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The 250th Year of the Independence of the
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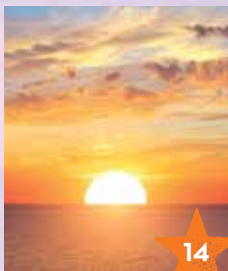
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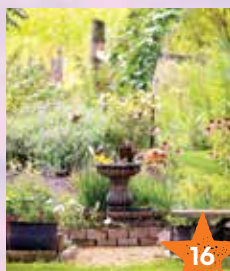
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FEATURES



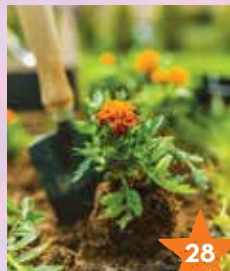
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Nature & Nurture—The Power of Healing Gardens



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LET'S CONNECT!



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A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Your All-Season Guide to the Good Life

What season is your favorite? Living in the northeast for all of my life, summer has always had a special place in my heart, beckoning memories of endless days with nothing to do but dance in the creek, swim in the reservoir, and complain about how bored we were. But winter also conjures up a certain magic. The quiet comfort of a powdered-sugar-coated landscape after a snowstorm inspires me to appreciate nature, and its ability to provide escape from everyday stress and chores.

The *Farmers' Almanac* is filled with guides that make navigating each season easier. This year's edition is packed with new seasonal guides for birdwatching, checklists for how to prepare your house for a stress-free year, dates and times for must-see sky events in 2026, and best days for training pets, in addition to our go-to classics: Extended Weather Forecasts, and our Gardening by the Moon, Fishing, and Best Days calendars.

Speaking of calendars, we've redesigned our traditional Calendar Pages (which appear across from monthly weather predictions). Now, they provide a visual of the month ahead, giving you easier references for Moon phases, holidays, timely tips, and lore. (*Note:* The Moon's Astronomical Place in the zodiac for the entire year is on its own calendar on page 120.)

My mom always says picking favorites is too hard. I'd have to agree. So, no matter what season speaks to you most, we hope that this edition helps you live the good life.

Seasons' Greetings,

Sandi

Sandi Duncan *Philom., Editor*

P.S. As a thank you for buying the *Farmers' Almanac* in print, we are offering you a free membership to FarmersAlmanac.com. With this membership, you can access 12 months of weather, gardening, fishing, and Moon calendars wherever you go, whenever you want. To activate your free membership, simply scan this QR code:



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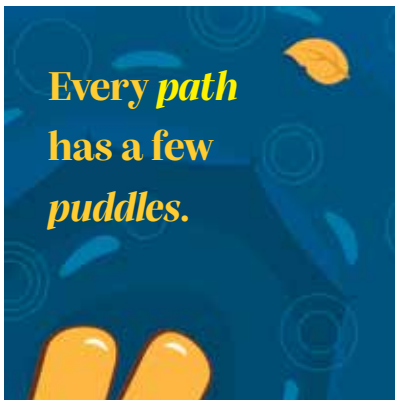
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NO MORE FRUIT FLIES

Fill a small bowl with apple cider vinegar and 2 drops of liquid dish soap. Mix well and leave on the counter (away from pets). Fruit flies will be drawn to the swimming pool trap and meet their demise.

FLIES BE GONE

Flies are attracted to many scents, but they do not like pine, lemon, or lavender. Try making a spray of Pine-Sol mixed with water, a 50/50 solution.

(Note: Pine-Sol no longer contains pine oil, but it does contain limonene, which is both a component of pine oil and an ingredient in many insect repellents).

Use this spray to clean patios, outdoor furniture, and tables. Let the sprayed areas dry without rinsing. Avoid using on wood decks with unsealed or aged wood.



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KITCHEN *tips*

SAVE YOUR BURNT NONSTICK PAN WITH BAKING SODA!

No need to toss that burnt pan! A little baking soda and patience can make it shine again. Just remember, be gentle—no harsh stuff.

Step 1: Make a Paste—Sprinkle baking soda over the burnt bits and add a splash of water to make a thin paste.

Step 2: Let it Work—Let the pan sit overnight. The baking soda is breaking down that burnt residue.

Step 3: Clean and Shine—In the morning, scrub gently with a soft sponge and rinse clean with soap and water.

STAINLESS STEEL PAN MESSSES

For everyday cleanup, scrub your stainless-steel pan with hot soapy water and a nonabrasive sponge.

If stuck-on food bits remain, fill the pan with enough soapy water to cover the residue, bring to a boil, and scrape with a spatula or wooden spoon. The food should come away easily. Allow the pan to cool, then wash as usual. For stubborn stains, add a few tablespoons of white or apple cider vinegar before boiling.

SPILLED OIL?

Grab the salt, flour, or baking soda. Liberally sprinkle over the spill. Wait a minute. Then sweep or wipe it up. Finish cleaning the area with glass cleaner or soapy water.



PEEL GARLIC EASILY

Microwave for a few seconds.

Soak in hot water for 30 seconds.

Shake in a jar with the ends cut off.

Remember to store whole heads in a dark place, refrigerate peeled cloves, or freeze.

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HOUSEPLANT hacks

✿ COFFEE FILTER TRICK

When potting new plants, line the bottom with coffee filters. It keeps the soil from spilling into the catch basin and helps the soil absorb water if bottom-watering. The filters don't last forever, but they hold up long enough for the soil to settle and stop spilling out of the drainage holes.

✿ WATERING WISDOM

Try watering plants from the bottom by placing the pot in a saucer of water. It promotes healthy root growth and prevents overwatering.

✿ CHOPSTICK PLANT SUPPORTS

Reuse old chopsticks to keep plants upright and thriving. Simply stick the chopstick into the soil near the stem and gently tie the plant to it with twine.

✿ THE TURKEY BASTER TRICK

Use a turkey baster to remove excess water from a plant's saucer. No more drips or spills!

✿ PLASTIC WRAP PLANTERS

Cover the top of glass jars for plant cuttings with plastic wrap. Poke a few holes in the wrap so cuttings can fit comfortably and avoid drowning in large jar openings.

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SUNSETS:

When the weather is simply perfect, the setting Sun can put on a sky show more beautiful than any work of art. Have you ever wondered what creates a sunset? What is the best season, location, and way to see a stunning sunset? That's easy: watch them all, wherever you are.

SUNSET colors

The vibrant shades of pink and red that light up the sky at sunset are caused by sunlight coming through Earth's atmosphere. When the Sun is higher in the sky, it looks white or yellow in color. But as the Sun rests low along the horizon, sunlight travels through more atmosphere to reach your eyes. That bends the light and shifts the color we see more toward the red spectrum.

Smog and smoke will also affect the color of the Sun. Humidity and air pollution can increase the red color in the atmosphere, while wildfires can blow smoke hundreds of miles and create neon orange skies over vast areas.

SUNSETS to REMEMBER

Crystal clear sunsets, like those viewed from desert or ocean locations, create dramatic horizontal bands of colors—from deep reds in the western sky, to pale blues higher up.

Clouds are a huge wildcard. Too many clouds will block out all the light. But if you have the correct combination of puffy or wispy cloud cover at perfect angles from the Sun and your eyes, the twilight sky can be magical.

Some people think that the best sunsets happen when the entire day has been overcast. But at the last moment, the clouds part and the Sun emerges like a beacon in the western sky. This is the mythical golden hour, where the bottom of the clouds, trees, hills, houses, and even people glow from this ethereal light.

NATURE'S FREE SHOW

By Dean Regas

BELT of VENUS Accessory to a Sunset

As the Sun touches the horizon in the western sky, face the opposite direction and you'll see a dark blue or purple band of light just above the eastern horizon.



Astronomers nicknamed this the Belt of Venus—but it has nothing to do with our nearest planet (it's actually associated with the girdle or belt supposedly worn by the goddess Venus). Instead, you are seeing the shadow of the Earth cast onto the atmosphere. The Belt of Venus is a subtle but beautiful accessory to any sunset.

HOW to REALLY WATCH a SUNSET

Arrive at a spot with a clear view of the western horizon 30-45 minutes before sunset. Bring a friend or family member, a comfortable chair or blanket, and some drinks.

Turn your phone off, sit back, and be observant.

Watch how the sky slowly shifts colors, feel how the wind and temperature change, and listen to the sounds of passing birds. After the Sun touches the horizon and slowly dips below the ground, stay through twilight and into darkness. Discover the first stars and planets to pop into view.

A beautiful sunset can happen at any location, any time of the year.

You don't have to travel to exotic locations to see a stellar evening sky. The key is frequency. The more you see, the better. Make a date to watch a sunset tonight.

Dean Regas is an astronomer and author of six books, including 100 Things to See in the Night Sky and How to Teach Grown-Ups About Pluto, and host of the popular astronomy podcast "Looking Up with Dean Regas." He can be reached at www.astrodean.com



nature & nurture

THE POWER OF HEALING GARDENS

By Jean Grigsby

Ever notice how a walk in nature can turn a bad day around? Well, it's not a coincidence. Research regarding the restorative results of nature abounds, with primary care physicians and therapists of all kinds prescribing time in nature for its health benefits.

But here's the thing: you don't need to trek into the wilderness to get your daily dose of green therapy. You can create your own healing sanctuary right at home, whether you've got a sprawling backyard or just a sunny windowsill.

Healing gardens are plant environments specifically designed to foster interactions with nature to promote positive emotional, mental, and physical health.

You may think you've never experienced a healing garden, but if you've strolled around hospital grounds or sat on a patio at a long-term-care facility, you have. These spaces have been intentionally designed with meandering paths, sitting areas, water features, and more to provide an environment to comfort, refresh, and soothe patients and their loved ones.

Most of us don't have the means to create a healing garden on a grand scale but we can create an area, however large or small, with plants and other features to promote our health and well-being. Whether you want to cultivate a healing garden to connect more deeply with nature, or retreat from all the chaos and noise of modern life, there's a way to create one suited to you.



ENGAGE *all* FIVE SENSES

Healing gardens work best when you engage all of your senses.

Sight: Use colorful plants in a variety of shapes and sizes, along with different accents like pottery, rocks, and statuary.

Sound: Install dynamic water features, bird baths, or wind chimes. Use plants that attract songbirds and pollinators.

Smell: Plant aromatic flowers and herbs. Lavender is a healing garden favorite, as are peppermint and scented geraniums.

Touch: Use plants and materials with different textures, such as lamb's ear, pussy willow, and ornamental grasses.

Taste: Add edible and medicinal plants. Consider calendula, echinacea, lettuces, and nasturtiums.

(continued)



CHOOSE A GOAL

Do you want more connection to nature, mindfulness, peace, or so-lace? You may want to get elbows deep in soil by choosing annuals that can be swapped out each year or seasonally, or you may prefer to plant carefree perennials. Think about what heals you. You might be rejuvenated by bright colors, features, and sounds, or you might gain refreshment from a variety of shades of green and almost complete silence.

KEEP NATURE *in* MIND

If you set up your garden outdoors, you need to consider your climate and hardiness zone, as well as sunlight versus shade and wet versus dry soil. If you're not sure, consult someone at an extension or master gardener program or a nursery and ask them for help with plant selection.

Shade doesn't prevent you from creating a healing garden. Some of the most popular plants for shaded areas include ferns and hostas, as well as astilbe, bleeding hearts, coral bells, and lungwort.

(continued)



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All that's required is a dedicated area. Outdoors, you may want to start with a small area and build from there. You don't want to get stressed because you took on too much! Select a spot in your yard where you can add a privacy screen or set up part of your balcony or a corner of your room. Be sure to include seating and at least one focal point.

On balconies and indoors, dish gardens, green walls, and terrariums are all great options. Sitting on a floor pillow and gazing at the different textures in a container of a variety of mosses or succulents can be downright mesmerizing.

Given how powerfully and profoundly nature affects your well-being, a healing garden, in any form, is a worthwhile investment of your time and in your health.

GREAT CHOICES FOR Healing Gardens





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STEP 3
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STEP 4
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THE FUN, THE QUIRKY,
& THE STRANGE

Seasonal Bird Watching Guide

By Melissa Mayntz

No matter what the season, it is easy to see great birds—if you know where to look and which birds to look for. Birds are always on the move, and if you shift your birding to the best habitats in each season, you can easily keep up with all the feathered fun, whether right at home or out in the field.

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(SEPTEMBER—NOVEMBER)

FALL birding



(DECEMBER—FEBRUARY)

WINTER birding

As birds soar through their southward migration, fall birding can be truly spectacular, not just for feathers but also for brilliantly colorful foliage. There is amazing birding in seeing outstanding fall flocks, as well as the possibility of spotting interesting vagrant birds far out of their expected ranges.



WHERE TO FIND FALL BIRDS:

Marshes, wetlands, agricultural fields, feeding stations, urban parks, botanical gardens, shorelines



WHEN TO FIND FALL BIRDS:

Late morning hours, late afternoon, early evening as migrating birds begin to rest



BIRDS TO WATCH FOR:

Waterfowl, raptors, sparrows, swallows, jays, nuthatches, herons, finches, cranes, warblers, crows in fall plumage



IN THE YARD:

Offer nuts and seeds for birds to easily fill up on nutritious food and for local resident species to store for later use. Allow autumn flowers to go to seed for more natural foods, and leave leaf litter intact for ground-foraging birds.



There are more birds around in the winter months than many birders realize, even in northern snow-bound areas. This can be a great season to easily find birds that are actively foraging during the day, as well as spectacular winter irruptions of northern bird species heading south to find more available food sources.



WHERE TO FIND WINTER BIRDS:

Open fields, forest edges, coastlines, feeding stations, areas of open water



WHEN TO FIND WINTER BIRDS:

Late morning through early evening (when temperatures are warmest)



BIRDS TO WATCH FOR:

Winter finches, northern owls, woodpeckers, shorebirds, waxwings, auks, gulls, grouse, crows, raptors, chickadees, waterfowl flocks



IN THE YARD:

Offer high-energy foods such as sunflower seeds, peanuts, and suet to keep birds well-fed during the lean season. Heated bird baths can provide critical water to attract more birds, and smaller backyard species may appreciate roosting boxes to keep warm during freezing nights.



(continued)



(MARCH—MAY)

SPRING *birding*

Spring is a great time to get out and enjoy warming weather and the rejuvenation of the season. Birds are more brightly colored in their fresh breeding plumage and more active as they claim territories and seek mates. As they perch in the open and sing more energetically, they can be easier to find and confidently identify, even for new birders.



WHERE TO FIND SPRING BIRDS:

Woodlands, urban parks, lake shorelines, marshes, flowering fields and trees, orchards



WHEN TO FIND SPRING BIRDS:

Early morning as the sun rises to the dawn chorus, late afternoon and evening as migrating birds come to rest



BIRDS TO WATCH FOR:

Warblers, thrushes, vireos, bluebirds, chickadees, gnatcatchers, early-arriving hummingbirds, tanagers, herons, egrets, rails



IN THE YARD:

Offer diverse feeding stations and early-blooming flowers for both food and color to attract birds' attention. Setting out safe nesting material such as natural cotton or grass clippings can also encourage early nesters to consider raising their families nearby. Put bird houses out to give feathered families a place to set up residence.



(JUNE—AUGUST)

SUMMER *birding*

This season offers the best time to watch for many different bird species. Summer is when our feathered friends are nesting and raising their offspring. While some species may be more secretive in summer as they protect their nests, the sheer number of birds make it a spectacular season for birding in all types of habitats. Birders should always keep the birds' safety and comfort in mind and not get too close, or they might cause too much stress to the birds.



WHERE TO FIND SUMMER BIRDS:

Nature center feeding stations, forest edges, beaches, canyons, mountains, campgrounds, flowering meadows, botanical gardens



WHEN TO FIND SUMMER BIRDS:

Early morning and early evening, when insects are active but temperatures are cooler; nesting birds will visit feeding stations all day long



BIRDS TO WATCH FOR:

Orioles, tanagers, swallows, hummingbirds, sparrows, waterfowl, shorebirds, kingfishers, herons, buntings, nighthawks, gulls, terns, flycatchers, wrens, jays



IN THE YARD:

Offer seed, nectar, and mealworms to give hungry parents an easy food source. Clean bird baths will help birds keep cool, and well-maintained bird houses can encourage feathered residents. Minimize yard chemicals to protect baby birds, and ensure baffles are present to protect nesting birds from predators.



Marigolds:

More than a Pretty Orange Flower

By Amy Grisak

If you're looking for a cheerful flower that is easy to grow, plant marigolds. Yes, marigolds! While many people picture only yellow and orange flowers, marigolds have a lot more to offer.

"I think a lot of people think of them as old-fashioned. I don't think they are aware of all of the beautiful varieties, especially now," says Erin Clements of High Mowing Seeds. "I've turned a few people into marigold lovers."

NO-FUSS flowers

"Marigolds are easy to grow," says Hillary Alger, product manager at Johnny's Selected Seeds. They prefer full sun and well-drained soil, but other than that, they thrive in most conditions, including in containers.

One recommendation is to deadhead them occasionally (a great reason to pick a bouquet) to keep them blooming throughout the season.

THWARTING pests

Marigolds are an effective way to discourage deer and other pests, including rabbits, but it takes more than a plant or two. "You have to grow 10 to 20 plants for the deer to be deterred," says Clements.

These flowers are also useful in dissuading smaller pests. Natural compounds in marigolds, such as limonene, pyrethrum, and alpha-terthienyl, repel aphids, whiteflies, squash bugs, and root-knot nematodes for many gardeners. (Marigolds are great companion plants for cucumbers, melons, squash, tomatoes, and beans.

Learn more about companion planting on FarmersAlmanac.com)

YOU CAN eat THEM

Even though deer don't like them, marigold petals are surprisingly delicious. Use them fresh or dried, especially as a garnish to make a dessert fun and flowery.



CUT & DRIED flowers

For long-lasting bouquets, the three- to four-foot-tall African marigolds are particularly lovely, although even the mere six-inch-high signet varieties are equally beautiful.

Clements likes working with a French marigold type called "White Swan." "It's a beautiful, creamy yellow, and is very tall. As a cut flower, they'll last for three weeks."

Most of the varieties can also be dried by hanging them upside down by the stem. "Or deadhead them and dry them in a garland," says Clements.

(continued)

MARIGOLD FAQs

Q: CAN MARIGOLDS THRIVE IN POTS?

A: Yes, marigolds do just as well in containers as they do in the garden.

Q: HOW MUCH SUNLIGHT DO MARIGOLDS REQUIRE?

A: They thrive best with over eight hours of sunlight but can still perform well with less.

Q: WILL MARIGOLDS RESEED THEMSELVES?

A: Absolutely, marigolds are excellent at re-seeding. However, new flowers from hybrids may differ in appearance from the parent plant.

Q: DO MARIGOLDS HANDLE HOT WEATHER?

A: Marigolds grow in hot conditions. During prolonged heat, provide extra water without over-saturating.

Q: IS IT BETTER TO GROW MARIGOLDS FROM SEEDS OR TRANSPLANTS?

A: Both methods work well, but planting transplants leads to earlier blooms, especially in taller varieties.

Q: CAN MARIGOLDS BE GROWN INDOORS?

A: Yes, especially the smaller signet varieties flourish indoors.

Q: HOW TALL DO MARIGOLDS GROW?

A: There are three main types of marigolds and each of them grow in different sizes:

- **French:** 6-12"
- **African:** 3'-4' (good for borders)
- **Signet:** 6" or less

WHAT ABOUT *the* SMELL?

"The number one complaint is the smell," Clements states. This is due to the compounds in the leaves. Wear gloves and strip the leaves before bringing them in the house.

Yet, not all varieties have this characteristic. Alger says, "I really appreciate the signet types. The ferny foliage, blasts of petite flowers, and the vanilla and citrus fragrance [makes them] a lovely and easy-to-grow addition to the garden. Their sweet scent can add a special touch."

FLOWERS THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

"One thing I really love with marigolds is to have late successions. As the annuals and summer vegetables start to wind down, replace them to add a little end-of-season color and habitat for our pollinator friends. The gold, orange, and red hues are perfect for the transition to autumn," says Alger.

Marigolds are often overlooked, yet they deserve center stage in our gardens. With a bright palette of colors and a long list of benefits, they might just be the perfect flower.

MARIGOLD MEANINGS & SYMBOLISM

In India, marigolds are everywhere—from busy street markets to elaborate wedding ceremonies. Hindus see them as pure, sacred even. Their strong scent is believed to chase away bad vibes and evil spirits. Attend any Indian festival, and you'll find these flowers draped across doorways and woven into garlands.

Marigolds in Mexico are known as "flor de muertos" (flowers of the dead), starring in Day of the Dead celebrations. People believe their bright



petals light the way for spirits visiting from the other side. Marigold flowers are often used to create altars and pathways.

Christians call these flowers "Mary's Gold," after a legend about the Virgin Mary giving golden coins to the poor.

Other cultures associate marigolds with protective qualities. The flowers' strong fragrance is thought to repel negativity and harmful energy.



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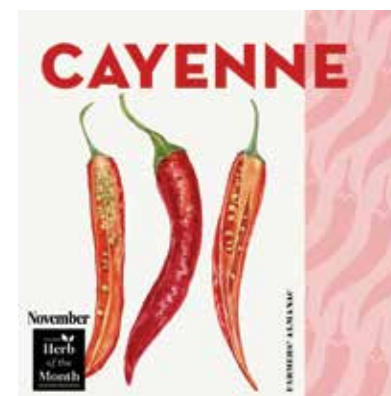
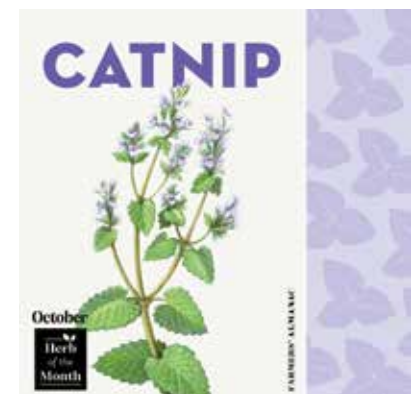
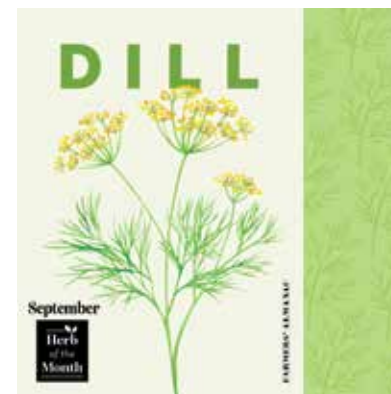
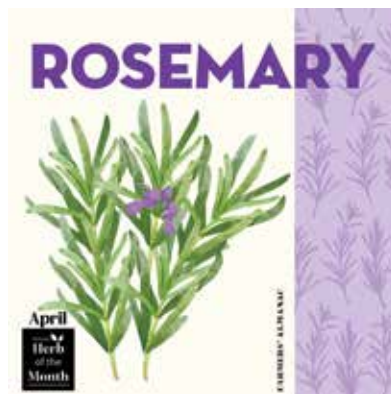
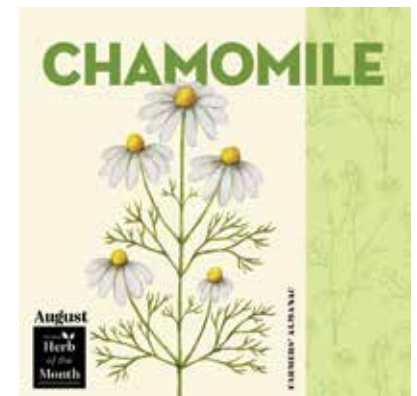
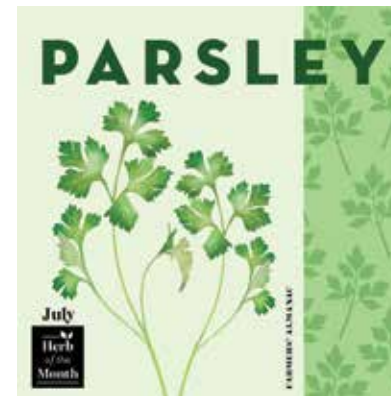
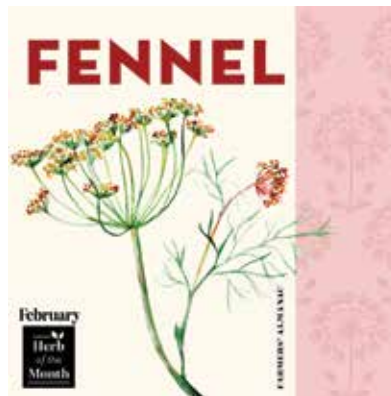
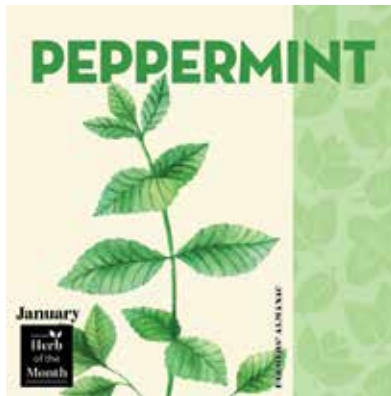
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Herb *of the* Month

You're familiar with birthstones and birth flowers, but how about birth month herbs? Here is our list of herbs by month.

Learn more about these on [FarmersAlmanac.com](https://www.farmersalmanac.com)



kitchen & food LORE

THE FUN, THE QUIRKY, & THE STRANGE

Ever heard that dropping a fork means a female visitor is headed your way, while a fallen knife signals a man is coming to call? Or that giving someone an orange will ignite the flames of passion in their heart? Welcome to the wonderfully weird world of kitchen and food lore, where the everyday becomes a predictor of the extraordinary.



TEA-TIME tidings

Undissolved sugar at the bottom of your cup?
Congratulations, you've got a secret admirer!

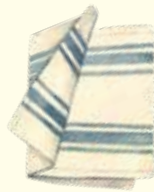
Add milk to your tea before sugar?
You're basically rolling out the
red carpet for bad luck.

Oops, spilled your tea!
Get ready for a visit from a stranger.



the CUTLERY conundrum

Gift a knife, risk a rift.
To avoid severing ties
with your friend, they
should give you a coin
in return, as if they're
buying it from you.



DISH TOWELS & DIRTY LAUNDRY

Drop a dish towel and
get ready to feed some
unexpected guests.

the BREAD of DEATH

A giant air
bubble in your
bread could mean your time
is running out.
Okay, this one
might be more
terrifying than fun...



housewarming GIFTS

The Trio of Good Fortune

Bread: a life without hunger

Salt: a life full of flavor

Wine: a toast to joy
and prosperity



SALT, the ULTIMATE party pooper

Never take salt directly from someone else.
It's just bad luck.



NOODLE negativity

In some Chinese cultures, long noodles equal a long life.
So don't go chopping those noodles willy-nilly
or you might just be cutting your life short!

RING in GOOD LUCK with BLACK-EYED PEAS

This old belief says that eating black-eyed
peas on New Year's Day will bring you good
fortune all year long. It's worth a try, right?



Did we miss any? Share your favorite lore on FarmersAlmanac.com

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Did you ever wonder why your town's name is what it is? Some towns are named after people, others for their landscape, and some after food. Here is a map of some tasty towns that may make you hungry or thirsty.



WINNING
5-INGREDIENT OR LESS
**Casserole
Recipes**



**1st Place—
\$400 WINNER**
**Polish Delight
Casserole**

Jamie Parchman
Harlingen, Texas

INGREDIENTS

1 box of 12 frozen
cheddar perogies,
thawed

1 can cream of
mushroom soup

1 pound kielbasa,
thinly sliced

1 1/2 cup French fried
onions, divided

1 jar mushrooms,
drained

DIRECTIONS

1. Line bottom of 2-quart casserole dish with thawed perogies. Set aside. Preheat oven to 350°F.

2. In a medium-sized bowl, stir together mushroom soup, kielbasa, 3/4 cup French fried onions, mushrooms, 3/4 cup of water, and 1/4 teaspoon salt and pepper.

3. Once mixed, pour over perogies in dish. Sprinkle remaining onions evenly over the top of casserole.

4. Bake in preheated oven 30 minutes. Check halfway through baking. If onions are getting too dark, loosely cover with aluminum foil to prevent burning.



2nd Place—\$300 WINNER
Crispy Garlic Parmesan Chicken & Sweet Potato Casserole

Chasity Duhaney—Hiram, Georgia

INGREDIENTS

2 cups cooked chicken (rotisserie, grilled, or store-bought fried tenders), chopped

2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled & cubed (1/2-inch pieces)

1/2 cup garlic parmesan sauce

1 cup shredded mozzarella or Colby Jack cheese

2 tbsp fresh-squeezed lime juice

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. Toss cubed sweet potatoes with 1 tbsp of oil. Spread them in a single layer on the baking sheet. Roast for 20-25 minutes, flipping halfway through, until golden brown and crispy on the edges.

3. In a large bowl, combine chopped chicken, roasted sweet potatoes, garlic parmesan sauce, and fresh-squeezed lime juice. Toss gently to coat.

4. Assemble casserole. Transfer the mixture to a greased baking dish and spread evenly. Sprinkle cheese on top.

5. Place in the oven and bake for 10-15 minutes, until the cheese is melted, bubbly, and slightly golden.

(continued)





3rd Place—\$200 WINNER

Chicken Bacon Alfredo Casserole with Biscuit Topping

Timothy Dehollander—Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

INGREDIENTS

3 cups cooked chicken
(shredded or diced)
1 1/2 cups crispy cooked
bacon (chopped)
1 (15-16 oz) jar
Alfredo sauce
1 1/2 cups frozen sweet
peas (no need to thaw)
1 can (8 biscuits)
refrigerated biscuits

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Cook the bacon until crispy, then chop it into small pieces.
3. In a large bowl, combine the chicken, bacon, Alfredo sauce, and frozen peas. Mix until well combined.
4. Transfer the mixture to a greased 9x13-inch casserole dish. Top with the biscuits, spacing them evenly on top.
5. Bake for 18-20 minutes, or until the casserole is bubbling and the biscuits are golden brown.
6. Cool for 10-12 minutes before serving.

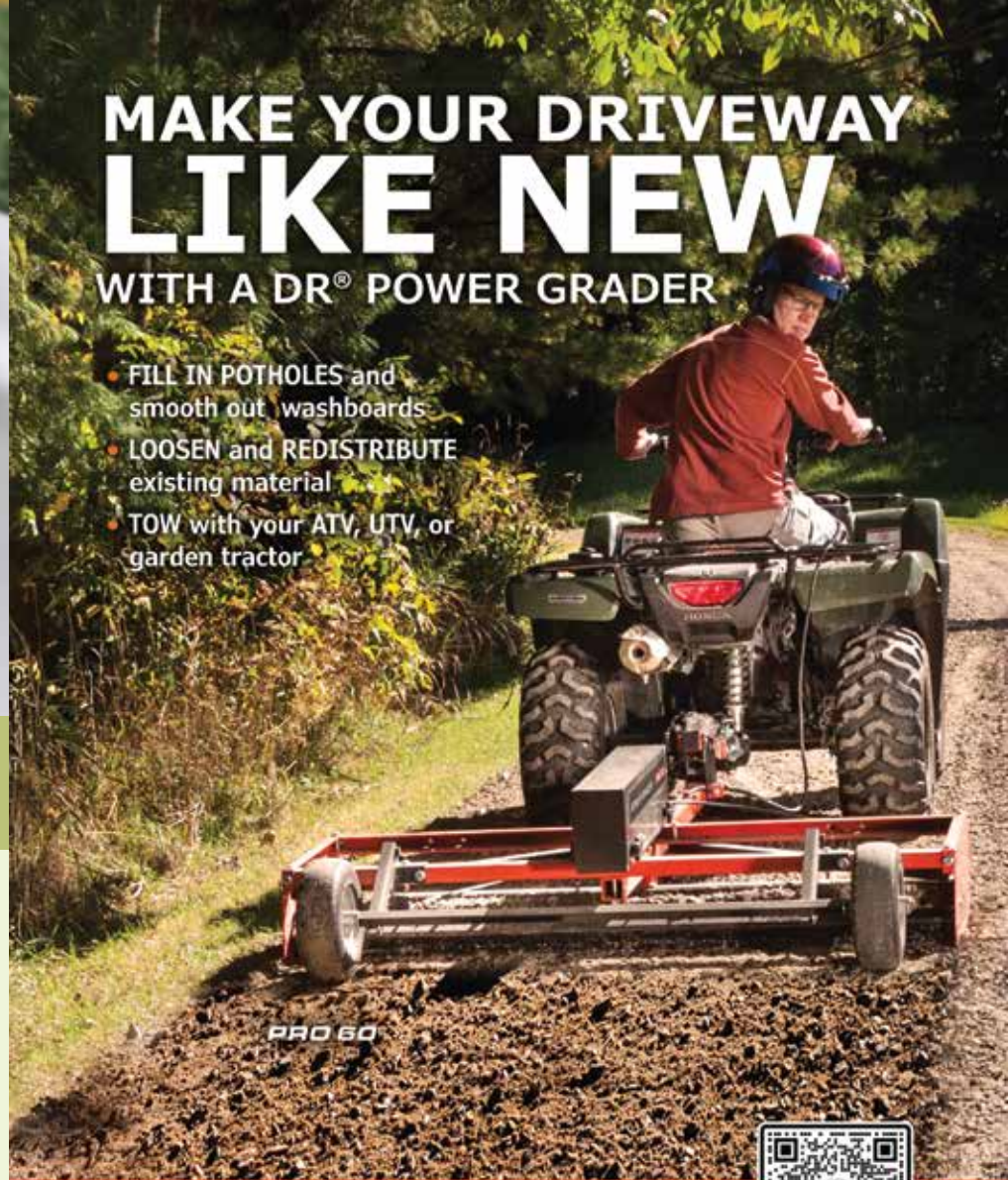
*Thank
YOU.*

Special thanks to Green Ladle Culinary Arts School of Lewiston, Maine for lending us their student chefs to prepare each of the final recipes for judging—and to the photography students at Lewiston Regional Technical Center for photos of the winning dishes. *Learn more about Green Ladle at Greenladle.com*

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Think your strawberry recipe has what it takes? Here's what we're looking for:

- Original recipes that showcase strawberries in all their glory
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Top three winning recipes will be published in the 2027 *Farmers' Almanac* and on our website. Plus, **cash prizes will be awarded:**

\$400, \$300, and \$200 for first, second, and third prizes.

