAKE OUR PREDICTIONS

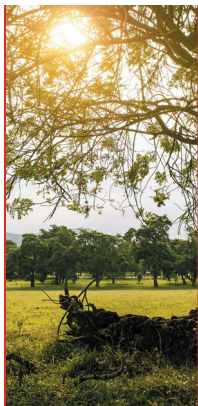
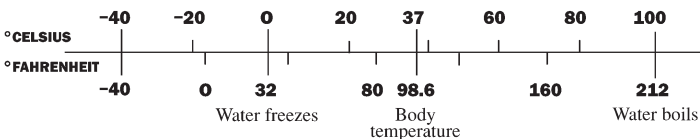
We derive our weather forecasts from a secret formula that was devised by the founder of this Almanac, Robert B. Thomas, in 1792. Thomas believed that weather on Earth was influenced by sunspots, which are magnetic storms on the surface of the Sun.

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

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

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

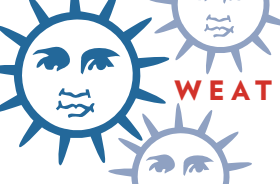
CELSIUS-FAHRENHEIT TABLE



TAP TO FIND OUT THE WEATHER HISTORY OF THE DAY

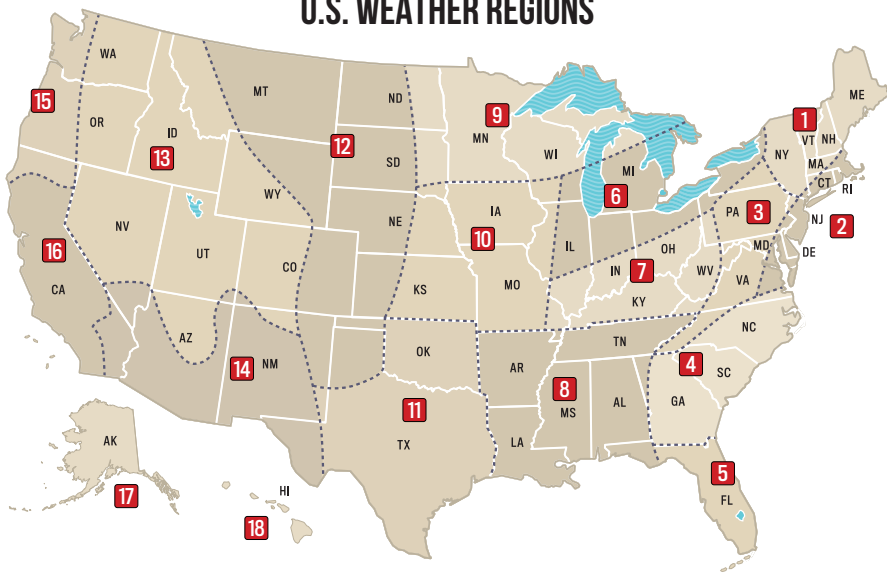


LOVE ALL THINGS WEATHER? TAP FOR THE WEATHER FOLKLORE OF THE DAY



WEATHER FORECASTS

U.S. WEATHER REGIONS



CANADIAN WEATHER REGIONS



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





FALLING INTO WINTER

Labor Day weekend marks the last hurrah of the summer season across the United States and Canada. Good news! The weather will mostly cooperate if you have plans for one last barbecue before autumn weather sets in.

Most of the eastern half of the United States will be a bit on the cool side during September, although sprinkles will be few and far between. Showers will be more widespread from Texas to Arizona and northward to the Canadian border, although temperatures will be on the warm side in most of these areas. Parts of Alaska and Hawaii will also see showers.

Meanwhile, hot, mostly dry weather will be the rule from Washington down through California. Folks in Atlantic Canada and the Yukon and Northwest Territories will see a few showers, but elsewhere across the commonwealth, dry and cool weather will prevail.

For U.S. Patriot Day on September 11, showers will be the rule across much



of the United States, although sunshine will dominate from the Heartland to California.

My favorite day in September is Grandparents Day on the 13th. Whenever I get the chance, I train my grandkids to do to their parents all the bad stuff my kids did to me—revenge is sweet!

The grandkids will have to do it indoors in most places in Canada and the eastern two-thirds of the United States, as rainy weather and cool temperatures will predominate.

Most of the western states will see warmer, dryer weather; dry air of a cooler nature will prevail in Atlantic Canada.

Temperatures will fall as fall arrives in September. The cooler-than-normal temperatures, on average, will linger through the month in most places, although temperatures for the month will average above normal in Florida, from the Intermountain region and Arizona westward to the Pacific, in Alaska and Atlantic Canada, and from the Prairies westward to the Pacific and northward to the Yukon.

September precipitation will be on the heavier side from southern New England southward to Georgia, from Pennsylvania southwestward to Louisiana, and in the Desert Southwest, southern Alaska, Atlantic Canada, Quebec, and portions of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. It will be near or below normal elsewhere.

Just when an early winter seems inevitable, October will roll in with milder-than-normal temperatures nearly everywhere—actually, make that “much warmer than normal” temps in the eastern two-thirds of the United States.

But enjoy it while it lasts: As the leaves begin turning color and floating to the ground, above-normal rainfall will visit the Deep South and Southeast and range northeastward to New England, as well as predominate from central California northward through the Pacific Northwest. Most other areas will be dry or nearly so.

