



# GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community  
Garden Newsletter**

**September 2018**



## Harvest time

It's September and that means vegetables are ripe and our gardeners are harvesting organic vegetables at the peak of perfection every day.

A couple of weeks ago, I grabbed my clipboard and took a walk around the community garden to tally what was being grown in each garden. I entered the information into a spreadsheet and looked at results. Some of the highlights from my survey are on page seven.

Growing conditions that took place early in the season affected what's now showing up during harvest. In general, the plants look the best they have for the past few years. On the other hand, hot weather earlier in the season disrupted pollination for tomatoes and that is now showing up as a somewhat lower tomato crop compared to this time last year. Also, fungal diseases were able to get a foothold early due to the moisture and humidity we've been experiencing.

If you are looking for a healthy pastime that gets you outdoors, consider volunteering at St. Mary Organic Farm. Even though we are in the later part of the growing season, contact me at [rdluzen@ihmsisters.org](mailto:rdluzen@ihmsisters.org) for more information.

Have a great gardening day,

**Bob**

Bob Dluzen  
Community Garden Coordinator



Our grapes are safely ripening under bird-proof netting.



There are many different varieties of peppers growing in the community garden.

***We are here to cultivate the garden and take care of it.***

***Genesis 2:15***

## Update on the 2018 Farm Bill

From the IHM Sisters Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office

In June, the Senate passed a Farm Bill that protects Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility and benefits for many people in need — children, seniors, people with disabilities, working families, veterans and others.

Sixty-eight senators (including Michigan's Debbie Stabenow) voted to table an amendment that would have imposed harsher work rules on struggling people and requiring food retailers to check photo identification for SNAP EBT card customers, among other provisions.

The Senate Farm Bill takes a vastly different approach than the House Farm Bill, which would cut SNAP eligibility and benefits for many and would cause many children in SNAP households to lose their direct connection to free school meals. The bill will go to conference committee soon. Go to [the Food Research and Action Center's SNAP/Farm Bill page](#) for information about how you can help protect and strengthen SNAP.

## River Raisin Institute to sponsor film series

The River Raisin Institute's (RRI) fall film series features documentaries related to local aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. The films will be shown at the Weber Center in Adrian as well as at the IHM Motherhouse Campus and the Frenchtown Dixie Library in Monroe.

RRI Executive Director Danielle Conroyd said "Our film series is designed to raise awareness about living sustainably. The films this fall describe the threats and opportunities we face as citizen stewards of the Great Lakes. *Making Waves: Battle for the Great Lakes* and *Trees in Trouble* highlights communities collaborating to make a collective impact on stopping the non-native species invading the Great Lakes and saving and protecting our forests for future generations. We look forward to seeing you at one of the screenings."

The series is co-sponsored by the Weber Center in Adrian and the Frenchtown Dixie Library in Monroe and the IHM Sisters in Monroe. It is free and open to the public.

The showings for the Weber Center begin at 6:30 p.m. at Weber Center located at 1257 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian. Dates for the Weber Center are Sept. 25, Oct. 23 and Nov. 27.

The showings for the Frenchtown Dixie Library begin at 6 p.m. The Frenchtown Dixie Library is located at 2881 Nadeau Rd, Monroe. Dates for the library are Sept. 18, Oct. 22 and Nov. 19.

Screenings at the IHM Motherhouse campus begin at 3 p.m. in the Maxis Community Room located at 610 W. Elm Ave, Monroe. Dates for the IHM campus are Sept. 26, Oct. 17 and Nov. 27.

The River Raisin Institute is a nonprofit organization that sponsors educational works with the goal to respect, nurture and promote the well-being of all creation. The Institute collaborates with others to promote transformational learning and sustainable community for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

For more information or media interviews, please contact Danielle Conroyd, executive director of the River Raisin Institute, at 734-240-9750. For more information on RRI, visit [www.rriearth.org](http://www.rriearth.org)

## September 2018 twilight

Date	Morning twilight begins EDT	Evening twilight ends EDT
Sept. 1	6:31	8:36
2	6:32	8:34
3	6:33	8:32
4	6:34	8:30
5	6:35	8:29
6	6:36	8:27
7	6:37	8:25
8	6:38	8:23
9	6:39	8:22
10	6:40	8:20
11	6:41	8:18
12	6:43	8:16
13	6:44	8:15
14	6:45	8:13
15	6:46	8:11
16	6:47	8:09
17	6:48	8:07
18	6:49	8:06
19	6:50	8:04
20	6:51	8:02
21	6:52	8:00
22	6:53	7:59
23	6:54	7:57
24	6:55	7:55
25	6:56	7:53
26	6:57	7:52
27	6:58	7:50
28	7:00	7:48
29	7:01	7:46
30	7:02	7:45

## September 2018 sunrise and sunset

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



## September normal temperatures 1980-present

Date	Normal High temp. °F	Normal Low temp. °F
Sept. 1	79	60
2	79	60
3	79	60
4	78	59
5	78	59
6	78	59
7	77	58
8	77	58
9	77	58
10	76	57
11	76	57
12	76	56
13	75	56
14	75	56
15	75	55
16	74	55
17	74	54
18	73	54
19	73	53
20	72	53
21	72	53
22	72	52
23	71	52
24	71	51
25	70	51
26	70	50
27	69	50
28	69	50
29	68	49
30	68	49

