



# GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community  
Garden Newsletter**

**August 2018**



## Crops coming in

This is the time of year when vegetable garden plants have just about finished growing and they move into the producing stage. Other than the early lettuce and other spring crops, the first major crop we're seeing is the summer squash, mostly zucchini and yellow crook neck. A few tomatoes here and there are turning red and beans are starting to fill out. It appears we may have a good year for onions judging by the growth they've made so far.

Our beekeeper, Judy, reports that the new Russian strain of honeybees is living up to their reputation as being hardy and hard-working.

We've doubled our vineyard area this year. It took a fair amount of preparation that began last fall but resulted in a fine spot for our new vines.

We also obtained a new rear-tine rotary tiller that will help us maintain the grapevines, garden borders, paths and other areas.

It takes a lot of work to keep St. Mary Organic Farm going. We're currently accepting applications for volunteers to work in the various garden areas. Contact me at [rdluzen@ihmsisters.org](mailto:rdluzen@ihmsisters.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

All the best gardening to you,

**Bob**

Bob Dluzen  
Community Garden Coordinator



Onions respond well to our fertile soil and even moisture conditions provided by our drip irrigation system. Each year, more and more gardeners grow onions.



Tomatoes are the most popular crop in the St. Mary Organic Farm garden. Nearly every garden plot has tomatoes growing in it.

**Bring forth fruit with patience.**

**Luke 8:15**



## Expanded grape area



The ideal way to plant any perennial crop is to thoroughly prepare the planting area well before any holes are dug. That holds true for any permanent crop, including grapes. Weeds and heavy grass growth will quickly take over a newly planted vineyard, so it's important to try to reduce problem plants before planting vines.

In commercial vineyards, herbicides are used to eradicate weeds. Because we are an organic farm, we like to work with nature to accomplish the same result. That takes advance planning plus some extra time and labor.

We began expanding our grape area last fall by tilling under the existing lawn grass. The sod was quite dense in that spot, so we had to use the large tractor-mounted tiller to break it up. Two passes of the tiller at right angles to each other were needed to smooth out the new spot. There were still be plenty of clumps of sod afterward, but they were small enough to allow seeds to be planted.

Winter rye seed was broadcast over the newly tilled area to improve the soil. Once rye becomes established, it will out-compete turf grass and weeds, especially if they were weakened by tilling. Rye roots also release a natural weed killer into the soil that suppresses the growth of unwanted plants.

This spring, the rye continued growing. When the rye was nearly mature, it was mowed and tilled into the soil. The rye top growth and roots added valuable organic matter to the existing soil. That left a nearly weed-free surface for our new grapevines. This is the same process we use in the vegetable garden area to improve the soil there.

The soil was left to rest for a few weeks. That invited many annual weed seeds to germinate, but they were easily controlled by lightly tilling once more.

The next stage was installing the trellis. The area was measured and spots for the trellis posts were marked out. We increased the distance between the rows to allow for easier access for maintenance and harvesting but kept the distance between the plants in the row the same as the old grapes.

Holes for the posts were dug by Paul Simonton and his crew using a post hole auguring machine. The crew set the posts then back-filled



the holes with clean sand to reduce the possibility of frost heaving the posts out of the soil. Finally, the crew bore holes into the posts to allow nine galvanized support wires to be strung the length of the rows.

## August 2018 twilight

Date	Morning twilight begins EDT	Evening twilight ends EDT
Aug. 1	5:56	9:23
2	5:57	9:22
3	5:58	9:21
4	5:59	9:19
5	6:00	9:18
6	6:01	9:17
7	6:03	9:15
8	6:04	9:14
9	6:05	9:13
10	6:06	9:11
11	6:07	9:10
12	6:08	9:08
13	6:09	9:07
14	6:10	9:05
15	6:12	9:04
16	6:13	9:02
17	6:14	9:01
18	6:15	8:59
19	6:16	8:57
20	6:17	8:56
21	6:18	8:54
22	6:19	8:53
23	6:21	8:51
24	6:22	8:49
25	6:23	8:48
26	6:24	8:46
27	6:25	8:44
28	6:26	8:43
29	6:27	8:41
30	6:28	8:39
31	6:29	8:37