So, dig through those recipe boxes, call your relatives for that secret ingredient you could never figure out, and share the strawberry magic that makes your kitchen special. Who knows? Your family's treasure might just become America's new favorite strawberry recipe.

Recipes must be received by February 19, 2026.

To submit your recipe or to learn more, go to farmersalmanac.com/farmers-almanac-annual-recipe-contest or scan our QR code with your smart phone. Let the berry best recipe win!



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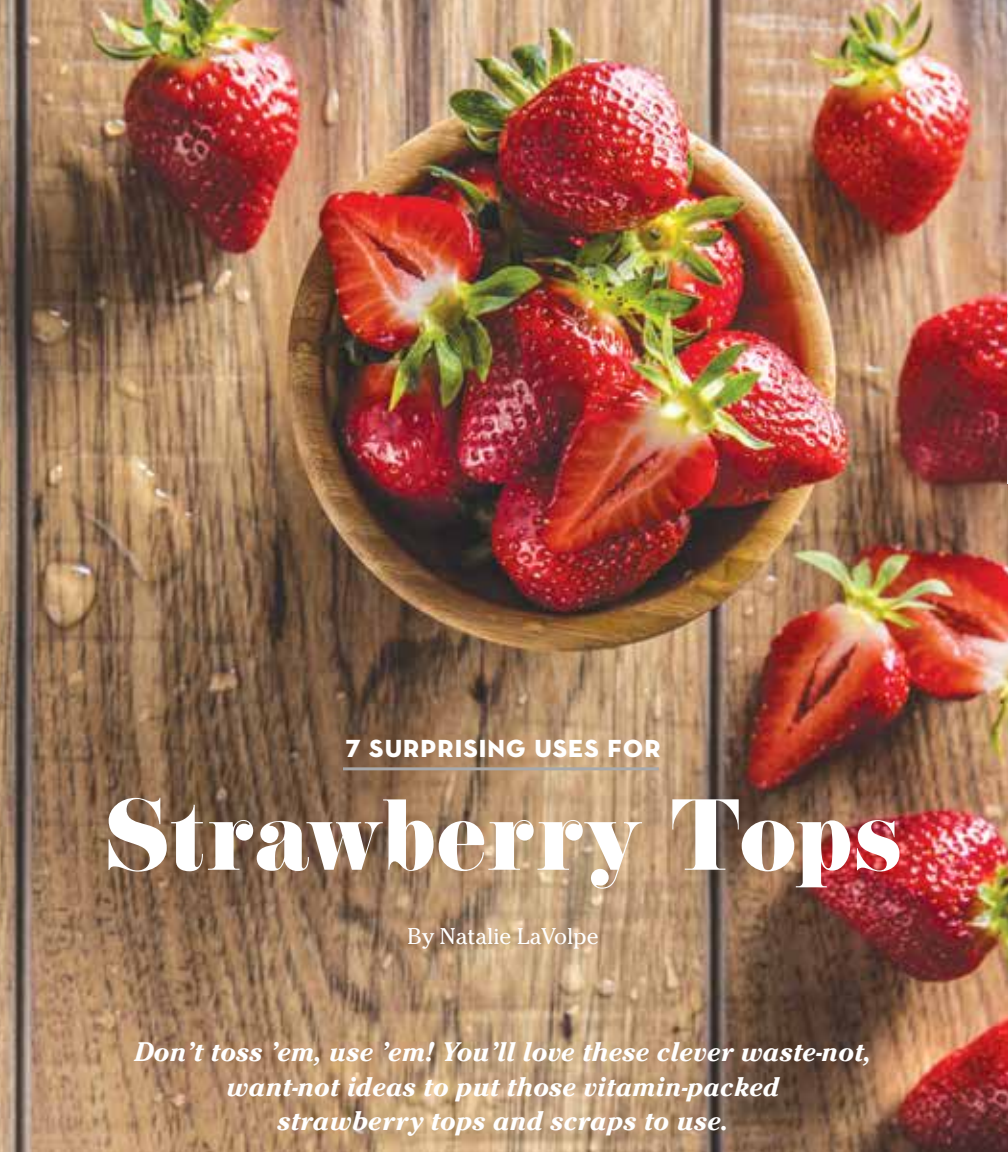


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7 SURPRISING USES FOR Strawberry Tops

By Natalie LaVolpe

Don't toss 'em, use 'em! You'll love these clever waste-not, want-not ideas to put those vitamin-packed strawberry tops and scraps to use.

Strawberries as a berry are a nutritious, healthy snack, and it turns out, even their leaves and stems pack a powerful nutritional punch, carrying many health benefits. According to the University of Maryland Medical Center, strawberry leaves are high in vitamin C, iron, and calcium, as well as contain tannins, which helps with digestion, nausea, and stomach cramps.

Strawberry tops are loaded with caffeic acid, a compound that alleviates inflammation, which is good news for arthritis sufferers.



7 things you can do with STRAWBERRY TOPS

1. MAKE a refreshing WATER INFUSION

Infusing your water with the leafy tops of strawberries adds flavor, and helps to use up those excess pieces that are headed to the compost bin. This works especially well if you've cut off too much of that precious strawberry meat. To make, place your cleaned strawberry tops into a lidded container and top with water. Let sit in the refrigerator for a few hours, and sip (you can strain if you prefer). Ten to twenty tops should do the trick, but you can play around with the amount, depending on how strong you want the taste. Strawberry-infused water also pairs nicely with some cucumber peels or fresh mint.

2. MAKE *strawberry* VINEGAR

Fruit-scrap-infused vinegar recipes are popping up everywhere. Strawberry vinegar made from your strawberry tops is delicious drizzled on a salad, mixed into a BBQ sauce (or any vinegar-based sauce), or added to a cocktail. To make, cover your strawberry tops with a vinegar of your choice (white, apple cider, red wine, or balsamic). Cover and allow it to steep for about a week in the cupboard. Strain the mixture and use your strawberry-infused vinegar however you would normally use vinegar. Delicious!

3. go SWEET with STRAWBERRY SYRUP

Turn your discarded strawberry tops into treasure by making scrumptious strawberry syrup. Perfect for pouring over ice cream, pancakes, waffles—the sky's the limit. You can also add this syrup to flavor lemonade, home-brewed kombucha, iced tea, or smoothies.

To make: In a bowl, combine the tops from two quarts of strawberries, 1 cup granulated sugar, and one tablespoon of lemon juice. Stir, cover, and place in the refrigerator overnight to allow the contents to soften. Blend until smooth, and then strain through a metal sieve, scraping the sides of the strainer with a rubber spatula and making sure to get all the delicious strawberries. This makes about 2-3 cups of syrup and can be stored in the refrigerator for up to two weeks, or longer in the freezer.

(continued)

4. BLEND them into a NUTRITIOUS SMOOTHIE

Use the whole berry when making smoothies! Leafy greens are often tossed into smoothies for an additional nutritional boost, but don't stop at spinach or kale—toss in your leftover strawberry tops as well. They'll give your smoothie an extra boost of nutrients. Simply drop the whole berry, top and all (or saved tops), right into your blender. You can also freeze the tops after they have been hulled, saving them for smoothies down the road, making it easy to grab a handful when needed.

5. "LIFT" your SPIRITS

Kick your favorite cocktails up a notch! Just like water, you can also infuse your favorite alcohol with strawberry tops to make your own custom flavored rum, vodka, or gin. Toss tops into a lidded bowl or mason jar, fill with your choice of liquor, and let the boozy concentration sit for about two days. Strain, and use to shake up a new summer cocktail.

6. CLEAN & WHITEN TEETH

Your dentist will probably never tell you this secret, but strawberry leaves are an effective tooth and gum cleaner. Those tannins act as a powerful astringent, helping to fight plaque and keep gums healthy. Or for a whiter smile, dip your strawberry top into baking soda and rub it onto your teeth. Leave the mixture on your teeth for a few minutes before brushing as usual.

7. LIVESTOCK treats

Share these tasty scraps with your farm animals! Strawberry tops make a great snack for chickens, goats, ducks, rabbits, pigs, horses, and more. It helps recycle your scraps, while also gaining your flock's love and trust.

****When possible, buy or pick organic strawberries to avoid pesticide residue. If organic isn't an option, be sure to wash, soak, and rinse your strawberries thoroughly.**

See more ideas @ FarmersAlmanac.com/strawberry-tops



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No Room to GARDEN?

THINK AGAIN!

By Christy Wilhelmi



Herb garden at Mezzacello

Size is all about perspective. When asked about their property size, some gardeners say, “I only have an acre.” But to those cultivating vegetables, herbs, and houseplants on balconies or small patios, an acre seems like a luxury. Urban dwellers must get creative, finding space for their sun- and shade-loving plants wherever possible.

Here are a few examples of successful urban gardeners.

Kathy Duncan of Duncan Garden Design grows plants on her 200-square-foot patio in Richmond, VA in 28 containers, including 25-gallon tree pots, a recycled clawfoot tub, and glazed ceramic pots. From those containers, she harvests tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, and herbs.

Some folks look indoors for growing space. Leslie Ashley utilizes sunny windows in her urban home north of Dallas, TX to grow houseplants in ceramic and stone pots. She tucks succulents into plant stands and shelves, and hangs trailing shade plants from the ceiling.

Others look to community gardens for solutions. In Los Angeles, CA, Ocean View Farms (OVF) has more than 500 plots. Like many community gardens, OVF has a waiting list, but if you sign up now, someday soon you may have a plot of land that allows you to grow some produce.

Kathy Jentz, co-author of *The Urban Garden: 101 Ways to Grow Food and Beauty in the City*, belongs to a community garden on the Maryland-Washington DC border. She grows cool- and hot-season crops in her 10 x 20-foot plot at Fenton Community Garden near her home.



Fenton Community Garden plots

Jim Bruner is co-founder and president of Mezzacello Urban Farm in downtown Columbus, OH. This 10,000-square-foot urban farm hosts a STEM learning lab, off-grid renewable energy, garden planters, and even a hen/duck house. The farm offers classes, summer camps, family workshops, and growing space for participants.

(continued)



Mezzacello Potager Garden



Mezzacello pond and parterre

CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

Pests are part of urban gardening, but there are ways to protect plants from critters in small spaces. “I swear by row covers, A.K.A. [garden] fabric. It helps keep pests off the plants, insulates in cold weather, and shades them in very hot weather,” says Jentz. She also uses rat traps, and places wire cages over her salad greens to keep rabbits at bay. For Duncan, white flies, cabbage moths, and squash borers have been issues in her garden. She uses sticky traps, insecticidal soap, and netting to protect her crops. Ashley struggles with fungus gnats on her houseplants, but has had success in using a thyme-based organic spray. She also allows the soil to dry out between waterings to desiccate gnat eggs.

Other tricks for growing in the city? Duncan’s “irrigation system freed up about 45 minutes a day.” She uses drip tubing and a battery-operated timer in her container garden, where she can adjust the timing easily depending on the season.

Duncan encourages new gardeners to dive right in. “Start with something simple in the largest pot you can handle...Begin with some basil, parsley, or mint,” or “try lettuce or spinach” in shady patches. “If something doesn’t work,” she says, “pivot to a different plant and try again.”

Ashley advises, “When looking for input from [experts], don’t overwhelm yourself with too many opinions: find 2 or 3 and focus on their ideas and input.”

A thriving garden is possible in urban settings, whether on a patio, balcony, or in a community garden. Start small and grow big this season.

Christy Wilhelmi is the owner of Gardenerd (<https://gardenerd.com>).

She’s a three-time published author and garden writer in Los Angeles, CA, where she grows most of her family’s produce in under 300 square feet.

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State Flower

CONTROVERSY?

Did you know that Maine is the only state that doesn't have a flower as its state flower? Instead, the white pinecone and tassel is the official floral emblem.

Oklahoma's floral emblem was originally mistletoe—a parasitic plant that kills trees. The selection was controversial even in 1893, but it wasn't switched until 2004, when the Oklahoma rose was named the official state flower.

Hawaii's state flower, the yellow hibiscus, is endangered in the wild, found naturally only in the Hawaiian Islands. It's one of several state flowers facing survival challenges—a sobering reminder of changing ecosystems.

Some state flower selections have sparked heated debates. Indiana has had four official state flowers. Originally it was the carnation, then the flower of the tulip tree (which is native to the state), then the zinnia, then the peony in 1957. This last flower caused an uproar because peonies aren't native to the state. However, only 37 of the 50 state flowers are actually native to their respective home state.

There's also an economic angle to these choices. Michigan's apple blossom was selected in 1897 to honor



the state's crucial fruit industry, while Delaware's peach blossom was chosen in 1895, reflecting that state's once-booming peach production—though ironically, by the time it was chosen, disease had already devastated Delaware's peach orchards.

Perhaps the most democratic selection was New York's rose, which was chosen through a state election in which 294,816 children voted. The results, however, weren't officially

recognized by the state legislature until 1955, decades after the vote.

These state flowers aren't just pretty symbols; they're living pieces of American history, telling tales of economic hopes, environmental challenges, and sometimes fierce local pride. They remind us that even something as seemingly simple as choosing a state flower can bloom into a complex story of politics, preservation, and regional identity.

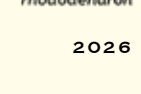
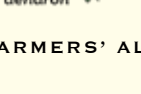
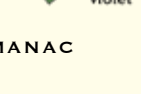


INTERESTING FACT

Some states have both official state flowers and state wildflowers, like Illinois, which has the violet as its state flower and milkweed as its state wildflower. The flowers on the following page were chosen by each state to represent their natural heritage and unique characteristics of their region.

(continued)

here's the OFFICIAL LIST of STATE FLOWERS

ALABAMA  Camellia	ALASKA  Alpine forget-me-not	ARIZONA  Saguaro cactus blossom	ARKANSAS  Apple blossom	CALIFORNIA  California poppy
COLORADO  Rocky Mountain columbine	CONNECTICUT  Mountain laurel	DELAWARE  Peach blossom	FLORIDA  Orange blossom	GEORGIA  Cherokee rose
HAWAII  Yellow hibiscus	IDAHO  Syringa	ILLINOIS  Violet	INDIANA  Peony	IOWA  Wild prairie rose
KANSAS  Sunflower	KENTUCKY  Goldenrod	LOUISIANA  Magnolia	MAINE  White pine cone & tassel	MARYLAND  Black-eyed Susan
MASSACHUSETTS  Mayflower	MICHIGAN  Apple blossom	MINNESOTA  Pink-and-white lady's slipper	MISSISSIPPI  Magnolia	MISSOURI  Hawthorn blossom
MONTANA  Bitter-root	NEBRASKA  Goldenrod	NEVADA  Sagebrush	NEW HAMPSHIRE  Purple lilac	NEW JERSEY  Violet
NEW MEXICO  Yucca	NEW YORK  Rose	NORTH CAROLINA  Flowering dogwood	NORTH DAKOTA  Wild prairie rose	OHIO  Red carnation
OKLAHOMA  Oklahoma rose	OREGON  Oregon grape	PENNSYLVANIA  Mountain laurel	RHODE ISLAND  Violet	SOUTH CAROLINA  Yellow jasmine
SOUTH DAKOTA  Pasque flower	TENNESSEE  Iris	TEXAS  Bluebonnet	UTAH  Sego lily	VERMONT  Red clover
VIRGINIA  Flowering dogwood	WASHINGTON  Pacific rhododendron	WEST VIRGINIA  Rhododendron	WISCONSIN  Wood violet	WYOMING  Indian paintbrush

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HOLIDAY traditions

WHY TURKEY *for* THANKSGIVING?

Ever wonder why most people in the US eat turkey on Thanksgiving? History reveals that turkey was not on the original menu at the first Thanksgiving. Instead, their feast consisted of venison, fish, shellfish, corn, and other vegetables.

Wild turkeys were certainly abundant in the area, but there's no clear evidence that they were served at the first Thanksgiving. So how did the turkey become synonymous with Thanksgiving? The answer lies in the mid-19th century, thanks in large part to a determined woman named Sarah

Josepha Hale. A writer and editor, Hale was on a mission to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. She wrote persuasive articles aimed at both politicians and the general public, and in her vision of the perfect Thanksgiving celebration, a roasted turkey played a starring role.

Her efforts paid off. By 1834, more than 30 states and territories were observing Thanksgiving every year. And in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared it an official national day of celebration. From then on, the tradition of the Thanksgiving turkey was cemented in American culture.



WHY *are* JACK-O'-LANTERNS *a* SYMBOL *of* HALLOWEEN?

According to Irish legend, there was a miserly old drunkard named Stingy Jack who was known for his greed. The story says that Jack tried to trick the devil himself to gain more wealth. But when Jack died, his life of deceit caught up with him. He wasn't welcome into heaven or hell but instead forced to roam Earth forever as a restless spirit. However, before his spirit departed to meet his lonely fate, the devil offered Jack a glowing ember from hell. Jack placed this ember in a



hollowed-out turnip.

According to legend, he wanders around Earth with only this turnip lantern to light his way. On Halloween night, when restless spirits are believed to wander most freely, many folks would carve their own lanterns out of turnips to help steer the spirit of "Jack of the lantern" away from their houses. When Irish

immigrants came to America, they found pumpkins were a perfect substitute for turnips.

EASTER

ORIGINS *of the* EASTER BUNNY

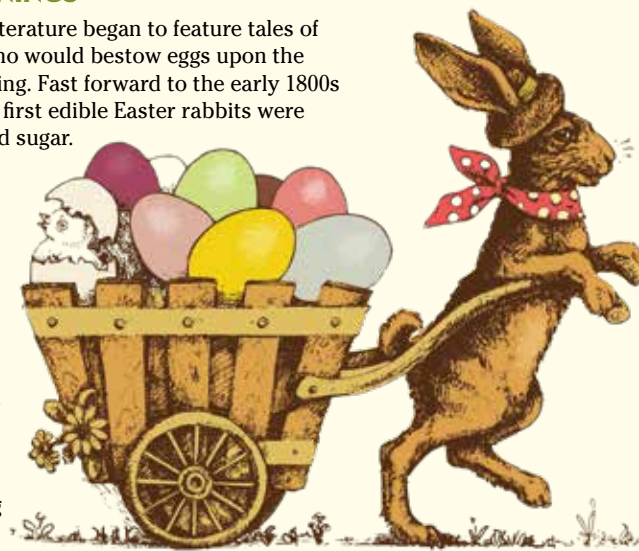
Have you ever found yourself pondering the curious case of the Easter Bunny? Where did this egg-delivering, springtime symbol come from?

the EARLY BEGINNINGS

In the 16th century, literature began to feature tales of a benevolent bunny who would bestow eggs upon the well-behaved each spring. Fast forward to the early 1800s in Germany, where the first edible Easter rabbits were crafted from pastry and sugar.

a SYMBOL *of* FERTILITY *and* RENEWAL

Before the arrival of the Christian holiday of Easter, the hare and rabbit were common figures in pre-Christian fertility lore. These animals served as potent symbols of new life and renewal during the spring season.



(continued)

***the* EASTER BUNNY'S GERMAN HERITAGE**

While the exact beginnings of the Easter Bunny tradition remain somewhat murky, Germany is often credited with associating a bunny with Easter.

In the 1700s, German settlers brought the Easter Bunny tradition to America, specifically to Pennsylvania Dutch country. The arrival of the "Oschter Haws," as they called the bunny, was a momentous occasion for children, rivaling only a visit from Christ-Kindel on Christmas Eve. Believing that good behavior would be rewarded, children would construct nests in hidden spots throughout the home, barn, or garden. Using their caps and bonnets, boys and girls would eagerly await the Oschter Haws' delivery of a nest of colored eggs.



***a* TRADITION EVOLVES**

As the Easter Bunny tradition gained popularity and spread throughout the country, the use of elaborate baskets became a new and exciting part of the celebration.

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Seasonal PREP

FOR A STRESS-FREE YEAR

By Jim Kneiszel

FALL CHECKLIST



HIRE A CHIMNEY SWEEP

Have your fireplace or wood stove cleaned and inspected to prepare for the heating season.



PREPARE GAS MACHINES FOR WINTER

Either run the fuel out of your power equipment or add a high-quality octane preservative to tanks filled with fresh fuel. Remove and trickle-charge batteries.



REVITALIZE YOUR WINDOWS

Look for cracked glass and gaps that cause drafts; refinish and caulk older sashes, and check hardware for proper latching.



SAFETY-INSPECT HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Look for frayed wires and burned-out bulbs in light strings; check for breakage and hazards in outdoor displays.



CRITTER-PROOF YOUR HOUSE

Carefully inspect your foundation and other nooks and crannies where mice will try to enter your home when the weather turns cold.



CHECK THE FURNACE

An annual maintenance call could save you from winter failures; while you're at it, replace the filter for cleaner air circulation.



MULCH THE LEAVES

Rake when necessary, but consider current recommendations to compost or mulch leaves and leave them in place.



PROTECT OUTDOOR SPIGOTS

Make sure water is shut off, pipes are drained, and garden hoses are stowed to prevent damage from freezing.



CHECK YOUR VEHICLE TIRES

Inspect for wear, checking for age or inadequate tread depth. Consider the benefits of winter tires if you live in a northern climate.



ADD INSULATION

Check the depth and condition of batt or blown-in attic insulation; fill gaps or add depth to increase the R value.



ASSEMBLE AN EMERGENCY CAR KIT

Stow warning lights, a battery jump pack, blankets, and reflective vests in each of your vehicles.



LOOK FOR ICE DAMS

Monitor gutters and rooflines for ice buildup; call a roofer to address major problems or leaks in the house.



PLAN YOUR GARDEN

Peruse garden catalogs in search of new and exciting plantings; sketch out new garden plans.



PRUNE PLANTS & TREES

Most trees and shrubs do best when pruned or shaped when dormant during colder months.



CHECK HOME SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Update smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, as well as fire extinguishers as needed.



SHARPEN YOUR BLADES

DIY or find an expert craftsman to tune up mower blades and kitchen knives.

(continued)

SPRING

CHECKLIST



START GARDEN PLANTS INDOORS

Set up grow lights indoors and get a head start on garden- ing plants from seed 6-8 weeks before planting.



MAINTAIN GARDEN TOOLS

Wash and sharp- en the digging edges of your shovels, spades, and garden trowels; secure wooden handles.



CLEAN UP THE COMPOST PILE

Turn your compost to promote plant breakdown and add the richest black gold to your garden and landscape plants.



WELCOME WILDLIFE

Clean and disin- fect bird houses and feeders, plant pollinator pathway plants and milkweed for monarch butterfly hosting, and build bat houses.



SPRING CLEAN/ DECLUTTER

'Tis the season to clean windows, get rid of old electronics piling up, shred old paperwork, and dispose of old medications.



AC MAINTENANCE

Have your air conditioner tuned up and tested before the first heatwave.



TEST YOUR SUMP PUMP

Make sure your pump works or replace an older unit before flooding season starts.



DEAL WITH THE GUTTERS

Make sure gut- ters are clear of blockages and consider adding gutter toppers to reduce future maintenance.

SUMMER

CHECKLIST



CLEAN OUT THE FREEZER

Defrost the freezer and use expiring frozen foods to make room for the garden's bounty.



DEEP-CLEAN CARPETS & RUGS

DIY or hire a professional to steam-clean carpets or area rugs.



EXPERIMENT WITH FOOD PRESERVATION

Use a dehydrator to preserve vegetables, learn how to freeze or can.



CLEAN YOUR DRYER VENT

Disconnect the dryer vent and vacuum out lint buildup that can become a fire hazard.



BE PREPARED FOR BAD WEATHER

Buy a weather radio and create a family disaster plan to shelter from dangerous storms.



TIDY EXTERIOR PAINT & TRIM

Scrape flaking or bubbling paint spots; apply primer and repaint to protect wooden surfaces.



CHECK FOR STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

Dig into framing, siding, and crawl space joists for rot and evidence of termites and other insects that can damage the home.



INSPECT CONCRETE & WALKWAYS

Freezing and thawing conditions can cause heaving of side- walks and other hardscapes. Look for and repair tripping hazards.

AURORA PHOTO TIPS

USE YOUR SMARTPHONE

Your smartphone might actually see the lights better than you can! Modern phone cameras can keep their sensors exposed for up to 30 seconds in night mode, allowing them to gather much more light than our eyes can in a single moment. Plus, digital sensors are particularly good at picking up red hues that our eyes might miss.

TO CAPTURE THE AURORA ON A SMARTPHONE:

1. Enable night mode (it usually activates on iPhones automatically in low light).
2. Keep your phone absolutely still (a tripod is ideal).
3. Use the 1x lens for best results.
4. Look for the Moon icon in the top left corner to confirm night mode is on.

(For best results, search your phone's brand for exact directions.)

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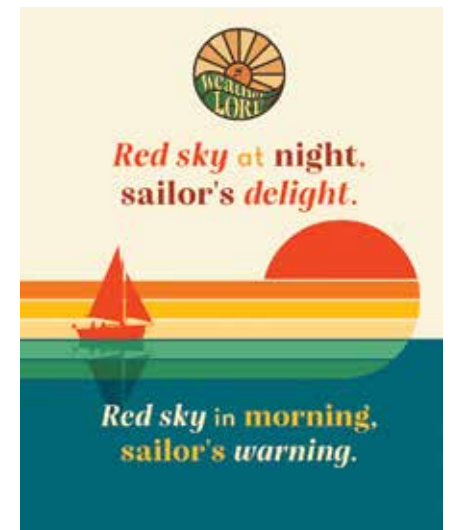




Long before the days of radar, our ancestors developed a rich body of weather lore—clever sayings and

rhymes that helped them predict the weather, using nothing but observation and a dash of folksy wisdom.

Here are a few of our favorites:



2026 Extended Weather Forecast

For over 200 years, the *Farmers' Almanac* has been predicting long-range weather forecasts to help you plan ahead.

These forecasts are created using a proprietary formula that adapts to the mysteries of nature and the ever-changing world in which we live. The basis of our prediction method was developed by our founding editor according to correlations between celestial events and various meteorological conditions.

Today, this formula uses some of the original rules set forth back in 1818 but also accounts for fluctuations in the environment on Earth, as well as sunspots, the position of the Moon, and other proprietary factors. Yes, nature throws us a curveball from time to time, but it doesn't stop us from going out on a limb to not only predict what the weather may bring up to a year in advance, but to also put it in print.

So, what's in store for the winter of 2025-26? Read on to find out.

**CHILL
SNOW
Repeat**

COLDEST AREAS

The season's coldest temperatures will be found from the Northern Plains to New England. Readers in the Northwest should also prepare for a cold winter, especially in Idaho and Washington. A significant cold snap in mid-January will keep most shivering. Winter's wrath continues in February with another pronounced cold spell predicted for mid-month.

CHILL, SNOW, REPEAT

Grab your warmest coat and boots—this winter's shaping up to be a wild ride. **Officially, the season starts with the Winter Solstice on December 21**, but the cold and snow might make an appearance earlier. A cold snap may keep the December holidays in a winter chill.

WINTER 2025-26



SNOW, RAIN & EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

Frequent snowstorms in New England should keep snow lovers happy. Areas up and down the Atlantic Coast will see significant rain, mixing with snow from time to time. The Mid-Atlantic region is forecast to see some decent snow, especially for areas in the mountains.

The Great Lakes and North Central States are set for a classic winter wonderland, while the Pacific Northwest's mountains are gearing up for some impressive snowfall totals.

Winter in the Southeast will see average temperatures with many wet periods. Northern portions, particularly in the Appalachian regions, may see occasional snow events.

Texas and surrounding states are on tap for a wetter-than-normal winter, punctuated by periodic cold snaps. While snow will be limited, the region faces the prospect of several cold rain events and occasional freezing precipitation, particularly in northern areas.

A wet winter is also predicted in the Southwest with near-normal temperatures.

(Get your month-by-month forecast starting on page 135.)

(continued)

SPRING 2026



SLOTH-LIKE SPRING AHEAD

Spring officially arrives on March 20th with the Vernal Equinox. However, Mother Nature may not be turning up the heat right away. Cool temperatures will make the end of March through the middle of April chilly for readers in the North Central States, New England, and much of the Northeast areas.

Spring storms will be plentiful, with many storms bringing heavy rain, thunderstorms, and even some snow in the Northwest and North Central regions of the country. Wet conditions will keep spring soggy in most of the country, except for the Southwest, where another dry spring is predicted.

Temperatures will run on the cool side for the northern and central regions of the country. The South Central region of the country will have a mild but wet spring. The Southeast and Southwest regions are likely to have the warmest spring, with temperatures rising early and staying mild throughout the season.

Notable weather events to watch for include potential Derby Day precipitation in Kentucky, late-season snowfall in the Northern Plains and mountains, and an active severe weather season in the Plains and Southeast. Memorial Day weekend looks generally favorable for outdoor activities in most regions, though some scattered showers may affect parts of the Northeast and Great Lakes.

SUMMER 2026



SIZZLIN' SUN SUMMER

The astronomical start of summer, Summer Solstice, is on June 21st.

Expect a hot summer across most of the country, with the Southwest and South Central regions experiencing the most intense heat, especially in July. The Southeast will see persistently hot and humid conditions throughout the season, with periodic thunderstorm activity, especially in Florida and the Carolinas.

The Northeast and Great Lakes regions will experience a mix of warm-to-hot conditions, with periods of high humidity and scattered thunderstorms. August brings a hurricane threat along the Atlantic Coast, potentially affecting areas from the Gulf Coast to Virginia.

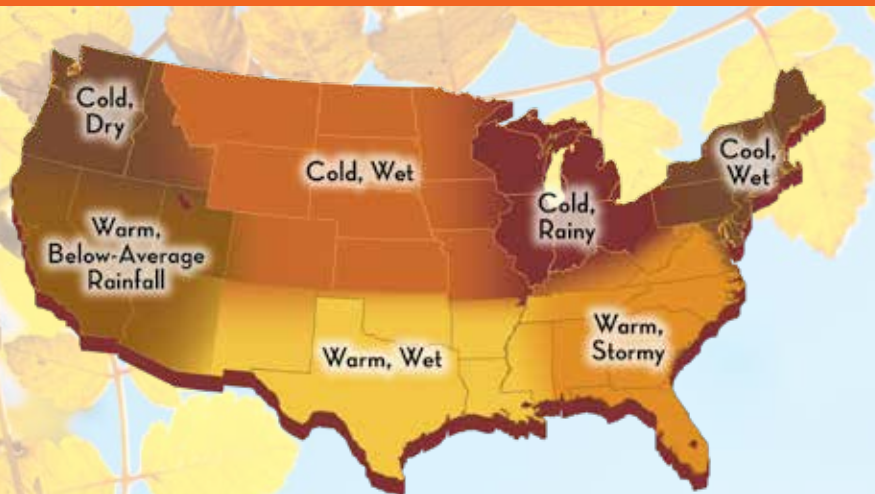
The Northwest will experience a mild summer, with June starting off cool and rainy in Washington and Oregon. The region gradually warms through July and August.

Rainfall will be most frequent in the Northeast and Southeast regions, with the Southwest experiencing predominantly dry conditions, except for monsoon-related thunderstorms in Arizona and New Mexico. The Northern Plains can expect periodic severe weather outbreaks, particularly in June and July.

By August, weather patterns become more volatile across the country, with increased precipitation in most regions and a higher risk of tropical weather impacts along both the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

(continued)

FALL 2026



DRAMATIC DRENCH

The first day of fall is September 22, the Autumnal Equinox.

Fall is shaping up to be a season of dramatic transitions across the United States. The country will start with widespread warmth in September before a cooling trend takes hold, sweeping from north to south as autumn progresses. By November, most regions will experience notably cooler temperatures, with precipitation becoming increasingly common across the nation.

The North Central States and Great Lakes region will lead the charge into winter-like conditions, experiencing the earliest and most persistent cold temperatures of the season. These areas will see their first hints of winter by mid-October, with some snow possible in higher elevations. Meanwhile, the Southeast will hold onto summer-like warmth the longest, with an eventual cool-down by November. The Southwest starts the season with characteristic heat but undergoes a remarkable transformation, with temperatures dropping significantly by October.

When it comes to precipitation, the pattern suggests a generally wet fall for most of the country, particularly as the season progresses. While the Southwest enjoys relatively dry conditions early on, and the Northeast sees extended stretches of fair weather in September, this pattern won't hold. By Thanksgiving, a notably wet pattern is expected to develop across most regions, with storm systems becoming more frequent and widespread. The North Central States will experience several dry spells early in the season, but these too will give way to more unsettled conditions as winter approaches. This shift from warm and relatively dry conditions to cooler and wetter weather will be most pronounced in the northern regions, creating a classic fall progression that gradually works its way south.

(Get your month-by-month forecast starting on page 135.)