## September record temperatures 1874-present

Date	Record High °F	Year	Record Low °F	Year
Sept. 1	98	1953	42	1967
2	100	1953	44	1885
3	100	1953	43	1976
4	92	1973	40	1974
5	99	1954	42	1984
6	95	1978	38	1984
7	97	1939	43	1986
8	98	1976	39	1986
9	94	2002	37	1883
10	94	1983	40	1883
11	95	1931	39	1917
12	96	1952	39	1943
13	97	1874	40	1975
14	98	1939	37	1975
15	100	1939	41	1984
16	98	1939	38	1966
17	93	1955	36	1959
18	92	1955	37	1943
19	93	1955	38	1982
20	92	1895	36	1956
21	92	1895	35	1875
22	91	1941	30	1974
23	91	2017	29	1974
24	89	2017	33	1989
25	93	1891	34	1879
26	93	2017	30	1883
27	88	1891	34	1899
28	87	1905	33	1991
29	89	1953	32	1942
30	85	1991	30	1899

## September precipitation

Date	Greatest Precipitation inches	Year
Sept. 1	0.9	1952
2	1.16	1922
3	3.21	1879
4	2.1	1918
5	0.97	1915
6	2.73	1990
7	1.4	1936
8	0.91	1942
9	1.82	1992
10	1.65	2000
11	3.71	2000
12	1.41	1925
13	2.97	2008
14	1.58	1911
15	1.65	1992
16	1.39	2010
17	1.2	1905
18	1.06	1899
19	1.81	2011
20	1.35	1919
21	1.73	1919
22	1.84	1986
23	1.28	1961
24	1.12	1926
25	1.4	1986
26	2.08	1880
27	1.28	1896
28	2.13	1959
29	2.87	2016
30	1.3	1936

## 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.



## September precipitation records

**Normal monthly precipitation:** 3.27 inches

**Wettest September:** 7.52 inches in 1986

**Driest September:** .39 inches in 1877



# Nature Explorers

## Bats



There are more than 1,000 bat species in the world and nine different species known to live in Michigan.

Bats are flying mammals. In fact, they are the only mammals that can truly fly.

They are nocturnal (active at night) and they see in the dark using a special skill called **echolocation**. This means that they make a noise and then wait for the noise to bounce back off an object (an echo).

Most bats eat insects, though some eat fruit and others even feed off the blood of larger mammals.

They sleep in caves, tree cavities and buildings. Female bats usually only have one baby, called a pup, and females raise their young without the help of the male until the pup is old enough to fly.

**OBSERVE** the sky at night and look for bats darting through the sky in search of bugs. They can eat more than 1,000 bugs in a single hour.

## 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*

When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. In this horizon, a genuine sense of the common good also disappears. As these attitudes become more widespread, social norms are respected only to the



extent that they do not clash with personal needs. So our concern cannot be limited merely to the threat of extreme weather events, but must also extend to the catastrophic consequences of social unrest. Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction. [#48]

## Phases of the moon September 2018

	Last Quarter - Sept. 3
	New Moon - Sept. 9
	First Quarter - Sept. 16
	Full Moon - Sept. 25

## Vegetables this year

It probably comes as no surprise that tomatoes are the most popular crop planted in our community garden. Every garden, except two that were planted as designated crop, has tomatoes in them. Counting individual plants, there are many more tomatoes than any other crop. Peppers came in a distant second with less than half the number of plants grown. I took this tally in August, so some of the early spring crops like leaf lettuce, are not represented

With some crops it made more sense to count the number of linear feet rather than the number of plants. In this case, beans came in first with onions coming in a close second.

In addition to vegetables our gardeners are growing flowers: zinnia, marigold, cosmos, rudbeckia, sunflowers, nasturtium, 4 o'clocks, elephant ears, geranium, portulaca and petunia. This does not include all of the flowers that grow in our perennial flower garden.

Vegetable	Amount
Tomato	337
Pepper	144
Squash	96
Eggplant	54
Cucumber	51
Cabbage	20
Kale	20
Cauliflower	18
Basil	17
Pumpkin	16
Chard	15
Broccoli	8
Watermelon	8
Cantaloupe	6
Brussel sprout	4
Okra	4
Cantaloupe	3
Rhubarb	3
Horseradish	1
Melon	1

Vegetable	Linear feet of crop
Bean	301
Onion	296
Sweet potato	145
Potato	100
Leeks	62
Lettuce	61
Carrot	46
Beet	41
Radish	10
Pea	8



## IHM Garden Bee Journal: Aug. 4, 2018

By Judy Durfy

I arrived at the garden to remove the divider screen from the hive I added the swarm into last week. Sometimes, re-homed swarms decide to go elsewhere the next day, so I was relieved to see the swarm still in the hive and very strong. I removed the divider to create one happy hive and added food patties to keep them fed until the goldenrod starts blooming, probably next week. I could see gashes high up on the front of the hive, so I know a raccoon came by and clawed it to get those bees, but was unsuccessful.

The other hive is huge. I see the bees are bigger and no longer have the Russian bee physical characteristics, so the pure Russian queen has been replaced and the new queen had bred with the local bees. Meanwhile, they have filled all their boxes with honey, a good thing because I may need some to put into the swarm hive to get them through winter. While at the gardens, I am always amazed at the variety of wildlife I come across. Today, it was a big skunk!



### Gardening in the 1900s



100. Whale-oil soap. Bad for scale insects. Good for currants and gooseberries. A vile smeller

*"Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees that half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees."*

**Rudyard Kipling**

