



# GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community  
Garden Newsletter**

**August 2019**



## Growing season

Our gardeners have been doing a wonderful job encouraging their gardens to grow. They are hoeing weeds, controlling insect pests, applying organic fertilizer as needed and doing all those things gardeners have to do. As a result, the garden plants are growing vigorously as they try to catch up on the growing time we lost at the beginning of the season. We've had somewhat above normal temperatures in July, which stimulated plant growth. Even though we have an irrigation system, we have not had to use it very much due to the regular rains we've been receiving. Rain water is always better than irrigation. One rain storm dropped 2 ¾" all at once and left us flooded for most of that day until the water receded. No major damage occurred from that deluge.

By the end of July, gardeners were picking cucumbers, okra, lettuce, arugula, zucchini, a few tomatoes, green beans, eggplant and beets. Other vegetables will be ready to harvest early this month.

If you are interested in obtaining a garden plot next year, email me at [rdluzen@ihmsisters.org](mailto:rdluzen@ihmsisters.org) and I'll make sure you are placed on the waiting list. Each year, one or two gardeners leave, which creates an opening for those on our waiting list. We'd be happy to have you join us in the garden.

Happy gardening to you,

**Bob**

Bob Dluzen  
Community Garden Coordinator



The gardens at the end of July were coming in strong. Pictured here is St. John the Baptist Parish garden plot.



With different flowers blooming all through the season, our Monarch waystation is providing nectar, pollen and breeding areas for Monarchs and other butterflies.

**Bring forth fruit with patience.**

**Luke 8:15**

## New tractor

Earlier this season, the IHM congregation obtained a much-needed new tractor, replacing the old 1970s vintage Ford tractor. The old one worked very well until the past few years or so, but age and wear started to take their toll. For example, some teeth on the flywheel were broken off, making it hard to start. Oil was leaking in several places. There were electrical and hydraulic system problems as well, making it cost-prohibitive to repair.



The new 2018 Yanmar tractor has a front loader-bucket that can be swapped with a set of forks making it possible for our Maintenance department to move heavy pallets of material in and out of storage. The bucket will be used to handle bulk materials such as sand, topsoil and stone. Whenever we've had to move heavy objects and materials, we've had to hire someone to do the job. Now we're able to do all that in-house making it easier to complete those tasks in a timely manner.

All our existing rear-mounted equipment including, rototiller, brush hog and post-hole digger, are mounted by way of a standard three-point hitch and are compatible with the Yanmar.

St. Mary Organic Farm has full access to the tractor. The first job using the tractor was preparing the garden for planting this spring – mowing the rye cover crop and tilling the garden soil. We've also used it to turn our substantial, and still-growing, compost pile.

Another valuable attribute of the new Yanmar is its up-to-date safety components. For example, the operator position is located well away from moving parts and it has automatic switches that shut off the tractor if an unsafe operation is performed.

Acquisition of the new tractor was made possible by a generous donation from a benefactor who wished to remain anonymous.

## USDA ends honeybee colonies report

### From the IHM Sisters Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office

Scientists just lost a valuable tool for understanding the crisis bees face: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has decided to stop collecting data for its crucial Honey Bee Colonies report.<sup>1</sup>

Last winter, honeybee colonies kept by commercial beekeepers declined by nearly 40% – a loss rate that experts describe as "unsustainable."<sup>2</sup> Some parts of the country have recently seen die-off rates as high as 80 or 90%.<sup>3</sup>

So much of our ecosystem, including our food supply, relies on the vital role bees play as pollinators. Their absence is already being felt: the state of California actually had to import millions of bees to support its almond farms.<sup>4</sup>

Click [here](#) to send a message to the USDA urging it to stand up for bee research.

1. Sam Fossum, "[Honeybees hit by Trump budget cuts](#)," CNN, July 6, 2019.

2. Julia Jacobo, "[Nearly 40% decline in honey bee population last winter 'unsustainable,' experts say](#)," ABC News, July 9, 2019.

3. Steve McDaniel, "[The bees are dying](#)," *The Baltimore Sun*, Feb. 7, 2019.

4. Amicia Ramsey, "[Millions of bees transported to the Central Valley for almond season](#)," *Bakersfield Now*, accessed Feb. 12, 2019.

