

The Exedra Monthly Almanac

PUBLISHED FOR THE HILLS & GARDENS OF PIEDMONT, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER · 2026

Lat. 37° 49' 27" N · Long. 122° 13' 53" W · Elevation ~331 ft · Pacific Daylight Time (UTC-7)

PIEDMONT EXEDRA NEWS
www.PiedmontExedra.com

General Prognostication for the Month

Golden & Mild, Offshore Winds, First Rains Late · Highs 68-78°F · Lows 50-55°F · Avg. Rainfall ~1.2 in.

* SUN TIMES

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight
1	7:05a	6:52p	11h 47m
2	7:06a	6:50p	11h 44m
3★	7:07a	6:49p	11h 42m
4S	7:07a	6:47p	11h 40m
5	7:08a	6:46p	11h 37m
6	7:09a	6:44p	11h 35m
7	7:10a	6:43p	11h 32m
8	7:11a	6:41p	11h 30m
9	7:12a	6:40p	11h 28m
10★	7:13a	6:38p	11h 25m
11	7:14a	6:37p	11h 23m
12	7:15a	6:35p	11h 21m
13	7:16a	6:34p	11h 18m
14	7:17a	6:33p	11h 16m
15	7:18a	6:31p	11h 14m
16	7:19a	6:30p	11h 11m
17	7:20a	6:28p	11h 09m
18★	7:20a	6:27p	11h 07m
19	7:21a	6:26p	11h 04m
20	7:22a	6:24p	11h 02m
21	7:23a	6:23p	11h 00m
22	7:24a	6:22p	10h 57m
23	7:25a	6:20p	10h 55m
24	7:26a	6:19p	10h 53m
25★	7:27a	6:18p	10h 51m
26	7:28a	6:17p	10h 48m
27	7:29a	6:16p	10h 46m
28	7:30a	6:14p	10h 44m
29	7:31a	6:13p	10h 42m
30	7:33a	6:12p	10h 40m
31	7:34a	6:11p	10h 37m

★ = lunar phase day S = Saturn opposition

◆ CELESTIAL EVENTS

OCT 4 — SATURN AT OPPOSITION

At 5:13 am PDT Saturn stands directly opposite the sun, rising at dusk and setting at dawn. Look east after dark for a steady golden point shining at magnitude 0.2 in Cetus, just below Pisces; even a small telescope shows its rings, tipped only about 7° toward us. Before dawn on the 6th, a thin crescent Moon hangs about 2° from brilliant Jupiter in Leo.

OCT 25 — HUNTER'S MOON & ORIONIDS

The first Full Moon after the Harvest Moon peaks at 9:12 pm PDT and, like its predecessor, rises close to sunset on several evenings running — once a gift to hunters tracking game by moonlight. Earlier that week the Orionid meteors peak on the night of the 21st-22nd; wait until the Moon sets around 3:30 am for the darkest skies before dawn.

☾ MOON PHASES

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				☾ 1	☾ 2	☾ 3
☾ 4	☾ 5	☾ 6	☾ 7	☾ 8	☾ 9	☾ 10
☾ 11	☾ 12	☾ 13	☾ 14	☾ 15	☾ 16	☾ 17
☾ 18	☾ 19	☾ 20	☾ 21	☾ 22	☾ 23	☾ 24
☾ 25	☾ 26	☾ 27	☾ 28	☾ 29	☾ 30	☾ 31

☾ Last Qtr Oct 3, 6:25am · ☾ New Oct 10, 8:50am
☾ First Qtr Oct 18, 9:13am · ☾ Full (Hunter's) Oct 25, 9:12pm

🌱 THE GARDENER'S CALENDAR

✂️ SOW & PLANT

- Plant garlic cloves and shallots now that the soil has cooled; set cloves pointed-end up, about 2 in. deep.
- Set out spring bulbs — daffodils, ranunculus & anemones; chill tulips in the fridge for 6 weeks before planting.
- Direct-sow sweet peas, poppies & native wildflower mixes ahead of the first rains.
- Keep sowing peas, fava beans, spinach, lettuces, radishes & carrots for winter harvest.
- Plant California natives and perennials now — winter rains will settle their roots for you.

