



GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community
Garden Newsletter**

October 2018



Dear Friend of St. Mary Organic Farm,

It's October so that means, for the most part, the 2018 gardening season is quickly coming to a close. By Oct. 15, all St. Mary Organic Farm gardeners will have cleared their plots of all gardening remains such as stakes, mulches, vines, large plant materials and other debris. It's always interesting to watch the garden during the fall transformation as it goes from being chock-full of plants to an empty field.

Since this is our last *Garden Almanac* for 2018, I thought it would be fun to look back and review some highlights from this gardening season.

You might be surprised to learn how much produce can be grown on one of the garden plots we offer. See page 8 for St. John the Baptist Parish garden plot yield results.

Keep in mind we are always accepting applications for garden volunteers to help out with various projects. We're already making plans for the 2019 garden season. Please email me (at rdluzen@ihmsisters.org) if you are interested in a garden plot and I'll put you on our waiting list. Openings are on a first-come, first-served basis so don't put it off too long.

Thank you for your continued interest in St. Mary Organic Farm.

Best regards,

Bob

Bob Dluzen
Community Garden Coordinator



Grapes ready to be picked by the MCCC culinary class



The MCCC students will come up with recipe ideas for the grapes as part of their classwork assignment. One student suggested grape and red onion mostarda.

Whatsoever people soweth, that shall they also reap.

- Galations 6:7

Highlights from 2018 gardening season

With the garden closing down, now is a good time to reflect on the 2018 gardening season.

- ♦ In early March, gardeners who participated in 2017 were sent notices inviting them to sign up for a garden plot; they had first dibs on their plots from the previous year. By March 14, the first plot reservation was returned, with most of the others following in quick succession. The City of Monroe Water Department tapped into the water main located on our property and set a new meter and shut-off valve. With their part done, it was up to us to run our own water lines to the rest of the garden.
- ♦ April was somewhat wetter and colder than normal. The rye planted last fall was beginning to make good growth even though it was a thin stand. Some of the bee hives rode out the winter, but unfortunately, rapid spring temperature fluctuations were too much for them to handle and they finally failed. Our beekeeper, Judy, repopulated the hives with new Russian bees. We pruned our grapevines on the last day of April.
- ♦ Cold and wet conditions remained until almost mid-May, keeping the ground saturated. That meant a delay in getting our water lines installed. And because the soil was too wet to plough, the rye kept right on growing. Because May started out cold and damp, tilling was delayed until the end of the month. By that time, the rye was just beginning to flower and the plants were almost too stiff and dry to till. A thorough mowing chopped up the straw enough to make it easy to till into the soil. The individual plots still needed to be marked out and the drip irrigation installed before the garden was opened for planting.
- ♦ On Friday, June 1, the garden was opened to our gardeners, giving them that weekend to spend prepping and planting their plots. The following week, the new permanent water lines were finished. After planting, the garden took right off – the garden plants and weeds both made up for lost time. Our drip irrigation system supplied supplemental water during dry periods throughout the season.
- ♦ During early July, the Japanese beetles made their annual appearance, but their numbers stayed low and we didn't see much damage from them. There was an extended period of hot weather in July that damaged the tomato blossoms, causing a reduction in our tomato crop. At the end of the month, squash vine borer and mildew were evident on nearly all of our vine crops. Some gardeners battled the mildew for the rest of the season while others let it run its course. Tomato horn worms came on the scene about the same time. Also in July, we obtained a new rear-tine rototiller, which will allow us to prepare and maintain hard-to-reach garden areas.
- ♦ The squash crop was attacked by another pest in August – squash beetles. Skunks and raccoons started visiting the garden around this time too. By “visiting,” I mean eating tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables and digging up plants. In the meantime gardeners were enjoying a surprisingly bountiful harvest.
- ♦ Harvesting continued through September. Tomato fruit worms showed up to feast on tomatoes, peppers and other vegetable plants. By the end of September, harvest started to slow down. Several gardeners began to clean up their plots early by removing plants that expired or were no longer producing. As a result, our compost pile grew quickly due to all of the garden plant material going into it. Two rows of new grapevines were planted this month.

