



GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community
Garden Newsletter**

May 2019

Rain and more rain

The spring growing season is off to a slow start. As of May 1, I estimate we are about seven days behind last year and about two-and-a-half weeks behind 2017. That means we need an extended stretch of warm sunny days to catch up. The National Weather Service in their last update on April 18, predicted a 50% chance of above normal temperatures for May. That's enough to keep us optimistic that soil conditions improve enough to allow us to till later this month.

We have a limited number of garden plots available for the 2019 gardening season. For more information or to register for a plot, please contact me at rdluzen@ihmsisters.org or leave a message at 734-240-9720.

We are accepting application for volunteer opportunities. If you enjoy working outdoors and have an interest in gardening, contact me at the above number.

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

Bob

Bob Dluzen
Community Garden Coordinator



Daffodils in the garden signal the beginning of the gardening season.



Our winter rye crop on the last day of April

Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:7

Pruning our grapes

A grapevine's natural tendency is to grow longer than we would like. In the wild, the ancient ancestors of today's modern varieties needed to reach the tree canopy quickly in order to reach full sunlight and to make it easier for birds to get to their fruit. As birds eat grapes, the seeds pass through their digestive system undamaged. Birds then fly for miles passing seeds in their droppings, making a very efficient way to spread seeds far and wide.

Because of a grapevine's tendency to produce rank growth, they require pruning every year. Without pruning, they can take over a spot in a few years. While it may look green and lush for a while, they will eventually produce fewer and fewer grapes if left to their own devices.

Keeping a balance between the size of a vine and the amount of fruit it produces is the main object of pruning. In a landscape situation, such as on an arbor, pruning may be done to enhance the appearance of a vine and not necessarily encourage the most fruit production.



Grapevine before pruning



Grapevine after pruning. Almost 90% of the plant is cut off.

Pruning is done in the spring before the buds begin to grow. Once the buds start to open, they become tender and are prone to breaking off during the pruning process. The secondary buds that grow from those points are less productive than the first or primary buds.

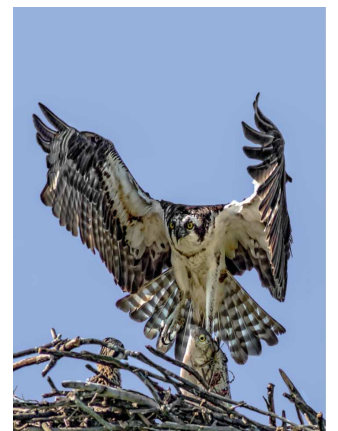
Each year, around 90% of the growth is pruned off and discarded. Growth from last year has buds on it that will sprout and grow new long canes. It is on these new canes that grapes are formed.

Several grapevine trellis systems have been developed through the years. We use the four-arm Kniffen system on all of our vines. With this system, an upper wire and a lower wire are stretched between supporting posts. On each wire, at the spot where the vine is growing, one branch or "arm" of the grapevine is trained to grow to the right and the other to the left giving a total of four arms for each grapevine.

In the Gallery

Tuesday, May 14 - Sunday, July 7, the Gallery will feature "[Nature and Travel](#)" - photography by Fred Drotar. Fred has won numerous photography awards. He uses digital and film, chiefly the 35mm format. He finds digital a plus for nature and narrative photography. His favorite lenses are the 600mm F4, 500mm F4.5, 70-210mm F2.8 zoom and the 70-300 macro zoom. There will be an opening reception Tuesday, May 14, 6-7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

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



May normal temperatures 1980-present

Date	Normal Daily temp. °F	Normal Daily temp. °F	Normal Daily Avg. °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	2018	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 2019 twilight

Date	Morning twilight begins EDT	Evening twilight ends EDT
May 1	6:00	9:03
2	5:58	9:04
3	5:57	9:05
4	5:56	9:06
5	5:54	9:07
6	5:53	9:08
7	5:51	9:10
8	5:50	9:11
9	5:49	9:12
10	5:48	9:13
11	5:46	9:14
12	5:45	9:15
13	5:44	9:17
14	5:43	9:18
15	5:42	9:19
16	5:41	9:20
17	5:40	9:21
18	5:39	9:22
19	5:38	9:23
20	5:37	9:24
21	5:36	9:25
22	5:35	9:26
23	5:34	9:28
24	5:33	9:29
25	5:32	9:30
26	5:31	9:31
27	5:31	9:31
28	5:30	9:32
29	5:29	9:33
30	5:29	9:34
31	5:28	9:35

