



GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community
Garden Newsletter**

September 2019



Harvest time

The St. Mary Organic Farm community gardens are in great shape as they make the transition into September. Regular rain during August was a nice contrast compared to the dry August we normally have and that made for some very good growing weather. Harvest of some long-season summer vegetables, such as tomatoes and peppers, was delayed but we were expecting that because of the late start we had in the spring. Our gardeners have done a yeoman's job tending their plots. Many people have commented this is the best-looking garden in many years.

Our volunteers have been hard at work too. We have four new elevated garden beds that were constructed by volunteers in August. Other volunteers are tending our flower and vegetable gardens, our grapes and other areas around SMOF. We could not sustain this program without them. If you would like to become a SMOF volunteer, please email me at rdluzen@ihmsisters.org or our volunteer coordinator Sherry Wagenknecht at swagenknecht@ihmsisters.org.

Thank you for your continuing support and friendship,

Bob

Bob Dluzen
Community Garden Coordinator



If we had a sunflower contest, Sister Loretta would win first prize.



On the last day of August, the gazebo made a fine backdrop for the lush garden brimming with vegetables.

*Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields
are already white for harvest.*

John 4:35

New elevated garden boxes

Our SMOF community garden has had raised garden planting boxes in the past. Those boxes served our gardeners well but, after several years, they deteriorated so much they had to be removed.

SMOF volunteers Paul Simonton and Charlie Rick led a team of builders from the JAWS (Jail Alternative Work Service) program to build four elevated planting boxes. Paul and Charlie accurately cut the lumber into pieces for easy assembly. The JAWS team, under Paul and Charlie's supervision, then put together the boxes using exterior-grade torx screws.

The assembled boxes were lined with landscape fabric and filled with compost that we made onsite using garden debris, mulch and other plant material that we collected from the garden plots over the past few years. Compost is more fertile and drains better than topsoil in this kind of application.



The beds were placed far enough apart to allow plenty of room for lawn mowing equipment. They measure five feet long by three feet wide by three feet high, making the planting surface easy to reach from all directions.

Next year, elderly or disabled gardeners who are not able to garden at ground level will have the option to plant a garden in our new elevated boxes.

The raised boxes are located just east of the red garden shed on a level, well-drained site near tools and a water source.

Around the garden



Our concord grapes are safely ripening under protective netting.



A friend of the St. Mary Organic Farm donated this wonderful outdoor book exchange cabinet. We now use it as an information kiosk.

September normal temperatures 1980-present

Date	Normal high temp.	Normal low temp.	Normal daily avg. temp.
Sept. 1	79°F	60°F	70°F
2	79°F	60°F	69°F
3	79°F	60°F	69°F
4	78°F	59°F	69°F
5	78°F	59°F	68°F
6	78°F	59°F	68°F
7	77°F	58°F	68°F
8	77°F	58°F	67°F
9	77°F	58°F	67°F
10	76°F	57°F	67°F
11	76°F	57°F	66°F
12	76°F	56°F	66°F
13	75°F	56°F	66°F
14	75°F	56°F	65°F
15	75°F	55°F	65°F
16	74°F	55°F	64°F
17	74°F	54°F	64°F
18	73°F	54°F	64°F
19	73°F	53°F	63°F
20	72°F	53°F	63°F
21	72°F	53°F	62°F
22	72°F	52°F	62°F
23	71°F	52°F	61°F
24	71°F	51°F	61°F
25	70°F	51°F	60°F
26	70°F	50°F	60°F
27	69°F	50°F	60°F
28	69°F	50°F	59°F
29	68°F	49°F	59°F
30	68°F	49°F	58°F