Oct. 15 is our deadline for all plots to be cleared of major plant debris. Then in quick succession: the irrigation lines will be rolled back up, the garden tilled and a winter rye cover crop sown. Once that's all done, the garden will be all set for a long winter's nap.

October 2018 twilight

Date	Morning twilight begins EDT	Evening twilight ends EDT
1	7:03	7:43
2	7:04	7:41
3	7:05	7:40
4	7:06	7:38
5	7:07	7:36
6	7:08	7:35
7	7:09	7:33
8	7:10	7:31
9	7:11	7:30
10	7:12	7:28
11	7:14	7:26
12	7:15	7:25
13	7:16	7:23
14	7:17	7:22
15	7:18	7:20
16	7:19	7:19
17	7:20	7:17
18	7:21	7:16
19	7:22	7:14
20	7:23	7:13
21	7:25	7:11
22	7:26	7:10
23	7:27	7:08
24	7:28	7:07
25	7:29	7:06
26	7:30	7:04
27	7:31	7:03
28	7:33	7:02
29	7:34	7:00
30	7:35	6:59
31	7:36	6:58

October 2018 sunrise and sunset

Date	Sunrise EDT	Sunset EDT
1	7:31	7:15
2	7:32	7:13
3	7:33	7:12
4	7:34	7:10
5	7:35	7:08
6	7:36	7:07
7	7:37	7:05
8	7:38	7:03
9	7:39	7:02
10	7:40	7:00
11	7:42	6:58
12	7:43	6:57
13	7:44	6:55
14	7:45	6:54
15	7:46	6:52
16	7:47	6:50
17	7:48	6:49
18	7:49	6:47
19	7:51	6:46
20	7:52	6:44
21	7:53	6:43
22	7:54	6:41
23	7:55	6:40
24	7:57	6:38
25	7:58	6:37
26	7:59	6:36
27	8:00	6:34
28	8:01	6:33
29	8:02	6:32
30	8:04	6:30
31	8:05	6:29

October normal temperatures 1980-2010

Date	Normal High °F	Normal Low °F	Average °F
1	68	48	58
2	67	48	58
3	67	48	57
4	66	47	57
5	66	47	56
6	65	46	56
7	65	46	56
8	65	46	55
9	64	45	55
10	64	45	54
11	63	45	54
12	63	44	54
13	63	44	53
14	62	44	53
15	62	43	53
16	62	43	52
17	61	43	52
18	61	43	52
19	60	42	51
20	60	42	51
21	60	42	51
22	59	41	50
23	59	41	50
24	59	41	50
25	58	41	49
26	58	40	49
27	57	40	49
28	57	40	48
29	57	40	48
30	56	39	48
31	56	39	48

October record temperatures 1874-present

Date	Record High °F	Year	Record Low °F	Year
1	88	1897	31	1947
2	86	1971	29	1974
3	89	1953	24	1974
4	89	1951	32	1989
5	88	1951	31	1965
6	91	1963	30	1935
7	92	1963	29	1935
8	90	2007	25	1889
9	86	1949	28	1989
10	84	1949	29	1972
11	86	1928	25	1906
12	84	1995	26	1875
13	83	1975	26	1977
14	83	1989	27	1937
15	86	1897	24	1876
16	85	1938	26	1977
17	85	1938	23	1977
18	84	1963	24	1976
19	85	1953	22	1972
20	80	1920	19	1972
21	81	2007	17	1974
22	81	1920	25	1967
23	83	1963	22	1969
24	81	1963	22	1981
25	82	1963	24	1981
26	83	1963	22	1887
27	78	1927	22	1976
28	78	1927	21	1976
29	77	1999	22	1980
30	76	1999	20	1980
31	79	1950	21	1988