## August normal temperatures 1980-present

Date	Normal high temp.	Normal low temp.	Normal daily avg. temp.
Aug. 1	83°F	64°F	73°F
2	83°F	64°F	73°F
3	83°F	64°F	73°F
4	83°F	64°F	73°F
5	83°F	64°F	73°F
6	82°F	64°F	73°F
7	82°F	64°F	73°F
8	82°F	64°F	73°F
9	82°F	63°F	73°F
10	82°F	63°F	73°F
11	82°F	63°F	73°F
12	82°F	63°F	73°F
13	82°F	63°F	72°F
14	82°F	63°F	72°F
15	82°F	63°F	72°F
16	82°F	63°F	72°F
17	82°F	63°F	72°F
18	81°F	63°F	72°F
19	81°F	63°F	72°F
20	81°F	63°F	72°F
21	81°F	62°F	72°F
22	81°F	62°F	72°F
23	81°F	62°F	71°F
24	81°F	62°F	71°F
25	81°F	62°F	71°F
26	80°F	62°F	71°F
27	80°F	61°F	71°F
28	80°F	61°F	70°F
29	80°F	61°F	70°F
30	80°F	61°F	70°F
31	79°F	60°F	70°F

## August record temperatures 1874-present

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

## August 2019 twilight

Date	Morning twilight begins EDT	Evening twilight ends EDT
Aug. 1	5:56	9:24
2	5:57	9:22
3	5:58	9:21
4	5:59	9:20
5	6:00	9:18
6	6:01	9:17
7	6:02	9:16
8	6:03	9:14
9	6:05	9:13
10	6:06	9:11
11	6:07	9:10
12	6:08	9:09
13	6:09	9:07
14	6:10	9:06
15	6:11	9:04
16	6:12	9:03
17	6:14	9:01
18	6:15	8:59
19	6:16	8:58
20	6:17	8:56
21	6:18	8:55
22	6:19	8:53
23	6:20	8:51
24	6:21	8:50
25	6:23	8:48
26	6:24	8:46
27	6:25	8:45
28	6:26	8:43
29	6:27	8:41
30	6:28	8:40
31	6:29	8:38

## August 2019 sunrise and sunset

Date	Sunrise EDT	Sunset EDT
Aug. 1	6:27	8:52
2	6:28	8:51
3	6:29	8:50
4	6:30	8:49
5	6:31	8:47
6	6:32	8:46
7	6:33	8:45
8	6:34	8:44
9	6:35	8:42
10	6:36	8:41
11	6:37	8:40
12	6:38	8:38
13	6:39	8:37
14	6:40	8:35
15	6:41	8:34
16	6:42	8:33
17	6:44	8:31
18	6:45	8:30
19	6:46	8:28
20	6:47	8:27
21	6:48	8:25
22	6:49	8:24
23	6:50	8:22
24	6:51	8:20
25	6:52	8:19
26	6:53	8:17
27	6:54	8:16
28	6:55	8:14
29	6:56	8:12
30	6:57	8:11
31	6:58	8:09

## August precipitation records

Date	Greatest amount of rain	Year
Aug. 1	1.17 in.	1922
2	1.46 in.	1922
3	1.83 in.	1933
4	3.90 in.	1888
5	2.33 in.	1940
6	2.51 in.	1998
7	1.26 in.	1916
8	2.03 in.	1942
9	1.03 in.	1896
10	1.30 in.	1914
11	4.57 in.	2014
12	2.46 in.	2013
13	2.18 in.	1994
14	1.86 in.	1905
15	1.31 in.	1986
16	2.81 in.	1974
17	4.51 in.	1926
18	1.25 in.	2001
19	1.90 in.	1991
20	1.62 in.	2007
21	2.72 in.	1890
22	1.99 in.	1987
23	2.29 in.	1901
24	1.05 in.	1885
25	1.76 in.	1940
26	2.11 in.	1987
27	1.30 in.	1903
28	2.38 in.	1932
29	1.73 in.	1975
30	2.24 in.	1959
31	2.02 in.	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 Events at 734-240-9871 or [events@ihmsisters.org](mailto:events@ihmsisters.org); They will be happy to assist you with your reservation.



## Straw for mulch

Bales of straw for use in the Community Garden are available for purchase again this year. The cost is \$3 per bale. There are a dozen bales out by the shed for you to use. Please keep track of how many bales you take. More bales will be stored in the barn to keep them out of the rain.



