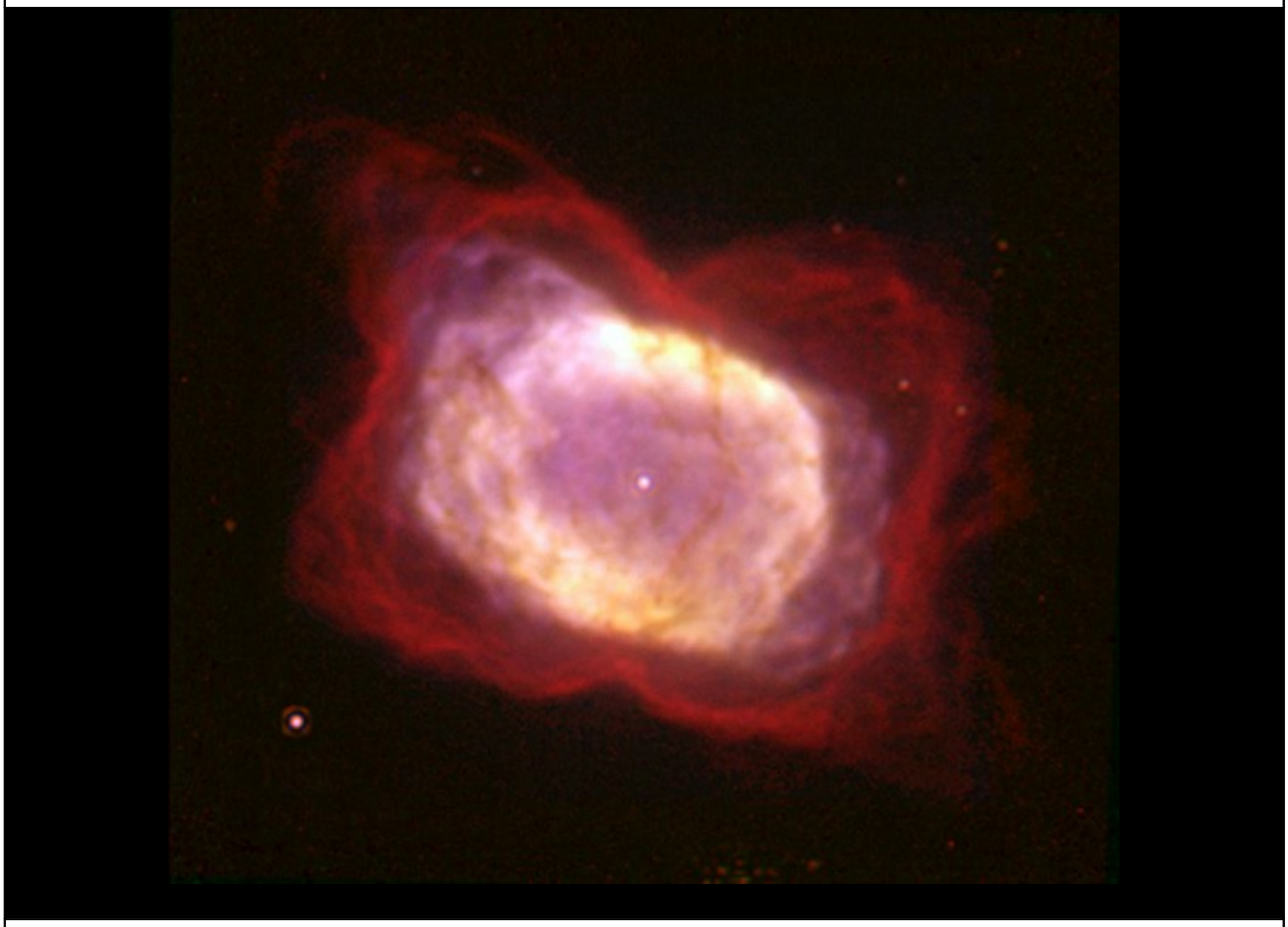
2107

Gummy Bear Nebula



Quick Facts:

Distance: 3,000 light-years **Size: 0.2 light-years**

Constellation: Cygnus

A small, bright planetary nebula. Shaped like a stubby rectangle when seen in a small telescope, it's in the earliest stages of development for this type of object and the expanding cloud of gas is probably less than 1,000 years old. Rare helium hydride ions were detected here for the first time outside of a laboratory (2019). Also called NGC 7027.

Find it: Sweep 2 degrees due south of 4th magnitude Xi Cygni to find a small bright blue object. GOTO: NGC.

Image by NASA/Hubble/ESA. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.