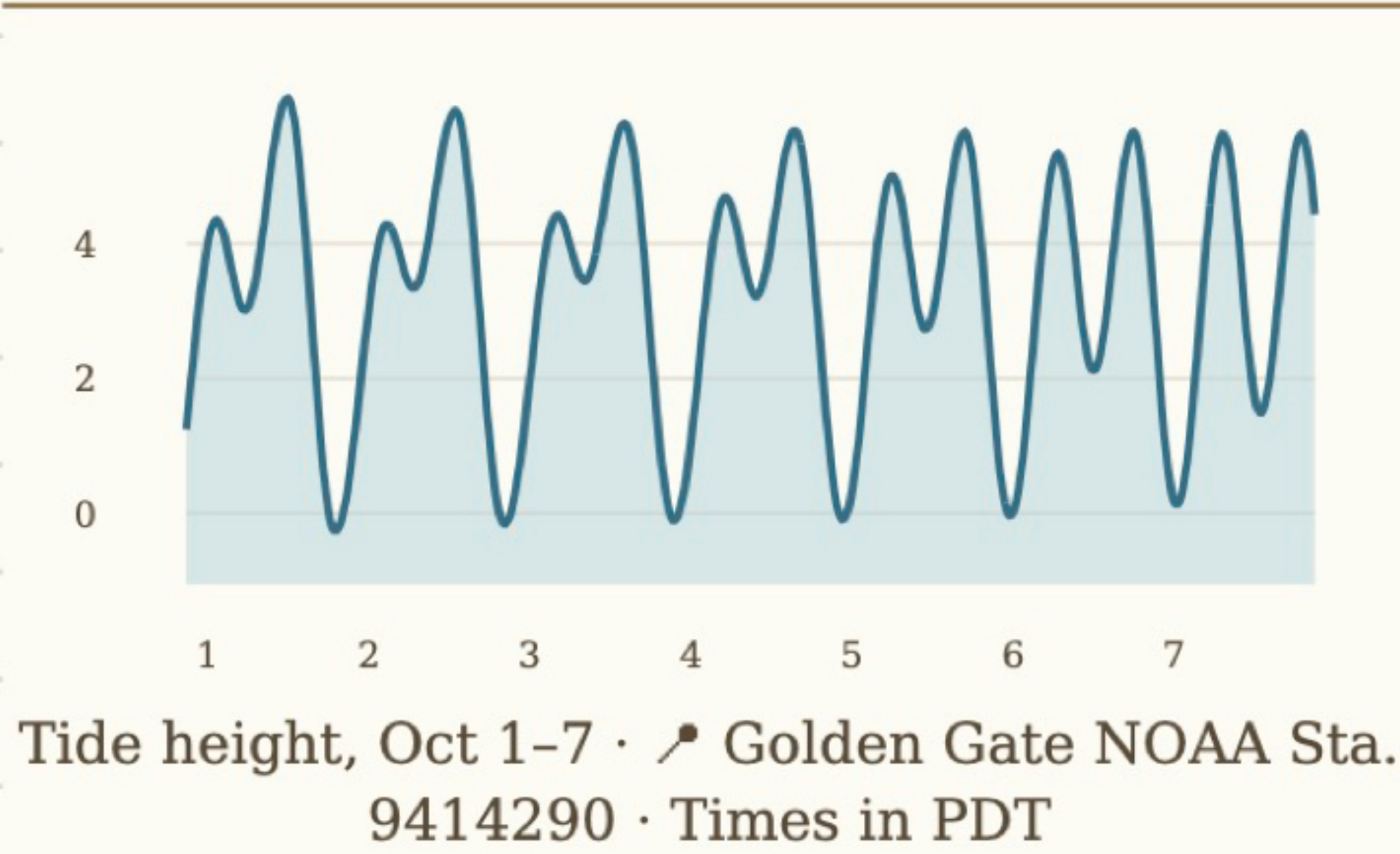
✂️ PRUNE & TEND

- Cut back spent perennials and tired summer annuals; leave seed heads on coneflowers & salvias for the finches.
- Lift and divide bearded iris, daylilies & agapanthus while the soil is still warm.
- Rake up fallen leaves and shred them for the compost pile or next year's leaf mold.
- Hold off on hard pruning of roses and fruit trees until the dormant season in January.

💧 WATER & FEED

- Keep deep-watering trees and shrubs every 2 weeks until the first soaking rain, then cut irrigation timers back.
- Feed newly planted winter vegetables with a light, balanced organic fertilizer.
- Spread 2-3 in. of mulch around new plantings to hold moisture as the rains begin.

🌊 TIDAL CHART — SAN FRANCISCO BAY



* AUTUMN SETTLES IN

October brings Piedmont its clearest, most golden weather of the year, even as the hills keep losing daylight — about 70 minutes over the month, with sunrise slipping from 7:05 a.m. to 7:34 a.m. and sunset retreating from 6:52 p.m. to 6:11 p.m. Warm offshore days can still push toward 80°, but the first Pacific storms usually reach the ridgeline late in the month, and clocks fall back on Sunday, November 1.

🦋 THE BIRDWATCHER'S NOTEBOOK — OCTOBER IN PIEDMONT

↑ WINTER VISITORS ARRIVE

- Golden-crowned & White-crowned Sparrow** — return in force to garden edges and brushy slopes; listen for the golden-crown's plaintive three-note song.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet & Yellow-rumped Warbler** — the season's first winter flocks flit restlessly through oaks and street trees.
- Hermit Thrush & Fox Sparrow** — shy winter residents settle into shady understory and leaf litter.
- Bufflehead, Scaup & Eared Grebe** — wintering waterbirds begin arriving on Lake Merritt and the Bay by month's end.