May 2019 sunrise and sunset

Date	Sunrise EDT	Sunset EDT
May 1	6:30	8:32
2	6:29	8:33
3	6:27	8:34
4	6:26	8:35
5	6:25	8:36
6	6:24	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	6:17	8:44
13	6:16	8:45
14	6:15	8:46
15	6:14	8:47
16	6:13	8:48
17	6:12	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	6:07	8:55
24	6:06	8:56
25	6:05	8:57
26	6:04	8:57
27	6:04	8:58
28	6:03	8:59
29	6:03	9:00
30	6:02	9:01
31	6:01	9:02

May snowfall records

Date	Greatest snowfall inches	Year
May 1	0.3	1909
2	0.1	1909
3	0.1	2005
4	0.2	1907
5	0.0	2017
6	0.0	2017
7	0.0	2017
8	0.0	2017
9	6.0	1923
10	0.5	1902
11	0.0	2017
12	0.0	2017
13	1.5	1912
14	0.0	2017
15	0.0	2017
16	0.0	2017
17	0.0	2017
18	0.0	2017
19	0.0	2017
20	0.0	2017
21	2.3	1883
22	2.7	1883
23	0.0	2017
24	0.0	2017
25	0.0	2017
26	0.0	2017
27	0.0	2017
28	0.0	2017
29	0.0	2017
30	0.0	2017
31	0.0	2017

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 precipitation records

Wettest May: 8.46 inches in 1947

Driest May: .43 inches in 1923

Snowiest May: 6 inches in 1923



Nature Explorers

Vernal pools



Vernal pools are small wetlands that occur in forests. The word “**vernal**” means having something to do with spring. Vernal pools are areas that are covered with water in the spring and are dry the rest of

the year. To be officially classified as a vernal pool, the area must not be man-made. It is very shallow, small in size and not connected to other bodies of water like streams or lakes. Vernal pools hold water for at least two months before drying up. Since water is temporary, vernal pools do not have fish.

OBSERVE a water-filled area in a woods during the spring. Are there different plants growing in the low area? Visit the same spot during the summer. How is it different from the spring?

RECORD your observations. Why do you think this may or may not be a vernal pool?

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.

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

Safe, secure online giving is available for your convenience.



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


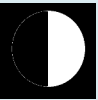


Any approach to an integral ecology, which by definition does not exclude human beings, needs to take account of the value of labour, as Saint John Paul II wisely noted in his Encyclical *Laborem*



Exercens. According to the biblical account of creation, God placed man and woman in the garden he had created (cf. Gen 2:15) not only to preserve it (“keep”) but also to make it fruitful (“till”). Labourers and craftsmen thus “maintain the fabric of the world” (Sir 38:34). Developing the created world in a prudent way is the best way of caring for it, as this means that we ourselves become the instrument used by God to bring out the potential which he himself inscribed in things: “The Lord created medicines out of the earth, and a sensible man will not despise them” (Sir 38:4). [#124]

Phases of the moon

May 2019

	New Moon - May 4
	First Quarter - May 12
	Full Moon - May 18
	Last Quarter - May 26

IHM Garden Bee Journal: April 13, 2019

By Judy Durfy

It was warm and dry enough to inspect the honeybee hives and see if either had made it through the recent cold spells. As I approached the hives, I saw that the Russian bees, which are much more cold-tolerant than others, had survived. What a sight it was to see hundreds flying in and out. I became worried when I didn't see any Italian honeybees flying around their hive.

I took a peek into the Italian hive and, yes, those bees were alive and well too! They just weren't ready to unbundle and start flying outside quite yet. They were all the way up at the top of the hive, so I added two winter feed patties for them to eat until they had a warmer day to start foraging. The Russian bees however, had progressed past foraging. I couldn't believe how much bright yellow pollen they were carrying into the hive. I'm guessing its mostly willow tree pollen, but it could also be poplar, cottonwood, aspen and/or cedar pollens. Honeybees only bring pollen in when there are bee larvae to feed, so this hive is already increasing in population. It seems to be weeks ahead of normal. That must be some Queen!



Gardening in the 1900s



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“The spontaneous energies of the earth are a gift of nature, but they require the labors of man to direct their operation.”

—Thomas Jefferson