## August 2018 sunrise and sunset

Date	Sunrise EDT	Sunset
Aug. 1	6:27	8:52
2	6:28	8:51
3	6:29	8:50
4	6:30	8:48
5	6:31	8:47
6	6:32	8:46
7	6:33	8:45
8	6:34	8:43
9	6:35	8:42
10	6:37	8:41
11	6:38	8:39
12	6:39	8:38
13	6:40	8:37
14	6:41	8:35
15	6:42	8:34
16	6:43	8:32
17	6:44	8:31
18	6:45	8:29
19	6:46	8:28
20	6:47	8:26
21	6:48	8:25
22	6:49	8:23
23	6:50	8:22
24	6:51	8:20
25	6:52	8:18
26	6:53	8:17
27	6:54	8:15
28	6:55	8:14
29	6:56	8:12
30	6:57	8:10
31	6:58	8:09

## August normal temperatures 1980-present

Date	Normal High temp. °F	Normal Low temp. °F
Aug. 1	83	64
2	83	64
3	83	64
4	83	64
5	83	64
6	82	64
7	82	64
8	82	64
9	82	63
10	82	63
11	82	63
12	82	63
13	82	63
14	82	63
15	82	63
16	82	63
17	82	63
18	81	63
19	81	63
20	81	63
21	81	62
22	81	62
23	81	62
24	81	62
25	81	62
26	80	62
27	80	61
28	80	61
29	80	61
30	80	61
31	79	60

## August record temperatures 1874-present

Date	Record High °F	Year	Record Low °F	Year
Aug. 1	97	2006	48	1971
2	99	1988	48	1976
3	96	1988	46	1976
4	98	1944	47	1894
5	96	1881	45	1972
6	104	1918	49	1971
7	100	1918	47	1903
8	99	2001	47	1989
9	96	1891	46	1884
10	98	1944	45	1972
11	99	1944	47	1967
12	99	1881	46	1967
13	96	1944	47	1967
14	99	1944	48	1964
15	97	1965	46	1979
16	95	1936	43	1979
17	100	1988	46	1981
18	95	1947	46	1981
19	95	1947	44	1977
20	96	1916	48	1977
21	100	1955	46	1876
22	101	1936	45	1923
23	96	1936	45	1875
24	95	1948	43	1971
25	98	1948	48	1942
26	96	1953	47	1984
27	98	1948	47	1915
28	97	1948	43	1986
29	96	1953	38	1982
30	97	1953	41	1976
31	97	1953	46	1935

## August precipitation

Date	Greatest Precipitation Inches	Year
Aug. 1	1.17	1922
2	1.46	1922
3	1.83	1933
4	3.9	1888
5	2.33	1940
6	2.51	1998
7	1.26	1916
8	2.03	1942
9	1.03	1896
10	1.3	1914
11	4.57	2014
12	2.46	2013
13	2.18	1994
14	1.86	1905
15	1.31	1986
16	2.81	1974
17	4.51	1926
18	1.25	2001
19	1.9	1991
20	1.62	2007
21	2.72	1890
22	1.99	1987
23	2.29	1901
24	1.05	1885
25	1.76	1940
26	2.11	1987
27	1.3	1903
28	2.38	1932
29	1.73	1975
30	2.24	1959
31	2.02	1877

## Gazebo available for your event

The gardens make a wonderful setting for our Gazebo. The primary purpose of our Gazebo is to provide gathering space for St. Mary Organic Farm activities and events that advance the educational and spiritual goals of the IHM Sisters. Other activities may be scheduled for the Gazebo if they fall within the guidelines described in the Gazebo Usage Policy.

There is no charge if your event or activity advances the educational and spiritual goals of the IHM Sisters. Free-will donations for the use of the Gazebo are welcome. To reserve the Gazebo, contact Bee Butcher at 734-240-9757 or [bbutcher@ihmsisters.org](mailto:bbutcher@ihmsisters.org); she will happily assist you with your reservation.



## August precipitation records

**Normal monthly precipitation:** 3 inches

**Wettest August** 8.33 inches in 1926

**Driest August:** .16 inches in 1894





# Nature Explorers

## Sun dog (or sundog)



Sun dogs are patches of light that can be seen on either side of the sun. They are also called mock suns or phantom suns.

