



GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community
Garden Newsletter**

May 2018



Plots still available

After what seemed like a long winter, May has finally arrived. It marks the beginning of the actual growing season, although we have to watch out for late frosts that may damage those growing plants.

At St. Mary Organic Farm, our target date for tilling the garden is early-to mid-May, around Mother's Day, which happens to be around the 50 percent frost-free date for our area. For the past two seasons we have been able to till pretty much right on schedule. This year though, we've had an unusual spring with cold weather staying around until nearly May. That has upset the timeline of our winter rye cover crop. It looks like at this point, we may not be able to till until the third week in May. But, like everything else in gardening, it all depends on the weather.

As of early May, we still have a few garden plots available. The sizes and prices for the plots are: 25x30' \$120; 25x15' \$75; 20x4' \$15. The two larger sized plots are in the irrigated part of the garden. The small plots are not irrigated but there is water on site. Feel free to email me at rdluzen@ihmsisters.org if you know of someone who may be interested in a plot.

Happy gardening,

Bob

Bob Dluzen
Community Garden Coordinator



Near the end of April last year, the rye cover crop was more than a foot tall. The Bradford pears were blooming and new leaves were evident



On the same date this year, the rye cover crop showed very little growth at about three inches tall.

Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is a cartwheel rolled over cumin; but dill is beaten out with a stick, and cumin with a rod.

Isaiah 28:27

May precipitation records

Normal monthly precipitation: 3.38 inches

Wettest May: 8.46 inches in 2004

Driest May: .43 inches in 1920

Snowiest May: 6.0 inches in 1923

Least snow in May: 0.0



2018 Farm Bill

From the IHM Sisters Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office

Every five years, Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill, a comprehensive piece of legislation that influences every part of the food and agriculture system of the United States. The current farm bill was signed into law in 2014 and will expire on Sept. 30, 2018.

Earlier this month, the House Agriculture Committee unveiled a 641 page draft of the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (HR 2). The bill passed out of committee by a party-line vote of 26 to 20 following a five-hour debate during which Democrats on the committee voiced their opposition to slashing funds for SNAP (often referred to as “food stamps”), conservation and renewable energy programs. The bill is expected to go to the House floor for a vote in May.

To read an analysis from the Sierra Club on the House version of the 2018 Farm Bill, go to <https://bit.ly/2Kk4SfQ>.

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; she will happily assist you with your reservation.



May 2018 twilight

Date	Morning twilight begins EDT	Evening twilight begins EDT
May 1	5:59	9:03
2	5:58	9:04
3	5:57	9:05
4	5:55	9:06
5	5:54	9:08
6	5:52	9:09
7	5:51	9:10
8	5:50	9:11
9	5:49	9:12
10	5:47	9:13
11	5:46	9:15
12	5:45	9:16
13	5:44	9:17
14	5:43	9:18
15	5:41	9:19
16	5:40	9:20
17	5:39	9:21
18	5:38	9:22
19	5:37	9:24
20	5:36	9:25
21	5:35	9:26
22	5:34	9:27
23	5:34	9:28
24	5:33	9:29
25	5:32	9:30
26	5:31	9:31
27	5:30	9:32
28	5:30	9:33
29	5:29	9:34
30	5:28	9:34
31	5:28	9:35

May 2018 sunrise and sunset

Date	Sunrise EDT	Sunset EDT
May 1	6:30	8:32
2	6:28	8:33
3	6:27	8:34
4	6:26	8:36
5	6:25	8:37
6	6:23	8:38
7	6:22	8:39
8	6:21	8:40
9	6:20	8:41
10	6:19	8:42
11	6:18	8:43
12	6:16	8:44
13	6:15	8:45
14	6:14	8:46
15	6:13	8:47
16	6:12	8:48
17	6:11	8:49
18	6:11	8:50
19	6:10	8:51
20	6:09	8:52
21	6:08	8:53
22	6:07	8:54
23	6:06	8:55
24	6:06	8:56
25	6:05	8:57
26	6:04	8:58
27	6:04	8:58
28	6:03	8:59
29	6:02	9:00
30	6:02	9:01
31	6:01	9:02