- Cedar Waxwing & American Robin** — roving flocks descend on toyon and pyracantha as berries ripen late in the month.

🏠 YEAR-ROUND NEIGHBORS

- Acorn Woodpecker** — granary trees buzz as family groups store the fresh acorn crop.
- California Scrub-Jay & Steller's Jay** — acorn caching peaks; jays bury thousands of nuts across the hills.
- Oak Titmouse, Bushtit & Chestnut-backed Chickadee** — mixed flocks swell as kinglets and warblers join in.
- Anna's Hummingbird** — males sharpen territory defense ahead of winter nesting; keep feeders clean and filled.
- Red-shouldered & Cooper's Hawk** — vocal and conspicuous as they hunt garden edges and feeders.

🦋 BEST VIEWING SPOTS & TIPS

- Lake Merritt** — wintering ducks, grebes & gulls return; the island refuge fills steadily through the month.
- Piedmont Park** — sparrows scratch along the creek trail while kinglets and chickadees work the oaks overhead.
- Go a little later** — by 7:30-8:30 a.m. as sunrise slides past 7:00; flocks are busiest in the first hours of light.
- Plant for birds** — October is ideal for setting out toyon, coffeeberry & native sages for winter food and cover.

Moon phase times in PDT

Sunrise/sunset, moon phase & planetary event times computed from standard astronomical algorithms for Piedmont's coordinates, cross-checked against published sunrise tables for San Francisco · Weather from NOAA climatological averages for the East Bay hills

Bird data adapted from Cornell Lab of Ornithology eBird regional patterns · Gardening guidance adapted for USDA Zone 9b / Sunset Zone 17

Tide times from published predictions for Golden Gate, San Francisco Bay (NOAA Sta. 9414290); consult NOAA Tides & Currents for official predictions.