October rainfall records

Date	Inches	Year
1	1.55	1945
2	2	1925
3	3.29	1954
4	1.06	2000
5	2.1	1919
6	2.2	1959
7	1.5	1951
8	1.02	1967
9	1.43	1950
10	1.03	1932
11	3.27	1949
12	1.25	1901
13	1.57	1983
14	1.78	2003
15	1.03	1967
16	1.92	2001
17	1.7	1967
18	1.54	1937
19	2.02	1985
20	1.09	1918
21	0.96	1965
22	1.98	1929
23	2.08	1957
24	1.07	2000
25	1.09	1991
26	1.29	1920
27	1.48	1981
28	1.13	2015
29	0.74	1875
30	1.29	1900
31	1.59	2013

October snowfall records

Date	Inches	Year
1	0	2016
2	0	2016
3	0	2016
4	0	2016
5	0	2016
6	0	2016
7	0	2016
8	0	2016
9	0	2016
10	0	2016
11	0	2016
12	0.2	2006
13	0.7	1932
14	0	2016
15	0	2016
16	0.1	1943
17	0.9	1943
18	0.2	1880
19	2.7	1989
20	0.4	1992
21	0.2	1925
22	0	2016
23	0.1	1981
24	0	2016
25	0	2016
26	0.3	1936
27	2.3	1980
28	1.9	1925
29	0	2016
30	0.3	1993
31	0.1	1993

October precipitation records 1874-present

Normal precipitation: 2.5 inches
Wettest October: 7.8 inches (1954)
Driest October: .30 inches (1892)
Greatest October snowfall: 2.9 inches (1980)



Percentage of the moon illuminated at midnight October 2018

1	63
2	52
3	41
4	30
5	20
6	11
7	5
8	1
9	0
10	2
11	5
12	11
13	18
14	27
15	36
16	45
17	54
18	64
19	72
20	81
21	88
22	93
23	97
24	100
25	100
26	97
27	92
28	86
29	77
30	67
31	56

Phases of the moon: October 2018

	Last Quarter - Oct. 2
	New Moon - Oct. 9
	First Quarter - Oct. 16
	Full Moon - Oct. 24
	Last Quarter - Oct. 31

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.

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.



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

"... Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace." [#10]



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.

St. John Parish garden plot produce results

For the second year in a row, St. John the Baptist Parish in Monroe had a plot at SMOF Community Garden. It was planted and tended by parishioner Carrie Gelwicks and other helpers. All of the food harvested from their garden was delivered to area food pantries. Carrie passed this summary along to us describing the results of the garden's production through the end of September.

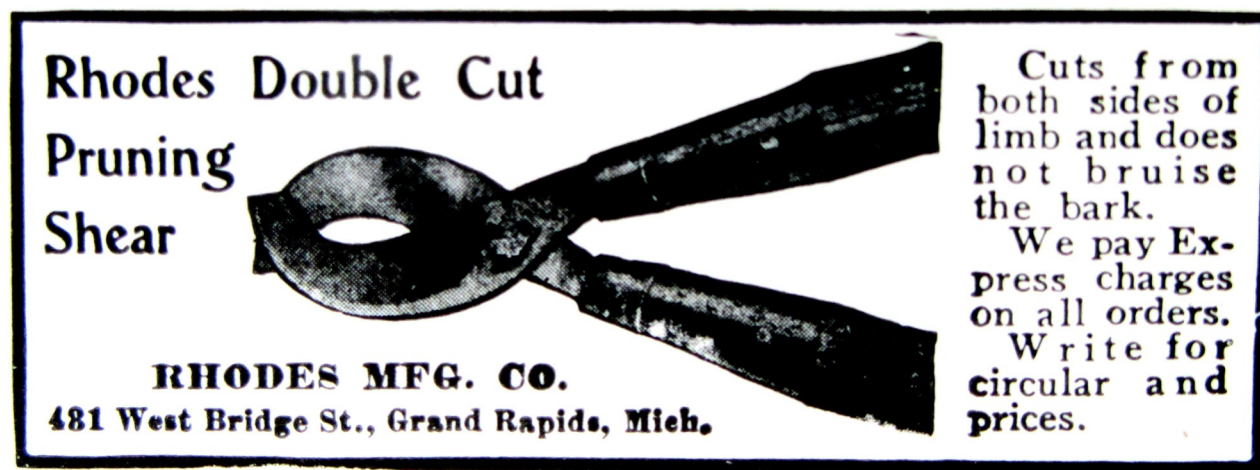
As promised, I kept a fairly accurate log of what I picked from my garden this year. I used the Meijer and Kroger websites and used the least expensive price to calculate value. Some items weren't available with an organic option so then I used the non-organic price. Here are the highlights.