They are often seen with a halo around the sun and are created by the light of the sun reflecting off ice crystals in the air. The sunlight is **refracted** (the light direction is changed at an angle), causing the appearance of fake suns. This is a common occurrence and happens all over the world.

They are most visible when the sun is lower, in the months of January, April, August and October.

There are many mentions of sun dogs in literature. Ancient Greeks used sun dogs to forecast the coming of warmer temperature.

The moon can also create a similar phenomenon called a moon dog. This is a rare event, because the moon must be bright (quarter moon or more) for the moon dog to be seen.

## Considering a gift to St. Mary Organic Farm?

Donations are always appreciated and are tax-deductible. Your contribution will go toward local educational programs on gardening, healthy eating and lifestyle, environment protection, conservation and other programs that are part of our mission to do God's work by making our community a better place to live. They may also be used to purchase equipment and tools and to maintain garden facilities.

As a friend of St. Mary Organic Farm, together, we can work to expand and provide gardening space to even more families in our area who otherwise would not have the opportunity to garden.

Please make your check payable to IHM Sisters and include St. Mary Organic Farm or SMOF in the memo line.

## From Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*





The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of



society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet ... For example, the depletion of fishing reserves especially hurts

small fishing communities without the means to replace those resources; water pollution particularly affects the poor who cannot buy bottled water; and rises in the sea level mainly affect impoverished coastal populations who have nowhere else to go. The impact of present imbalances is also seen in the premature death of many of the poor, in conflicts sparked by the shortage of resources, and in any number of other problems which are insufficiently represented on global agendas. [#48]

## Phases of the moon August 2018

	Last Quarter - Aug. 4
	New Moon - Aug. 11
	First Quarter - Aug. 18
	Full Moon - Aug. 26

## IHM Garden Bee Journal: July 7, 2018

By Judy Durfy

It's been dry lately so I was a bit surprised to see just how much honey was already in the stronger hive. The young worker bees had quickly built a brand new glowing white wax honeycomb in the boxes I had added to the hive during my last inspection. The older foraging bees had filled up all the frames with honey made from the nectars of autumn olive, black locust and other nearby blooming trees and plants.

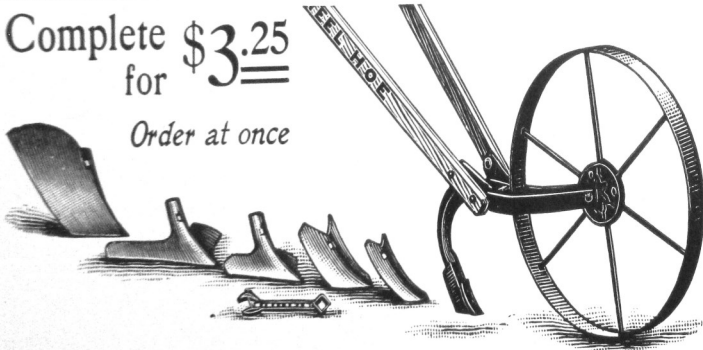
One box had 10 completely filled and capped frames weighing about 6.5 pounds each – that's 65 pounds of honey in just a few days! I added two more boxes – one for comb honey. Although I don't expect to be able to pull off extra honey later, due to the likelihood of a drought, hopefully I'll at least have a bit of beautiful comb honey.



The other hive had brood in it and looked healthy, but isn't as strong and vigorous as the other. When I inspected my spare equipment, I checked on the resident deer mouse family – it had expanded to a family of five.

### Gardening in the 1900s

Complete for \$3.25  
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#### GARDENER'S SINGLE WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW

Consists of one 10-in. Sweep, one 6-in. Sweep, one 4-in. Cultivating Tooth, one 2-in. Cultivating Tooth and one large Garden Plow. This new and attractive implement is especially designed for the gardener's work, though it offers to everyone with either field or garden a cheap and effective tool for hand wheel hoe operations.

We are the New York headquarters for all the best manufacturers, and you save money by dealing with us.

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**J. S. WOODHOUSE, - - - 191-195 Water Street, NEW YORK**

This advertisement for Garden Magazine was published 115 years ago. It is for a wheel hoe. This tool would cost \$89.98 in today's money.

***"Pray for a good harvest but continue to hoe."***

***Old saying***