# Nature Explorers

## Sphinx Moth

Sphinx moths are sometimes called hawk moths or hummingbird moths because their flying motions are similar to that of birds. When feeding on nectar from flowers, they hover in the air just like a hummingbird. Since they are large moths, it's easy to mistake them for hummingbirds at first glance. They are very fast flyers. Some species can fly up to 30 miles per hour.



The tomato hornworm is the larval stage of a common sphinx moth in Michigan that feeds on tomatoes, potatoes, peppers and similar crops.

**Did you know?** Tomato hornworms are very well camouflaged and can be very hard to find.

**If you find a hornworm in your garden,** instead of killing it, consider relocating it to a patch of weeds so it can morph into sphinx moth. The best spot is one with wild plants such as Jimson weed, Horse nettle, Ground cherry or related plants.

## 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.


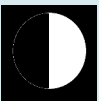
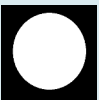



## From Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*

A politics concerned with immediate results, supported by consumerist sectors of the population, is driven to produce short-term growth. In response to electoral interests, governments are reluctant to upset the public with measures which could affect the level of consumption or create risks for foreign investment. The myopia of power politics delays the inclusion of a far-sighted environmental agenda within the overall agenda of governments. Thus we forget that "time is greater than space"[130], that we are always more effective when we generate processes rather than holding on to positions of power. True statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good. Political powers do not find it easy to assume this duty in the work of nation-building. [178]



## Phases of the moon August 2019

	New Moon - Aug. 30
	First Quarter - Aug. 7
	Full Moon - Aug. 15
	Last Quarter - Aug. 23

## IHM Garden Bee Journal: July 20, 2019

By Judy Durfy



Honey bee queens are placed in small cages for shipment. Seven or eight worker bees are placed with her for care and protection.

What a strange month it's been! A few weeks ago, I found that the two splits I had made were unsuccessful. One didn't survive because the queen failed. The other had been overcome by hive beetles. Once hive beetles invade, they permanently soil and ruin all the honey and honeycomb, leaving no room for the bees to store honey or grow larvae. Thankfully, I had recently ordered two 100% Russian-mated queens and installed them earlier this week. I gently removed two frames of capped brood, eggs and young worker bees from one of the living hives, making sure the existing queen wasn't on them. I moved those frames into their own hive along with additional frames of honey and empty wax comb. Then, I placed the little cage holding a new queen into the newly created hive.

For the other new queen, I went back to the existing hive and placed a screen between the top box and the rest of the hive. I "banked" the new queen by placing her cage into the top section along with some honey and young worker bees. The screen separating the top box with the new queen from the rest of the hive will prevent the honeybees from trying to kill the intruding queen. It takes about three days for the bees to get used to the new queen's odor and today was day three, so I headed out to the hives to release the queens.

The newly created hive appeared to be doing well. The queen was active and healthy. When I opened her cage up, she raced out and went deep into her hive. Things didn't go quite so well with the other queen that was "banked" on top the other hive. She was healthy and active, too, but when I let her out of the cage, she stayed on top the frames. I watched as another bee came up to greet and feed her, showing she had been accepted. But then, as new queens sometimes do, she took off into the air! They usually fly right back, so I left the top open and waited a while before closing the hive up.

A few minutes later I noticed a lot of bees appear suddenly at the lower entrance. Sure enough, the new queen had tried to enter the hive from the bottom and was immediately "balled" by the lower level bees. Balling is when bees pile up on top of an invading queen, or an old queen they want to get rid of, creating an airtight, ping-pong sized ball of bees. It's usually impossible to save the queens from suffocating when this occurs. I picked up the ball of bees and placed it into the top section, hoping the ball would break up and the queen would be safe with the accepting bees. It will be interesting to see what surprises the honeybees have in store for me next time.

### Gardening in the 1900s

**TEA**  
DRINK TEA - AND YOUR SYSTEM WILL  
GRADUALLY BE POISONED BY TANNIC ACID-

**COFFEE**  
DRINK COFFEE - AND YOU WILL  
BECOME A NERVOUS WRECK -

**COCOA**  
DRINK COCOA  
FOR BREAKFAST, LUNCH  
AND SUPPER  
AND YOU WILL ENJOY PERFECT HEALTH -  
COCOA IS A BUILDER OF STRENGTH & VITALITY

OF COURSE  
IT'S *Huylers'* YOU WANT,  
IT IS THE PUREST & BEST. ALL GROCERS.

From *Garden Magazine* 1906. Milton Hershey was an employee of Huylers' before starting his own company.

**"I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers."**

**- Claude Monet**