

THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

"I long for the bulbs to arrive, for the early autumn chores are melancholy, but the planting of bulbs is the work of hope and always thrilling."

~ May Sarton



Tree of the Month – Maple

There are over 120 species of maple trees and shrubs in a wide array of shapes, sizes, and leaf formation. Maples thrive in temperate climates around the world, including in the United States and Canada. The tree is so important to Canadian culture that the maple leaf is on the Canadian flag and the country's coat of arms. These gorgeous trees are a popular choice for backyards, parks, and city streets, as they provide both beauty and shade. While they are stunning year-round, maple trees are particularly striking during autumn. They put on vibrant displays as their



leaves change color and then drop to blanket the ground in swaths of red, yellow, orange, and brown. Maples are also prized for the delicious maple syrup some varieties provide. Vermont is known for their outstanding maple syrup. Other types of maples yield hard, dense wood that's used for furniture and other building projects.

Special Days

Rosh Hashanah
October 2–4

World Smile Day
October 4

Leif Erikson Day
October 9

Yom Kippur
October 11–12

National Sports Day
October 16

World Pasta Day
October 25

Halloween
October 31

Flower – Calendula



The calendula, commonly referred to as the pot marigold, is a hardy flowering plant that is native to the Mediterranean region but thrives in many climates. Calendula has medicinal uses due to its anti-inflammatory properties. Its petals can be eaten and have been used to color cheeses. The origin of this flower's name is unknown, but some speculate that its common name, *marigold*, refers to the Virgin Mary, as early Christians placed these flowers near statues of her in remembrance.

Birthstone – Opal



October's birthstone is the beautiful opal. Opals are primarily found in Australia, Eastern Europe, and South America. Because opals diffract light, they come in almost every color imaginable, and they appear milky or opaque. Throughout the ages, the opal has been associated with vision. In the 14th century, the gemstone was called the *opthalmius*, or "eye stone," as it was believed to strengthen one's eyesight. Ancient Greeks thought an opal honored its wearer with the gift of foresight and prophecy.

The Perfect Pretzels

Harvest festivals with a Germanic tradition are called Oktoberfests, fun celebrations that often include big, soft pretzels. These fall festivities honor the bounty of the autumn season. They are typically held on October weekends in communities across the United States and other parts of the world. Oktoberfests are renowned for their beer halls, music, and other entertainment. But also they are hard to beat for the delicious German food that's typically served—sausages, wienerschnitzel, spätzle, sauerkraut, German potato salad, and most iconic of all,

Bavarian pretzels. Interestingly, the first pretzel is thought to date back to AD 610, when an Italian monk created the twisted shape of soft bread to symbolize hands crossed in prayer across the chest. The name *pretzel* comes from the Latin word *bracellae*, which means "little arms." *Bracellae* became *bretzel* in German until it morphed into today's term, *pretzel*. Pretzels are also associated with love. In the 1600s, Swiss noblemen began the tradition of breaking a pretzel with their brides on their wedding day—a possible origin of the idiom *tying the knot*.



October's Party

October gave a party;
The leaves by
hundreds came—
The Chestnuts, Oaks,
and Maples,
And leaves of every name.

~ George Cooper

October Zodiacs

Libra (The Scales)
October 1–22

Scorpio (The Scorpion)
October 23–31

October is the 10th month of the year and is one of seven months with 31 days, along with January, March, May, July, August, and December. October's name, containing the Latin word *octo*, refers to its ancient place as the eighth month in the Roman calendar, before January and February were added to fill out the winter period. October is usually considered to be the height of autumn. The Slavic people call it "yellow month," referring to the fading colors of the leaves.

The Sweet Sounds of Harmony

Listen to your favorite tunes on Sunday, October 1, in honor of International Music Day. This celebration of music around the world seeks to promote peace, understanding, and harmony. Music cultivates calm, joy, and connection, so it makes sense that sharing the love of music promotes cross-cultural peace, understanding, and friendship as well.

What's Lucky in October?

Lucky Color: Yellow
Lucky Animal: Crow
Lucky Letters: W and E
Lucky Day: Tuesday
Lucky Plant: Squash



October Birthdays

Mahatma Gandhi (activist) – October 2, 1869
Gwen Stefani (singer) – October 3, 1969
Jesse Jackson (activist) – October 8, 1941
Tanya Tucker (singer) – October 10, 1958
Luciano Pavarotti (singer) – October 12, 1935
Mary Kingsley (explorer) – October 13, 1862
e. e. cummings (poet) – October 14, 1894
Ziggy Marley (musician) – October 17, 1968
Fannie Hurst (novelist) – October 18, 1889
Evander Holyfield (boxer) – October 19, 1962
Johnny Carson (TV host) – October 23, 1925
Minnie Pearl (comedian) – October 25, 1912
Sylvia Plath (writer) – October 27, 1932
Bill Gates (tech mogul) – October 28, 1955