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WINTER 2024-25

A Season of Extremes

Last winter rewrote its own rulebook. While December was quite warm, January hit back with snow in southern states, and February couldn't quite make up its mind. Here's what happened when Mother Nature decided to keep everyone guessing.

the NUMBERS TELL a STORY

Meteorological winter (December 2024-February 2025) ran almost 2 degrees warmer than usual across the nation, at 34.1°F, landing it in the top third of NOAA's records. But warmth didn't bring rain: total precipitation fell nearly one inch below average, at 5.87 inches, making this meteorological winter the third driest on record.

three MONTHS, three DIFFERENT WINTERS

December 2024 was the fourth-warmest December in 130 years. But January flipped the script. An Arctic blast pushed so far south that Floridians found themselves making snowmen. Pensacola, Mobile, and New Orleans saw historic snowfall. Meanwhile, California faced a different crisis:



the Palisades and Eaton wildfires, driven by fierce Santa Ana winds, destroyed 16,000 buildings and took 29 lives. Overall, January 2025 ended up being the coldest since 1988 and the sixth driest ever recorded.

February brought yet another shift. The Southwest basked in unusual warmth; Arizona had its second-warmest February. In contrast, the Pacific Northwest and Northern Plains shivered through below-average temperatures. Rainfall finally returned to normal, measuring 2.13 inches nationwide, though its distribution looked like a patchwork quilt—some regions soaked, others parched.

how did our PREDICTIONS hold up?

Our forecast for a mild winter in Texas and the Southern Plains hit the mark, and we correctly called the cold weather over the Northern Plains and Great Lakes. We also accurately forewarned of a very cold spell at the end of January. But La Niña threw a curveball, leaving us with fewer wet weather events than expected.

A NOTE ON

FORECASTING



Weather forecasting has come a long way since 1818, when the first *Farmers' Almanac* helped readers plan ahead—without smartphones or TV meteorologists. While our formula accounts for various proprietary factors, we're humble enough to know that nature always gets the last word.

Our predictions reach further into the future than any app or weather service, and we take pride in sharing these insights months before anyone else. But like those early *Almanac* readers who watched nature for cues, we know that forecasting remains part science, part art, and always an adventure.

HERBS *that* PROTECT

In many cultures around the world, herbs have long been used for their supposed medicinal and magical properties. From healing potions to warding off evil spirits, the folklore surrounding herbs is as diverse as the plants themselves. Here's a look at herbs commonly used to protect against negative energies.



Nettles

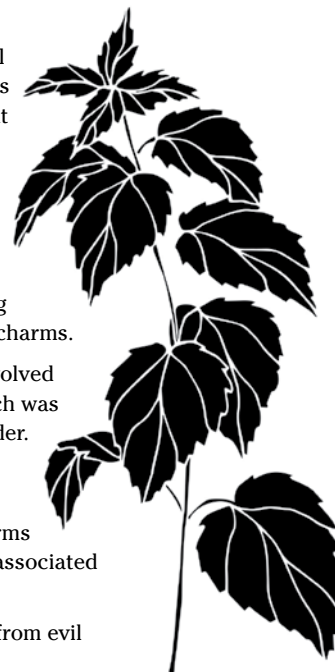
Nettles, also known as stinging nettles, are powerful plants with a global presence. They have their origins in the colder regions of northern Europe and Asia but have since spread worldwide.

According to British folklore, it was believed that nettles picked on a Saturday would lose their medicinal properties. Additionally, holding a nettle leaf in the mouth was thought to cure a toothache. Moreover, nettle was considered effective in breaking spells and curses, so it was often used in protective charms.

To ward off fear and evil spirits, an old tradition involved carrying nettle and milfoil. Carrying nettles in a pouch was believed to break curses and return them to the sender. Opting for the pouch was a wise choice to avoid accidentally getting stung.

Ancient societies attempted to prevent thunderstorms by tossing nettles into the fire, as these plants were associated with Thor, the deity who governed over them.

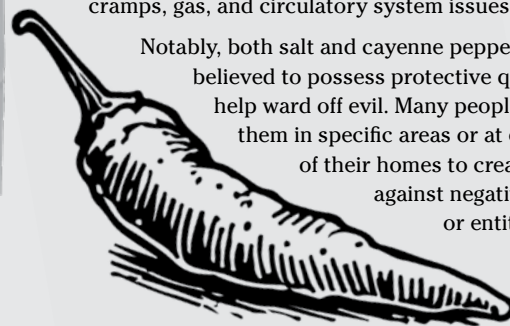
Farmers utilized nettle to safeguard their livestock from evil spirits and promote their overall well-being.



Cayenne Pepper

Cayenne pepper has a long history, dating back thousands of years to Central and South America. It was cultivated by Native Americans for both culinary and medicinal purposes. It was used to alleviate stomach discomfort, cramps, gas, and circulatory system issues.

Notably, both salt and cayenne pepper are believed to possess protective qualities that help ward off evil. Many people sprinkle them in specific areas or at entry points of their homes to create a barrier against negative energies or entities.



(continued)

Friday the 13th

SUPERSTITIONS

This year there will be three Friday the 13ths!

If you are one to worry about luck on this day, here are a few of our favorite ways to help ward off bad luck:

KNOCK ON WOOD

It was once believed that good spirits lived in trees and that by knocking on anything made from wood, you can call upon these spirits for protection against misfortune.



WEAR YOUR CLOTHES INSIDE OUT

No one seems to know how this superstition originated, but the belief that backward or inside out clothing brings good luck continues to be widespread.

WAKE UP ON THE CORRECT SIDE OF THE BED

It is considered bad luck to get out of bed on the opposite side from where you got in. It is also bad luck to put your left foot down first.



KEEP YOUR SHOES ON THE RIGHT FEET

Putting on your left shoe before the right is considered bad luck, and it is even worse luck to put the right shoe on the left foot, or vice versa.



TABLE MANNERS

Don't sing at the table, don't lie down on it, and be sure to sit at it with at least one foot touching the floor.

Aloe Vera

Native Americans held deep respect for the aloe vera plant, reverently referring to it as the “mystery plant,” “medicine plant,” and “burn plant.” Fascinated by its extraordinary properties, they lovingly called it the “wand of heaven.”

Herbal folklore states that owning an aloe plant in your home safeguards against accidents, especially burns. Across Africa, aloe plants are often hung above doors, believed to summon good luck and banish negativity. Aloe Vera is often planted outside people's homes (in warmer climates) to ward off evil.

Sage

Sage, an herb known for its association with wisdom, has been linked to wise individuals throughout history (ever heard of sage advice?). One interesting belief is that sage is most potent before it blooms.

In Greek mythology, sage was revered as a powerful protector and healer, cherished by the gods themselves. It was also said to enhance memory, hence the use of the phrase “a sage” to signify a wise person with a wealth of memories and profound wisdom.

Interested in attaining immortality? According to Medieval folklore, all you need to do is consume a little sage each day, especially in May. Additionally, the ancient practice of burning sage, also known as “smudging,” is still used today to purify and cleanse homes of negative energy and influences.



Thyme

Thyme is believed to bring good fortune in finances, gambling, and love. In France, it was a common practice to include thyme in the garden to attract fairies for a visit.

Many believe that if you want to boost your career luck, you should consider adding a thyme plant to your office, as it's believed to enhance your self-confidence and sense of self-worth. In addition, burning thyme in your home is thought to promote good health, while stuffing a pillow with thyme is believed to prevent nightmares.

Folklore also suggests that thyme can be used as a means to communicate with fairy folk and the spirits of the departed.

LEAF wisdom

An old weather proverb states, “When leaves show their undersides, be very sure rain betides.” Like many traditional weather sayings, this one is quite accurate. Before heavy rain, deciduous trees such as maples and poplars often display their leaf undersides. This happens because rising humidity makes their soft leaf stems less rigid, allowing winds to flip the leaves upward.

Leaves also feature prominently in cultural storytelling. The Algonquin people crafted a compelling tale about autumn’s vibrant colors. In their story, a massive bear wreaked havoc on their villages, destroying homes

and scaring children. The tribe’s most courageous warriors chased the bear across mountains and oceans, eventually striking it with arrows. The wounded bear fled into the sky, where the pursuit continues eternally. Each fall, as the bear rises above the horizon, its blood drips onto the forest below, turning the leaves bright red.

Science now explains that autumn’s red hues come from molecules called anthocyanins, not celestial bear blood. Yet both the scientific and mythological explanations capture our timeless wonder at nature’s seasonal transformation.



PEAK FOLIAGE DATES

—for the —

CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES



LOCATION	DATES	LOCATION	DATES
ALABAMA (Northern)	OCT 19–NOV 4	MISSOURI (Northern)	OCT 5–21
ARIZONA	OCT 5–21	MISSOURI (Southern)	OCT 12–28
ARKANSAS	OCT 19–NOV 4	MONTANA (Central)	SEP 28–OCT 9
ARKANSAS (Ozarks)	OCT 12–28	MONTANA (Western)	OCT 5–21
CALIFORNIA (Northern)	OCT 15–31	NEBRASKA	OCT 5–21
COLORADO	OCT 5–14	NEVADA	OCT 12–28
CONNECTICUT	OCT 12–28	NEW HAMPSHIRE (Inland)	SEP 28–OCT 9
DELAWARE	OCT 19–NOV 4	NEW HAMPSHIRE (Coastal)	OCT 5–21
FLORIDA	NOV 2–11	NEW JERSEY (Inland)	OCT 12–28
GEORGIA (Northern)	OCT 19–NOV 4	NEW JERSEY (Coastal)	OCT 19–NOV 4
IDAHO	OCT 5–21	NEW MEXICO	SEP 28–OCT 9
ILLINOIS (Northern)	OCT 5–21	NEW YORK*	SEP 28–OCT 28
ILLINOIS (Southern)	OCT 12–28	NORTH CAROLINA (Inland)	OCT 12–28
INDIANA (Northern)	OCT 5–21	NORTH CAROLINA (Coastal)	OCT 19–NOV 4
INDIANA (Southern)	OCT 12–28	NORTH DAKOTA	OCT 5–21
IOWA	OCT 5–21	OHIO	OCT 5–21
KANSAS (Northern)	OCT 5–21	OKLAHOMA	OCT 26–NOV 4
KANSAS (Southern)	OCT 12–28	OREGON	OCT 12–28
KENTUCKY (Eastern)	OCT 5–21	PENNSYLVANIA	OCT 5–21
KENTUCKY (Western)	OCT 12–28	RHODE ISLAND	OCT 12–28
LOUISIANA	NOV 2–11	SOUTH CAROLINA	OCT 19–NOV 4
MAINE (Inland)	OCT 1–17	SOUTH DAKOTA	OCT 5–21
MAINE (Coastal)	OCT 5–21	TENNESSEE	OCT 12–28
MARYLAND (Inland)	OCT 12–28	TEXAS	NOV 2–11
MARYLAND (Coastal)	OCT 19–NOV 4	UTAH	OCT 5–21
MASSACHUSETTS (Inland)	OCT 5–21	VERMONT (Northern)	SEP 24–OCT 10
MASSACHUSETTS (Coastal)	OCT 12–28	VERMONT (Southern)	OCT 5–14
MICHIGAN (Northern)	OCT 1–17	VIRGINIA (Inland)	OCT 12–28
MICHIGAN (Southern)	OCT 5–21	VIRGINIA (Coastal)	OCT 19–NOV 4
MINNESOTA (Northern)	OCT 1–17	WASHINGTON	OCT 12–28
MINNESOTA (Southern)	OCT 5–21	WEST VIRGINIA	OCT 5–21
MISSISSIPPI (Northern)	OCT 19–NOV 4	WISCONSIN	OCT 5–14
		WYOMING	OCT 5–14

*Depending on elevation and distance from the coast. All peak times are usually earlier at higher elevations.

NOW & THEN

1776 *v.* 2026

By Jim Kneiszel

It's been 250 years since our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, kicking off the great experiment of the United States of America. How have things changed over the past 25 decades?



American population:

1776: 2.5 million

Today: 337 million



Number of people in the family:

1776: 5.79

Today: 3.14



Average cost of a home:

1776: Estimates range from \$400 to \$2,000

Today: \$420,000



Average height & weight of men:

1776: 5'8", 129-183 lbs.

Today: 5'9", 199.8 lbs.



Average height & weight of women:

1776: 5'2", 120 lbs.

Today: 5'4", 170.8 lbs.



Average total tax burden as percentage of income:

1776: 1.5%

Today: 31%



Life expectancy:

1776: 35 years

Today: 77.5 years



Wages:

1776: \$1 per day, 6-day workweek, \$300 per year.

Today: \$25.70 per hour, 40-hour week, \$53,490 per year.



Most common pets:

1776: Dogs, cats, squirrels, wild birds, raccoons, deer, horses, snakes, frogs, turtles, otters, and beavers.

Today: Dogs, cats, fish, horses, reptiles, chickens, gerbils, birds, hamsters, and rabbits.



Most common occupations:

1776: Farmer, commercial fisher, blacksmith, cabinetmaker, candlemaker, shoemaker, cooper, gunsmith, milliner, printer, wigmaker.

Today: Retail salesperson, healthcare provider, fast food worker, general laborer, customer service, cook, office clerk, restaurant server, school teacher, accountant, assembly and fabrication technicians.



Popular garden crops:

1776: Thomas Jefferson's colonial favorites include: peas, cabbage, okra, lettuce, sea kale, cucumbers, artichokes, kidney beans, snap beans, and greens.

Today: Top crops include tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers, onions, green beans, hot peppers, carrots, lettuce, peas, squash, and corn.



Celebrating Independence Day:

1776: Mock funerals of King George III and desecration of his statues; firing of muskets and cannons; parades and bonfires with the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Today: Taking the day off of work, parades, picnics, concerts, flag-flying, and elaborate fireworks displays in just about every city and village.



Independence Day menu:

1776: On John and Abigail Adams' dinner table was turtle soup, poached salmon with egg sauce, green peas and boiled new potatoes, and apple pan-dowdy.

Today: Favorites are BBQ pork, coleslaw, macaroni salad, grilled chicken, potato salad, broccoli salad, deviled eggs, corn dogs, and sweet tea.



Most popular sports:

1776: Horse racing, boxing, cricket, fives (a variant of handball).

Today: Football, baseball, basketball, ice hockey, soccer.



For dessert:

1776: Flummery—steamed pudding made from milk, egg yolk, vanilla, and sugar, topped with berries.

Today: Apple pie and ice cream.



Most popular cocktail

1776: Flip: Rum, brown sugar, raw egg, and ale heated with an iron poker.

Today: Margarita: Tequila, lime juice, and triple sec.

A-maize-ing Corn

FACTS & STATS

By Deborah Tukua

Picture this...you're cruising down a winding country road, the summer sun beating down, and as far as the eye can see, there's a sea of green. Row upon row is full of corn-stalks, their leaves rustling in the breeze, stretching up towards the sky. This is the quintessential image of rural America, and there's a reason corn reigns supreme.

But how much do you know about this vegetable that graces our tables every summer? Did you know that corn is the undisputed champion of US agriculture, grown in nearly every state? Or that when corn is fully matured and dried it's considered a grain, and that maize is another term for corn? Read on to learn more about this fascinating crop that not only feeds people and animals alike but also helps fuel our cars.



WHAT COUNTRY PRODUCES the MOST CORN?

America is the world's largest producer of corn. About 90 million acres of corn are planted in the US each year, which collectively produce more than 14 billion bushels of corn annually. According to the USDA, corn production in the US currently exceeds 15 billion bushels a year.

The US is also the world's largest corn exporter. Between 10% and 20% of the corn produced is exported abroad. The majority of the corn grown here is used domestically for livestock feed and in ethanol fuel production.

WHICH STATES GROW the MOST CORN?

The top corn-producing states in this country are in the Midwest. Deep, fertile soil, sufficient rainfall, a warm growing season, and flat terrain make this region, often referred to as the "Corn Belt," ideal for farming corn.

More than half of the country's corn crop is grown in four states: Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, and Minnesota. Each of these states yields more than a billion bushels of corn per year. To give you an idea of the vast volume produced, 1 bushel of corn = 56 pounds.

Of these states, Iowa reigns supreme, having been dubbed the "Corn State." It's the leading producer of corn in the U.S., as over 90% of its land is used for agriculture.

CORN PRODUCTION in the TOP 5 US STATES



(BB= Billion Bushels)

#1: Iowa—over 2.5 BB

#2: Illinois—2.3 BB

#3: Nebraska—1.7 BB

#4: Minnesota—1.5 BB

#5: Indiana—1.1 BB

(Source: World Population Review)

EVER HEAR of CORN SWEAT?



Growing corn plants absorb water and nutrients from the soil to produce those tasty, sweet ears of corn we love sinking our teeth into. During the sizzling summer months, healthy corn plants naturally release water vapor into the air. This is commonly known as "corn sweat." Meteorologists refer to this as "evapotranspiration."

According to the NOAA, "An acre of corn gives off about 3,000 to 4,000 gallons of water each day." In late summer, as corn transpires, it increases the humidity in the air, causing it to feel hotter outside. Regions with high concentrations of corn crops, such as the Midwest, often experience sweltering heat and humidity, especially in August, when corn sweats the most, releasing vast amounts of water vapor into the already hot air.

(continued)

MORE THAN CORN *on the COB*

Corn dominates the crop market, with its myriad of uses. Numerous food products such as corn syrup, corn oil, cereals, corn meal, grits, tortillas and chips, cornstarch, popcorn, ketchup, beverages, barbecue sauce, gravy, canned vegetables, baked goods, candy, and even ice cream contain corn.



EVER HEAR *of* CORN “SMUT”?

Huitlachcoche (*whee-tla-KOH-cheh*) is commonly called “corn smut.” It is a fungal disease that grows directly on ears of corn.

Despite the odd name and unusual appearance, corn smut is considered edible. In culinary circles, this fungal byproduct is known as “corn truffles.” In Mexican cuisine, it is a delicacy. But eating corn truffles isn’t a new trend. The Aztecs in northern Mexico, and the Zuni and Hopi Native Americans in the southwest, have been cooking with *Huitlachcoche* for centuries.

WHERE *to* FIND CORN TRUFFLES (*Smut*)

You can purchase corn truffles frozen, jarred, or canned in specialty Mexican food shops. (May and November are the best times to find this product.) Chefs say the flavor of canned varieties doesn’t compare to fresh or frozen.

A farmers’ market or local corn vendor may also carry this delicacy.

If you have a patch of sweet corn or heirloom varieties growing, you can check cobs for corn smut during the growing season, when it’s wet out.

Chef Andrew Zimmern advises picking corn smut growing on the ears, not the stalk, when the exterior is light gray, and resembles small stones. The texture should be spongy. If it’s firm, it’s overripe and will taste bitter.

Caution: *Keep in mind that not all corn fungi is the edible *Huitlacoche* variety. It’s best not to eat it unless you are able to tell the difference. When in doubt, don’t risk eating something you can’t identify, and do not consume any black fungus growing on corn.*

The diversity of corn doesn’t stop with food. Corn is found in many of the items we use daily. Ten surprising products that are made with corn include toilet paper, toothpaste, hand soap and sanitizer, crayons, diapers, aspirin, drywall, rubber tires, spark plugs, and even fireworks.

Corn on the Cob **TIPS**

WHEN SELECTING THE BEST CORN, LOOK FOR

- Bright green husks tightly wrapped around the corn
- Light brown or golden silk that’s slightly sticky
- Sweet-smelling silk
- Cobs that feel heavy for their size
- Cobs free of black or mushy silk

Note: Resist the urge to pull back the husk and inspect the kernels, as it dries it out quicker.

WHEN STORING CORN

- Refrigerate immediately with husks on
- Use within a day or freeze
- Don’t store in plastic bags

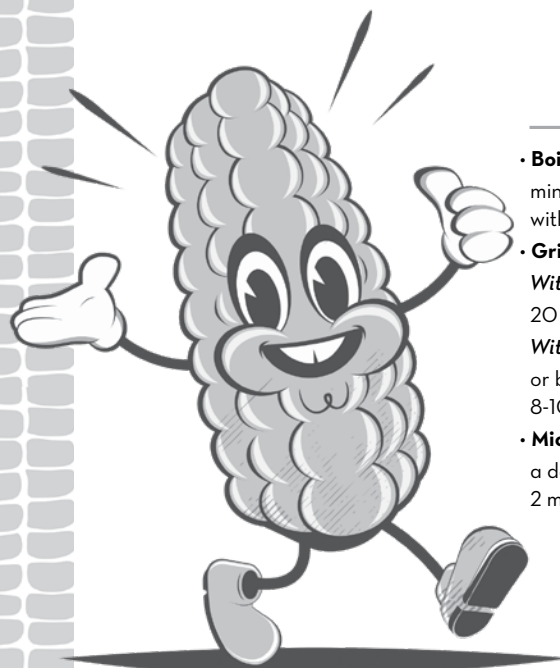
Note: Corn’s natural sugars turn to starch over time, affecting sweetness

WHEN FREEZING CORN

- Blanch first
- Place in airtight freezer bags, either on the cob or shucked

TOP 3 WAYS TO COOK CORN

- **Boiling:** Shuck, boil for 2-4 minutes in enough water to cover, without crowding the cobs
- **Grilling:**
With husks: Soak in water for 20 minutes, grill for 15-20 minutes
Without husks: Place on grill as is or brush with butter or oil, grill for 8-10 minutes
- **Microwaving:** Shuck, wrap in a damp paper towel, cook for 2 minutes per ear



MAKE YOUR OWN “SPORTS” *drink*

When the sun beats down, we often reach for a sports drink. But before modern drinks existed, people turned to a tangy, refreshing drink called switchel. This 18th-century favorite, also known as “haymaker’s punch,” is seeing a resurgence in popularity—and for good reason.

WHAT IS SWITCHEL?

Switchel is a simple, healthy drink made with apple cider vinegar, ginger, a sweetener like molasses, and water. Its origins are murky, with some attributing it to the Amish, others to China or the Caribbean. Regardless of its roots, switchel was a staple for colonial farmers seeking a thirst quencher that could keep up with their demanding outdoor work (such as cutting hay, thus the name, haymaker’s punch).

THE SCIENCE BEHIND SWITCHEL’S APPEAL?

In colonial times, there was a belief that drinking hot beverages in the sun helped maintain body temperature. While this theory was flawed, the intention was sound. Drinks that created a sensation of warmth, like switchel’s spicy ginger, were popular. The acidity of the apple cider vinegar may have been a substitute for the citrus they lacked.

IS SWITCHEL GOOD FOR YOU?

Tasting like a tart soda, switchel is better for you than any bottled soft drink. Each ingredient (except water) is high in potassium, especially molasses. Because potassium is an electrolyte, it replaces those lost as you sweat.

GIVE SWITCHEL A TRY!

Making switchel is easy. Simply mix the ingredients, let it steep, and serve over ice. You can customize it to your taste with additions like lemon juice, mint, berries, or sparkling water rather than flat.

1 cup water
(or sparkling/
coconut water)

1 tbsp apple
cider vinegar

1 tbsp fresh lemon
or lime juice

2 tsp molasses or
honey to taste

¼ tsp ground
or fresh ginger

Mix all ingredients,
steep for a few hours,
and enjoy!



RECIPE

BASIC SWITCHEL

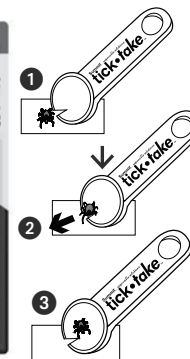


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Egg Facts

Eggs really are all they're cracked up to be. Poached, fried, or scrambled, eggs have been a staple food in many cultures for centuries. The absolute bosses of brunch and baking, the average American consumes around 280 eggs per year.

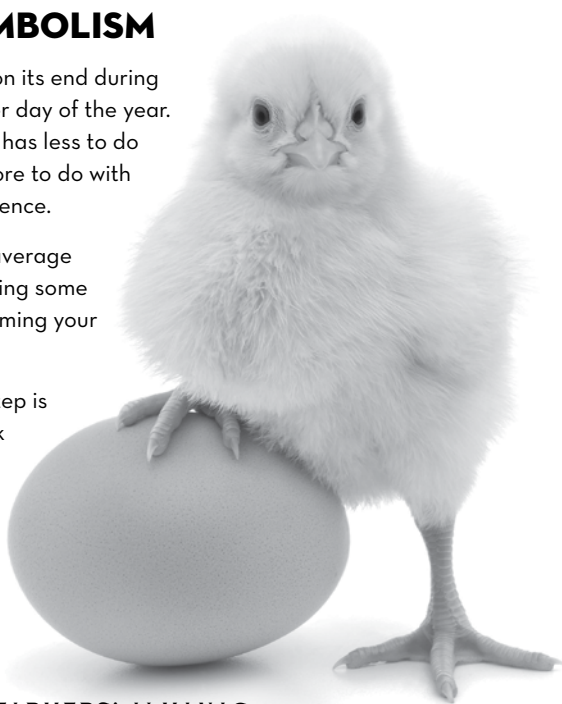
Here's a fun look at the wonderful, edible egg.

By Natalie LaVolpe



FOLKLORE & SYMBOLISM

-  Yes, you can balance an egg on its end during the equinox, but also any other day of the year. This well-known bit of folklore has less to do with gravitational pull, and more to do with a flat surface and a lot of patience.
-  A double-yolk egg occurs on average in about 1 in 1,000 eggs, leading some to believe that good luck is coming your way or that twins are coming.
-  Finding an egg on your doorstep is considered a sign of good luck and a reminder to put your potential to use.
-  Finding a cracked eggshell is often considered to be a bad omen, while also being a reminder to be patient.



COOKING *the* PERFECT EGG

To avoid shell fragments, crack against a flat surface in the center of the egg and pull apart with your thumbs.

Remove any slivers with wet fingers.

BOILING

Place a single layer of eggs on the bottom of a pot. Add water to cover the eggs by at least one inch. Bring to a boil, uncovered. Remove from heat, cover, and let sit 12-15 minutes. Place in ice water for 5 minutes, making the eggs easier to peel.

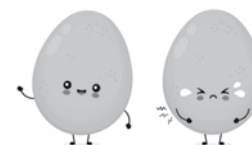
FREEZE

Beat whole eggs just until blended. Pour into freezer containers or bags, seal tightly, label with the number of eggs and the date.

POPULAR EGG SAYINGS

EGG ON YOUR FACE
Embarrassed

GOOD EGG
Someone good and trusting



BAD EGG
Someone bad/dishonest

EGGHEAD
Someone who is very intelligent

WALKING ON EGG SHELLS
Proceed with caution



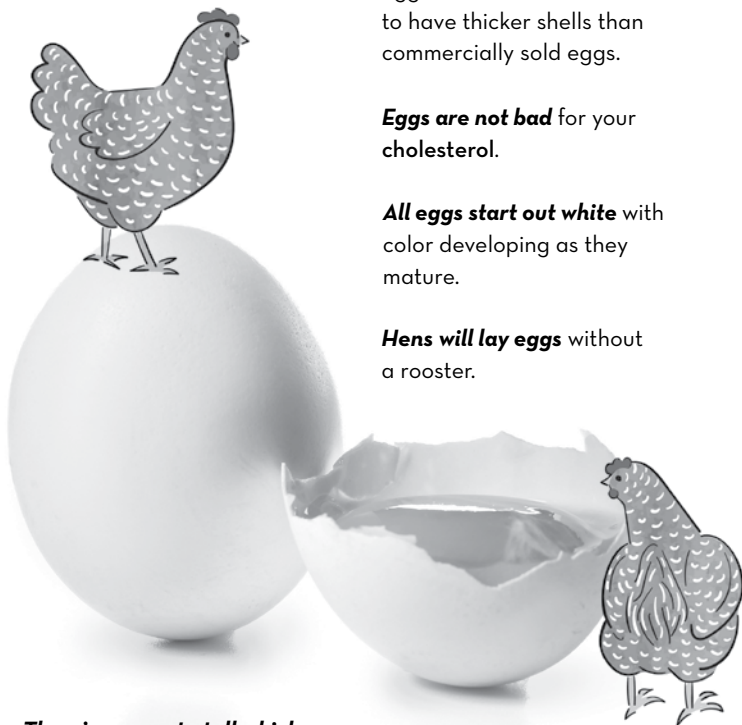
A HARD EGG TO CRACK
Someone who is difficult to understand

EGG SOMEONE ON
To encourage or urge someone to do something that's foolish or dangerous
(continued)

Egg Facts & Misconceptions

It takes two weeks for a hen to lay a fertilized egg after mating with a rooster.

Sperm can be stored in her body so that she may continue to lay fertilized eggs for up to two weeks.



There's no way to tell which eggs are fertilized without cracking them open.

When cracked, look at the yolk. A small white dot with no rings around it means it's not fertilized. A dot with rings around it, almost looking like a bullseye, means it is fertilized. Fertilized or not, both are safe to eat.

Eggshell thickness has to do with the age of the chicken and their diet.

Usually, as chickens age, the shell thickness gets a little thinner. However, their diet affects shells too. Usually eggs from local farms tend to have thicker shells than commercially sold eggs.

Eggs are not bad for your cholesterol.

All eggs start out white with color developing as they mature.

Hens will lay eggs without a rooster.

Egg color has nothing to do with nutrition or quality

and everything to do with genetics. The color of a chicken's earlobes is a good indicator of whether the egg will be white or brown, although earlobe color doesn't come into play with blue and green egg layers.

Eggs provide complete protein, containing all 9 essential amino acids that the body cannot produce on its own. **These amino acids are crucial for protein formation in the body.**

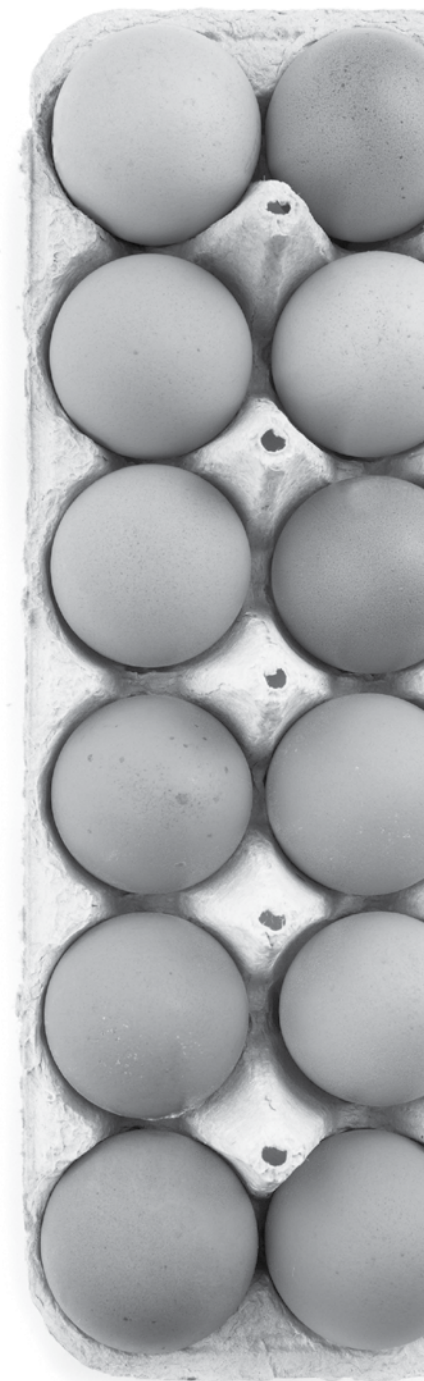
To check for freshness, drop an egg in a glass of cold water. **If the egg floats, your egg has gone bad** (air builds up as it ages).

Eating an egg with a blood spot is safe. Blood spots are caused by the rupture of a blood vessel during the formation of the egg. **These tiny spots do not indicate a fertilized egg.** If desired, remove the spot with the tip of a clean knife prior to cooking.

Store eggs pointed end down. Keeping the air cell at the top slows moisture loss and keeps the yolk centered.

Unwashed farm-fresh eggs retaining their protective coating (called bloom) **can be left at room temperature for two weeks.** Washed store-bought eggs shouldn't be left out of the refrigerator for more than two hours.

Egg yolks are nutrient-dense, containing almost half of an egg's protein. **They're also a rich source of fat-soluble vitamins A, D, and E, choline, and the antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthin.** The mostly unsaturated fat in egg yolks helps absorb these nutrients.





NATURAL WAYS TO
Freshen your
BREATH

EAT AN APPLE A DAY

Apples clean your mouth with their antibacterial properties and fiber, reducing bad breath. Eating an apple stimulates saliva production, washing away bacteria.

DRINK FENUGREEK TEA

Fenugreek, an herb similar to clover, has been used for centuries to treat bad breath. Boil fenugreek seeds in water, strain, and drink as a tea. Regular use can reduce bad breath.

RINSE WITH LEMON JUICE

Lemon juice inhibits bacterial growth, keeping your mouth moist and acidic. Sip on lemon water throughout the day.

CHEW SUGAR-FREE GUM

Sugar-free gum with xylitol can freshen your breath by stimulating saliva production and combating bacteria.

CHEW ON FENNEL, CARDAMOM, SUNFLOWER, OR ANISE SEEDS

These seeds have anti-septic properties that combat bad-breath-causing bacteria.

USE APPLE CIDER VINEGAR

Mix 1 tbsp of apple cider vinegar with water and drink before meals to aid digestion and reduce bad breath. You could gargle with the mixture as a mouthwash. *Note:* Apple cider vinegar is acidic, so be sure to brush your teeth with regular toothpaste afterward to prevent enamel erosion.

RINSE WITH BAKING SODA

Mix 1/2 tsp of baking soda with water and swish around your mouth. Spit it out; don't swallow. Baking soda neutralizes acids on your teeth and tongue.