September record temperatures 1874-present

Date	Record high	Year	Record low	Year
Sept. 1	98°F	1953	42°F	1967
2	100°F	1953	44°F	1885
3	100°F	1953	43°F	1976
4	92°F	2018	40°F	1974
5	99°F	1954	42°F	1984
6	95°F	1978	38°F	1984
7	97°F	1939	43°F	1986
8	98°F	1976	39°F	1986
9	94°F	2002	37°F	1883
10	94°F	1983	40°F	1883
11	95°F	1931	39°F	1917
12	96°F	1952	39°F	1943
13	97°F	1874	40°F	1975
14	98°F	1939	37°F	1975
15	100°F	1939	41°F	1984
16	98°F	1939	38°F	1966
17	93°F	1955	36°F	1959
18	92°F	1955	37°F	1943
19	93°F	1955	38°F	1982
20	92°F	1895	36°F	1956
21	92°F	1895	35°F	1875
22	91°F	1941	30°F	1974
23	91°F	2017	29°F	1974
24	89°F	2017	33°F	1989
25	93°F	1891	34°F	1879
26	93°F	2017	30°F	1883
27	88°F	1891	34°F	1899
28	87°F	1905	33°F	1991
29	89°F	1953	32°F	1942
30	85°F	1991	30°F	1899

September 2019 twilight

Date	Morning twilight begins EDT	Evening twilight ends EDT
Sept. 1	6:30	8:36
2	6:31	8:34
3	6:33	8:33
4	6:34	8:31
5	6:35	8:29
6	6:36	8:27
7	6:37	8:26
8	6:38	8:24
9	6:39	8:22
10	6:40	8:20
11	6:41	8:18
12	6:42	8:17
13	6:43	8:15
14	6:44	8:13
15	6:45	8:11
16	6:47	8:10
17	6:48	8:08
18	6:49	8:06
19	6:50	8:04
20	6:51	8:03
21	6:52	8:01
22	6:53	7:59
23	6:54	7:57
24	6:55	7:55
25	6:56	7:54
26	6:57	7:52
27	6:58	7:50
28	6:59	7:49
29	7:00	7:47
30	7:01	7:45

September 2019 sunrise and sunset

Date	Sunrise EDT	Sunset EDT
Sept. 1	6:59	7:07
2	7:00	7:06
3	7:01	7:04
4	7:02	7:02
5	7:03	7:01
6	7:04	6:59
7	7:05	6:57
8	7:06	6:56
9	7:07	6:54
10	7:08	6:52
11	7:09	6:50
12	7:10	6:49
13	7:11	6:47
14	7:12	6:45
15	7:13	6:43
16	7:15	6:42
17	7:16	6:40
18	7:17	6:38
19	7:18	6:36
20	7:19	6:35
21	7:20	6:33
22	7:21	6:31
23	7:22	6:29
24	7:23	6:28
25	7:24	6:26
26	7:25	6:24
27	7:26	6:22
28	7:27	6:21
29	7:28	6:19
30	7:29	6:17

September precipitation records

Date	Greatest amount of rain	Year
Sept. 1	0.90in.	1952
2	1.16in.	1922
3	3.21in.	1879
4	2.10in.	1918
5	0.97in.	1915
6	2.73in.	1990
7	1.40in.	1936
8	0.91in.	1942
9	1.82in.	1992
10	1.65in.	2000
11	3.71in.	2000
12	1.41in.	1925
13	2.97in.	2008
14	1.58in.	1911
15	1.65in.	1992
16	1.39in.	2010
17	1.20in.	1905
18	1.06in.	1899
19	1.81in.	2011
20	1.53in.	2018
21	1.73in.	1919
22	1.84in.	1986
23	1.28in.	1961
24	1.12in.	1926
25	2.51in.	2018
26	2.08in.	1880
27	1.28in.	1896
28	2.13in.	1959
29	2.87in.	2016
30	1.30in.	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 Events at 734-240-9871 or events@ihmsisters.org; They will be happy to 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

Staghorn sumac



Staghorn sumac is a common small tree or shrub in Michigan. It prefers to grow along the edges of dry fields and hillsides and is easy to spot in the fall when its tight, cone-shaped

bunches of berries turn bright red. The fuzzy berries grow upright from the ends of the stalks. Some people make sumac tea out of the tart and flavorful berries. Native Americans used sumac as a medicine for sore throats, colds, asthma and other illnesses. They used the stems to make a yellow dye that was used for coloring baskets, mats and other objects.

OBSERVE: In the fall, look for sumac trees growing along the highway. Look at the trees again in the spring and summer and see if you can spot them.

KEEP IN MIND: A similar looking, but rarer tree, called poison sumac grows in very wet, muddy areas. It has white berries that grow along the branches in loose bunches that hang down. Poison sumac causes the same kind of rash as poison ivy.

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.