- ♦ Tomatoes (regular and patio) – 286 pounds: \$743
- ♦ Bell Peppers (green and red/yellow/orange) – 175 total: \$297
- ♦ Green Beans – 70 pounds: \$280
- ♦ Onions – 50 pounds: \$88

I also grew zucchini, cucumbers, jalapeños, banana peppers, cabbage and lettuce. If I add everything together, I have a grand total of \$1,775.

Some vegetables I grew were more successful and valuable than others. Vine borers, squash bugs, deer, geese and human error took a toll. I think it's interesting and encouraging to see how much can be grown in a relatively small plot.

The St. John garden plot measures 25' x 30', or 750 square feet.





Winter squash was among the last crops harvested from the garden. These are headed to the IHM Motherhouse kitchen.

Save the date!

The 14th annual Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit Conference will be held Nov. 2-3 at University of Detroit Mercy. Founded in 1990, Bioneers seeks to highlight innovative approaches to environmental and social challenges.

The organization believes that building connections between people who share a commitment to solving these issues can transform communities.

At the annual conference, people from all areas and levels of interest in the environment and social justice come together to learn, grow and be inspired. This self-organized Bioneers event features tours, local presenters, and video keynote speakers from the annual Bioneers Conference in San Rafael, Calif.

For more information and to register, go to www.glibd.org/conference.html.

In the IHM Art Gallery

- ♦ O'Halloran + Hile: Art exhibit by art faculty from MCCC: Through Oct. 28
- ♦ The '60s: Women of Action Through Decades of Change: Nov. 1-Dec. 12
- ♦ 2018 IHM Community Art Exhibit Dec. 18-Jan. 24, 2019
- ♦ Lydia Hannah Wilson: Traditional Art from India: Jan. 31-March 22
- ♦ Earth, Our Home High School Student Art March 28-May 8

The exhibits are free and open to the public Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Sharon Venier at svenier@ihmsisters.org or 734-240-9754.

IHM Garden Bee Journal: Oct. 3, 2018

By Judy Durfy

Finally, a dry day above 60F! I took the day off to get to the garden for what could be the last chance to go inside the hives before it's too cold. I could see both hives appeared very strong, with hundreds of bees flying out to forage.

Some gardeners stopped to chat as I waited for the sun to warm the hives more, so there'd be fewer bees left inside. "Will there be honey" they asked.

I explained that honey bees need a lot to eat as they wait out the long winter and I like to leave them at least 100 lbs. Also, one of the hives was a swarm added only a few weeks ago. I'd have to give it some honey taken out of the stronger hive. That hive was about six feet high – and I forgot to bring my step ladder! I opened up the smaller hive and all was well. There were lots of bee larvae and healthy bees inside, but not enough honey.

Just as I prepared to open the taller hive, Robert stopped by with a ladder for me to use. I climbed up it to remove the top two boxes which were full and more than 50 lbs. each. That was some heavy lifting! I put those two boxes of honey on the smaller hive to hold it through winter. It's normal to not have surplus honey in hives less than a year old, however, there were a few comb honey frames capped that I was able to take. I hope nature is kind this winter so that both hives survive through spring.



Thank you SMOF volunteers and helpers

Many thanks go out to our talented and hard-working volunteers and helpers – the gardens would not be as successful as they are without their talent and hard work:

Nancy Coman
Jim Crammon
Dennis Finney
Glenda Fredricks
Carrie Gelwicks
Charlie Jackson
Nancy Meiring
Michelle Meiring

Linda Parkhurst
Rob Peven
Nadia Santiago
Paul Simonton
Janet Sottile
Sue Stadler
Mary Jo Windels



"Just living is not enough," said the butterfly. "One must have freedom, sunshine and a little flower ..."

Hans Christian Anderson