CHEW ON FRESH PARSLEY OR MINT

These chlorophyll-rich herbs kill odor-causing bacteria in the mouth.

CONSUME YOGURT WITH LIVE CULTURES

The probiotics in yogurt combat bad breath and support overall health.

Avoid yogurts with added sugar or artificial sweeteners.



SNACK ON BERRIES

Berries are rich in antioxidants that combat mouth bacteria. Mix berries with yogurt for added benefits.

STAY HYDRATED

Drinking water loosens trapped food particles and boosts saliva production, preventing bad breath.



EAT AN AVOCADO DAILY

Avocados help eliminate intestinal putrefaction, a cause of bad breath.

TRY THE CUCUMBER CURE

Place a cucumber slice on the roof of your mouth for 30 seconds, then chew and swallow.

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HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT Raindrops?

By Amber Kanuckel

WHAT SHAPE ARE RAINDROPS?

Raindrops come in four different shapes, depending on their size.

Small raindrops (one millimeter or less in size) are held together by surface tension, so they're perfectly round.

Medium-sized raindrops (two millimeters or less in size) look something like a hamburger bun—flat on the bottom, rounded on the top.

At three millimeters, they distort even more as they fall, forming a kidney shape.

The largest raindrops—4.5 millimeters and above—don't resemble drops at all. Instead, because of the way they stretch as they fall, they look a lot like a pair of earmuffs, with two drops of water on each side, connected by a thin band. When raindrops get too large, they'll break apart into smaller drops, forming into one of these four shapes.

DO RAINDROPS START AS SNOWFLAKES?

There is lots of controversy surrounding this question, and many people will tell you that yes, all raindrops start as snowflakes because the upper atmosphere is cold. However, this isn't entirely true. In many cases, rain does start as snow, but it can also form as water droplets in certain situations. If the atmosphere is warm enough, water will condense into raindrops instead of snowflakes.

At other times, water in the atmosphere may be well below freezing temperatures, but it doesn't freeze, which is a process called "supercooling." In order for water to freeze, there needs to be something that it can adhere to in order to start the process — usually bits of dust or other tiny crystalline particles in the air. If there are no particles present, the supercooled water droplets will fall through the clouds slowly until they can merge with other water droplets and fall to the ground.



HOW FAST DO RAINDROPS FALL?

When it comes to a raindrop's velocity, size matters! Smaller raindrops fall much more slowly than larger ones, and winds can affect those speeds drastically. Without wind, the smallest water droplets—not truly raindrops, but cloud droplets—fall at about 0.2 mph. They fall so slowly because they're only about 10 micrometers in size. A micrometer is one-millionth of a meter. According to NASA, the very largest raindrops fall at a maximum of 20 knots, which works out to a little over 23 mph, not factoring in wind.

ARE RAINDROPS PURE WATER?

A cloud may be heavy with water droplets and water vapor, but in order for that water to fall to the ground, it has to form into large enough drops first. This requires what is known as "condensation nuclei." These nuclei are the same particles that water needs to freeze—basically, an impurity that water can adhere to. Without condensation nuclei, water vapor can't condense into raindrops, and it can't freeze into snowflakes.

Supercooled water droplets are the exception to this rule. They're the only raindrops that fall as pure water.

DO RAINDROPS EVER EVAPORATE BEFORE HITTING THE GROUND?

It's not just raindrops that evaporate before reaching the ground. Sometimes entire rain showers evaporate before they reach the Earth's surface. This phenomenon is called "virga," and you've probably seen it before. Virga looks like a rain cloud from a distance, with foggy streaks that extend towards the ground without touching it. Those streaks are the rainfall, and because the rain is falling through extremely dry air, it's evaporating before it touches the ground.

As with most natural wonders, raindrops seem like something that would be simple, but they're actually incredibly complex.

STAY SAFE!

Flood Tips



DURING a FLOOD

Stay informed: Listen to radio and television, including NOAA Weather Radio if possible, check the Internet and social media for information and updates.

Get to higher ground: If you live in a flood-prone area or are camping in a low-lying area, get to higher ground immediately.

Obey evacuation orders: If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Lock your home when you leave. If you have time, disconnect utilities and appliances.

Practice electrical safety: Don't go into a basement, or any room, if water covers the electrical outlets or if cords are submerged. If you see sparks or hear buzzing, crackling, snapping, or popping noises—get out! Stay out of water that may have electricity in it!

Avoid flood waters: Don't walk through flood waters. It only takes 6" of moving water to knock you off your feet. If you are trapped by moving water, move to the highest possible point and call 911 if possible.

Do NOT drive into flooded roadways or around a barricade. Turn around, don't drown! Water may be deeper than it appears and can hide hazards such as sharp objects, washed-out road surfaces, electrical wires, chemicals, etc. A vehicle caught in swiftly moving water can be swept away in seconds; 12" of water can float a car or small SUV; 18" of water can carry away large vehicles.

AFTER a FLOOD

When flood waters recede, the damage left behind can be devastating and present many dangers. However, what you can't see can be just as dangerous. Floodwaters often become contaminated with sewage or chemicals. Gas leaks and live power lines can be deadly but are not obvious at first glance.

Stay informed: Stay tuned to your local news for updated information on road conditions.

Ensure water is safe to drink, cook, or clean with after a flood. Authorities may ask you to boil water for a while after a flood.

Utility companies often have apps to update you on getting service back. Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of death after storms when areas are dealing with power outages. Never use a portable generator inside your home or garage. Review generator safety.

Avoid flood waters: Standing water hides many dangers, including toxins and chemicals. There may be sharp objects under the water, or the road could have collapsed.

Avoid disaster areas: Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence may hamper rescue and other emergency operations.

Source: National Weather Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Heed road closed and cautionary signs: Road closure and other cautionary signs are put in place for your safety. Pay attention to them!

Wait for the all clear: Do not enter a flood damaged home or building until you're given the all clear by authorities. If you enter a flood damaged building, be extremely careful. Water can cause floors to collapse, ceilings to fall, etc. Make sure the electrical system has been turned off. Have the power company or a qualified electrician fix wires. Contact your insurance agent to discuss property damage. If you have a generator, follow proper safety procedures.

Contact your family and loved ones: Let your family and close friends know that you're okay, so they can help spread the word. Register with or search the American Red Cross's Safe and Well listing.



WHY YOU NEED

emergency “GO BAGS”

Farmers' Almanac Staff



Life has a funny way of throwing curveballs when we least expect them. That's why keeping an emergency “go bag” isn't just smart—it's essential. Keep one at home near your main exit, where everyone in your household can find it, and stash another in your car.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS *for your GO BAG*

START WITH THE BASICS:

- ☐ Pack enough non-perishable food and bottled water to last at least 72 hours.
- ☐ Think protein bars, dried fruits, and anything that won't spoil or need heating.

FOR SAFETY & COMMUNICATION, INCLUDE:

- ☐ A whistle
- ☐ A couple of flashlights
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Power banks for your electronic devices
- ☐ Dust masks

DON'T FORGET PRACTICAL ITEMS:

- ☐ A manual can opener
- ☐ Heavy-duty garbage bags
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ A warm blanket
- ☐ A rain poncho
- ☐ Cash in small bills
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Keep your important documents in a waterproof container
- ☐ Emergency contact numbers
- ☐ Copies of insurance policies and other crucial paperwork
- ☐ Local area maps

for PET OWNERS

IF YOU HAVE FURRY FAMILY MEMBERS, ADD:

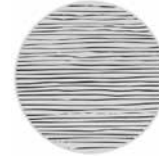
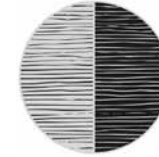
- ☐ Pet photos (in case they get separated from you or lost)
- ☐ A three-day supply of their food
- ☐ Any medications they need
- ☐ A spare collar and leash
- ☐ A small bag of litter for cats
- ☐ Their favorite treat



Remember to check your go bag every six months. Replace expired items, update documents, and adjust supplies based on your family's changing needs. The best emergency kit is the one you have ready before you need it.

FULL MOONS in 2026*Times listed
in EST/EDTJanuary 3rd at 5:03 amFebruary 1st at 5:09 pmMarch 3rd at 6:38 amApril 1st at 10:12 pm

May has two Full Moons

June 29th at 7:57 pm**FULL MOONS
in late 2025**September 7th 2025—Full Corn Moon at 2:09 pm
October 6th 2025—Full Harvest Moon at 11:48 pm**FULL MOONS in 2026***Times listed
in EST/EDTJuly 29th at 10:36 amAugust 28th at 12:18 amSeptember 26th at 12:49 pmOctober 26th at 12:12 amNovember 24th at 9:53 amDecember 23rd at 8:28 pm**FULL MOONS
in late 2025**November 5th 2025—Full Beaver Moon at 8:19 am
December 4th 2025—Full Cold Moon at 6:14 pmLearn where these names came from as well as alternate names @ [FarmersAlmanac.com](https://farmersalmanac.com)**THE LUNAR CYCLE****NEW**The Moon is not
illuminated by
direct sunlight.**WAXING CRESCENT**The Moon is partly,
but less than one-
half, illuminated by
direct sunlight while
the illuminated part
is increasing.**FIRST QUARTER**One-half of the
Moon appears illu-
minated by direct
sunlight while the
illuminated part is
increasing.**WAXING GIBBOUS**The Moon is more
than one-half, but
not fully, illuminated
by direct sunlight
while the illuminated
part is increasing.**THE LUNAR CYCLE****FULL**The Moon is fully
illuminated by
direct sunlight.**WANING GIBBOUS**The Moon is less than
fully, but more than
one-half, illuminated
by direct sunlight
while the illuminated
part is decreasing.**LAST QUARTER**One-half of the
Moon appears
illuminated by di-
rect sunlight while
the illuminated
part is decreasing.**WANING CRESCENT**The Moon is partly,
but less than one-
half, illuminated by
direct sunlight while
the illuminated part
is decreasing.

MOON FAQs



Moonrise and Set

The Moon rises in the east and sets in the west, similar to the Sun. It rises about 50 minutes later each day.

Waxing or Waning?

To determine if the Moon is waxing or waning, cup your right hand into a “C” shape and look at the sky. If the crescent Moon fits into the closed part of your right hand, it’s waning. If it fits into your left hand, it’s waxing.

Moon Illusion

The Moon appears larger near the horizon due to comparison with foreground objects. When higher in the sky, it looks smaller. To see the Moon’s true size, look through a cardboard tube, which excludes the surrounding landscape.

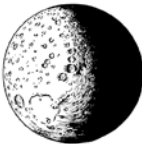
This illusion can’t be photographed; images of the Moon near the horizon and higher up will look the same. If you see a photo of a large Moon near the horizon, it was likely taken with a telephoto lens. The Moon can appear large when rising or setting, regardless of its phase, but the illusion is stronger when it’s near perigee, its closest point to Earth.

Does the Moon Rotate?

Yes, the Moon rotates on its axis. It takes about 27.3 days to complete one rotation, which is the same time it takes to orbit Earth. This synchronous rotation is why we always see the same side of the Moon from Earth.

FULL MOON RISING TIMES

Here are the full Moon rising times for 13 cities. To view the Moonrise, remember that the full Moon is opposite the Sun. Your shadow at sunset will point to where the Moon rises.

	BOSTON	NYC	WASH DC	ATLANTA	MIAMI	CHICAGO	ST. LOUIS	AUSTIN	DENVER	HELENA	SEATTLE	SAN FRANCISCO	LOS ANGELES
													
JAN 3	4:36	4:55	5:15	6:03	6:07	4:48	5:11	6:09	5:09	5:10	4:49	5:30	5:24
FEB 1	4:46	5:03	5:21	6:03	6:01	4:57	5:17	6:06	5:16	5:27	5:07	5:34	5:25
MAR 3	6:04	6:17	6:30	7:03	6:48	6:13	6:25	7:00	6:27	6:54	6:37	6:40	6:24
APR 1	7:03	7:14	7:25	7:51	7:29	7:12	7:20	7:44	7:22	7:59	7:44	7:33	7:13
MAY 1	8:09	8:16	8:24	8:41	8:06	8:16	8:18	8:29	8:23	9:15	9:02	8:30	8:03
MAY 31	9:07	9:12	9:17	9:28	8:47	9:13	9:10	9:13	9:16	10:18	10:07	9:21	8:50
JUN 29	8:42	8:47	8:53	9:05	8:24	8:49	8:46	8:49	8:51	9:51	9:39	8:56	8:26
JUL 29	8:24	8:32	8:40	8:58	8:26	8:31	8:33	8:46	8:36	9:23	9:08	8:42	8:17
AUG 28	7:36	7:47	7:58	8:25	8:05	7:22*	7:28*	7:49*	7:29*	8:07*	7:51*	7:38*	7:17*
SEP 26	6:21	6:34	6:48	7:21	7:08	6:29	6:41	7:17	6:41	7:04	6:44	6:53	6:39
OCT 26	5:41	5:58	6:15	6:58	6:58	5:19*	5:36*	7:04*	5:34*	5:48*	5:27*	5:49*	5:39*
NOV 24	3:56	4:15	4:35	5:23	5:28	4:07	4:30	5:29	4:28	4:27	4:04	4:47	4:42
DEC 23	3:38	3:58	4:18	5:07	5:14	3:50	4:14	5:15	4:12	4:09	3:47	4:33	4:29

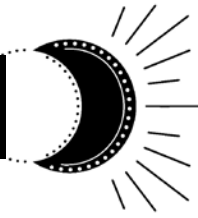
DST is used from March through October.

**Asterisks indicate the full Moon occurs on the previous day.*

ECLIPSES

of the

SUN + MOON
in 2026



Eastern time. Daylight Saving Time is used where applicable.

I. FEBRUARY 17—ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE

During an annular eclipse, the Moon appears too small to cover the entire Sun, leaving a ring of sunlight visible (this is why it's often called a "ring of fire" eclipse). This eclipse's path crosses Antarctica, with the maximum eclipse occurring over the Southern Ocean, northeast of Australia's Davis Research Station. The eclipse will be partially visible from the southern tip of South America and parts of southeast Africa.

Partial Eclipse Begins: 4:56 am • **Annular Eclipse Begins:** 6:42 am

Greatest Eclipse: 7:11 am • **Annular Eclipse Ends:** 7:41 am

Partial Eclipse Ends: 9:27 am • **Maximum Duration of Annularity:** 2 min. 19.6 sec.

II. MARCH 3—TOTAL ECLIPSE of the MOON

The best views for this eclipse will be near the Pacific Rim. In North America, places within the Eastern Time Zone will see the Moon set during dawn's early light during the total phase; places farther west will be able to catch the Moon emerging from the Earth's shadow as it sets, while for sites out in the Far West, the eclipse will be visible from start to finish. Hawaiians will see the Moon almost overhead as totality takes place in the hours after midnight. Meanwhile, during local evening hours, Central Asia and western Australia will see the Moon rise as it emerges from the Earth's dark shadow. Eastern Australia, Papua New Guinea, as well as much of Japan and eastern Siberia will see it all during convenient evening hours.

Moon Enters Penumbra: 3:43 am • **Moon Enters Umbra:** 4:49 am

Total Eclipse Begins: 6:03 am • **Mid-Eclipse:** 6:33 am

Total Eclipse Ends: 7:02 am • **Moon Leaves Umbra:** 8:17 am

Moon Leaves Penumbra: 9:23 am • **Magnitude of the Eclipse:** 1.153



III. AUGUST 12—TOTAL ECLIPSE of the SUN

A total solar eclipse will be visible from parts of Russia, Greenland, Iceland, and Spain. The eclipse will be at its maximum over the Denmark Strait, west of Iceland, lasting 2 minutes and 18.3 seconds. Parts of western Iceland, including Reykjavik, will experience totality for 1 minute. The path then moves southeast through northern Spain, including Bilbao, Zaragoza, and Valencia. However, Madrid will only see a 99.9% partial eclipse. The shadow then crosses Mallorca before ending over the Mediterranean.

A partial eclipse will be visible from much of northeastern Russia, much of Europe, northern Africa, and the northern half of North America. In the U.S., it will be visible north of an imaginary line running from northern Montana to the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Remember to use caution when viewing any type of solar eclipse.

Partial Eclipse Begins: 11:34 am • **Total Eclipse Begins:** 1:02 pm

Greatest Eclipse: 1:45 pm • **Total Eclipse Ends:** 2:34 pm

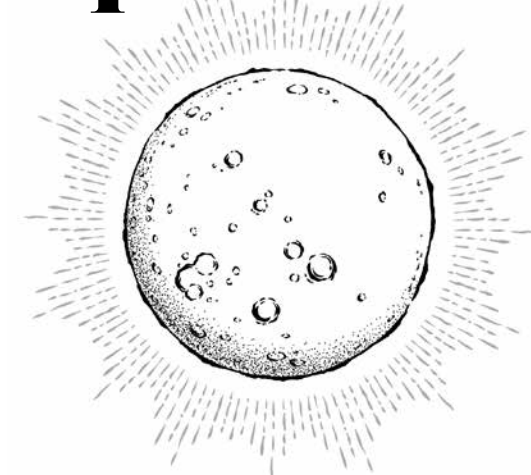
Partial Eclipse Ends: 3:57 pm • **Maximum Duration of Totality:** 2 min. 18.3 sec.

(continued)

SUPERMOONS

THE POWER OF

Supermoons



By Tam Veillux

The Supermoon isn't just a pretty sight in the sky—it's an opportunity to work on aspects of your life that aren't working. When the Moon swings close enough to Earth to be labeled "super," during its full or new phase, it creates a surge of energy you can use to your advantage.

Think of a Supermoon as nature's amplifier. Just as the Moon pulls the tides higher and makes the night sky brighter, it can magnify your intentions and enhance your personal growth work. While any full Moon is powerful, a Supermoon—which occurs when the Moon comes within 90% of its closest approach to Earth (about 221,000 miles)—packs an extra punch.

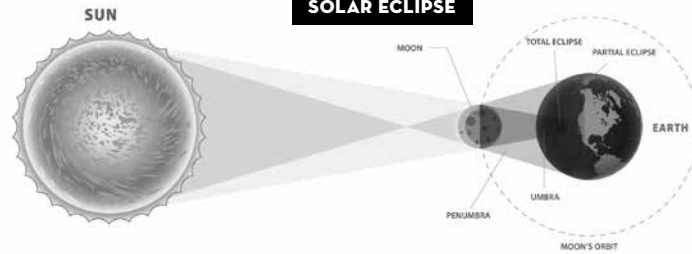
Why You Should Care About Supermoons

The Moon's different phases affect how we feel and act, even if we don't notice it at a conscious level. As the Moon changes phases throughout the month, its light and shadows can influence our thoughts and behavior.

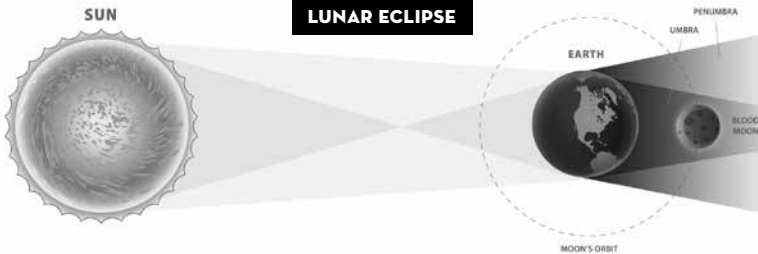
The first half of the Moon's cycle is a good time to make plans and decide what you want to do. During the second half, you can check how well your plans are working and make changes if needed. This way, you'll be ready when the Moon is at its brightest and most powerful.

(continued)

SOLAR ECLIPSE



LUNAR ECLIPSE



IV. AUGUST 27-28—PARTIAL ECLIPSE of the MOON

This eclipse favors much of North America, though far western areas (including Hawaii) will see the Moon rise already within the Earth's dark umbral shadow. Most of Europe and Africa will see the Moon set during the early hours of August 28 still inside the Earth's umbra. The Moon will be passing north of the center of the Earth's shadow, so that at mid-eclipse, more than nine-tenths of its diameter will be immersed in the umbra, leaving only the uppermost part of its disk in view.

Moon Enters Penumbra: 9:23 pm • **Moon Enters Umbra:** 10:33 pm

Mid-Eclipse: 12:12 am (Aug. 28) • **Moon Leaves Umbra:** 1:52 am

Moon Leaves Penumbra: 3:02 am • **Magnitude of the Eclipse:** 0.932

An Eclipse Never Comes Alone

A solar eclipse usually occurs two weeks before or after a lunar eclipse. There are often two eclipses in a row, sometimes three, in an eclipse season.

"Eclipse season" is a time when eclipses are more likely to happen, approximately every six months. During an eclipse season, the Sun, Moon, and Earth line up in a way that makes it possible for eclipses to occur. In this window of time—approximately 34 days—eclipses happen in pairs, two weeks apart.

To learn more about these eclipses, visit FarmersAlmanac.com

SUPERMOONS

Making the Most of Super Full Moon Energy

The key to working with Supermoon energy is water. Water amplifies the Moon's influence and helps us tap into our intuitive wisdom.

Here's how to use this powerful combination:



— Near Natural Water —

Find a safe spot near the ocean, a lake, or a river during a Supermoon. The combination of moving water and lunar energy creates an ideal environment for transformation. Sit quietly and let the rhythmic sound of water help you access deeper levels of awareness.

— At Home —

No natural water nearby? Create your own Moon-water ritual:

1. Place a vessel of water where it can catch Moonlight
2. Sit by a window with a clear view of the Supermoon
3. Keep your water and a journal within reach

Powerful Supermoon Practices

Instead of just admiring the bigger, brighter Moon, try these transformative exercises:

— The Reflection Practice —

If you set a goal under the new Moon earlier in the month, now sit with your water (either near a natural source or your prepared Moon water) and ask yourself: Is the goal you set still appropriate for you? Have you taken any action with respect to it, or did you encounter any obstacles? Where are you out of alignment? Use your journal to write down any answers or thoughts that come to mind. Hydrate with big gulps of water as you process your answers.

SUPERMOONS

— The Release Ritual —

Face the Supermoon and take three deep breaths. With each exhale, imagine releasing something that no longer serves you. Take a sip of water after each release, visualizing the water washing away old patterns and refreshing your energy.

Do an open-eyed meditation. From a safe distance of your favorite large body of water, or using your imagination, create a large body of moving water; fix your eyes on the incoming waves. Imagine your desires moving toward you and retracting waters carrying away everything that might be blocking them. Allow your breathing to be slow and deep. Seek solace in knowing that larger forces are working through your life.

— The Connection Ritual —

Drink in the Moonbeams. The ancient Eastern practice of gulping light deepens your connection to the Moon cycles. While outside, preferably near water, raise your face to the light of the Supermoon and lay your tongue out as long and far as you can. Count to three before swallowing. Use your two hands to trace the length of your neck as you swallow. Imagine you are adding light to your body. Repeat 13 times.

As months that include Super Full Moons approach, mark your calendar and make yourself available to harvest the augmented energy. Lean into the lunar phases and prepare for an extraordinary result.



2026 Super Full Moons

January 3: 225,130 mi

November 24: 224,170 mi

December 23: 221,668 mi



ANNUAL METEOR SHOWERS

*This table lists some of the best-known meteor showers.
All times given are listed in local time.*

NAME	MAXIMUM ACTIVITY	AVERAGE HOURLY RATE	BEST DIRECTION + TIME to VIEW	SPEED
Quadrantids	JAN 3-4	60-200	Northeast 4-6 am	Medium
Lyrids	APR 21-22	10-20	Overhead 2-4 am	Swift streaks
Eta Aquarids	MAY 4-5	20-40	Southeast 2-4 am	Very swift, long paths
Delta Aquarids	JUL 28-29	15-25	South 1-3 am	Slow, long paths
Perseids	AUG 11-13	50-100	Overhead 2-4 am	Very swift, rich display
Orionids	OCT 21-22	15-25	South 2-4 am	Swift streaks
South Taurids	NOV 2-4	10-20	South 1-3 am	Very slow, bright
North Taurids	NOV 12-14	10-20	South 12-2 am	Very slow, bright
Leonids	NOV 16-17	10-15	S/Southeast 4-6 am	Very swift
Geminids	DEC 13-14	60-120	Overhead 1-3 am	Medium
Ursids	DEC 22-23	15-25	North, All night	Medium

METEOR-WATCHING TIPS



*Comfortable seating
Dress in warm layers (even in the summer!)
Clear, unobstructed view
Little to no light pollution (including from the gibbous or full Moon)*



OBSERVING the VISIBLE PLANETS

**Apparitions that are the brightest and easiest to spot.*

• QUICK-VIEW TABLE for 2026 •

PLANET	[WHEN VISIBLE]		[WHEN BRIGHTEST]	
	MORNINGS	EVENINGS	FAINT or INVISIBLE	
Mercury	MAR 27 to APR 17 JUL 26 to AUG 16 NOV 13 to DEC 4	FEB 5 to FEB 26 JUN 1 to JUN 22 SEP 28 to OCT 19	Except for brief periods around the dates listed in the adjacent columns to the left and right.	NOV 13 to DEC 4*
Venus	NOV 3 to DEC 31	MAR 8 to OCT 14	JAN 1 to MAR 7	NOV 29 SEP 19
Mars	MAR 18 to DEC 31	Not in 2026	JAN 1 to MAR 17	DEC 29 to DEC 31 Not in 2026
Jupiter	JAN 1 to JAN 9 AUG 19 to DEC 31	JAN 10 to JULY 7	JULY 8 to AUG 18	JAN 1 to JAN 9 JAN 10 to JAN 22
Saturn	APR 12 to OCT 3	JAN 1 to MAR 8 OCT 4 to DEC 31	MAR 9 to APR 11	SEP 24 to OCT 3 OCT 4 to OCT 9
Uranus	JUN 9 to NOV 24	JAN 1 to MAY 5 NOV 25 to DEC 31	MAY 5 to JUN 8	OCT 24 to NOV 24 NOV 25 to DEC 31
Neptune	APR 8 to SEP 24	JAN 1 to MAR 6 SEP 25 to DEC 31	MAR 7 to APR 7	JUL 28 to SEP 24 SEP 25 to NOV 24



STARRY-EYED?

Be sure to follow *Farmers' Almanac* on Facebook for easy-to-follow night sky graphics!

And visit FarmersAlmanac.com for more information on visible planets.

HOW to VIEW the VISIBLE PLANETS

Do you ever stop and gaze up on a clear night to see the bright stars above you? If so, you are a stargazer!

Stargazing connects you with nature, inspires adventure, and brings an important element of awe into your life. Recognizing the depth of the universe may help you gain more perspective to realize that big problems are much smaller than they appear to be. Recent studies also suggest that stargazing boosts creativity and may even help you sleep better at night.

Here is a helpful guide to spotting the visible planets, which are also referred to as the “naked-eye planets,” because you can see them with the naked eye—no telescope or binoculars needed (except for Neptune).



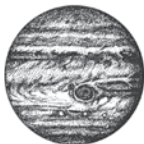
Mercury: Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun in our Solar System. Because of this, it is only observable in the early morning, just before sunrise, or at dusk. It usually appears as a bright “star” with a golden hue. As an evening star, Mercury appears in the western sky, setting about an hour after the Sun; as a morning star, it appears in the eastern sky, rising about an hour before the Sun.



Venus: After the Moon, Venus is the brightest natural object in the night sky. It is both the Earth’s closest neighbor in our Solar System and the planet most similar to Earth in size, gravity, and composition. This planet is always brilliant and shining with a steady, silvery light.



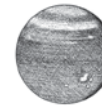
Mars: Mars is the 4th planet from the Sun in our Solar System. Mars is often called the “Red Planet” because it appears orange-red in the sky, and its surface material contains a lot of iron oxide. Iron looks black, but the element takes on a reddish tinge when it has been exposed to oxygen, i.e., “iron oxide.”



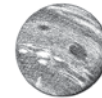
Jupiter: Jupiter is usually the third brightest object in the night sky, after the Moon and Venus (only Mars, our next-door neighbor, is occasionally brighter), and summer is an especially good time to view this bright behemoth. Jupiter appears to be a non-twinkling cream-colored star and is very often the brightest starlike object in the entire night sky.



Saturn: Saturn is the 6th planet from the Sun, and the second largest, after Jupiter. This planet shines like a yellowish-white “star” of moderate brightness. Though about 833 Earths would fit into Saturn, the planet’s density is only 1/8 that of the Earth, making Saturn’s mass barely 95 times greater than the Earth’s. And while the planet is quite distant from the Earth, Saturn’s unique ring system makes it possibly the most instantly recognizable planet in our Solar System. But these famous rings are only visible through a telescope.



Uranus: Uranus is the 7th planet from the Sun, the smallest of our Solar System’s gas planets. Uranus is best viewed with binoculars or a telescope. However, if you have good eyesight, a clear, dark sky, and know where to look, you might be able to spot it. A small telescope may reveal its tiny, greenish disk.



Neptune: Neptune is the 8th planet from the Sun and is not visible to the naked eye. At a peak magnitude of +7.8, this bluish-hued planet is only visible with good binoculars or a telescope.



See page 113 for details on the best times to view these planets in 2026.

Or scan this code for more planet-watching dates and events.

Magnitudes Explained

“Magnitudes” refer to the brightness of an object in space. The lower the number, the more dazzling it is. Bright stars/planets are a 1 or 0 magnitude. Fainter ones are a 5 or 6. Super bright stars are in negative numbers. For instance, Sirius is magnitude -1.4. (For reference, the full Moon is -12.7 and the Sun is -26.7.)

Degrees Explained

Did you know that you can use the size of your hand to judge distances between objects in space? See our illustration to the right.



11 MUST-SEE ASTRONOMY EVENTS in 2026**★ FEBRUARY 2 ★****Moon's Peek-a-Boo with Regulus**

On this night, the waxing gibbous Moon will play its own game of hide and seek with Regulus, Leo the Lion's brightest star. Regulus will disappear behind the dark, unilluminated portion of the Moon's disk and pop back into view about an hour later.

★ FEBRUARY 18 ★**Moon Kisses Mercury**

Look west-southwest 45 minutes after sunset to catch a stunning crescent Moon and Mercury shining brightly above it.

★ MARCH 3 ★**Total Lunar Eclipse**

In the early morning, the full Moon will dip entirely into Earth's central shadow. While those on the Atlantic Seaboard may see the Moon set during this shadowy phase, the western US will witness the entire celestial act.

★ JUNE 9 ★**Venus Kisses Jupiter**

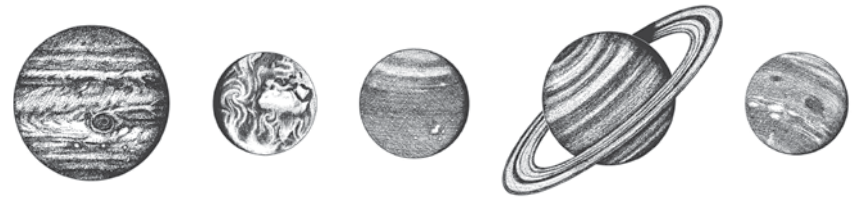
At sunset, look west-northwest to see Venus and Jupiter in a rare conjunction (just 1.6° apart, appearing to nearly touch). Venus will hover to the upper right of Jupiter. Gemini's two brightest stars, Pollux and Castor, add to the spectacle (further to the right).

★ AUGUST 12 ★**A Day of Double Celestial Wonders**

Start your day with the Perseid meteor shower, peaking in the predawn hours. Watch for bright meteors and possible fireballs. Later, a solar eclipse will grace the skies, with totality visible in parts of Greenland, Iceland, and northern Spain. In North America, a partial eclipse will be seen from Vancouver to Chicago and Cape Hatteras.

★ AUGUST 27-28 ★**Near Total Lunar Eclipse**

The full Moon will almost fully dip into Earth's shadow. At the time of greatest eclipse (12:12 a.m. EDT), 93.2% of its diameter will be eclipsed. Much of North America will have a good view.

11 MUST-SEE ASTRONOMY EVENTS in 2026**★ AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 8 ★****Planet Parade**

Planet Parade 2026 kicks off on Labor Day weekend! Before sunrise, scan the sky from east to west to find five planets in a row—Jupiter, Mars, Uranus, Saturn, and Neptune—along with the Moon! Scan the QR code for more dates and details.

★ OCTOBER 6 ★**Moon Eclipses Jupiter**

The Moon will perform a celestial magic trick: making Jupiter, our largest planet, temporarily vanish. This rare event, known as an occultation, occurs during the predawn hours for most of the US.

★ NOVEMBER 7 ★**Spica, Venus & Crescent Moon**

Virgo's bright bluish star, Spica, Venus, and a thin crescent Moon cluster together in the sky. Look low in the east-southeast dawn sky before sunrise.

★ DECEMBER 13-14 ★**A "Gem" of a Meteor Shower**

The Geminids are usually the best meteor showers every year. We recommend watching around 2 a.m. local time. Bundle up, lie down, and look directly overhead!