May normal temperatures 1980-present

Date	Normal High temp. °F	Normal Low temp. °F	Daily Average temp. °F
May 1	65	45	55
2	66	45	55
3	66	45	56
4	66	46	56
5	67	46	56
6	67	46	56
7	67	46	57
8	67	47	57
9	68	47	57
10	68	47	58
11	68	48	58
12	69	48	58
13	69	48	59
14	69	49	59
15	70	49	59
16	70	49	60
17	70	50	60
18	71	50	60
19	71	50	61
20	71	51	61
21	71	51	61
22	72	51	62
23	72	52	62
24	72	52	62
25	73	52	62
26	73	53	63
27	73	53	63
28	74	53	64
29	74	54	64
30	74	54	64
31	75	55	65

May record temperatures 1874-present

Date	Record High °F	Year	Record Low °F	Year
May 1	86	1942	26	1978
2	85	2012	29	1978
3	89	2012	28	1978
4	89	1949	28	1966
5	90	1895	29	1891
6	90	1949	31	1974
7	86	2000	27	1974
8	87	2015	30	1976
9	90	1896	29	1983
10	90	1936	25	1966
11	87	1993	30	1907
12	90	1881	32	1934
13	89	1977	30	2013
14	91	1962	34	1984
15	92	1962	33	1973
16	92	1962	32	1984
17	93	1962	31	1973
18	93	1962	32	1973
19	91	1934	32	2002
20	91	1977	33	1981
21	92	1977	32	1883
22	90	1994	32	1883
23	89	1964	34	1935
24	87	2007	33	1925
25	90	2012	35	1992
26	92	1944	36	1983
27	91	1941	35	1915
28	95	2012	35	1907
29	92	2006	32	1966
30	93	1942	36	1966
31	95	1895	34	1910


May precipitation

Date	Greatest Precipitation Inches	Year
May 1	1.46	1875
2	1.66	1892
3	1.31	1997
4	1.05	1990
5	0.85	1991
6	1.75	1976
7	0.97	1948
8	0.85	1974
9	2.12	1875
10	2.33	1948
11	1.91	1914
12	1.48	2002
13	1.48	1991
14	1.39	1916
15	1.46	1923
16	1.09	1945
17	1.22	1980
18	1.5	2000
19	1.68	1949
20	1.56	1959
21	1.69	2004
22	1.14	1949
23	1.69	2004
24	1.26	1950
25	1.67	2011
26	2.56	1968
27	1.68	2014
28	2.02	1935
29	1.65	1876
30	2.27	1889
31	1.98	1946

May snowfall records

Date	Snowfall (Inches)	Year
May 1	0.3	1909
2	0.1	1909
3	0.1	2005
4	0.2	1907
5	0	2017
6	0	2017
7	0	2017
8	0	2017
9	6	1923
10	0.5	1902
11	0	2017
12	0	2017
13	1.5	1912
14	0	2015
15	0	2015
16	0	2017
17	0	2017
18	0	2017
19	0	2017
20	0	2017
21	2.3	1883
22	2.7	1883
23	0	2017
24	0	2017
25	0	2017
26	0	2017
27	0	2017
28	0	2017
29	0	2017
30	0	2017
31	0	2017

Gardening in the 1900s



SUNLIGHT
DOUBLE-GLASS
SASH PATENTED

FOR
HOT-BEDS
AND COLD FRAMES

ADDRESS
Sunlight Double-Glass Sash Company
929 East Broadway LOUISVILLE, KY.

The double layer of glass
does it

Lets in the light always.
Never has to be covered or uncovered;
no boards or mats needed.
Retains the heat, excludes the cold.
Makes stronger and earlier plants.
Glass slips in; no putty; cannot work
loose; easily repaired.
Ask for Catalog G. It tells all about
Sunlight sash.
Special catalog for greenhouse material.

This ad was published in *Garden Magazine* in January 1909. The company's location, 929 E. Broadway in Louisville, is now the site of an Urgent Care facility.

IHM Garden Bee Journal: May 1, 2018

By Judy Durfy

The two packages of honeybees arrived in fancy new packaging. Instead of the usual wooden box with mesh sides, they were in perforated plastic boxes thick enough to be handled anywhere without getting stung. The U.S. postman was not convinced though, he put the package in one of those plastic crates and carried it way out in front of him. When I told him, these queens are special 100 percent Russian queens, he spoke to them, in perfect Russian, but I have no idea what he said.