Autumn temperatures will be above normal in Atlantic Canada, southern Ontario, the Prairies, British Columbia, and the Yukon and below normal elsewhere across the Canadian commonwealth.

Precipitation will be below or near normal in Ontario and the Prairies and



above normal in nearly all parts of the other Canadian provinces.

A PEEK AHEAD AT WINTER

As far as the upcoming winter goes, we will be entering Solar Cycle 25, which is expected to bring very low solar activity. Although low levels of solar activity have historically been associated with cooler temperatures, on average, across Earth, we believe that recent warming trends will dominate in the eastern and northern parts of the United States in the coming winter, with below-normal average temperatures limited to the western portion of the nation. Temperatures will average above normal in most of Canada, except for Atlantic Canada and the Prairies, where below-normal temperatures are expected.

As we move toward the winter, watch for any changes in the ENSO pattern (the El Niño–Southern Oscillation, which is based on temperatures in the Pacific Ocean), where we expect a weak La Niña to develop. If the La Niña were to be stronger, colder temperatures would likely prevail across the northern Plains and southern Ontario. On the other hand, if we instead have more neutral conditions or an El Niño, California would experience heavier rainfall while the Canadian Prairies would have milder temperatures.

–*Michael Steinberg, Old Farmer’s Almanac meteorologist*



HUMOR ME

GRINS AND GROANS FROM THE ALMANAC



GUILT WATCH

A young lawyer, whose cases were few, was asked to defend a poverty-stricken tramp accused of stealing a watch. The lawyer pleaded with all of the ardor at his command,

drawing so pathetic a picture with such convincing energy that at the close of his argument, the court was in tears and even the tramp wept. The jury deliberated for but a few minutes

and delivered a verdict of “Not guilty.” The tramp drew himself up before the attorney, tears streaming down his face, and said: “Sir, I have never heard so grand a plea. I have



not cried since I was a child. I have no money with which to reward you, but [drawing a package from the depths of his ragged clothes] here's the watch—take it, and you're welcome."

SEEN AND NOT HEARD

Two officers were sent to arrest a gentleman. His wife met them at the door and said, "Come in, officers. He will see you shortly."

After waiting some time, the men got impatient and called out to the woman, saying, "You said we should see your husband presently . . ."

"No, friends," she replied. "I said that he would see you, which he did. Not liking the looks of you, he went out by the back door."

PILLOW TALK

*"I wish I were nearer perfection," I said,
As I sat on the sofa with her;
The lamp threw a halo of gold o'er her head,
Her breath was like iris and myrrh.*

*"That's easy," she said,
with a smile in her eyes,
A trick she had gathered from Venus.
And then, with a laugh and a fluttering sigh,
She cast out the pillow between us.*

HAT TRICK

"George," said the wife to her generally unappreciative husband, "how do you like my new hat?"

"Well, my dear," replied George, "to tell you the truth . . ."

"Stop right there, George! If you're going to be *that* way about it, I don't want to know!"

TOO YOUNG TO KNOW

I asked my pa a simple thing:

*"Where do holes in doughnuts go?"
Pa read his paper, then he said:
"You're too young to know."*

I asked my ma about the wind:

*"Why can't you see it blow?"
Ma thought a moment, then she said:
"You're too young to know."*

*Now, why on Earth do you suppose
They went and spanked me so?*

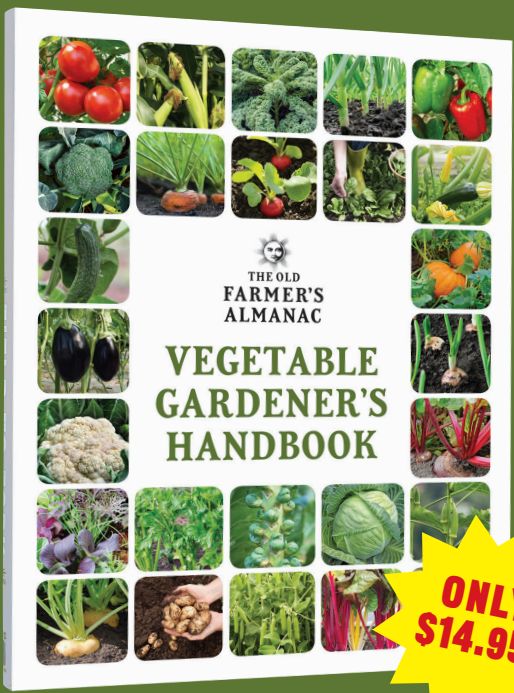
Ma asked: "Where is that jam?"

I said: "You're too young to know."

NEW!

GROW BETTER WITH A HAND FROM US!

ADVICE ON:
how to test and amend your soil
seed-starting and seed-saving
watering and fertilizing
how to deal with pests and diseases
harvesting and storing



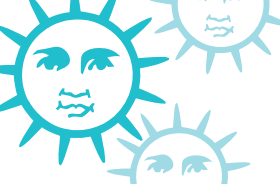
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WHAT'S NEXT



LIVING NATURALLY

How to Make the Most of Seasons



CALENDAR

Moon phases, October holidays, China's Mid-Autumn Festival, Joke of the Month



ASTRONOMY

Explore with our Sky Map



GARDENING

How Wardian cases became today's terrariums



GENEALOGY

Calculating Cousins



FOOD

Perfect Pumpkin Recipes

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

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