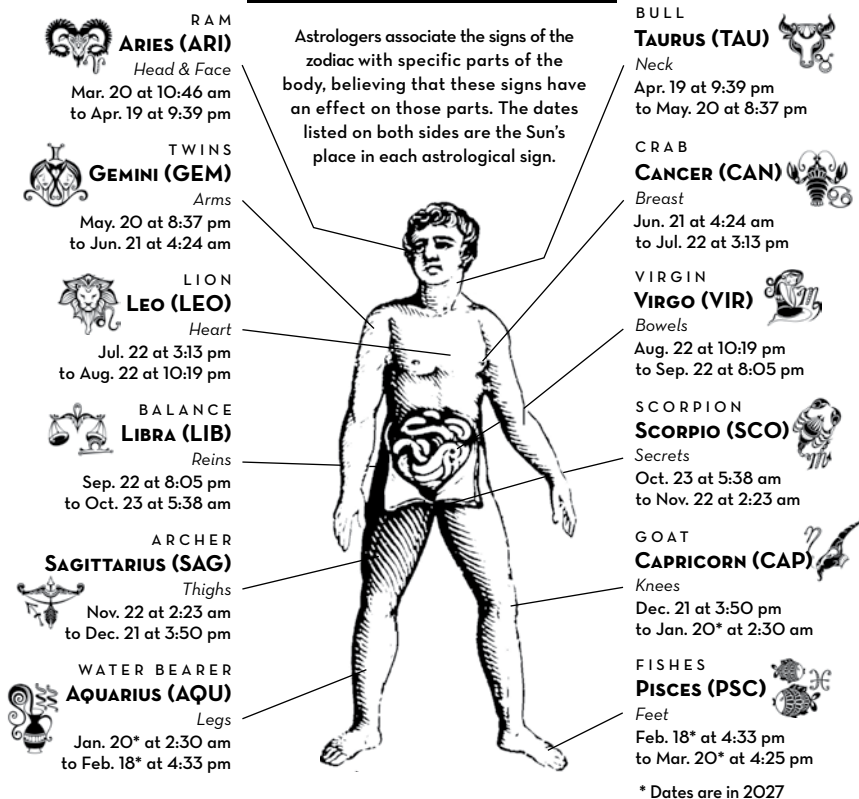
★ DECEMBER 23 ★**Season's Greetings Supermoon**

The full Cold Moon reaches peak illumination today at 8:28 p.m. EST and coincides with the Moon's closest approach to Earth, making it appear slightly larger than usual. Don't miss this special "Super" Moon!



Scan this code to stay up-to-date on all things sky related.

THE MAN of MANY SIGNS



This is not to be confused with the Moon's place in the zodiac, which is used for calculating our charts & calendars.

ASTROLOGY

Astrology interprets the influence that the Sun and Moon have while they are in a specific zodiacal constellation, and is based on the concept that there are 12 signs of the zodiac, measuring 30° each, along the astrological circle.

Because the astrological placement doesn't take into account the precession of the equinoxes (the "wobble" that the Earth's axis experiences over a 26,000-year interval), the Moon's place according to astrology differs from its physical place according to astronomy. For your convenience, we provide charts of both the astrological and astronomical place of the Moon on the following pages.

ASTRONOMY

Astronomy is the scientific interpretation of matter in space. The Moon can wander into a few astronomical constellations that are not members of the zodiac. These constellations include Auriga (AUR), Cetus (CET), Ophiuchus (OPH), Orion (ORI) and Sextans (SEX). You will see these abbreviations on the Moon's Astronomical Place chart.

MOON'S ASTROLOGICAL PLACE in the ZODIAC

The signs listed below are based on astrological calculations at 7 am Eastern Time for 2025-2026.

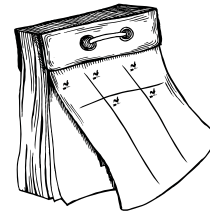
Use these signs for all planting and other Almanac traditions.

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	SAG	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	LEO	LIB	SCO	SAG	CAP	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR
2	CAP	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	LEO	LIB	SCO	CAP	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR
3	CAP	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN	VIR	VIR	LIB	SAG	CAP	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN	VIR	LIB
4	AQU	PSC	ARI	GEM	CAN	VIR	VIR	SCO	SAG	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	CAN	VIR	LIB
5	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	LIB	LIB	SCO	SAG	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	SCO
6	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN	LEO	LIB	LIB	SAG	CAP	AQU	PSC	TAU	CAN	LEO	LIB	SCO
7	PSC	ARI	GEM	CAN	VIR	LIB	SCO	SAG	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	CAN	VIR	LIB	SCO
8	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	SCO	SCO	SAG	AQU	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	VIR	SCO	SAG
9	ARI	TAU	CAN	LEO	LIB	SCO	SCO	CAP	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN	LEO	LIB	SCO	SAG
10	ARI	GEM	CAN	VIR	LIB	SAG	SAG	CAP	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN	VIR	LIB	SAG	CAP
11	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	SCO	SAG	SAG	AQU	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	SAG	CAP
12	TAU	CAN	LEO	VIR	SCO	SAG	CAP	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	LIB	SCO	SAG	CAP
13	GEM	CAN	VIR	LIB	SCO	CAP	CAP	PSC	ARI	TAU	CAN	VIR	LIB	SCO	CAP	AQU
14	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	SAG	CAP	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	CAN	VIR	SCO	SAG	CAP	AQU
15	CAN	LEO	LIB	SCO	SAG	AQU	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	SCO	SAG	AQU	PSC
16	CAN	LEO	LIB	SCO	CAP	AQU	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN	LEO	LIB	SCO	SAG	AQU	PSC
17	LEO	VIR	LIB	SCO	CAP	AQU	PSC	ARI	GEM	CAN	VIR	LIB	SAG	CAP	AQU	PSC
18	LEO	VIR	SCO	SAG	CAP	PSC	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	SCO	SAG	CAP	PSC	ARI
19	LEO	LIB	SCO	SAG	AQU	PSC	ARI	TAU	CAN	LEO	LIB	SCO	CAP	AQU	PSC	ARI
20	VIR	LIB	SAG	CAP	AQU	ARI	ARI	GEM	CAN	VIR	LIB	SAG	CAP	AQU	ARI	TAU
21	VIR	LIB	SAG	CAP	PSC	ARI	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	SAG	CAP	AQU	ARI	TAU
22	LIB	SCO	SAG	CAP	PSC	TAU	TAU	CAN	LEO	LIB	SCO	SAG	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM
23	LIB	SCO	CAP	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM	CAN	VIR	LIB	SCO	CAP	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM
24	SCO	SAG	CAP	AQU	ARI	GEM	GEM	LEO	VIR	SCO	SAG	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	CAN
25	SCO	SAG	AQU	PSC	ARI	GEM	CAN	LEO	VIR	SCO	SAG	AQU	PSC	ARI	GEM	CAN
26	SCO	SAG	AQU	PSC	TAU	CAN	CAN	VIR	LIB	SCO	SAG	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN	LEO
27	SAG	CAP	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN	CAN	VIR	LIB	SAG	CAP	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN	LEO
28	SAG	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	LEO	LIB	SCO	SAG	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	VIR
29	CAP	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM		LEO	LIB	SCO	CAP	AQU	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR
30	CAP	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN		VIR	LIB	SCO	CAP	AQU	ARI	TAU	CAN	LEO	LIB
31		AQU		TAU	CAN		VIR		SAG		AQU	ARI		CAN		LIB

MOON'S ASTRONOMICAL PLACE

The dates listed below are based on where the Moon is in the sky, astronomically, at 7 am Eastern Time for 2025-2026. In addition to the 12 well-known zodiac constellations, this also lists Auria (AUR), Cetus (CET), Ophiuchus (OPH), Orion (ORI), and Sextants (SEX).

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	OPH	SGR	AQR	PSC	TAU	CNC	CNC	VIR	VIR	OPH	SGR	AQR	ARI	TAU	CNC	LEO
2	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	TAU	LEO	LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	TAU	LEO	VIR
3	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	LEO	VIR	SCO	SGR	CAP	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR
4	CAP	AQR	PSC	TAU	CNC	LEO	VIR	LIB	SCO	SGR	AQR	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR
5	CAP	AQR	ARI	TAU	CNC	VIR	VIR	LIB	OPH	CAP	AQR	ARI	TAU	CNC	VIR	VIR
6	CAP	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	VIR	SCO	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB
7	AQR	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	VIR	OPH	SGR	AQR	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB
8	PSC	ARI	TAU	CNC	LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP	AQR	PSC	TAU	CNC	LEO	VIR	SCO
9	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	LIB	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	OPH
10	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	SCO	SCO	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	VIR	SCO	SGR
11	ARI	TAU	CNC	LEO	VIR	SCO	OPH	CAP	AQR	PSC	TAU	CNC	LEO	VIR	SCO	SGR
12	ARI	AUR	LEO	VIR	LIB	OPH	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	TAU	CNC	VIR	LIB	SGR	SGR
13	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	SGR	AQR	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP
14	TAU	CNC	LEO	VIR	SCO	SGR	SGR	AQR	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	SCO	SGR	CAP
15	AUR	CNC	VIR	VIR	OPH	CAP	CAP	PSC	ARI	TAU	CNC	VIR	LIB	OPH	CAP	AQR
16	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP	AQR
17	CNC	LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	AQR	AQR	PSC	TAU	CNC	LEO	VIR	SCO	SGR	CAP	PSC
18	CNC	LEO	VIR	SCO	SGR	AQR	AQR	ARI	TAU	CNC	LEO	VIR	OPH	SGR	AQR	PSC
19	LEO	VIR	LIB	OPH	CAP	PSC	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP	PSC	PSC
20	LEO	VIR	SCO	SGR	CAP	PSC	PSC	TAU	GEM	SEX	VIR	SCO	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI
21	VIR	VIR	SCO	SGR	AQR	PSC	ARI	TAU	CNC	VIR	VIR	SCO	SGR	AQR	PSC	ARI
22	VIR	LIB	OPH	SGR	AQR	ARI	ARI	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	OPH	CAP	AQR	ARI	TAU
23	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	TAU
24	VIR	SCO	SGR	CAP	PSC	TAU	TAU	CNC	LEO	VIR	SCO	SGR	AQR	PSC	TAU	GEM
25	LIB	OPH	CAP	AQR	PSC	TAU	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	OPH	CAP	AQR	PSC	TAU	GEM
26	LIB	SGR	CAP	AQR	ARI	GEM	GEM	LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	TAU	CNC
27	SCO	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	CNC	LEO	VIR	SCO	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO
28	OPH	SGR	AQR	PSC	TAU	CNC	CNC	VIR	VIR	OPH	SGR	AQR	PSC	TAU	CNC	LEO
29	SGR	CAP	PSC	PSC	TAU		LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	TAU	CNC	LEO
30	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM		LEO	VIR	LIB	SGR	CAP	PSC	ARI	GEM	LEO	VIR
31		AQR		TAU	GEM		LEO		SCO		AQR	PSC		GEM		VIR



BEST DAYS



Farmers' Almanac Best Days?

Ever wonder why some days just feel right for certain tasks? Our ancestors might have been onto something when they looked up at the Moon for answers.

The *Farmers' Almanac* Best Days Calendar isn't just random guesswork—it's built on centuries of experience. From cutting hair to planting seeds, even to starting your toddler's potty-training journey (yes, really), these dates tap into something deeper than just marking time.

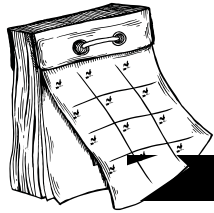
Here's the fascinating part: each "best day" comes from a careful look at both the phase the Moon is in as well as the zodiac sign. The Moon's phase is considered because many believe it not only has an effect on tides but also on all of life's rhythms. The zodiac sign that is ruling that day is a big part of this formula. Each sign brings its own personality—some fertile and wet, others dry and barren. And every sign rules a different part of the body and is associated with fire, earth, air, or water.

Think of it as nature's schedule. While we're all busy staring at our phones and living under artificial lights, these ancient patterns keep quietly ticking along. The Best Days Calendar helps us tune back into that natural rhythm.

Does it work? Many of our readers swear by it. Sure, you don't have to wait for the "best" day to get a haircut, but why not stack the odds in your favor? After all, there might be more to the Moon's silvery glow than we modern folks give it credit for.

Ready to sync your life with Moon? Turn the page and give it a try. We'd love to hear how these Best Days work for you!





BEST DAYS



COOKING + BAKING

HEALTH + BEAUTY

	Bake	Brew	Can fruits + vegetables	Dry fruits + vegetables	Jams + jellies	Cut hair to increase growth	Cut hair to slow growth	Quit smoking
JAN	18, 24, 25, 30, 31	3, 4	3, 4, 11-13	5, 6	11-13	18, 21-23, 26, 27, 30, 31	5, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15	5-8, 14, 15
FEB	20, 21, 26, 27	NO GOOD DAYS	8, 9	1, 2	8, 9, 15, 16	18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27	1, 2, 5-7, 10-12, 15, 16	1-4, 10-12, 15, 16
MAR	19, 20, 25-27	17	7-9, 17	10	7-9, 15, 16	18, 21, 22, 25-27	5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16	3, 4, 10, 11, 15, 16
APR	17, 22, 23, 28-30	13-15	4, 5, 13-15	6-8	4, 5, 11, 12	18, 19, 22, 23	1-3, 6-8, 11, 12, 16	6-8, 11, 12, 16
MAY	19, 20, 26, 27	11, 12	1, 2, 11, 12	3-5, 31	1, 2, 8-10, 15	16, 19, 20, 28-30	3-5, 8-10, 13, 14, 31	3-5, 8-10, 13, 14, 31
JUN	16, 17, 22, 23	7, 8	7, 8	1	5, 6, 12, 13	16, 17, 24-26	1, 5, 6, 9-11	1, 5, 6, 9-11
JUL	14, 19-21, 27, 28	4-6, 13	4-6, 13	NO GOOD DAYS	2, 3, 9, 10, 29-31	14, 22, 23, 27, 28	2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 29-31	2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 29-31
AUG	16, 17, 23, 24	1, 2, 9, 10, 28, 29	1, 2, 9, 10, 28, 29	3, 4, 30, 31	5, 6	18, 19, 23, 24	3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 30, 31	3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 30, 31
SEP	12, 13, 19-21	6, 7	6, 7	26-28	1-3, 29, 30	14-16, 19-21, 24, 25	4, 5, 8, 9, 26-28	4, 5, 8, 9, 26-28
OCT	10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25	3, 4, 30, 31	3, 4, 30, 31	NO GOOD DAYS	26, 27	12, 13, 17, 18, 22, 23	1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 28, 29	1, 2, 5-8, 28, 29
NOV	13, 14, 20, 21	26, 27	8, 26, 27	28-30	8	9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23	1, 2, 6, 7, 24, 25, 28-30	1-5, 24, 25, 28-30
DEC	10-12, 18, 19	24, 25	5-7, 24, 25	26, 27	5-7	10-12, 15-17, 20, 21	3, 4, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31	1, 2, 23, 26-29

The best days of 2026 listed here are based on both the phase of the Moon and its position in the zodiac. Many people believe that if you do the tasks on the dates listed, you will get the best results possible.

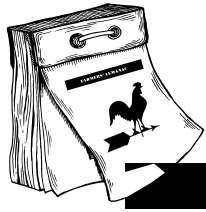
HEALTH cont.

PARENTING

HOME MAINTENANCE

PETS

	Start diet to gain weight	Start diet to lose weight	Potty train	Wean humans or animals	Demolition	Paint	Wash windows	Train pets	Breed pets
JAN	21-23, 30, 31	5-8, 14, 15	14-23	14-23	5, 6, 14, 15	5, 6, 19, 20, 26, 27	14, 15	6-8, 28, 29	9, 10, 21-23, 26, 27
FEB	18, 19, 26, 27	1-4, 10-12, 15, 16	10-19	10-19	1, 2, 10-12	1, 2, 15-17, 22, 23, 28	10-12	3, 4, 7, 8, 27	5-7, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27
MAR	18, 25-27	3, 4, 10, 11, 15, 16	10-18	10-18	10, 11	1, 2, 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, 29	10, 11	3, 4, 7, 8, 25, 26, 30, 31	6, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25-27
APR	22, 23	6-8, 11, 12, 16	6-15	6-15	6-8, 16	11, 12, 18, 19, 24, 25	6-8	4, 5, 24-27	13-15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 28
MAY	19, 20	3-5, 8-10, 13, 14, 31	3-12, 31	3-12, 31	3-5, 13, 14, 31	8-10, 15, 16, 21, 22	3-5, 31	5, 6, 23-27	11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 26, 27
JUN	16, 17	1, 5, 6, 9-11	1-8, 27-30	1-8, 27-30	1, 9-11	5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 19	1, 27, 28	7, 8, 20, 21, 25, 26	7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23
JUL	14	2, 3, 7, 8, 29-31	1-6, 24-31	1-6, 24-31	7, 8	2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 29-31	24-26	5, 6, 17, 18, 22, 23	4-6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19-21
AUG	NO GOOD DAYS	3, 4, 11, 30, 31	1, 2, 20-29	1, 2, 20-29	3, 4, 11, 30, 31	5, 6, 11, 12, 25-27	20-22	1, 2, 13-15, 21, 22	1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 16, 17
SEP	24, 25	8, 9, 26-28	17-25	17-25	8, 9, 26-28	1-3, 8, 9, 22, 23, 29, 30	17, 18	1, 2, 10, 11, 22, 23	1-3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 29, 30
OCT	22, 23	5-8	14-23	14-23	5, 6	5, 6, 19-21, 26, 27	14-16	2, 3, 7, 8, 22, 23, 30, 31	3, 4, 9-11, 22, 23, 30, 31
NOV	18, 19	1-5, 28-30	10-19	10-19	1, 2, 28-30	1, 2, 15-17, 22, 23, 28-30	10-12	3-5, 17, 18, 27	6, 7, 18, 19, 27
DEC	15-17	1, 2, 26-29	8-17	8-17	26, 27	13, 14, 20, 21, 26, 27	8, 9	1, 2, 18, 19, 27-29	3, 4, 15-17, 20, 30, 31



BEST DAYS



OUTDOOR CHORES

	Cut firewood	Dig holes	Dig post holes	Kill plant pests	Mow to increase growth	Mow to slow growth	Pick apples + pears	Prune Trees
JAN	1, 2, 18-31	1, 2, 18-31	5, 6	1, 2, 5-8, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25, 28, 29	1, 2, 18-31	3-17	5, 6, 14, 15	11-13, 16, 17
FEB	17-28	17-28	1, 2, 15, 16	1-4, 10-12, 15-17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28	17-28	1-16	1, 2, 10-12	8, 9, 13, 14
MAR	1, 2, 18-31	1, 2, 18-31	15, 16	1-4, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 28-31	1, 2, 18-31	3-17	10, 11	7-9, 12-14
APR	17-30	17-30	11, 12	6-8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24-27	17-30	1-16	6-8, 16	4, 5, 9, 10
MAY	16-30	16-30	8-10, 15	3-5, 8-10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21-25, 31	16-30	1-15, 31	3-5, 13, 14, 31	1, 2, 6, 7
JUN	14-28	14-28	5, 6, 12, 13	1, 5, 6, 9-11, 14, 15, 18-21, 27, 28	14-28	1-13, 29, 30	1, 9-11	2-4, 29, 30
JUL	14-28	14-28	2, 3, 9, 10, 29-31	2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15-18, 24-26, 29-31	14-28	1-13, 29-31	7, 8	1
AUG	12-27	12-27	5, 6, 11	3, 4, 7, 8, 11-15, 20-22, 25-27, 30, 31	12-27	1-11, 28-31	3, 4, 11, 30, 31	NO GOOD DAYS
SEP	10-25	10-25	1-3, 8, 9, 29, 30	4, 5, 8-11, 17, 18, 22, 23, 26-28	10-25	1-9, 26-30	8, 9, 26-28	NO GOOD DAYS
OCT	10-25	10-25	5, 6, 26, 27	1, 2, 5-8, 14-16, 19-21, 24, 25, 28, 29	10-25	1-9, 26-31	5, 6	NO GOOD DAYS
NOV	9-23	9-23	1, 2, 28-30	1-5, 10-12, 15-17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28-30	9-23	1-8, 24-30	1, 2, 28-30	8
DEC	8-22	8-22	26, 27	1, 2, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26-29	8-22	1-7, 23-31	26, 27	5-7

The best days of 2026 listed here are based on both the phase of the Moon and its position in the zodiac. Many people believe that if you do the tasks on the dates listed, you will get the best results possible.

FARM + ANIMAL

ADVERTISE, TRAVEL, HOME + MORE

Castrate farm animals	Hunt	Slaughter	Advertise to sell	Ask for a loan	Buy a home	Get married	Host a party	Travel for pleasure
14-23	3, 4	3, 4	14, 15, 26, 27	5, 6	NO GOOD DAYS	10, 21-23, 26, 27, 30, 31	1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 19, 20, 28, 29	1, 2, 28, 29
10-19	8	3	10-12, 22, 23	1, 2	22, 23	18, 19, 22, 23, 26-28	1, 2, 5-7, 15-17, 24, 25, 28	24, 25, 28
10-18	7-9	3-5	10, 11, 21, 22	NO GOOD DAYS	21, 22	1, 2, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25-29	1, 2, 5, 6, 15, 16, 23, 24, 28, 29	1, 2, 23, 24, 28, 29
6-15	4, 5	1-3	6-8, 18, 19	NO GOOD DAYS	18, 19, 22	13-15, 18, 19, 22-25, 28-30	1-3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28-30	20, 21, 24, 25
3-12, 31	1, 2	1-3, 31	3-5, 15, 16, 31	15	16, 19-22	11, 12, 15, 16, 19-22, 26, 27	8-10, 17, 18, 21, 22, 26, 27	17, 18, 21, 22
1-8, 27-30	7	1, 2, 29, 30	1, 12, 13, 27, 28	12, 13	16-19	8, 12, 13, 16-19, 22, 23	5, 6, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23	14, 15, 18, 19, 27, 28
1-6, 24-31	4-6	1, 29-31	9, 10, 24-26	9, 10	14-16	9, 10, 13-16, 19-21	2, 3, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19-21, 29-31	15, 16, 24-26
1, 2, 20-29	1, 2, 28, 29	28-30	5, 6, 20-22	5, 6, 11	12	5, 6, 9-12, 16, 17	7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 25-27	12, 20-22
17-25	NO GOOD DAYS	26-28	1-3, 17, 18, 29, 30	1-3, 8, 9, 29, 30	NO GOOD DAYS	6-9, 12, 13, 24, 25	4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 22, 23	17, 18
14-23	30, 31	26-28	14-16, 26, 27	5, 6, 26, 27	NO GOOD DAYS	3-6, 9-11, 22, 23	1, 2, 5, 6, 9-11, 19-21, 28, 29	14-16
10-19	26, 27	24-26	10-12, 22, 23	1, 2, 28-30	NO GOOD DAYS	1, 2, 6, 7, 18, 19, 22, 23	1, 2, 6, 7, 15-17, 24, 25, 28-30	10-12
8-17	24, 25	23-25	8, 9, 20, 21	26, 27	NO GOOD DAYS	3, 4, 15-17, 20, 21, 30, 31	3, 4, 13, 14, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31	8, 9, 22



BEST DAYS

to SET EGGS

According to Moon lore and Almanac tradition, for best results you should "set" eggs (place under a hen or in an incubator) during the specific phases of the Moon shown on the dates below. A chick usually takes about 21 days to hatch.

JANUARY: 1-3, 10, 29, 30	JULY: 2, 3, 29, 30
FEBRUARY: 6, 7, 25, 26	AUGUST: 25-27
MARCH: 5-7	SEPT: 4, 22, 23
APRIL: 2, 3, 29, 30	OCT: 2, 3, 19, 20, 29, 30
MAY: 8, 9, 27, 28	NOV: 17, 25-27
JUNE: 4-6, 23, 24	DEC: 22-24, 31

ANIMAL GESTATION + INCUBATION

This table shows the **average** period of time between impregnation and birth of the young, called "incubation" in egg-laying animals.

ANIMAL	AVERAGE # of YOUNG	GESTATION in DAYS
ELEPHANT	1	640-645
GIRAFFE	1	395-425
DONKEY	1	340-420
HORSE	1	340-365
SEAL	3	350
COW	1	284
HUMAN	1	280
MONKEY	1	164
GOAT	1-2	150
SHEEP	1-2	148
PIG	10	114
DEER	1	200
CAT	4-6	58-63
DOG	6-8	58-60
FOX	5-8	51-53
RABBIT	4-8	33
RAT	10	22
MOUSE	10	22
GOOSE	15-18	28-35
TURKEY	12-15	28
DUCK	9-12	26-28
HEN	12-15	21



A DELIGHTFUL DICTIONARY OF DOG GATHERINGS

You've heard of a murder of crows and a parliament of owls, but did you know there are special collective nouns for groups of dogs too? The ARF! Kennel Club's Terminology Review Board has come up with these charming and clever terms that capture the essences of these breeds:

Afghans—Blanket
 Beagles—Trumpet
 Bloodhounds—Snoop/Trombones
 Chocolate Labs—Mug
 Cockers—Sniffsnort
 Collies—Herd
 Dalmatians—Splatter
 Fox Terriers—Scheme
 German Shepherds—Watch
 Golden Retrievers—Crown/Garden/Halo
 Jack Russells—Jitter
 Labs—School
 Papillons—Flight
 Pugs—Snuggle
 Poodles—Curl
 Rottweilers—Drove
 Shepherds—Halo
 Springers—Boing
 St. Bernards—Avalanche
 Terriers—Tornado



SPRING

BEST TIME

Afternoon, early evening

POPULAR FISH

Bass, Trout, Walleye

DEPTH

Shallow, as fish move to those areas to spawn



FALL

BEST TIME

Late morning, early afternoon

POPULAR FISH

Bass, Northern Pike, Redfish, Salmon

DEPTH

Fish tend to transition from deep to shallow, following the warmer water

SUMMER

BEST TIME

Early morning, early evening (twilight)

POPULAR FISH

Bass, Bluegill, Catfish, Northern Pike

DEPTH

Deep, as fish search for cooler waters

WINTER

BEST TIME

Afternoon, early evening

POPULAR FISH

Perch, Pike, Trout (ice fishing)

DEPTH

Deeper is considered best because water temperatures are more stable

Visit us at FarmersAlmanac.com for a list of great local places to fish.



BEST DAYS

to FISH

What is the best day to fish?

Some say that the best day is any day you can cast a line in the water!

Experience does show that there are certain days and times when fish tend to be more active, making the fishing much better. Our Fishing Calendar is based on the Moon phase, the zodiac sign the Moon is in, and our experience.

Local conditions, tides, and weather may affect your fishing success.



	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
	Fishing Condition	Best Time	Fishing Condition	Best Time	Fishing Condition	Best Time	Fishing Condition	Best Time	Fishing Condition	Best Time	Fishing Condition	Best Time
1	F	M	F	E	F	M	F	E	B	E	F	E
2	F	M	F	E	F	M	F	E	B	E	G	E
3	B	E	G	E	G	E	F	E	F	E	G	E
4	B	E	G	E	G	E	B	E	F	E	F	E
5	F	E	P	E	F	E	G	E	P	E	G	E
6	F	E	P	E	F	E	P	E	F	E	G	E
7	F	E	P	E	G	E	P	E	F	E	B	E
8	F	E	G	E	G	E	P	E	G	E	B	M
9	P	E	G	M	G	E	F	E	G	M	P	M
10	P	M	P	M	P	E	F	M	G	M	P	M
11	G	M	P	M	P	M	G	M	B	M	P	M
12	G	M	P	M	F	M	G	M	B	M	P	M
13	G	M	F	M	F	M	B	M	P	M	P	M
14	P	M	F	M	F	M	B	M	P	M	P	E
15	P	M	F	M	G	M	G	M	P	M	P	E
16	P	M	F	M	F	M	P	M	P	E	G	E
17	P	M	F	E	G	M	P	E	P	E	B	E
18	P	E	G	E	G	E	P	E	P	E	P	E
19	F	E	G	E	P	E	P	E	B	E	P	E
20	F	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	B	E	F	E
21	B	E	P	E	F	E	P	E	P	E	F	M
22	B	E	F	E	F	E	B	E	P	E	P	M
23	B	E	F	E	P	E	B	M	F	M	P	M
24	P	E	P	M	P	E	P	M	F	M	G	M
25	P	M	P	M	B	M	P	M	F	M	G	M
26	F	M	B	M	B	M	F	M	P	M	B	M
27	F	M	B	M	B	M	F	M	P	M	F	M
28	P	M	F	M	P	M	F	M	B	M	F	M
29	F	M			F	M	F	M	B	M	G	E
30	B	M			G	M	F	M	B	M	G	E
31	B	M			G	M			F	E		

FISHING CONDITION

This column lists the overall rating for the entire day, based on our formula.

B=BEST: Means that you will catch something almost every time you cast your line in the water.

G=GOOD: Means that you will catch enough fish that day to feel gratified.

F=FAIR: Means that you may catch one or two fish, but you will have to work hard to do so.

P=POOR: Means that the fish will either steal all of your bait or will not even touch your line.

BEST TIMES

This column lists the best time of the day when fish will be biting.

M=MORNING
or **E=EVENING**



To view online, visit FarmersAlmanac.com



	JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
	Fishing Condition	Best Time	Fishing Condition	Best Time	Fishing Condition	Best Time	Fishing Condition	Best Time	Fishing Condition	Best Time	Fishing Condition	Best Time
1	G	E	B	E	F	E	P	E	P	M	F	M
2	B	E	B	E	F	E	P	E	P	M	F	M
3	G	E	P	E	F	E	B	M	F	M	P	M
4	B	E	P	E	P	M	B	M	F	M	P	M
5	B	E	F	M	P	M	P	M	F	M	G	M
6	B	E	F	M	B	M	P	M	P	M	F	M
7	P	M	P	M	B	M	F	M	P	M	F	M
8	P	M	P	M	P	M	P	M	F	M	P	E
9	F	M	B	M	P	M	P	M	F	E	P	E
10	F	M	G	M	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E
11	P	M	P	M	P	E	P	E	P	E	F	E
12	P	M	P	E	P	E	F	E	P	E	F	E
13	G	M	P	E	P	E	G	E	F	E	G	E
14	G	E	P	E	G	E	P	E	F	E	G	E
15	P	E	F	E	G	E	P	E	G	E	B	E
16	P	E	P	E	G	E	P	E	G	E	B	E
17	F	E	P	E	P	E	F	E	G	M	B	M
18	F	E	G	E	P	M	F	M	B	M	P	M
19	P	E	G	M	F	M	G	M	B	M	P	M
20	P	E	P	M	F	M	G	M	P	M	G	M
21	P	M	P	M	F	M	G	M	F	M	G	M
22	G	M	P	M	G	M	B	M	G	M	F	M
23	G	M	F	M	B	M	B	M	G	M	F	E
24	P	M	F	M	B	M	F	M	F	E	B	E
25	P	M	B	M	B	M	F	M	F	E	B	E
26	F	M	B	M	F	E	G	E	B	E	F	E
27	G	M	B	M	F	E	G	E	B	E	P	E
28	G	M	B	E	F	E	F	E	P	E	F	E
29	B	E	B	E	G	E	F	E	P	E	F	E
30	B	E	F	E	F	E	B	E	P	E	P	M
31	B	E	F	E			B	E			P	M

2026 HOLIDAYS at a GLANCE**TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS**

New Year's Day – Thursday, JAN 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 Monday, JAN 19
Groundhog Day – Monday, FEB 2
Presidents' Day – Monday, FEB 16
Lunar New Year – Tuesday, FEB 17
Easter – Sunday, APR 5
Earth Day – Wednesday, APR 22
Mother's Day – Sunday, MAY 10
Memorial Day – Monday, MAY 25
Juneteenth – Friday, JUN 19
Father's Day – Sunday, JUN 21
Independence Day
 Saturday, JUL 4
Labor Day – Monday, SEP 7
Patriot Day – Friday, SEP 11
Indigenous Peoples' Day
 Monday, OCT 12
Halloween – Saturday, OCT 31
Veterans Day
 Wednesday, NOV 11
Thanksgiving – Thursday, NOV 26
Christmas Day – Friday, DEC 25
Kwanzaa – Saturday, DEC 26
New Year's Eve
 Thursday, DEC 31

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
+ OBSERVANCES**

Epiphany
 Tuesday, JAN 6
Shrove Tuesday
 Tuesday, FEB 17
Ash Wednesday
 Wednesday, FEB 18
Palm Sunday
 Sunday, MAR 29
Good Friday
 Friday, APR 3
All Saints' Day
 Sunday, NOV 1
All Souls' Day
 Monday, NOV 2

EMBER DAYS

Wednesday, FEB 25
 Friday, FEB 27
 Saturday, FEB 28
 Wednesday, MAY 27
 Friday, MAY 29
 Saturday, MAY 30
 Wednesday, SEP 16
 Friday, SEP 18
 Saturday, SEP 19
 Wednesday, DEC 16
 Friday, DEC 18
 Saturday, DEC 19

2026 HOLIDAYS at a GLANCE**JEWISH HOLIDAYS**

(All beginning at sunset)

Purim – Monday, MAR 2
Passover – Wednesday, APR 1
Shavuot – Thursday, MAY 21
Rosh Hashanah – Friday, SEP 11
Yom Kippur – Sunday, SEP 20
Sukkot – Friday, SEP 25
Chanukah – Friday, DEC 4

MERCURY RETROGRADE

Thursday, FEB 26 through
 Friday, MAR 20
 Monday, JUN 29 through
 Thursday, JUL 23
 Saturday, OCT 24 through
 Friday, NOV 13

SEASONAL STATS

Latest Sunrise of the Year
 Sunday, JAN 4
Midpoint of Winter
 Tuesday, FEB 3
Earliest Sunrise of the Year
 Sunday, JUN 14
Latest Sunset of the Year
 Saturday, JUN 27
Midpoint of Summer
 Friday, AUG 7
Earliest Sunset of the Year
 Monday, DEC 7

TRIPLE FRIDAY the 13TH

This year we will have the maximum number of Friday the thirteenths:
 Friday, FEB 13
 Friday, MAR 13
 Friday, NOV 13