I drove the bees out to IHM, where I found the fancy new “bee-bin” boxes much easier for getting the bees out of and into the hives – especially the queens. All I had to do was slide a cover off the top to get to the queen cage, and then the side of the package opened right up to gently shake the remaining bees into the hive. I was glad I had these queens marked because the Russian queens are tiny, even smaller than the worker bees that came with them. The two queens were very active, when I opened their little cages up to release them, they went right down into their new home instead of flying around the hive like often happens.

Later, when I inspect the hives, I should be able to identify the queens by the bright red paint spot on their backs. There's a different color every year to indicate the year a queen was born and this year's color is red. The oldest queen I have found in any of my hives was five years old. It was a beautiful day to be outside working the hives. I am sure the bees were happy to be done traveling and in their new homes at the IHM community garden.

Nature Explorers

Muskrat



Musk rats are **semi-aquatic** (living partly on land and partly in water.) They can be found in and around ponds, lakes, swamps and marshes.

Resembling a large house rat, they have a thick coat of brown fur and the outer layer of their coat is waterproof. Their front feet have sharp claws and their hind feet are webbed for swimming. They dig burrows in the bank next to the water or build nests at the bases of trees. They can stay underwater for up to 15 minutes and they do not hibernate in the winter. Their babies are called kits and they are born hairless and blind.

Their Native American name is musquash and they get their muskrat name because they resemble a rat and produce a musky odor.

OBSERVE prints in the wet soil around water and see if you can find their footprints. They look like a small handprint and the hind foot is narrow.

RECORD your observations.

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.

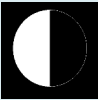



From Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*

Politics and the economy tend to blame each other when it comes to poverty and environmental degradation. It is to be hoped that they can acknowledge their own mistakes and find forms of interaction directed to the common good. While some are concerned only with financial gain, and others with



holding on to or increasing their power, what we are left with are conflicts or spurious agreements where the last thing either party is concerned about is caring for the environment and protecting those who are most vulnerable. Here too, we see how true it is that "unity is greater than conflict" (140). [#198]

Phases of the moon May 2018

	Last Quarter - May 7
	New Moon - May 15
	First Quarter - May 21
	Full Moon - May 29

Maintaining the farm

Now that it's May, it's time to line up items for the new planting season. That includes, among many other things, our tractor and tiller. We have the good fortune of having skilled workers in our IHM Sisters Maintenance Department who keep the farm machinery in good working condition.



The two most critical items for St. Mary Organic Farm are the tractor and tiller. The vintage 1970 Ford tractor has seen a lot of use through the years. Our Maintenance mechanics have been able to keep it going using the tools and facilities we have. It is has been showing some signs of age by way of internal mechanical issues that unfortunately our mechanics will not be able to handle here in the IHM garage. Sooner rather than later we'll have to address those major issues.

The rotary tiller is of a much more recent vintage and is in good shape. It is a piece of equipment that mounts to the back of the tractor and draws its power from a shaft that is connected to the tractor's PTO (Power Take Off). The PTO is a part of the tractor's power train that supplies power to all kinds of machinery such as tillers, mowers, posthole diggers, pumps, generators, etc.

Having our own tilling equipment is a tremendous boon. Without it, we would have to have someone from the outside bring their equipment to do the tilling. The other alternative would be to do what most other community gardens do; have the gardeners do their own tilling. That would mean we could not provide the drip irrigation system since gardeners would be tilling at all different times of the season.

Timing is important for gardening. We would not be able to plant a winter or summer cover crop without having use of our tractor and tiller. In the fall, after the garden is closed in mid-October, the land is tilled and the rye winter cover crop is sown. If the rye is not planted on time, it will not make enough growth to survive the winter. In the spring, there is a short window of opportunity to till in the cover crop. If it is tilled too early, the rye reestablishes its self and becomes a weed; too late and the straw becomes very stiff and tough to till.

Our Maintenance mechanics do many other things to help us keep SMOF running smoothly such as: repairing equipment tires, mowing thistle, keeping fuel topped off in our small equipment, moving garden planters, installing our new water system, winterizing our water pipes and many other tasks

Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste.

William Shakespeare