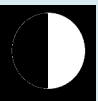


From Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*

This responsibility for God's earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing



between the creatures of this world, for "he commanded and they were created; and he established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds and he set a law which cannot pass away." (Psalm 148:5b-6) The laws found in the Bible dwell on relationships, not only among individuals but also with other living beings. "You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen down by the way and withhold your help. ... If you chance to come upon a bird's nest in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting upon the young or upon the eggs; you shall not take the mother with the young." (Deuteronomy 22:4, 6) Along these same lines, rest on the seventh day is meant not only for human beings, but also so "that your ox and your donkey may have rest." (Exodus 23:12) [68]

Phases of the moon September 2019

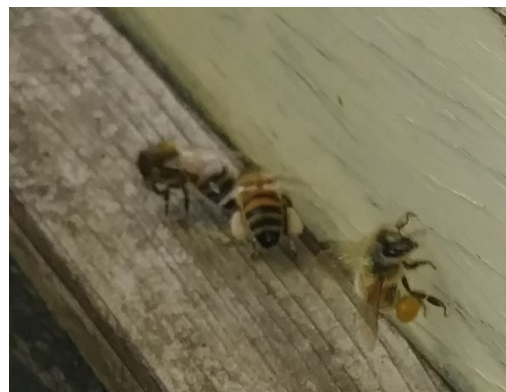
	New Moon - Sept. 28
	First Quarter - Sept. 6
	Full Moon - Sept. 14
	Last Quarter - Sept. 22

IHM Garden Bee Journal: Aug. 25, 2019

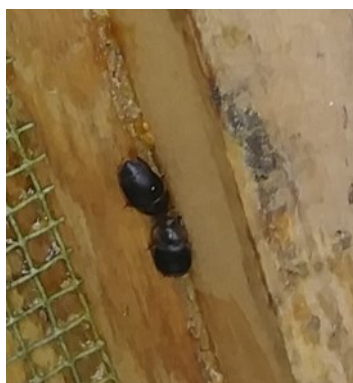
By Judy Durfy

It was another beautiful weekend and I headed out to the beehives. I was a bit worried because when I was out two weeks ago, the honeybees still weren't bringing in pollen, meaning there were no baby bees to feed it to. I began to wonder if those illusive Russian queens had failed because although both hives had been full of beautiful honey, there were fewer bees and there were many hive beetles scurrying around.

When I arrived at the IHM garden, I was prepared to find dying hives full of beetles and spoiled honey. As I neared the hives, I was happy to see lots of bees flying from both, many more than I saw on my last visit. The queens were alive and had started laying again! The incoming worker bees had their baskets heavily laden with pollen to feed the new larvae. The queens must have held off laying over the past few weeks because it had been hot and dry and there hadn't been much nectar and pollen available.



Worker bees returning to the hive with nectar in their bellies and pollen on their hind legs



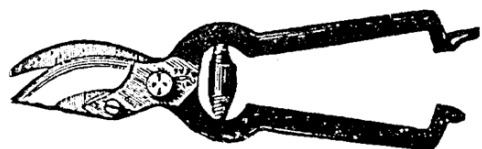
Two beetles in the hive

The resulting lower bee population allowed the hive beetles to try and take over, but now there are lots of bees to protect and clean the hives – and not a single beetle! It has recently rained several times, increasing the local supply of nectar and pollen. As soon as the foraging bees saw the food supply had improved, they notified the rest of the hive and the queens responded by working very hard laying to make up for all that lost time. It was truly an amazing day.

This is the time of year most beekeepers remove the honey, hoping the bees will be able to replace it all before the cold weather comes. Sometimes, there can be a fall drought and the bees can't make up for the honey that was removed. Although these hives are full of honey now, I won't remove it, if any, until late fall to ensure the bees have enough left to eat all winter long until mid-April.

Gardening in the 1900s

PRUNING SHEARS



Best Solid Steel
Price 60 cents
including postage. Special offer
for October.

Headquarters for Pruning Tools
and Agricultural Implements.

J. S. WOODHOUSE, 191-5 Water St., New York

An advertisement in the October 1905 issue of *Gardening Magazine*. These pruning shears would cost about \$17 today. J.S. Woodhouse is still in business selling agricultural, forestry and garden implements and is currently headquartered in Maryland.

"Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty if only we have eyes to see them."

— John Ruskin