HURRICANE TIPS

BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

- Develop or review a family hurricane safety plan
- Find out where official shelters are located
- Learn safe routes inland
- Plan to have nonperishable food and water on hand

IF HURRICANE WATCH HAS BEEN ISSUED

- Prepare to cover all windows and doors, plywood's best
- Prepare disaster supply kit
- Move lightweight objects inside
- Fuel and service family vehicles
- Have extra cash on hand

IF HURRICANE WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED

- Complete preparation activities
- Follow instructions issued by local officials
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately
- Leave mobile homes
- Notify family living outside the warned area of your plans
- Fill the bathtub and large containers with water
- Turn off propane tanks
- Unplug small appliances

DURING A STORM

- Stay inside
- Stay away from windows and doors (even if boarded)
- Move to small interior room on the first floor

AFTER A STORM

- Wait until an area is declared safe before returning
- Don't drive into flooded roadways
- Don't allow children to play in flooded areas
- Use flashlights (not candles) for emergency lighting
- Beware that downed power lines may be electrically charged
- Use telephone only for emergency calls

Source: National Weather Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ATLANTIC HURRICANE NAMES for 2026

Arthur | Bertha | Cristobal | Dolly | Edouard | Fay | Gonzalo
Hanna | Isaias | Josephine | Kyle | Leah | Marco | Nana
Omar | Paulette | Rene | Sally | Teddy | Vicky | Wilfred



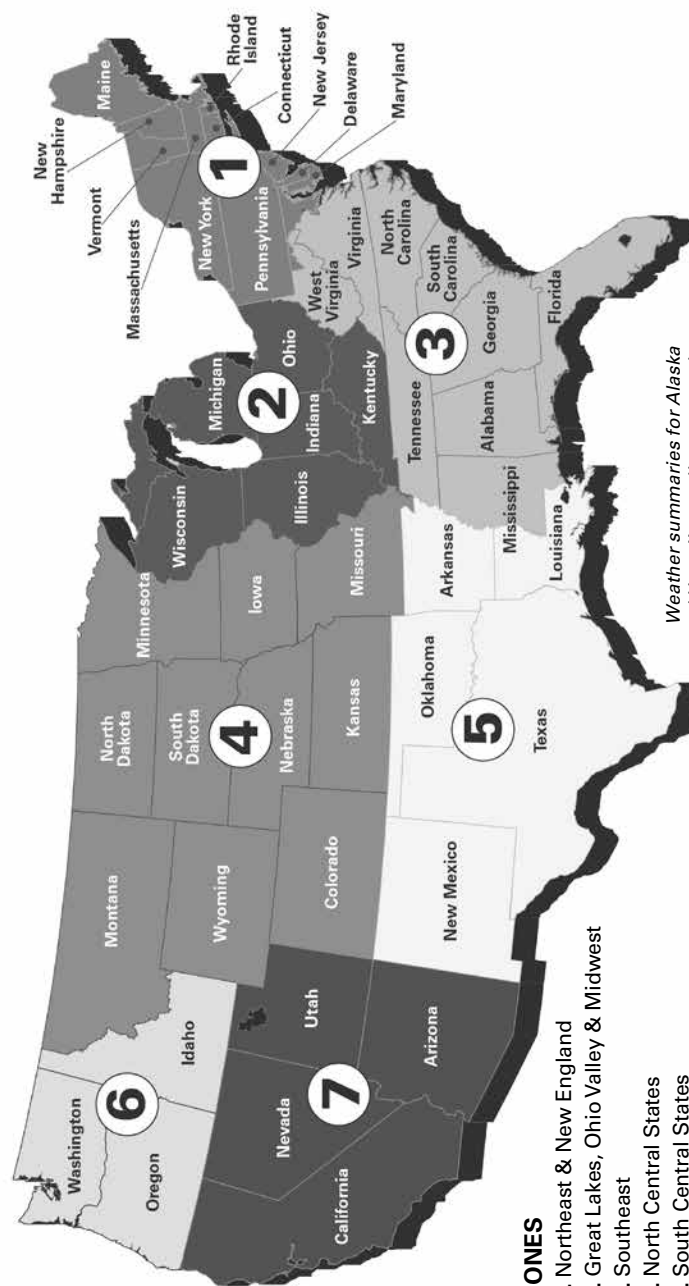
DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- ☐ 3-DAY SUPPLY OF WATER (1 gallon per person per day)
- ☐ FOOD THAT WON'T SPOIL (canned and dried goods)
- ☐ PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES
- ☐ TOILETRIES
- ☐ FIRST AID KIT
- ☐ BATTERY-POWERED RADIO
- ☐ FLASHLIGHT, EXTRA BATTERIES
- ☐ EXTRA SET OF CLOTHING & SHOES FOR EACH PERSON
- ☐ ONE BLANKET OR SLEEPING BAG PER PERSON
- ☐ MANUAL CAN OPENER
- ☐ SPECIAL ITEMS FOR INFANTS, ELDERLY, OR DISABLED FAMILY MEMBERS

In addition, have the following readily available and sealed in a moisture-proof package:

- ☐ IDENTIFICATION
- ☐ VALUABLE PAPERS (INSURANCE)
- ☐ EXTRA MONEY OR A CREDIT CARD

UNITED STATES WEATHER ZONES



Weather summaries for Alaska and Hawaii as well as many other weather resources are available at FarmersAlmanac.com

ZONES

1. Northeast & New England
2. Great Lakes, Ohio Valley & Midwest
3. Southeast
4. North Central States
5. South Central States
6. Northwest
7. Southwest

JANUARY 26

SUNRISE + SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
7:09 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
5:18 pm (ET)

DATES of NOTE | **1ST** New Year's Day | **3RD** Earth at Perihelion
19TH Martin Luther King Jr. Day

WEATHER LORE

As
the day
lengthens,
the cold
strengthens.

ZODIAC ZONE



CAPRICORN
(goat)
DEC 22–JAN 19



AQUARIUS
(water bearer)
JAN 20–FEB 18

HELPFUL HINT

*Used coffee grounds add traction to
slippery, ice-covered walkways.*

BIRTH FLOWER CARNATION



Symbolizes
*unconditional
love*

BIRTH STONE



GARNET – The karma stone

Thought to
bring *good
luck* with
kind deeds

HERB of the MONTH



PEPPERMINT

BIRD of the MONTH



OWL

**1ST
MONTH**
.....
**31
DAYS**

MOON'S PHASES

Eastern Standard
Time (EST)



FULL MOON
January 3
5:03 am



LAST QUARTER
January 10
10:48 am



NEW MOON
January 18
2:52 pm



FIRST QUARTER
January 25
11:47 pm

*Subtract 1 hour for
CST, 2 hours for MST,
and 3 hours for PST.*

JANUARY 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Expect a cold start to the year with breezy conditions, which may affect the Mummer's Day parade. Snow flurries blanket northern NY, VT. **4-7:** Milder, rain coastal areas. **8-11:** Frigid temps, snow ME, NH, northern MA. **12-15:** Bitter, gusty. Clear skies. **16-19:** Snowstorm PA, NJ, southern NY. **20-23:** Frosty, clear skies. **24-27:** Rain expected along the coast from MA south. **28-31:** Brisk, windy. Snow northern regions.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Chilly, breezy for New Year's Day. Snow northern MI, WI. **4-7:** Mild, rain southern areas, then clearing. **8-11:** Frigid, heavy snow northern IN, MI. **12-15:** Clearing, cold, with gusty winds. **16-19:** Snow for Ohio Valley. **20-23:** Clearing skies, cold temperatures. **24-27:** Rain southern IL, KY. **28-31:** Brisk, windy.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Mild, rain coastal areas for New Year's Day. **4-7:** Warm, fair skies for most areas. **8-11:** Very cold temperatures bring wintry precipitation to WV, VA. **12-15:** Clearing skies, but cold. **16-19:** Rain moves into GA, FL, coastal SC. **20-23:** Clear skies but cool. **24-27:** Showers for most coastal areas, slightly warmer. **28-31:** Brisk, windy. Snow flurries northern regions.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cold, windy for New Year's Day. Snow MN, ND. **4-7:** Warmer temps, rainy southern MO, KS. **8-11:** Temperatures drop, snow moves into the region. **12-15:** Fair but bitterly cold. **16-19:** Moderate snowfall. **20-23:** Frosty, clear skies. **24-27:** Rain southern MO, KS. Unsettled other areas. **28-31:** Windy, cloudy.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Windy start to the new year. **4-7:** Mild temps, rain southern TX, LA. **8-11:** Cold northern OK, AR. **12-15:** Cold temperatures, clear skies. **16-19:** Snow possible northern TX. **20-23:** Seasonably cold. **24-27:** Rain moves into TX, LA. **28-31:** Cloudy, cool with winds.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Chilly start to 2026. **4-7:** Warmer, clear skies. **8-11:** Frigid, snow northern ID, eastern WA. **12-15:** Bitter temperatures, clear skies. **16-19:** Snow OR, WA. **20-23:** Frosty, clear skies. **24-27:** Milder, rainy on coast. **28-31:** Cool with snow.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Cool but dry for New Year's Day. **4-7:** Mild, rainy coastal CA. **8-11:** Cold, snow northern AZ, UT. **12-15:** Clear but chilly. **16-19:** Rain southern CA, AZ. **20-23:** Dry but cool. **24-27:** Mild, rain Pacific Coast. **28-31:** Brisk, windy.

FEBRUARY 26

SUNRISE + SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
6:34 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
5:51 pm (ET)

DATES of NOTE | **2ND** Groundhog Day | **3RD** Midpoint of Winter
14TH Valentine's Day | **16TH** Presidents' Day

WEATHER LORE

If February
gives *much*
snow, a fine
summer
it doth
foreshow.

ZODIAC ZONE



AQUARIUS
(water bearer)
JAN 20–FEB 18



PISCES
(fish)
FEB 19–MAR 20

HELPFUL HINT

Keep cut flowers away from fruit
and direct sunlight to make them
last longer.

BIRTH FLOWER

VIOLET



Symbolizes
faithfulness +
remembrance

BIRTH STONE

AMETHYST – The dream jewel



Thought to
increase
awareness +
spirituality

HERB of the MONTH



FENNEL

BIRD of the MONTH



CHICKADEE

2ND
MONTH
.....
28
DAYS

MOON'S PHASES

Eastern Standard
Time (EST)



FULL MOON
February 1
5:09 pm



LAST QUARTER
February 9
7:43 am



NEW MOON
February 17
7:01 am



FIRST QUARTER
February 24
7:28 am

Subtract 1 hour for
CST, 2 hours for MST,
and 3 hours for PST.

FEBRUARY 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Cold, snowy across New England. **4-7:** Milder, rain along coastal areas. **8-11:** Very cold. Heavy snow for northern New England. **12-15:** Bitter cold, gusty winds. Clear skies. **16-19:** Snow sweeps through Mid-Atlantic. **20-23:** Fair, cold conditions. **24-28:** Rain possible near the coast, mixed precipitation inland.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Cold and snowy. Heavy snow northern areas. **4-7:** Moderating temps, wintry mix/rain in OH, IN. **8-11:** Accumulating snow in the Great Lakes. **12-15:** Bitterly cold around Great Lakes. Clear skies Ohio Valley. **16-19:** Snow moves in, bringing a few inches to KY, 6+" to OH. **20-23:** Fair skies but cold. **24-28:** Temperatures improve, rain moves into KY, IL.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Chilly, clear skies. Frost in WV, VA. **4-7:** Mild with rain along the coast. **8-11:** Cold, snow in parts of NC, TN. **12-15:** Cool, dry period. **16-19:** Rainy MS, AL, GA, SC, FL. **20-23:** Fair weather. **24-28:** Unsettled in many places, but mild.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cold and snowy, possibly heavy in MN. **4-7:** Mild, rain IA, MO. **8-11:** Frigid, snow in ND, SD. **12-15:** Continued cold, but clear skies. **16-19:** Snowstorm in NE, KS. **20-23:** Wintry mix for southern MO. Cloudy elsewhere. **24-28:** Cloudy with some rain throughout the region.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cold, clear skies. Frost in NM. **4-7:** Mild, rain in TX, OK. **8-11:** Cool, dry. Clear skies. **12-15:** Cold, windy. Snow possible northern TX. **16-19:** Heavy rain AR, LA. **20-23:** Mild, fair. **24-28:** Unsettled with periods of rain.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Cold and rainy. **4-7:** Mild, fair conditions. **8-11:** Cold with snow in ID. **12-15:** Bitterly cold, clear skies. **16-19:** Rainstorm coastal WA. **20-23:** Frosty, clear skies. **24-28:** Changeable with rain in OR.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Cold, clear skies. Frost in northern AZ. **4-7:** Mild, rain in CA. **8-11:** Cool, dry. Clear skies. **12-15:** Cold, windy. Snow in northern NV. **16-19:** Heavy rain southern CA. **20-23:** Mild, fair weather. **24-28:** Rain in UT. Mild.

MARCH 26

SUNRISE + SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
6:24 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
7:24 pm (ET)

DATES of NOTE | 8TH Daylight Saving Time starts | 17TH St.
Patrick's Day | 20TH Vernal Equinox @ 10:46 am

WEATHER LORE

If March
comes in
like a lion,
it will go out
like a lamb.

ZODIAC ZONE



PISCES
(fish)
FEB 19–MAR 20



ARIES
(ram)
MAR 21–APR 19

HELPFUL HINT

Reuse cardboard egg cartons for
starting seeds indoors.

BIRTH FLOWER DAFFODIL



Symbolizes
new
beginnings

BIRTH STONE



Thought to
calm waters +
provide protection at sea

AQUAMARINE – The sailor's gem

HERB of the MONTH



SAGE

BIRD of the MONTH



ROBIN

3RD
MONTH
.....
31
DAYS

MOON'S PHASES

Eastern Daylight
Time (EDT)*
*unless noted differently



FULL MOON
March 3
6:38 am (EST)



LAST QUARTER
March 11
5:38 am



NEW MOON
March 18
9:23 pm



FIRST QUARTER
March 25
3:18 pm

Subtract 1 hour for
CDT, 2 hours for MDT,
and 3 hours for PDT.

MARCH 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Cold, snow across New England. 4-7: Milder temperatures spread rain across the region. 8-11: Cold temperatures with scattered snow flurries. 12-15: Cold, gusty winds. 16-19: Snow possible in north, rain south. 20-23: Clear skies. 24-27: Light snow in New England, rain showers elsewhere. 28-31: Continued unsettled with possible snow New England.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Cold temperatures bring snow to most areas. 4-7: Warming trend brings rain showers to OH and IN. 8-11: Cold temperatures. 12-15: Fair skies, windy, cool. 16-19: Snow possible in Ohio Valley, changeable skies elsewhere. 20-23: Clear skies, cool. 24-27: Rain for Ohio Valley. 28-31: Brisk, windy. Snow in northern regions.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Chilly, clear skies. 4-7: Mild, rain in coastal areas. 8-11: Cold, stormy conditions NC, TN. 12-15: Cool, dry. Clear skies. 16-19: Heavy rainfall GA, SC. 20-23: Mild, fair weather. 24-27: Rain in AL, MS. Mild. 28-31: Brisk, windy.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cold and snowy. 4-7: Mild, rain in IA, MO. 8-11: Frigid, snow in ND, SD. 12-15: Bitter cold, clear skies. 16-19: Snowstorm brings heavy snow to Central Plains. 20-23: Frosty, clear skies over the Rockies. 24-27: Stormy conditions with snow north, rain south. 28-31: Brisk, windy. Snow in northern regions.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cold, clear skies. 4-7: Mild, rain in TX, OK. 8-11: Cool, dry. Clear skies. 12-15: Cold, windy. Snow in northern TX. 16-19: Heavy rain moves into AR, LA. 20-23: Mild, fair weather. 24-27: Rain in southern TX. Mild, drier elsewhere. 28-31: Brisk, windy.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Cold and rainy. Heavy rain in WA. 4-7: Mild, fair weather in OR. 8-11: Frigid, snow in ID. 12-15: Bitter cold, clear skies. 16-19: Rainstorm in coastal WA. Heavy rain. 20-23: Frosty, clear skies. 24-27: Rain in OR. Mild. 28-31: Brisk, windy. Snow in higher elevations.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Cold, clear skies. 4-7: Mild, some rain in CA. 8-11: Sun-filled skies. 12-15: Unsettled, snow possible in northern NV. 16-19: Rainstorm southern CA. 20-23: Mild, fair weather. 24-27: Rain in UT. 28-31: Snow in higher terrains.

APRIL 26

SUNRISE + SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
6:01 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
7:54 pm (ET)

DATES of NOTE | **1ST April Fools' Day** | **5TH Easter**
20TH Patriots' Day (ME & MA) | **22ND Earth Day**

WEATHER LORE

The louder
the *frogs*,
the more
rain to
come.

ZODIAC ZONE



ARIES
(ram)
MAR 21–APR 19



TAURUS
(bull)
APR 20–MAY 20

HELPFUL HINT | Place an onion in the freezer
before cutting to *reduce tears*.

BIRTH FLOWER

DAISY



Symbolizes
innocence

BIRTH STONE



Believed to
remove *fear*
+ *amplify*
faithfulness

DIAMOND – The lover rock

HERB of the MONTH



ROSEMARY

BIRD of the MONTH



DUCK

**4TH
MONTH**
.....
**30
DAYS**

MOON'S PHASES

Eastern Daylight
Time (EDT)



FULL MOON
April 1
10:12 pm



LAST QUARTER
April 10*
12:52 am

*Takes place on April 9 in US
time zones outside of Eastern



NEW MOON
April 17
7:52 am



FIRST QUARTER
April 23
10:32 pm

Subtract 1 hour for
CDT, 2 hours for MDT,
and 3 hours for PDT.

APRIL 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Cool, windy, sunny. **4-7:** Scattered showers possible for Easter. **8-11:** Cold, damp, overcast most areas. **12-15:** Warm, mostly sunny. **16-19:** Dry with fair skies, breezy. **20-23:** Steady rain most areas, thunderstorms. **24-27:** Warm with sunny skies. **28-30:** Unseasonably warm in most areas, scattered showers Mid-Atlantic region.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Breezy, cool, partly cloudy skies. **4-7:** Scattered showers for Easter in Great Lakes, drier Ohio Valley. **8-11:** Chilly, overcast, rain by the 11th. **12-15:** Clearing, warmer. **16-19:** Crisp, windy. **20-23:** Steady showers, cool Great Lakes. **24-27:** Pleasant, sunny. **28-30:** Changeable conditions, soggy MI.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Mild, breezy, fair skies WV. **4-7:** Scattered thunderstorms possible for Easter and the opening of the Masters on the 6th. **8-11:** Cool, cloudy, showers NC. **12-15:** Hot, sunny. **16-19:** Dry, windy, clear FL. **20-23:** Persistent rain, cool in AL. **24-27:** Warm, sunny, SC. **28-30:** Hot, possibly heavy, thunderstorms MS, AL, parts of TN.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cold, windy, partly cloudy. **4-7:** Light snow possible for Easter in Dakotas, MN. Chilly but clear in IA, MO, KS. **8-11:** Overcast, cool. **12-15:** Warm, sunny. **16-19:** Crisp, dry, gusty Northern Great Plains. **20-23:** Clouds return, showers. **24-27:** Pleasant, sunny Central Plains. **28-30:** Warm, then cool, heavy rain.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Breezy, cool, partly cloudy western areas. **4-7:** Mild Easter most areas, possible showers TX. **8-11:** Chilly, overcast. **12-15:** Warm, sunny. **16-19:** Crisp, dry, gusty winds LA. **20-23:** Good chance of thunderstorms AR, LA, cooler, drier western TX. **24-27:** Pleasant, partly cloudy. **28-30:** Unsettled.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Mild, breezy, fair WA. **4-7:** Warm Easter OR, ID, scattered thunderstorms WA. **8-11:** Cool, cloudy, unsettled ID. **12-15:** Hot, sunny. **16-19:** Fair, then unsettled. **20-23:** Persistent rain, cool ID. **24-27:** Warm, sunny. **28-30:** Unusually warm, heavy showers WA.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Breezy, cool, partly cloudy AZ. **4-7:** Light rain may dampen Easter plans, but temps will be mild. **8-11:** Chilly, overcast, damp NV. **12-15:** Warm, sunny CA. **16-19:** Crisp, dry, gusty winds. **20-23:** Steady showers, cool UT. **24-27:** Pleasant, sunny. **28-30:** Warm to hot, heavy rain along CA coast.

MAY 26

SUNRISE
+ SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
5:33 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
8:22 pm (ET)

DATES
of NOTE

10TH Mother's Day

25TH Memorial Day

WEATHER
LORE

When sound
travels far
and wide, a
stormy day
will *betide*.

ZODIAC ZONE



TAURUS
(bull)

APR 20–MAY 20



GEMINI
(twins)

MAY 21–JUN 20

HELPFUL
HINT

Upcycle an old mailbox into a
garden tool storage container.

BIRTH
FLOWER

LILY of the VALLEY



Symbolizes
the *return of*
happiness

BIRTH
STONE

EMERALD – The truth stone



Associated
with *wisdom*
+ *increased*
intuition

HERB
of the
MONTH

THYME

BIRD
of the
MONTH

HUMMINGBIRD

5TH
MONTH
.....
31
DAYS

MOON'S
PHASES

Eastern Daylight
Time (EDT)



FULL MOON
May 1 @ 1:23 pm



LAST QUARTER
May 9 @ 5:10 pm



NEW MOON
May 16 @ 4:01 pm



FIRST QUARTER
May 23 @ 7:11 am



FULL MOON
May 31 @ 4:45 am

Subtract 1 hour for
CDT, 2 hours for MDT,
and 3 hours for PDT.

MAY 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Chilly, steady rain New England. **4-7:** Cool but fair. **8-11:** Damp, possible thunderstorms Mid-Atlantic region. **12-15:** Warm, pleasant. **16-19:** Rain, hopefully clearing in MD for Preakness. **20-23:** Hot, dry, especially New England. **24-27:** Crisp, light rain for Memorial Day. **28-31:** Warm, pleasant Mid-Atlantic.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Chilly, steady rain MI, OH. Possible wet track for Kentucky Derby. **4-7:** Cool, breezy, fair Ohio Valley. **8-11:** Damp, cool, rain IL, WI. **12-15:** Pleasant, mostly sunny. **16-19:** Wet, damp, overcast Ohio Valley. **20-23:** Fair, warm IL, MI eastward. **24-27:** Crisp, lingering showers Memorial Day. **28-31:** Warm, pleasant.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Chilly, steady rain WV, VA. **4-7:** Scattered thunderstorms, chilly Carolinas. **8-11:** Mixed clouds, thunderstorms GA, FL. **12-15:** Thunderstorms from TN east. Stormy Gulf Coast. **16-19:** Continued rain TN, WV. **20-23:** Hot, thunderstorms VA, NC. **24-27:** Clear skies, nice for Memorial Day. **28-31:** Warm, pleasant, windy FL, AL.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cool, steady rain MN, IA. **4-7:** Breezy but fair. **8-11:** Cool temps may bring rain to northern regions. **12-15:** Warm, pleasant, windy. **16-19:** Wet conditions slowly clear. **20-23:** Hot, dry. **24-27:** Warm conditions for Memorial Day. **28-31:** Warm, pleasant, moderate wind SD, NE.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cool, steady rain NM, TX. **4-7:** Fair skies, pleasant. **8-11:** Wet weather moves eastward from NM. **12-15:** TX, OK are warm, sunny. **16-19:** Unsettled. **20-23:** Hot, then stormy. **24-27:** Warm, pleasant for Memorial Day. **28-31:** Fair, then unsettled.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Rain, cool WA, OR. **4-7:** Showers continue, turning fair by 7th. **8-11:** Strong disturbance from coast spreads stormy conditions to most areas. **12-15:** Warm, pleasant. **16-19:** Unsettled WA, OR. **20-23:** More clouds than sun. **24-27:** Cool along Pacific Coast, warmer ID for Memorial Day. **28-31:** Mostly pleasant.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Cool, steady rain AZ, UT. **4-7:** Fair CA, NV. **8-11:** Rain AZ, UT. **12-15:** Warm, pleasant, moderate wind NV, CA. **16-19:** Wet along coast, cloudy skies AZ. **20-23:** Risk of severe thunderstorms CA, NV. **24-27:** Warm, some clouds Memorial Day. **28-31:** Fair weather turns windy.

JUNE 26

SUNRISE
+ SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
5:30 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
8:33 pm (ET)

DATES of NOTE | 6TH D-Day | 14TH Flag Day | 19TH Juneteenth
21ST Summer Solstice @ 4:24 am/Father's Day

WEATHER
LORE

Red sky in
the morning,
sailors'
warning. Red
sky at night,
sailors' delight.

ZODIAC ZONE



GEMINI
(twins)
MAY 21–JUN 20



CANCER
(crab)
JUN 21–JUL 22

HELPFUL
HINT

Wash and stem strawberries just
before eating for best freshness.

BIRTH
FLOWER
ROSE

Symbolizes
love

BIRTH
STONE

Believed to
bring peace,
balance +
wealth

PEARL – The gem of purity

HERB
of the
MONTH

LAVENDER

BIRD
of the
MONTH

DOVE

6TH
MONTH
.....
30
DAYS

MOON'S
PHASES

Eastern Daylight
Time (EDT)



LAST QUARTER
June 8
6:00 am



NEW MOON
June 14
10:54 pm



FIRST QUARTER
June 21
5:55 pm



FULL MOON
June 29
7:57 pm

Subtract 1 hour for
CDT, 2 hours for MDT,
and 3 hours for PDT.

JUNE 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Warm, muggy conditions. 4-7: Dry, warm. 8-11: Showers and thunderstorms possible. 12-15: Sunny, warm to hot most areas. 16-19: Heatwave. 20-23: Scattered thunderstorms, continued hazy, hot. 24-27: Warm, dry. 28-30: Heavy rain, cooler temperatures.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Hot, humid, showers MI, WI. 4-7: Warm and sunny, slight chance of thunderstorms. 8-11: Thunderstorms in KY and IL. 12-15: Mild and dry in MI and WI. 16-19: Hot and humid. 20-23: Scattered showers in KY, IL. 24-27: Warm and dry. 28-30: Heavy rain and cooler temperatures.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Very warm and sunny. 4-7: Hot and humid. 8-11: Thunderstorms GA, FL. 12-15: Hot temperatures continue. 16-19: Heatwave. 20-23: Scattered showers FL, SC. 24-27: Warm and dry. 28-30: Heavy rain and cooler NC, AL.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Warm to hot, showers likely MN, ND. 4-7: Warm and sunny. 8-11: Thunderstorms in SD, NE. 12-15: Very hot temperatures. 16-19: Hot and humid. 20-23: Scattered showers, still warm. 24-27: Warm and dry in IA, MO. 28-30: Heavy rain, cooler SD, NE.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Warm and sunny. 4-7: Hot and humid. 8-11: Thunderstorms possible as warm temps continue. 12-15: Very hot. 16-19: Heatwave. 20-23: Scattered showers TX, NM. 24-27: Warm and dry OK, AR. 28-30: Heavy rain brings cooler temps.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Cool, rainy WA, OR. 4-7: Warm, sunny ID. 8-11: Warm with scattered thunderstorms WA, OR. 12-15: Mild to warm conditions. 16-19: Hot and humid. 20-23: Scattered showers in ID. 24-27: Warm, dry in WA, OR. 28-30: Cooler temperatures, cloudy.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Very warm, clear skies. 4-7: Hot and dry. 8-11: Thunderstorms AZ, UT. 12-15: Mild, dry NV, CA. 16-19: Very hot. 20-23: Scattered showers CA. 24-27: Warm and dry. 28-30: Mixed clouds and sun.

JULY 26

SUNRISE
+ SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
5:35 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
8:33 pm (ET)

DATES of NOTE | **3RD** Dog Days Begin | **4TH** Independence Day
6TH Earth at Aphelion (furthest from the Sun)

WEATHER
LORE

When dew is
on the *grass*,
rain will *never*
come to pass.

ZODIAC ZONE



CANCER
(crab)

JUN 21–JUL 22



LEO
(lion)

JUL 23–AUG 22

HELPFUL
HINT

Watermelons with yellow
field spots are *ripe*.

BIRTH
FLOWER

LARKSPUR



Symbolizes
love

BIRTH
STONE

RUBY — The gem of motivation



Believed to
connect one
with their
passion
for life

HERB
of the
MONTH

PARSLEY

BIRD
of the
MONTH

EAGLE

7TH
MONTH
.....
31
DAYS

MOON'S
PHASES

Eastern Daylight
Time (EDT)



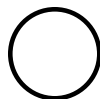
LAST QUARTER
July 7
3:29 pm



NEW MOON
July 14
5:44 am



FIRST QUARTER
July 21
7:06 am



FULL MOON
July 29
10:36 am

Subtract 1 hour for
CDT, 2 hours for MDT,
and 3 hours for PDT.

JULY 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Warm, humid, scattered thunderstorms. **4-7:** Mostly fair, warm for the Fourth, showers New England. **8-11:** Mild, showers likely. **12-15:** Hot, stormy. **16-19:** Cool, clear skies. **20-23:** Warm to hot. **24-27:** Hot, heavy thunderstorms NJ, MA. Drier elsewhere. **28-31:** Changeable skies, rain.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Warm temps, some rain. **4-7:** Hot, sunny Fourth. **8-11:** Warm, fair. **12-15:** Hot, humid, thunderstorms Mississippi Valley. **16-19:** Cool, dry, windy, overcast skies. **20-23:** Mostly fair, very warm. **24-27:** Hot, humid, thunderstorms Great Lakes. **28-31:** More scattered thunderstorms.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Very warm. **4-7:** Hot, dry most areas for Fourth, thunderstorms possible SC, FL. **8-11:** Gusty winds, rainy. **12-15:** Very warm. **16-19:** Hot, humid, scattered thunderstorms. **20-23:** Very warm, mostly fair. **24-27:** Hot, clear skies. **28-31:** Hot, dry, thunderstorms Carolinas.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cool, dry, light winds Northern Plains. **4-7:** Overcast, mostly fair for the holiday. **8-11:** Hot temperatures move in. **12-15:** Hot. Good chance thunderstorms CO, MN. **16-19:** Thunderstorms move out, cooling off some. **20-23:** Warm-to-hot, then unsettled. **24-27:** Hot, dry. **28-31:** More scattered thunderstorms.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Warm, fair, moderate winds in NM, TX. **4-7:** Hot, dry for the Fourth of July, thunderstorms AR, LA. **8-11:** Fair then steady rain. **12-15:** Hot, clear skies. **16-19:** Hot, thunderstorms possible OK, AR. Clear skies TX. **20-23:** Fair, hot, then unsettled by the 23rd. **24-27:** Scattered showers TX eastward. **28-31:** Hot, dry, thunderstorms OK, LA.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Mild, humid conditions, scattered showers WA, OR. **4-7:** Warm holiday most areas. **8-11:** Warm, fair, moderate winds WA, OR. **12-15:** Hot, dry. Clear skies ID, thunderstorms WA, OR. **16-19:** Cool, dry, windy. **20-23:** Warm, fair, moderate winds in WA, OR. Sunny ID. **24-27:** Hot, scattered thunderstorms. **28-31:** Wet, cool, overcast.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Warm, fair, moderate winds AZ, UT. **4-7:** Scorching, clear skies CA, NV. **8-11:** Fair, little chance of rain. **12-15:** Warm, fair, moderate winds UT, NV. Sunny CA. **16-19:** Hot, dry, thunderstorms possible AZ, UT. **20-23:** Steady rain CA, NV. Overcast AZ. **24-27:** Clear skies, hot temperatures. **28-31:** Hot, dry.

AUGUST 26

SUNRISE
+ SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
5:58 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
8:14 pm (ET)

DATES of NOTE | **7TH** Midpoint of Summer
11TH Dog Days End

WEATHER
LORE

For every
fog in August
there will be
a snowfall
the following
winter.

ZODIAC ZONE



LEO
(lion)
JUL 23–AUG 22



VIRGO
(virgin)
AUG 23–SEP 22

HELPFUL
HINT

In a pinch, *tortilla chips*
make great kindling.

BIRTH
FLOWER
GLADIOLUS

Symbolizes
strength,
integrity +
perseverance

BIRTH
STONE

PERIDOT – The space gem

HERB
of the
MONTH

CHAMOMILE

BIRD
of the
MONTH

WOODPECKER

8TH
MONTH
.....
30
DAYS

MOON'S
PHASES

Eastern Daylight
Time (EDT)



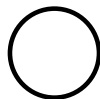
LAST QUARTER
August 5
10:21 pm



NEW MOON
August 12
1:37 pm



FIRST QUARTER
August 19
10:46 pm



FULL MOON
August 28*
12:18 am

*Takes place on August 27 in US
time zones outside of Eastern

Subtract 1 hour for
CDT, 2 hours for MDT,
and 3 hours for PDT.

AUGUST 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Very hot, isolated showers northern New England. **4-7:** Hot, humid. **8-11:** Warm, steady precipitation, southern New England. **12-15:** Hot, heavy thunderstorms Mid-Atlantic. **16-19:** Warm, windy, fair. **20-23:** Hurricane threat along the Atlantic Coast. Rain, wind. **24-27:** Warm, dry. **28-31:** Wet conditions return.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Warm, fair, moderate wind, especially MI. **4-7:** Hot, dry. Greater chance thunderstorms Ohio Valley. **8-11:** Warm, steady precipitation IL, WI. **12-15:** Hot, humid, thunderstorms. **16-19:** Warm, windy, fair. **20-23:** Warm, fair, moderate wind. **24-27:** Warm, dry, clear, especially Great Lakes. **28-31:** Wet, warm.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Hot, humid. **4-7:** Warm, fair, moderate wind. **8-11:** Hot, dry, Carolinas. **12-15:** Warm, steady precipitation AL, MS. **16-19:** Hurricane threat Gulf Coast to VA. Mild, showery. **20-23:** Warm, fair, moderate wind, especially WV. **24-27:** Warm, dry, sunny. **28-31:** Warm, steady rain.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Warm, fair, moderate wind, especially MN. **4-7:** Hot, dry most areas with greater chance thunderstorms IA, MO. **8-11:** Warm, steady precipitation for Dakotas. **12-15:** Hot and humid, thunderstorms likely NE, KS. **16-19:** Warm, windy, fair. **20-23:** Warm, fair, moderate wind, especially CO. **24-27:** Warm, pleasant. **28-31:** Warm conditions, some rain NE, KS.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Hot, scattered thunderstorms TX, OK. **4-7:** Warm, fair skies. **8-11:** Hot, humid, thunderstorms likely LA. **12-15:** Warm, steady precipitation mostly NM. **16-19:** Hot, dry, scattered thunderstorms, especially TX, OK. **20-23:** Warm, fair. **24-27:** Very warm. **28-31:** Warm but rainy most areas.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Fair, warm to hot. **4-7:** Hot, dry, thunderstorms OR. **8-11:** Warm, steady precipitation ID. **12-15:** Hot, humid, thunderstorms likely WA. **16-19:** Warm, windy, fair OR. **20-23:** Pleasant weather. **24-27:** Fair, sunny, especially WA. **28-31:** Unsettled along the coast.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Hot, dry, greater chance thunderstorms AZ, NV. **4-7:** Warm, fair. **8-11:** Hot, humid, thunderstorms likely CA. **12-15:** Warm, steady rain AZ. **16-19:** Hot, dry, thunderstorms possible NV. **20-23:** Warm, fair. **24-27:** Warm, sunny, dry CA. **28-31:** Unsettled, heavy rain AZ.

SEPTEMBER 26

SUNRISE + SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
6:28 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
7:32 pm (ET)

DATES of NOTE

7TH Labor Day | **11TH Patriot Day**
22ND Autumnal Equinox @ 8:05 pm

WEATHER LORE

When
September
has been
rainy, the
following May
is generally
dry.

ZODIAC ZONE



VIRGO
(virgin)
AUG 23–SEP 22



LIBRA
(balance)
SEP 23–OCT 22

HELPFUL HINT

*Safety pins work well to
organize fishing hooks.*

BIRTH FLOWER

ASTER



Symbolizes
*empathy +
understanding*

BIRTH STONE



Believed to aid
*communication
+ prophecy*

SAPPHIRE – The gem of connections

HERB of the MONTH



DILL

BIRD of the MONTH



HAWK

**9TH
MONTH**
.....
**30
DAYS**

MOON'S PHASES

Eastern Daylight
Time (EDT)



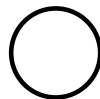
LAST QUARTER
September 4
3:51 am



NEW MOON
September 10
11:27 pm



FIRST QUARTER
September 18
4:44 pm



FULL MOON
September 26
12:49 pm

*Subtract 1 hour for
CDT, 2 hours for MDT,
and 3 hours for PDT.*

SEPTEMBER 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Warm, unsettled New England. **4-7:** Cooler. Rain possible Labor Day. **8-11:** Pleasant conditions, sunny ME southward. **12-15:** Warm, scattered thunderstorms. **16-19:** Pleasant, clear skies. **20-23:** Warm, fair, moderate wind, especially NH. **24-27:** Clear skies New England, warm. **28-30:** Unsettled, rain Mid-Atlantic.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Warm temperatures, sunny skies. **4-7:** Sunny Labor Day, showers possible OH, IN. **8-11:** Warm, steady precipitation, especially IL, WI. **12-15:** Hot, humid, thunderstorms KY. **16-19:** Warm, windy, fair. **20-23:** Thunderstorms Great Lakes. **24-27:** Warm, dry, Great Lakes, rain Ohio Valley. **28-30:** Unsettled.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Hot, humid, thunderstorms GA, FL. **4-7:** Warm to hot, sunny Labor Day. **8-11:** Hot with thunderstorms. **12-15:** Warm rain moves in. **16-19:** More hot, humid weather, stormy TN. **20-23:** Very windy, stormy coastal areas. **24-27:** Fair, some rain western areas. **28-30:** Wet, warm.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Warm, fair. **4-7:** Warm, sunny Labor Day weekend. **8-11:** Warm, steady precipitation, especially Dakotas. **12-15:** Hot, humid, thunderstorms. **16-19:** Warm but windy Northern Plains. **20-23:** Turning wet, cooler. **24-27:** Pleasant, sunny skies. **28-30:** Unsettled conditions.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Hot, thunderstorms TX, OK. **4-7:** Warm, mix of clouds for Labor Day, with greater chance of rain for the holiday in OK, AR. **8-11:** Hot, humid, thunderstorms likely LA. **12-15:** Warm, steady precipitation, especially NM. **16-19:** Hot, many thunderstorms. **20-23:** Warm, fair but windy. **24-27:** Pleasant. **28-30:** Rain moves in from NM eastward.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Warm, windy WA. **4-7:** Very warm, with some thunderstorms but should be dry for Labor Day. **8-11:** Warm, steady precipitation ID. **12-15:** Mostly fair, showers WA. **16-19:** Warm, windy, fair. **20-23:** Fair but windy along coast. **24-27:** Clear with warm temperatures. **28-30:** Rainy weather moves into the area.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Hot with locally heavy showers. **4-7:** Warm, clear skies Labor Day holiday. **8-11:** Very warm conditions hang on, some rain CA. **12-15:** Mostly fair, rain AZ. **16-19:** Pleasant, small risk of showers NV. **20-23:** Unsettled conditions blow in from the coast. **24-27:** Warmer, sunny, especially CA. **28-30:** Fair then unsettled, rain AZ.

OCTOBER 26

SUNRISE + SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
6:56 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
6:42 pm (ET)

DATES of NOTE

12TH Indigenous Peoples' Day, National
Farmer's Day | **31ST** Halloween

WEATHER LORE

Ice in October
that will bear
up a duck
foretells a
winter as wet
as muck.

ZODIAC ZONE



LIBRA
(balance)
SEP 23–OCT 22



SCORPIO
(scorpion)
OCT 23–NOV 21

HELPFUL HINT

Keep cats off indoor plants by
placing pinecones in the planter.

BIRTH FLOWER MARIGOLD



Symbolizes
*abundance +
good fortune*

BIRTH STONE



Thought to
bring necessary
destruction
+ magic

OPAL — The rainbow jewel

HERB of the MONTH



CATNIP

BIRD of the MONTH



VULTURE

**10TH
MONTH**
.....
**31
DAYS**

MOON'S PHASES

Eastern Daylight
Time (EDT)



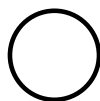
LAST QUARTER
October 3
9:25 am



NEW MOON
October 10
11:50 am



FIRST QUARTER
October 18
12:13pm



FULL MOON
October 26*
12:12 am

*Takes place on October 25 in US
time zones outside of Eastern

Subtract 1 hour for
CDT, 2 hours for MDT,
and 3 hours for PDT.

OCTOBER 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Cool, rain New England. **4-7:** Sunny skies, mild temperatures in NY, NJ. **8-11:** Windy along Atlantic Coast. **12-15:** Cool, wet conditions. **16-19:** Fair with warm temps southern areas of Mid-Atlantic. **20-23:** Clear skies, windy. **24-27:** Cool, turning unsettled. **28-31:** Cold, good chance of a wet Halloween in NY, NJ, parts of PA.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Cool, dry, windy Great Lakes. **4-7:** Warm, some thunderstorms Ohio Valley. **8-11:** Breezy but fair skies. **12-15:** Cold with lots of rain. **16-19:** Rain, cool conditions continue. **20-23:** Sunny IL, WI, cool everywhere. **24-27:** Rain returns, especially MI, OH. **28-31:** Cold Halloween with rain IN, KY.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Sunny skies, windy, cool WV, VA. **4-7:** Warm, thunderstorms Carolinas. **8-11:** Fair, cool, some wind GA, FL. **12-15:** Cool, heavy rainfall AL, MS. **16-19:** Cold, wet, especially TN, GA. **20-23:** Sun returns, but cool, frosts possible. **24-27:** Damp and cool. **28-31:** Chilly Halloween, rainy TN, GA.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cool, windy, fair skies across MN, IA, MO. **4-7:** Warm, rain showers MO, ND. **8-11:** Cold, rain ND, MT, WY. **12-15:** Cold, wet Northern Plains, warmer, dry CO. **16-19:** Cold, wet, WY, CO. **20-23:** Clear skies but cool. **24-27:** Rain returns, temperatures stay cool. **28-31:** Cold Halloween, good chance rain in SD, NE.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cool, dry, windy NM, TX. **4-7:** Warm, thunderstorms OK, AR. **8-11:** Cold, clear skies. **12-15:** Unseasonably cold temps, rain NM, OK. **16-19:** Unsettled conditions, cool. **20-23:** Sun returns NM, TX, but cool. **24-27:** Wet conditions return. **28-31:** Halloween may be wet in LA, TX, cool everywhere.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Fair, dry. **4-7:** Warm, some rain ID, OR. **8-11:** Fair, chilly. **12-15:** Very wet OR, WA. **16-19:** Stormy conditions move into the area from coast. **20-23:** Cold, sunny. **24-27:** Fair, then unsettled. **28-31:** Halloween will be cold, with rain in ID, OR.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Fair, tranquil. **4-7:** Warm, some rain CA, NV. **8-11:** Cold, fair. **12-15:** Scattered showers. **16-19:** Cold, wet, damp, especially AZ, UT. **20-23:** Cold but clear skies. **24-27:** Turning unsettled with rain. **28-31:** Cold, steady precipitation NV, CA.

NOVEMBER 26

SUNRISE + SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
6:29 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
4:58 pm (ET)

DATES of NOTE | 1ST Daylight Saving Time Ends | 3RD Election Day
11TH Veterans Day | 26TH Thanksgiving

WEATHER LORE

As
November
21st,
so the
winter.

ZODIAC ZONE



SCORPIO
(scorpion)
OCT 23–NOV 21



SAGITTARIUS
(archer)
NOV 22–DEC 21

HELPFUL HINT | Use a Thermos to keep your gravy warm
before pouring into a serving dish.

BIRTH FLOWER

CHRYSANTHEMUM



Symbolizes
honor +
resilience

BIRTH STONE

TOPAZ – The friendship stone



Believed to
bring beauty
+ break spells

HERB of the MONTH



**CAYENNE
PEPPER**

BIRD of the MONTH



TURKEY

**11TH
MONTH
.....
30
DAYS**

MOON'S PHASES

Eastern Standard
Time (EST)



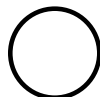
LAST QUARTER
November 1
3:28 pm



NEW MOON
November 9
2:02 am



FIRST QUARTER
November 17
6:48 am



FULL MOON
November 24
9:53 am

Subtract 1 hour for
CST, 2 hours for MST,
and 3 hours for PST.

NOVEMBER 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Mild, dry, good weather for marathon in NYC. 4-7: Cooler, windy, fair. 8-11: Rainy, cold, snow possible north. 12-15: Cold, clear, windy. 16-19: Squally Mid-Atlantic, stormy New England, then clearing. 20-23: Turning cold and wet. 24-27: Cool Thanksgiving, with good chance of rain Mid-Atlantic. 28-30: Cold, dry, windy.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Mild, dry, sunny in Midwest. 4-7: Cooler, windy, fair Ohio Valley. 8-11: Light snow MI, WI. Rain/wet snow elsewhere. 12-15: Clear, cold. 16-19: Blustery, some rain, wet snow. 20-23: Cold, wet, especially Great Lakes. 24-27: Cool, with rain over Midwest for Thanksgiving. 28-30: Cold, dry.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Warm, fair. 4-7: Cooler, windy along coastal regions. 8-11: Fair, then rain northern areas. 12-15: Fair skies. 16-19: Stormy, especially TN, then clearing, turning cold. 20-23: Cool, wet down through FL. 24-27: Cool, wet conditions for Thanksgiving. 28-30: Generally fair skies.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Fair, clear skies. 4-7: Fair, cold. 8-11: Rainy, cold. 12-15: Dakotas very cold, cold elsewhere. 16-19: Overcast with wind most areas. 20-23: Cold, wet weather. 24-27: Rain for Thanksgiving, possibly mixed with snow in mountains. 28-30: Cold with some blustery conditions.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Fair, warm. 4-7: Cooler with windy conditions. 8-11: Rainy, cold, steady precipitation OK. 12-15: Unsettled with cool temps. 16-19: Warm at first, then stormy, especially LA. 20-23: Wet and cool. 24-27: Cool Thanksgiving with some rain. 28-30: Temperatures remain cool to cold.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Fair, dry conditions. 4-7: Cooler, windy. 8-11: Rainy, cold, steady precipitation WA. 12-15: Fair, then stormy. 16-19: Moderating temps, fair but some wind. 20-23: Rain, maybe some snow. 24-27: Cool with rain and snow in the mountains for Thanksgiving. 28-30: Cold.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Warm, fair. 4-7: Cooler, windy, fair skies UT. 8-11: Rainy, cold. 12-15: Fair, then stormy. 16-19: Storm moves east, then fair, windy CA coast. 20-23: Cold, wet, damp in Utah. 24-27: Cool, windy, rainy for Thanksgiving. 28-30: Dry but windy along the coast.

DECEMBER 26

SUNRISE + SUNSET

Sunrise/sunset extremes for 40°N, 75°W,
Eastern Time (standard + daylight)



EARLIEST SUNRISE
7:02 am (ET)



LATEST SUNSET
4:45 pm (ET)

DATES | 21ST Winter Solstice @ 3:50 pm | 25TH Christmas
of NOTE | 26TH Kwanzaa | 31ST New Year's Eve

WEATHER LORE

White
Christmas,
green Easter.
Green
Christmas,
white Easter.

ZODIAC ZONE



SAGITTARIUS
(archer)
NOV 22–DEC 21



CAPRICORN
(goat)
DEC 22–JAN 19

HELPFUL HINT

Keep *Christmas lights* from getting tangled in *storage* by wrapping them around a sturdy *clothes hanger*.

BIRTH FLOWER PAPERWHITE



Symbolizes
hope + new beginnings

BIRTH STONE



Believed
to increase
perspective + well-being

TURQUOISE – The clarity stone

HERB of the MONTH



BASIL

BIRD of the MONTH



CARDINAL

12TH
MONTH
.....
31
DAYS

MOON'S PHASES

Eastern Standard
Time (EST)



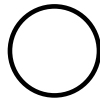
LAST QUARTER
Dec 1 @ 1:09 am



NEW MOON
Dec 8 @ 7:52 pm



FIRST QUARTER
Dec 17 @ 12:43 am



FULL MOON
Dec 23 @ 8:28 pm



LAST QUARTER
Dec 30 @ 1:59 pm

Subtract 1 hour for
CST, 2 hours for MST,
and 3 hours for PST.

DECEMBER 2026 WEATHER FORECAST

ZONE 1 NORTHEAST & NEW ENGLAND

1-3: Some snow for New England, cold Mid-Atlantic. 4-7: Clear but turns unsettled. 8-11: Cool and dry. 12-15: Cold, fair skies. 16-19: Mostly fair. 20-23: Wintry mix initially, then clearing. 24-27: Cold Christmas, some wet snow possible New England. 28-31: Cold conditions end the year.

ZONE 2 GREAT LAKES, OHIO VALLEY & MIDWEST

1-3: Cold, dry, windy Midwest. 4-7: Turning unsettled, snow possible western Lakes. 8-11: Cold conditions, then wintry mix/rain Ohio Valley. 12-15: Cold, dry, windy. 16-19: Unsettled. 20-23: Snow, cold Great Lakes. 24-27: Cold Christmas with some snow showers. 28-31: Cold, dry, windy.

ZONE 3 SOUTHEAST

1-3: Heavy rain Gulf Coast north to Carolinas. 4-7: Cooler, slowly clearing. 8-11: Cold. 12-15: Dry but cool SC to FL. 16-19: Warmer, clear skies. 20-23: Cold, frosts possible to FL. 24-27: Cool and wet Christmas most areas. 28-31: Fair but cool.

ZONE 4 NORTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Cold, dry, windy. 4-7: Unsettled, then clearing. 8-11: Wet snow Rockies, Plains States. 12-15: Cold, windy. 16-19: Mostly fair, light snow in mountains. 20-23: Cold, wet, rain or snow Dakotas. 24-27: Cold with a few snow and rain showers for Christmas. 28-31: Cold end to the year.

ZONE 5 SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

1-3: Warm, fair skies. 4-7: Cooler, windy, fair TX. 8-11: Rainy, wet snow NM. 12-15: Showery, AK, LA, then clearing. 16-19: Clouds clear. 20-23: Cold temperatures, snow flurries. 24-27: Rainy Christmas, snow possible NM. 28-31: Chilly end to the year.

ZONE 6 NORTHWEST

1-3: Cold winds blow eastward from the coast. 4-7: Fair skies. 8-11: Rainy, cold WA. 12-15: Drying out, cool. 16-19: Mostly fair, then showers. 20-23: Cold, wet, OR. 24-27: Wet Christmas WA, cool ID. 28-31: Cold, clear skies.

ZONE 7 SOUTHWEST

1-3: Warm, fair, moderate wind. 4-7: Cooler but fair. 8-11: Chilly, with rain, especially NV. 12-15: Drier but cool. 16-19: Warm CA. 20-23: Rainy. 24-27: Christmas is windy, fair. 28-31: Cold end to the year.



Hygge

THE COZY LIFE SECRET

By Natalie LaVolpe

Winter weather can seem like it's filled with endless days of cold and grey. Dark mornings and evenings may have you dreaming of warmer and brighter months. If you are feeling the chill and blues of the season, then a dose of hygge may be in order. But what is it, how do you pronounce it, and why is it so popular?

What the Heck is Hygge?

Hygge (pronounced "hoo-geh") is a Danish concept of taking pleasure in everyday things, simplifying life, and creating coziness in the home. It encourages you to savor the good moments and foster meaningful relationships while relaxing and indulging. The word derives from an old Norwegian term, hugga, meaning "to comfort" or "to console," and while there is no literal translation in English (the closest is "hug"), it's a mindset that has helped sustain the people of Denmark through long, chilly winters—Danes rank as one of the happiest people on the planet.

10 Hygge Rituals to Bring into Your Life



LIGHTING

Dim the lights and dig out the candles (opt for natural beeswax over scented ones). Proper lighting is an essential part of hygge. Soft, natural glows offer a warmer and more relaxing environment. No candles? Simply turn off "the big light" and opt for warm-toned lamps or fairy lights to heighten warmth and coziness.



HYGGE together

Hygge is best when shared in an intimate group of people. Studies show spending quality time with loved ones makes us the happiest. Gather with friends and family over a warm cup of coffee, serve a hot meal around the table, bring out the board games, or laugh until the wee hours of the morning. Laughter, conversation, and the warmth of friendship are all part of hygge.



Cozy FURNISHINGS

Break out the blankets and pillows to create hygge in your home, with an emphasis on things natural and soft, preferably made from natural materials like wool. Try creating a cozy nook with soft cushions and blankets, where you can snuggle up with a good book. Hygge is all about homeyness, and by creating a space with pieces that make you happy, you've created hygge.



Be COMFORTABLE

Think woolly socks, knit sweaters, and warm leggings. Natural fibers are a great way to feel warm and cozy during the brisk winter. Dig out your favorite warm and cozy garments and get ready to hygge!



MAKE a FIRE

Few things can evoke the feeling of coziness like a roaring fire while the temperatures plummet outside. It can draw people in like a trance while imprinting a sense of calm and peace. A proper hygge fire should use real wood (if possible).



(continued)

EAT & DRINK *well*

Hygge is all also about indulging in the good things in life. For many of us, that includes delicious, comforting, and hearty food: delicious soup or a simple roast chicken. Keep foods simple and spend time with loved ones by cooking together. Hygge is about satisfying your taste buds and allowing yourself to enjoy things that make you happy. Cakes, pastries, and cookies are definitely hygge. Don't forget to serve up those hot drinks. Mugs of rich hot cocoa, tea, and coffee are all good for warming the soul.



UNPLUG



Hygge is all about living in the moment and embracing life. Turn off the cell phones and TV. Pick up a book, read the newspaper, share a conversation, listen to (or create) music, paint a picture, or play a game. It is easy to get lost in the digital world and neglect each other. Spend time with the people you love (or yourself) and don't let screens distract you from being present in the moment.

CONNECT *with* NATURE

While much of hygge is about creating a warm and inviting space indoors, Danes embrace all seasons and getting outside. Hygge is about balance and creating a healthy life so exposure to nature is key. Spending time outdoors is not only refreshing but when engrossed in nature, we tend to be more present and relaxed.



Bring NATURE indoors

There is no shortage of happiness in nature. Bringing the outdoors inside is a great way to feel connected to the outside while remaining snugly inside. Willow branches, bunches of fresh blooms, pinecones, and piles of wood are all reminders of our beautiful world outdoors. Feeling connected to nature, even reminders of it inside, help bring a sense of peace and comfort.



LINGER

Enjoying and savoring the moment is total hygge. Linger after meals, savor conversations, and slow the pace of life. Pour a cup of coffee, light candles, snuggle up under a blanket with a loved one, and slow time enough to soak it all in. Aim to achieve this nirvana with a sense of coziness, camaraderie, and contentment. Add a little hygge to your life this winter and embrace the beauties of the season.



Follow us on social media for more hygge ideas.

20 Houseplants

TO KEEP AWAY FROM PETS



Dracaena

1. ALOE PLANT Aloe is poisonous to both dogs and cats, causing vomiting, diarrhea, and other symptoms.

3. DRACAENA Dracaena contains saponins, which cause vomiting, excessive drooling, and other symptoms. In cats, this plant can also cause dilated pupils.

5. POTHOS All varieties of this plant contain oxalate, which causes oral irritation and other symptoms.

6. ASPARAGUS FERN These plants contain sapogenins, which is a compound that can cause dermatitis in dogs and cats. The berries are poisonous to your pets, causing diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach pain.

2. AMARYLLIS These pretty flowers cause symptoms like stomach pain, drooling, tremors, diarrhea, and vomiting in cats and dogs when ingested.

4. BEGONIA This houseplant contains oxalates, which cause severe oral irritation in dogs and cats.



Asparagus Fern

(continued)

7. CARDBOARD PALM

Some palm trees and shrubs are pet friendly and others are not. This is one that you should avoid because the cypassin in these plants can cause several serious issues, such as hemorrhagic gastroenteritis or liver failure.



Cardboard Palm

9. AZALEA While these shrubs are mostly used outdoors, azaleas are sometimes used to create miniature bonsai trees indoors. However, the grayanotoxin in azaleas is highly toxic to dogs, cats, and other animals. It can cause a wide variety of symptoms, from vomiting and diarrhea to a coma.

10. JADE PLANT The reason why these plants are toxic to dogs and cats remains unknown, but when ingested, they cause nausea and vomiting.

11. GERANIUM

These lovely flowers are common both outdoors and as house plants, but two chemicals that they contain, geraniol and linalool, can cause dermatitis, vomiting, and anorexia in dogs and cats.



Geranium

13. EASTER LILY While normally grown outside, this plant is sometimes given as a springtime gift. Its toxic mechanisms are unknown, but in cats, Easter lilies cause vomiting, or in severe cases, kidney failure.

8. PHILODENDRON

All varieties of philodendron contain oxalate crystals, which burns the mouths of dogs and cats and can also cause excessive salivation or trouble swallowing.



Azalea

12. HYACINTH This is another popular gift in the spring. Hyacinths are known to be toxic to dogs and cats, causing tremors, severe vomiting, and diarrhea in which blood is sometimes present. It is thought that this is caused by alkaloids distributed throughout the plant, which are particularly concentrated in the bulbs.

14. POINSETTIA Another holiday plant not worth having around if you've got pets. While ingesting poinsettia isn't normally deadly to pets, it can cause irritation in the mouth or stomach, which leads to vomiting and diarrhea.

15. PEACE LILY

If ingested, calcium oxalates in this plant cause cats to suffer oral symptoms: burning, drooling, difficulty swallowing, and more.



Peace Lily

17. SNAKE PLANT Because they contain saponins, snake plants cause nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting in pets.

18. SPIDER PLANT Cats are wildly attracted to spider plants (all those wiggly legs!). While these plants are considered non-toxic, the compounds in them, which are related to opium, can result in an upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea in cats. For this reason, it's wise to keep them away from your pets. If you do have any, keep them up high, in hanging baskets.

19. SAGO PALM

Sago palms contain cypassin, which causes gastroenteritis, vomiting, and other symptoms. In severe cases, a pet that eats sago palm could suffer liver damage or even liver failure.



Sago Palm

16. MUMS You may be tempted to move your gorgeous potted mums indoors when the weather gets colder, but they're toxic to cats, dogs, and horses when ingested. Signs of poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, hyper-salivation, loss of coordination, and dermatitis.



Spider Plant

20. ENGLISH IVY

Often used as a bedding plant in planters, it is the leaves of English ivy in particular that are toxic. Dogs and cats will experience stomach pain, drooling, vomiting, and diarrhea due to the saponins it contains.

We've listed some of the most common non-pet-friendly houseplants here, but before you bring any plant into your home, make sure that you check with your vet or a trusted source to see if it's pet-friendly.

Garlic

FOLKLORE'S PUNGENT PROTECTOR

Garlic is a popular ingredient in many recipes and an easy-to-grow root vegetable. But it also has a history rich in lore and superstition.

Here are a few of our favorites:

-  To prevent trolls from stealing milk from cows, Swedish farmers used to tie garlic around the cows' necks.
-  In Greek folklore, hanging garlic in a baby's room was believed to protect the child from evil spirits.
-  Koreans believed that eating garlic repelled tigers and would often indulge in pickled garlic before traveling into dangerous forests.
-  European beliefs gave garlic its ability to keep vampires and other evil creatures away. It was suggested that garlic should be worn on one's person, hung in windows, or rubbed on chimneys and fireplaces.
-  Supposedly, dreaming that there is garlic in your house is lucky, and dreaming about eating garlic means you will unlock hidden secrets.
-  Brides used to carry fragrant herbs and garlic in their bouquets. The belief was that this would help ward off evil.

GROW *your OWN*: Garlic Tips

Garlic is usually planted in late autumn before the ground freezes, depending on where you live. It needs a period of cold weather to develop properly. Sometimes, it can be planted in late winter and early spring, but the bulbs may not be as big. For best results, garlic needs nine months to mature.

There are many types of garlic, but they can be classified into two broad categories: **softneck** and **hardneck**

HARDNECK GARLIC

- Known for more robust flavor
- Has a flowering stalk called a scape (which is edible)
- Grows well in cold-hardy regions
- Produces fewer but larger cloves
- Two-to-four-month shelf life once harvested

SOFTNECK GARLIC

- Has a more subtle flavor
- Usually is the type you find in grocery stores
- Does not produce a scape, but rather flexible stalks that make for good braiding
 - Has more cloves per bulb
- Better suited for warmer climates/winters
- Six-to-eight-month shelf life once harvested



HOW TO PLANT

Start with healthy, firm, unblemished cloves. Purchase your cloves from a reputable source so that you can grow the ones best for your region. It's not recommended to plant supermarket garlic, since that particular variety may not grow well in your region.



1. Separate the cloves from the bulb.
2. Keep the white papery skin on the clove.
3. Plant the cloves 1-2" deep with the pointed side up.
4. Space the cloves 3-6" apart in rows and 9-24" between rows.



(continued)

HOW TO HARVEST

In the spring, cut the scape of the hardneck garlic once it begins to curl or spiral upward. Cut the stalk/scape as far down as you can without cutting any leaves off. Many growers feel that this helps the plant to focus its energy on the bulb. Others believe it's best not to cut them. So do whichever but know that you can also cook the scapes in stir fries and other dishes.



The bulbs are ready to harvest (usually in June/July, depending on your climate and the variety grown) when the leaves begin to yellow or brown, plants start to fall over, and there is still 50% of green leaves on the plant. Green leaves indicate that the bulbs are still intact and have not begun to break apart.



Harvest the bulbs by loosening the soil, and then carefully dig out the garlic. Do not pull the stalk. Gently brush most of the dirt off the bulb. You may eat the bulbs right away, or tie a few plants together. Hang in a dry, well-ventilated shed for four to six weeks so that the bulbs can cure.



natural ANT control



Ever noticed how ants seem to appear out of nowhere, marching in perfect lines across your kitchen counter? While that's fascinating to observe from a distance, it's less charming when they're invading your home.

Ants are basically tiny chemists. They follow scent trails left by scouts who leave the nest in search of food. Understanding this behavior is key to getting rid of them naturally—disrupt their chemical highways, and you'll send them packing.

Ants are usually common during the summer months, when insects are more active. Occasionally, if it's dry outside, they'll also show up in bathrooms or more humid parts of your house, looking for water. Heavy rains also push ants to find new homes, sometimes inside yours.

Your pantry is actually a treasure trove of ant deterrents. That bottle of white vinegar under your sink? It's ant kryptonite. Mix equal parts water and vinegar in a spray bottle, and you've got yourself a safe ant repellent that doubles as a surface cleaner. The acid in the vinegar wipes away their scent trails and confuses them.

CINNAMON

Sprinkle ground cinnamon or lay cinnamon sticks near entry points, and ants will think twice before crossing that line.

CITRUS

Rub lemon, lime, or orange peels along windowsills, doorways, and other entry points. You can also simmer citrus peels in water for a few minutes, let the water cool, and use it as a natural spray.

COFFEE GROUNDS

Scatter used coffee grounds around entry points outside your home or directly on ant hills. The caffeine and compounds in coffee naturally repel ants, and as a bonus, your plants will love the nitrogen boost.

ESSENTIAL OILS

Peppermint, tea tree, and eucalyptus oils are particularly effective at deterring ants. Add 10-15 drops to a spray bottle filled with water, shake well, and spray around entry points. Just remember to keep tea tree oil away from cats, as it can be harmful to them.

PREVENTION: THE BEST MEDICINE

The most effective way to deal with ants is to stop them before they start.

*Keep your counters clean and dry
Store food in airtight containers
Fix leaky faucets and pipes (ants love moisture)
Seal up entry points with caulk*

Remember, consistency is key with natural pest control. You might need to reapply these solutions more often than chemical alternatives, but the peace of mind is worth the extra effort.



AVERAGE FROST DATES

[FARM + GARDEN]

The dates listed below are estimated average light frost dates based on historical data from the National Climatic Data Center. A light frost is when temperatures are between 29°–32°F. During a light frost, tender plants may be killed, with little destructive effect on hardier vegetation.

The probability of a frost occurring after the spring date or before the fall frost date listed below is 30%, which means that a frost could occur before or after the dates listed. It's best to take precautions and protect tender plants during early spring and late fall.

Source for dates: U.S. Climate Normals 2020: U.S. Annual/Seasonal Climate Normals (1991-2020)

ALABAMA	FIRST	LAST
Birmingham	NOV 3	MAR 31
Huntsville	NOV 2	MAR 31
Mobile	NOV 28	MAR 3
Montgomery	NOV 6	MAR 20

ALASKA	FIRST	LAST
Anchorage	SEP 25	MAY 9
Fairbanks	SEP 4	MAY 18
Juneau	SEP 28	MAY 9
Nome	AUG 26	JUN 13

ARIZONA	FIRST	LAST
Flagstaff	SEP 23	JUN 10
Phoenix	DEC 30	JAN 9
Tucson	NOV 30	FEB 17
Yuma	DEC 21	JAN 31

ARKANSAS	FIRST	LAST
Fort Smith	NOV 1	APR 3
Jonesboro	NOV 3	MAR 31
Little Rock	NOV 4	MAR 28
Texarkana	NOV 9	MAR 24

CALIFORNIA	FIRST	LAST
Fresno	DEC 6	JAN 29
Red Bluff	NOV 22	MAR 5
Sacramento	DEC 7	JAN 22
San Bernardino	DEC 11	FEB 10
Tahoe City	SEP 19	JUN 15

COLORADO	FIRST	LAST
Denver	OCT 6	MAY 4
Grand Junction	OCT 10	MAY 3
Julesburg	OCT 1	MAY 12
Pueblo	OCT 4	MAY 4

CONNECTICUT	FIRST	LAST
Danbury	OCT 14	APR 26
Hartford	OCT 20	APR 23
Stamford	OCT 16	APR 23

DELAWARE	FIRST	LAST
Dover	OCT 31	APR 9
Lewes	NOV 7	APR 2
Wilmington	OCT 30	APR 13

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-DC	FIRST	LAST
	NOV 12	MAR 30

FLORIDA	FIRST	LAST
Jacksonville	NOV 29	MAR 7
Orlando	JAN 1	FEB 4
Tallahassee	NOV 15	MAR 23
Tampa	JAN 3	JAN 31

GEORGIA	FIRST	LAST
Atlanta	NOV 13	MAR 23
Augusta	NOV 4	MAR 31
Columbus	NOV 16	MAR 14
Savannah	NOV 21	MAR 12

[FARM + GARDEN]

IDAHO	FIRST	LAST
Boise	OCT 14	APR 30
Idaho Falls	SEP 12	JUN 2
Moscow	SEP 27	MAY 5
Salmon	SEP 18	MAY 25

ILLINOIS	FIRST	LAST
Chicago	OCT 28	APR 17
Mt. Vernon	OCT 18	APR 17
Quincy	OCT 25	APR 15
Springfield	OCT 15	APR 20

INDIANA	FIRST	LAST
Evansville	OCT 24	APR 10
Indianapolis	OCT 21	APR 21
South Bend	OCT 14	MAY 7
Terre Haute	OCT 13	APR 22

IOWA	FIRST	LAST
Cedar Rapids	OCT 7	MAY 4
Des Moines	OCT 14	APR 24
Fort Dodge	OCT 2	MAY 3
Sioux City	SEP 28	MAY 5

KANSAS	FIRST	LAST
Garden City	OCT 9	MAY 2
Independence	OCT 25	APR 12
Topeka	OCT 19	APR 19
Wichita	OCT 21	APR 16

KENTUCKY	FIRST	LAST
Ashland	OCT 18	APR 30
Bowling Green	OCT 26	APR 11
Lexington	OCT 23	APR 20
Murray	OCT 27	APR 11

LOUISIANA	FIRST	LAST
Alexandria	NOV 18	MAR 6
Baton Rouge	NOV 17	MAR 7
Monroe	NOV 8	MAR 14
Shreveport	NOV 11	MAR 15

MAINE	FIRST	LAST
Augusta	OCT 10	MAY 1
Bangor	SEP 30	MAY 9
Portland	OCT 9	MAY 1
Presque Isle	SEP 20	MAY 22

MARYLAND	FIRST	LAST
Baltimore	NOV 15	MAR 29
Frederick	NOV 1	APR 7
Salisbury	NOV 2	APR 9

MASSACHUSETTS	FIRST	LAST
Amherst	OCT 3	MAY 11
Boston	NOV 3	APR 8
New Bedford	OCT 9	MAY 5
Worcester	OCT 14	APR 29

MICHIGAN	FIRST	LAST
Cheboygan	OCT 4	MAY 18
Detroit	OCT 24	APR 27
Grand Rapids	OCT 5	MAY 14
Marquette	OCT 15	MAR 15

MINNESOTA	FIRST	LAST
Baudette	SEP 20	MAY 19
Duluth	SEP 26	MAY 19
Minneapolis	OCT 11	APR 30
Willmar	OCT 1	MAY 4

MISSISSIPPI	FIRST	LAST
Greenville	NOV 9	MAR 21
Hattiesburg	NOV 8	MAR 16
Jackson	NOV 7	MAR 22
Tupelo	NOV 4	MAR 30

MISSOURI	FIRST	LAST
Jefferson City	OCT 25	APR 14
Kansas City	OCT 18	APR 20
Poplar Bluff	NOV 1	APR 5
St. Louis	OCT 31	APR 7

(continued)

AVERAGE FROST DATES

MONTANA	FIRST	LAST	NEW YORK	FIRST	LAST
Billings	OCT 1	MAY 10	Albany	OCT 9	MAY 2
Bozeman	SEP 16	JUN 3	Buffalo	OCT 19	APR 30
Glendive	SEP 29	MAY 8	Elmira	OCT 4	MAY 16
Great Falls	SEP 25	MAY 11	Lake Placid	SEP 16	JUN 1
Helena	SEP 25	MAY 15	New York City	NOV 14	APR 3
			Syracuse	OCT 11	MAY 5
NEBRASKA	FIRST	LAST	NORTH CAROLINA	FIRST	LAST
Grand Island	OCT 8	APR 29	Asheville	OCT 26	APR 13
North Platte	SEP 25	MAY 16	Charlotte	OCT 30	APR 5
Omaha	OCT 12	APR 25	Fayetteville	NOV 7	MAR 30
Scottsbluff	SEP 27	MAY 13	Raleigh-Durham	OCT 31	APR 6
NEVADA	FIRST	LAST	NORTH DAKOTA	FIRST	LAST
Elko	SEP 12	JUN 5	Bismark	SEP 23	MAY 19
Ely	SEP 7	JUN 19	Fargo	SEP 25	MAY 15
Las Vegas	NOV 28	FEB 14	Grand Forks	SEP 26	MAY 16
Reno	OCT 21	MAR 6	Minot	SEP 27	MAY 15
NEW HAMPSHIRE	FIRST	LAST	OHIO	FIRST	LAST
Berlin	SEP 23	MAY 20	Cincinnati	OCT 20	APR 23
Concord	SEP 29	MAY 15	Cleveland	NOV 7	APR 14
Keene	SEP 26	MAY 19	Columbus	OCT 22	APR 24
Nashua	OCT 5	MAY 4	Toledo	OCT 22	APR 27
NEW JERSEY	FIRST	LAST	OKLAHOMA	FIRST	LAST
Atlantic City	NOV 14	MAR 31	Beaver	OCT 15	APR 28
Cape May	NOV 3	APR 7	Enid	OCT 27	APR 12
New Brunswick	OCT 20	APR 21	Lawton	OCT 31	APR 7
Newark	NOV 4	APR 6	Tulsa	OCT 30	APR 5
NEW MEXICO	FIRST	LAST	OREGON	FIRST	LAST
Albuquerque	OCT 29	APR 12	Baker	SEP 9	JUN 4
Carlsbad	NOV 6	MAR 27	Eugene	OCT 15	MAR 14
Santa Rosa	OCT 17	APR 27	Klamath Falls	SEP 13	JUN 16
			Portland	NOV 11	MAR 21

AVERAGE FROST DATES

PENNSYLVANIA	FIRST	LAST	UTAH	FIRST	LAST
Erie	OCT 30	MAY 2	Cedar City	OCT 7	MAY 14
Lebanon	OCT 19	APR 27	Logan	SEP 27	MAY 15
Philadelphia	NOV 5	APR 6	Salt Lake City	OCT 25	APR 16
Pittsburgh	OCT 22	APR 24			
Wilkes Barre	OCT 13	APR 30			
RHODE ISLAND	FIRST	LAST	VERMONT	FIRST	LAST
Kingston	OCT 4	MAY 8	Burlington	OCT 9	MAY 3
Newport	NOV 7	APR 14	Montpelier	OCT 4	MAY 12
Providence	OCT 24	APR 17	Rutland	SEP 21	MAY 22
SOUTH CAROLINA	FIRST	LAST	VIRGINIA	FIRST	LAST
Charleston	NOV 19	MAR 15	Charlottesville	NOV 3	APR 7
Columbia	NOV 1	APR 1	Norfolk	NOV 17	MAR 23
Florence	NOV 8	MAR 27	Richmond	OCT 31	APR 9
Greenville	NOV 13	MAR 23	Roanoke	OCT 27	APR 9
SOUTH DAKOTA	FIRST	LAST	WASHINGTON	FIRST	LAST
Hot Springs	SEP 22	MAY 22	Olympia	OCT 6	MAY 5
Pierre	SEP 28	MAY 12	Seattle	NOV 10	MAR 21
Sioux Falls	SEP 30	MAY 6	Spokane	OCT 6	MAY 2
Watertown	SEP 26	MAY 12	Vancouver	NOV 1	APR 5
TENNESSEE	FIRST	LAST	WEST VIRGINIA	FIRST	LAST
Chattanooga	NOV 3	MAR 31	Charleston	OCT 21	APR 23
Knoxville	OCT 28	APR 7	Martinsburg	OCT 17	APR 23
Memphis	NOV 4	MAR 28	Morgantown	OCT 18	MAY 1
Nashville	OCT 26	APR 10			
TEXAS	FIRST	LAST	WISCONSIN	FIRST	LAST
Amarillo	OCT 22	APR 20	Appleton	OCT 1	MAY 10
Dallas	NOV 15	MAR 15	Eau Claire	SEP 29	MAY 13
Houston	DEC 8	FEB 18	Madison	OCT 4	MAY 7
San Antonio	NOV 20	MAR 6	Milwaukee	OCT 24	APR 25
			WYOMING	FIRST	LAST
			Casper	SEP 23	MAY 16
			Cheyenne	SEP 26	MAY 20
			Gillette	SEP 19	MAY 28



More gardening tips and how-tos can be found online at [FarmersAlmanac.com](https://www.farmersalmanac.com).



VINE CROPS

These are plants that grow on a vine, such as beans, cucumbers, pumpkins, etc.



ABOVEGROUND CROPS

Crops that produce their yield above the soil, such as corn, peppers, squash, etc.



ROOT CROPS

Crops that produce their yield below the soil, such as potatoes, radishes, carrots, etc.

garden by the MOON

FORAGE CROPS

These are crops that are grown for livestock to graze on.



TRANSPLANTING

To uproot and replant a growing plant or an already well-established plant.



SEEDLINGS

A young plant, especially one that grows from a seed rather than from a cutting.

SEEDBEDS

A bed of soil cultivated for planting seeds or seedlings before being transplanted.



FAVORABLE, GOOD + BEST

These terms are all considered beneficial days for planting seeds. "Good" and "Favorable" both pretty much mean the same. However, "Best" is considered the prime, optimal days for planting.



The most favorable days for these tasks as determined by the phases of the Moon.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Plant Aboveground Crops	18, 21-23, 26, 27, 30, 31	18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27	17, 18, 21, 22, 25-27	18, 19, 22, 23, 28-30	16, 19, 20, 26-30	16, 17, 22-26	14, 19-23, 27, 28	16-19, 23, 24	12-16, 19-21, 24, 25	10-13, 17, 18, 22, 23	9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23	10-12, 15-17, 20, 21
Plant Root Crops	3, 4, 9-13, 16, 17	5-9, 13, 14	5-9, 12-14, 17	1-5, 9, 10, 13-15	1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15	2-4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 29, 30	1, 4-6, 9, 10, 13	1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 28, 29	1-3, 6, 7, 29, 30	3, 4, 9, 26, 27, 30, 31	6-8, 26, 27	3-7, 24, 25, 30, 31
Plant Flowers	3, 4, 9, 10, 30, 31	5-7, 26, 27	5, 6, 25-27	1-3, 22, 23, 28-30	19, 20, 26, 27	16, 17, 22, 23	13, 14, 19-21	9, 10, 16, 17	6, 7, 12, 13	3, 4, 9-11, 30, 31	6, 7, 26, 27	3, 4, 24, 25, 30, 31
Plant Seedbeds	3, 4, 11-13, 30, 31	8, 9, 26, 27	7-9, 25-27	4, 5, 22, 23	1, 2, 19, 20, 28-30	16, 17, 24-26	13, 14, 22, 23	9, 10, 18, 19	6, 7, 14-16	3, 4, 12, 13, 30, 31	8, 9, 26, 27	5-7, 24, 25
Transplant	3, 4, 11-13	8, 9	7-9, 17	4, 5, 13-15	1, 2, 11, 12, 15	7, 8, 12, 13	4-6, 9, 10, 13	1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 28, 29	1-3, 6, 7, 29, 30	3, 4, 26, 27, 30, 31	8, 26, 27	5-7, 24, 25
Harvest	14, 15	10-12, 15, 16	11, 15, 16	11, 12, 16	9, 10, 13, 14	9-11	7, 8, 11, 12	7, 8, 11	4, 5, 8, 9	5-8	1-5	1, 2

2026 GARDEN by the MOON

The most favorable days for planting aboveground vegetables, root and forage crops, and for doing other gardening tasks as determined by the phases of the Moon in 2026.

**JANUARY**

1, 2: Poor days for planting, seeds tend to rot in ground. **3, 4:** Plant seedbeds and flower gardens. Good days for transplanting. Most fruitful time for planting beets, carrots, onions, and other hardy root crops in the Deep South. **5-8:** A barren time. Best for killing weeds, briars, poison ivy, and other plant pests. Clear wood lots and fencerows. **9, 10:** A favorable time for sowing grains, hay, and forage crops. Plant flowers. Favorable days for planting root crops. **11-13:** Start seedbeds. Good days for transplanting. Plant carrots, turnips, onions, beets, Irish potatoes, other root crops in the South. Also good for leafy vegetables. **14, 15:** Do no planting. Good harvest days. **16-18:** First two days are good planting days for root crops where climate permits. Last day is good for planting aboveground crops such as sweet corn, beans, and peppers in southern Florida, Texas, and California. **19, 20:** A good time to kill plant pests or do plowing. Poor for planting. **21-23:** Extra good for peppers, tomatoes, peas and other vine crops. Fine for planting any aboveground crop where the climate permits. **24, 25:** Barren days, do no planting. **26, 27:** Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons, and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable. **28, 29:** Poor days for planting, seeds tend to rot in ground. **30, 31:** Plant seedbeds and flower gardens. Best planting days for aboveground crops, especially peas, beans, cucumbers, and squash where climate is suitable.

FEBRUARY

1-4: Clear ground, turn sod, kill plant pests. **5-7:** Fine for sowing grains, hay, and forage crops. Plant flowers. Favorable days for planting root crops. **8, 9:** Start seedbeds. Good days for transplanting. Plant carrots, turnips, onions, beets, Irish potatoes, and other root crops in the South. Lettuce and other leafy vegetables will do well. **10-12:** Poor planting days. Good harvest days. **13, 14:** Any root crops that can be planted now will do well. **15-17:** Barren days. Fine for clearing, plowing, fertilizing, and killing plant pests. First two days are good harvest days. **18, 19:** Extra good for cucumbers, peas, cantaloupes, and other vine crops. Set strawberry plants. Plant peppers, sweet corn, tomatoes, and other aboveground crops in southern Florida, California, and Texas. **20, 21:** Seeds planted now will grow poorly and yield little. **22, 23:** Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons, and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable. **24, 25:** Any seed planted now will tend to rot. **26, 27:** Plant seedbeds and flower gardens. Fine for planting beans, tomatoes, corn, cotton, cucumbers, peppers, melons, and other aboveground crops where climate allows. **28:** Clear ground, turn sod, kill plant pests.

2026 GARDEN by the MOON**MARCH**

1-4: A most barren period, best for killing plant pests or doing chores around the farm. **5, 6:** Fine for sowing grains, hay, and forage crops. Plant flowers. Favorable days for planting root crops. **7-9:** Start seedbeds. Good days for transplanting. Excellent time for planting root crops that can be planted now. Also good for leafy vegetables. **10, 11:** Barren days, do no planting. Second day is a good harvest day. **12-14:** Any root crops that can be planted now will do well. **15, 16:** A barren period, best suited for killing plant pests. Do plowing and cultivating. Good harvest days. **17, 18:** Good for planting cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, and other vine crops. Set strawberry plants. First day is a good day for transplanting. First day is also a favorable day for planting beets, carrots, radishes, salsify, turnips, peanuts, and other root crops. Second day is a good day for planting aboveground crops. **19, 20:** Cultivate and spray, do general farm work, but no planting. **21, 22:** Favorable for planting crops bearing yield above the ground. **23, 24:** Seeds planted now tend to rot in ground. **25-27:** Excellent for sowing seedbeds and flower gardens. Best planting days for aboveground crops, especially peas, beans, cucumbers, and squash where climate permits. **28-31:** A most barren period, best for killing plant pests or doing chores around the farm.

APRIL

1-3: A favorable time for sowing grains, hay, and fodder crops. Plant flowers. Favorable days for planting root crops. **4, 5:** Start seedbeds. Good days for transplanting. Good days for planting beets, carrots, radishes, turnips, peanuts, and other root crops. Also good for leafy vegetables. **6-8:** Neither plant nor sow on these barren days. **9, 10:** Favorable days for planting beets, carrots, turnips, radishes, onions, and other root crops. **11, 12:** Excellent time to kill weeds, briars, poison ivy, and other plant pests. Good harvest days. **13-15:** Set strawberry plants. Excellent for any vine crops, such as beans, peas, and cucumbers. Good days for transplanting. Favorable days for planting root crops. **16, 17:** Poor planting days. Break ground or cultivate. First day is a good harvest day. **18, 19:** Favorable for planting beans, corn, cotton, tomatoes, peppers, and other aboveground crops. **20, 21:** Poor days for planting, seeds tend to rot in ground. **22, 23:** Plant seedbeds and start flower gardens. Plant tomatoes, beans, peppers, corn, cotton, and other aboveground crops on these most fruitful days. **24-27:** Grub out weeds, briars, and other plant pests. **28-30:** A favorable time for sowing grains, hay, and fodder crops. Plant flowers. Plant corn, melons, squash, tomatoes, and other aboveground crops.

MAY

1, 2: Plant seedbeds. Good days for transplanting. Plant carrots, beets, onions, turnips, and other root crops. Also good for leafy vegetables. **3-5:** Seeds planted now will do poorly and yield little. **6, 7:** Plant late beets, potatoes, onions, carrots, and other root crops. **8-10:** Kill plant pests on these barren days. Last two days are good harvest days. **11, 12:** Fine for vine crops. Set strawberry plants. Good days for transplanting. Favorable time for planting late root crops. **13, 14:** Poor planting. Fine for cultivating or spraying. Good harvest days. **15, 16:** First day is a good day for transplanting. First day is also when planted root crops will yield well. Second

(continued)

2026 GARDEN by the MOON

day is favorable for planting beans, corn, cotton, tomatoes, peppers, and other aboveground crops. **17, 18:** Any seed planted now will tend to rot. **19, 20:** Plant seedbeds and flower gardens. Most favorable for corn, cotton, okra, beans, peppers, eggplant, and other aboveground crops. **21-25:** A barren period. Favorable for killing plant pests, cultivating, or taking a short vacation. **26, 27:** Favorable time for sowing hay, fodder crops, and grains. Plant flowers. Excellent time for planting corn, beans, peppers, and other aboveground crops. **28-30:** Plant seedbeds. Excellent for planting aboveground crops, and planting leafy vegetables. **31:** Seeds planted now will do poorly and yield little.

JUNE

1: Poor planting day, cut hay or do general farm work. **2-4:** Plant late beets, potatoes, onions, carrots, and other root crops. **5, 6:** Poor days for planting. Kill plant pests, spray, fertilize, do general farm work. **7, 8:** Set strawberry plants. Excellent for any vine crops such as beans, peas, and cucumbers. Good days for transplanting. Favorable time for planting late root crops. **9-11:** Cut hay or do plowing on these barren days. Good harvest days. **12, 13:** Good days for transplanting. Good days for planting root crops. **14, 15:** Seeds planted now tend to rot in ground. **16, 17:** Excellent for sowing seedbeds and flower gardens. Plant tomatoes, beans, peppers, corn, cotton, and other aboveground crops on these most fruitful days. **18-21:** Poor period for planting. Kill plant pests, clear fencerows, or clear land. **22, 23:** Sow grains and forage crops. Plant flowers. Favorable for planting peas, beans, tomatoes, and other fall crops bearing aboveground. **24-26:** Plant seedbeds. Extra good for planting fall lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, and other leafy vegetables. All aboveground crops planted now will do well. **27, 28:** Poor planting days, cut hay or do general farm work. **29, 30:** Plant late beets, potatoes, onions, carrots, and other root crops.

JULY

1: Good day for planting beets, carrots, salsify, Irish potatoes, and other root crops. **2, 3:** Good days for killing weeds, briars, and other plant pests. Poor for planting. **4-6:** Set strawberry plants. Good days for transplanting. Good days for planting beets, carrots, radishes, salsify, turnips, peanuts, and other root crops. Also good for vine crops. **7, 8:** A barren period. Good harvest days. **9, 10:** Good days for transplanting. Root crops that can be planted now will yield well. **11, 12:** Poor days for planting, seeds tend to rot in ground. Good harvest days. **13, 14:** Plant seedbeds and flower gardens. First day is a good day for transplanting. First day is also a most fruitful day for planting root crops. Second day is most favorable for corn, cotton, okra, beans, peppers, eggplant, and other aboveground crops. **15-18:** A most barren period. Kill plant pests and do general farm work. **19-21:** Sow grains and forage crops. Plant flowers. Favorable for planting peas, beans, tomatoes, and other fall crops bearing aboveground. **22, 23:** Start seedbeds. Extra good for fall cabbage, lettuce, cauliflower, mustard greens, and other leafy vegetables. Good for any aboveground crop that can be planted now. **24-26:** Barren days, neither plant nor sow. **27, 28:** Any aboveground crops that can be planted now will do well. **29-31:** Good days for killing weeds, briars, and other plant pests. Poor for planting.

2026 GARDEN by the MOON**AUGUST**

1, 2: Excellent for any vine crops such as beans, peas, and cucumbers. Good days for transplanting. Favorable days for planting root crops. **3, 4:** Neither plant nor sow on these barren days. **5, 6:** Good days for transplanting. Root crops that can be planted now will yield well. **7, 8:** Any seed planted now will tend to rot. Good harvest days. **9, 10:** Plant seedbeds and flower gardens. Good days for transplanting. Most favorable days for planting beets, onions, turnips, and other root crops. **11-15:** Best for killing weeds, briars, poison ivy, and other plant pests. Clear wood lots and fencerows. First day is a good harvest day. **16, 17:** Excellent for sowing grains, winter wheat, oats, and rye. Plant flowers. Good days for planting aboveground crops. **18, 19:** Plant seedbeds. Plant peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers, and other aboveground crops in southern Florida, California, and Texas. Extra good for leafy vegetables. **20-22:** Cut winter wood, do clearing and plowing, but no planting. **23, 24:** A good time to plant aboveground crops. **25-27:** Barren days, fine for killing plant pests. **28, 29:** Excellent for any vine crops such as beans, peas, and cucumbers. Good days for transplanting. Favorable days for planting root crops. **30, 31:** Neither plant nor sow on these barren days.

SEPTEMBER

1-3: Good days for transplanting. Good days for planting root crops. **4, 5:** Seeds planted now tend to rot in ground. Good harvest days. **6, 7:** Plant seedbeds and flower gardens. Good days for transplanting. Fine planting days for fall potatoes, turnips, onions, carrots, beets, and other root crops. **8-11:** Clear ground, turn sod, or kill plant pests. First two days are good harvest days. **12, 13:** Excellent for sowing grains, hay, and forage crops. Plant flowers. Good days for planting peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers, and other aboveground crops in southern Florida, Texas, and California. **14-16:** Start seedbeds. Excellent time for planting aboveground crops that can be planted now, including leafy vegetables that will do well. **17, 18:** Clear fencerows, wood lots, and fields, but do no planting. **19-21:** Any aboveground crops that can be planted now will do well. **22, 23:** Poor planting days. Kill plant pests. **24, 25:** Extra good for vine crops. Favorable days for planting aboveground crops. **26-28:** A poor time to plant. **29, 30:** Good days for transplanting. Good days for planting root crops.

OCTOBER

1, 2: Poor days for planting, seeds tend to rot in ground. **3, 4:** Start seedbeds and flower gardens. Good days for transplanting. Best planting days for fall potatoes, turnips, onions, carrots, beets, and other root crops where climate is suitable. **5-8:** A most barren period, best for killing plant pests or doing chores around the farm. Good harvest days. **9-11:** Fine for sowing grains, hay, and forage crops. Plant flowers. First day is a favorable day for planting root crops. Last two days are favorable days for planting beans, peas, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and other aboveground crops in southern Florida, Texas, and California. **12, 13:** Start seedbeds. Favorable days for planting aboveground crops, and leafy vegetables such as lettuce, cabbage, kale, and celery where climate is suitable. **14-16:** Do clearing and plowing, but no planting. **17, 18:** Plant tomatoes, peas, beans, and other aboveground crops, indoors in the North

(continued)

2026 GARDEN by the MOON

and outdoors in lower South. **19-21:** Poor planting days. Kill poison ivy, weeds, clear land, but no planting. **22, 23:** Extra good for vine crops. Favorable days for planting aboveground crops where climate is suitable. **24, 25:** Barren days, do no planting. **26, 27:** Good days for transplanting. Good days for planting beets, carrots, onions, turnips, and other hardy root crops where climate is suitable. **28, 29:** Poor days for planting, seeds tend to rot in ground. **30, 31:** Start seedbeds and flower gardens. Good days for transplanting. Best planting days for fall potatoes, turnips, onions, carrots, beets, and other root crops where climate is suitable.

NOVEMBER

1-5: Grub out weeds, briars, and other plant pests. Good harvest days. **6, 7:** Favorable time for sowing grains, hay, and fodder crops. Plant flowers. Favorable days for planting root crops. **8, 9:** Start seedbeds. First day is a good day for transplanting. First day is also when to plant carrots, beets, onions, turnips, Irish potatoes, and other root crops in the South. Second day is good for planting cabbage, celery, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, collards, and other leafy vegetables in southern Florida, Texas, and California. **10-12:** Poor planting days. **13, 14:** Good days for planting peas, squash, corn, tomatoes, and other aboveground crops in southern Florida, Texas, and California. **15-17:** A good time to kill plant pests or do plowing. Poor for planting. **18, 19:** Extra good for vine crops. Favorable days for planting aboveground crops where climate allows. **20, 21:** Seeds planted now will grow poorly and yield little. **22, 23:** Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons, and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable. **24, 25:** Any seed planted now will tend to rot. **26, 27:** Start seedbeds and flower gardens. Good days for transplanting. Best planting days for fall potatoes, turnips, onions, carrots, beets, and other root crops where climate is suitable. **28-30:** Grub out weeds, briars, and other plant pests.

DECEMBER

1, 2: A barren period. Favorable for killing plant pests, cultivating, or taking a short vacation. Good harvest days. **3, 4:** Plant flowers. Fine for sowing hay, fodder crops, and grains. Favorable days for planting root crops. **5-7:** Start seedbeds. Good days for transplanting. Plant carrots, beets, onions, turnips, Irish potatoes, and other root crops in the South. **8, 9:** Do no planting. **10-12:** Plant sweet corn, beans, peppers, and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable. **13, 14:** Barren days. Fine for clearing, plowing, fertilizing, and killing plant pests. **15-17:** Extra good for cucumbers, peas, cantaloupes, and other vine crops. Plant peppers, sweet corn, tomatoes, and other aboveground crops in southern Florida, California, and Texas. **18, 19:** A barren period. **20, 21:** Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons, and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable. **22, 23:** Seeds planted now tend to rot in ground. **24, 25:** Start seedbeds and flower gardens. Good days for transplanting. Most favorable days for planting beets, onions, turnips, and other root crops where climate allows. **26-29:** A barren period. Favorable for killing plant pests, cultivating, or taking a short vacation. **30, 31:** Plant flowers. Fine for sowing hay, fodder crops, and grains. Favorable days for planting root crops.

from GARDEN
to FREEZER

Garden-fresh vegetables that will be added to casseroles or made into sauces later can be frozen for future convenience. While many recipes suggest blanching, which involves briefly boiling vegetables and then immediately cooling with ice water, the following fresh-from-the-garden vegetables can be frozen without this step.



CHERRY TOMATOES: Wash and dry them thoroughly and freeze whole on a baking sheet. Once frozen solid, transfer to freezer bags. The skins might split during freezing, but they'll be perfect for cooking.

Storage time: Up to 6 months

Best uses after thawing: Toss them straight into pasta sauces, soups, or stews. The split skins actually help them break down faster while cooking.

BELL PEPPERS: Raw bell peppers are freezing superstars. Just slice them up, remove the seeds, and spread them onto a baking sheet. Pop them in the freezer for two hours (this keeps them from clumping together), then transfer to freezer bags. Remove as much air as possible before sealing them up.

Storage time: Up to 8 months

Best uses after thawing: Perfect for stir-fries, fajitas, and soups. They'll be softer than fresh, so don't plan on using them in salads.



ONIONS: Dice or slice them however you usually use them, freeze on a tray, then transfer to bags. Pro tip: Freeze in small portions so you can grab just what you need.

Storage time: Up to 8 months

Best uses after thawing: Perfect for cooking—toss them straight into the pan. They won't work raw in salads, but they're great in any cooked dish.

ZUCCHINI: Try grating your zucchini first, then freeze in measured portions (like one-cup amounts). Squeeze out excess moisture before freezing, spread on a tray, freeze, then bag it up.

Storage time: Up to 6 months

Best uses after thawing: Perfect for zucchini bread, muffins, or adding to soups. Drain off any excess liquid after thawing.



SMART, FUN, AND HEALTHY Kid Foods

Compiled by *Farmers' Almanac* Staff

The food your kids eat doesn't just fill their bellies—it powers their growing brains too. Here are some tips on how to turn everyday meals into brain-boosting adventures that your kids may actually want to eat.

SMART SWAPS

Upgrading Kid Favorites

Remember those old standbys your kids love?

Here's how to give them a brain-boosting makeover!



instead of REGULAR MAC & CHEESE:

Hidden Genius Mac
Mix in chopped cooked cauliflower florets with the cheese sauce

Smart Shepherd's Pie
Top with sweet potato instead of regular potatoes

INSTEAD OF PLAIN PB&J:



MONKEY SANDWICH

Layer peanut butter with banana slices on whole grain bread

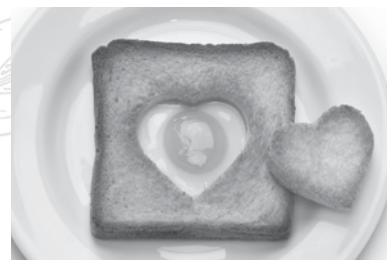
BERRY BITES SANDWICH

Add fresh strawberries or blueberries to almond butter for a sweet twist

BANANA WHO-WHO

Use sliced bananas as the "bread," spreading your nut butter of choice in between the slices

Note: Check the labels. Many nut butters and jellies have added sugar. Look for sugar-free options, and then add your own sweetener if necessary (honey).



instead of PLAIN EGGS:

Smart Egg Muffins

Bite-sized egg "muffins" can be a great way to pop some protein (and hide some vegetables) into your kids' stomachs before school.

One-Eyed Jack

A fun name for the traditional dish with an egg in the middle of (whole wheat) toast.

instead of SUGARY CEREAL:

Brain Berry Bowl

Warm oatmeal topped with mixed berries and a drizzle of honey

Greek Yogurt Parfait

Kids may think it's dessert, but it's a protein-powered breakfast—simply add yogurt and fresh fruit to a parfait cup.



POWER FOODS *for* DINNER?

THINK LEAN BEEF

Smart Sliders

Mini burgers with hidden vegetables

Brainy Meatballs

Lean beef meatballs with quinoa

FOR PARENTS

Fun Food Tips

*Create silly shapes
with healthy foods*

*Use cookie cutters to make
sandwiches more exciting*



*Let kids help create new
recipes that include healthy
ingredients*

*Let kids help name their
brain power meals*

Remember: Every child is different, so always check with your pediatrician about specific dietary needs and allergies. The goal isn't perfection; it's making healthy eating fun and sustainable for your family.

Keep a victory list of new foods your kids try and enjoy. It's amazing how a little positive reinforcement can turn a picky eater into a food explorer!

why ROOSTERS on WEATHERVANES?

By Amber Kanuckel and FA Staff

No matter where you live or where you've traveled, a weathervane adorned with a rooster is a common sight. But why a rooster? The answer to that question dates back thousands of years.

Early weathervanes were nothing like they are today. People tied bits of cloth or string to their roofs so they could see which way the wind was blowing. Eventually, these gave way to banners, which is where we get the word "vane" —Old English for "flag" or "banner." The first known weathervane wasn't a rooster, but a bronze sea god named Triton, who twirled above Athens' Tower of the Winds in the first century B.C.



OLDEST WEATHERVANE

One of the oldest surviving examples is the Gallo di Ramperto, a copper rooster from around 820–830 A.D., now in Brescia, Italy. These days, you can spot weathervanes—usually with roosters, sometimes with ships, horses, or other creatures—all over the world.



ST. PETER & THE ROOSTER

Weathervanes soon found their way onto churches across Europe. Many featured crosses or saints, especially when topping cathedrals. But the rooster's rise is tied to a story from the Bible. After the Last Supper, Jesus told Peter he would deny him three times before the rooster crowed. Because of this, the rooster became linked with St. Peter—a symbol of both warning and new beginnings.

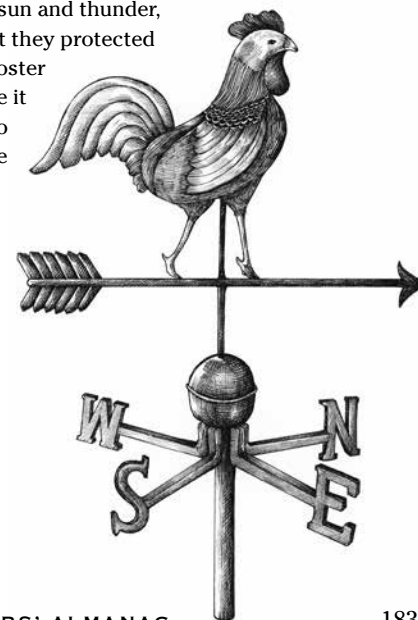
Around the late 6th or early 7th century, Pope Gregory I declared the rooster a fitting emblem for Christianity, cementing its status. By the 9th century, Pope Nicholas I took it further, decreeing that every church should display a rooster on its steeple as a reminder of Peter's denial. The tradition stuck, and as Europeans migrated to other lands, they brought their rooster-topped vanes with them.

ROOSTER LORE

In medieval Europe, people believed roosters could ward off evil spirits. Some even thought a rooster's crow could chase away the devil himself. Other myths associated the rooster with sun and thunder, which further strengthened the belief that they protected against bad things. In Scandinavia, the rooster was seen as a symbol of vigilance because it always crows at dawn, so it made sense to put it somewhere high up where everyone could see it.

HOW TO READ A WEATHERVANE

Reading a weathervane is simple: the arrow (often with a rooster on top) spins to point into the wind, while the compass points (N, S, E, W) stay put. If the rooster faces north, the wind's coming from the north—what meteorologists call a "north wind." It's a centuries-old system that still tells a simple story: which way the wind blows.



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2026

JANUARY

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