



# GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community  
Garden Newsletter**

**July 2020**



## **New season**

When this spring started, the weather was good, the soil was moist but not too wet and the temperatures were moderate for the most part. It looked like we were going to have an early start in the garden this year. Meanwhile, COVID-19 was brewing and soon we were in lockdown.

It was June 1, when we got the go ahead to start working in the garden, which was a big relief for our gardeners. It was no surprise that nearly every garden plot was planted in just a few days. We are still operating under the COVID-19 restrictions. For example, we are not loaning out garden tools this year. Also, the water spigots are turned off. These precautions are in place to minimize central points of virus transmission. Plus, we are maintaining the minimum six feet social distance.

Because no one was allowed on the grounds for so long, our perennial flower garden was overtaken with weeds and looked like it could be a lost cause this season. Our flower garden volunteers forged ahead. They have made phenomenal progress toward restoring the garden. There's still plenty of work to do.

Speaking of garden volunteers, we are accepting applications for volunteer opportunities. If you are interested please contact me at [rdluzen@ihmsisters.org](mailto:rdluzen@ihmsisters.org).

Happy gardening,

**Bob**

Bob Dluzen  
Community Garden Coordinator



Due to COVID-19, work on the garden was delayed until June 1. By that time, the winter rye cover crop was quite high and left a large amount of straw after mowing.



In little over a week after tilling, almost every garden plot was planted. Seeds were sown, transplants were set out and mulch was laid down.

***Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons.***

***Acts 14:17***

## July normal temperatures 1980-present

Date	Normal high temp.	Normal low temp.
July 1	83°F	63°F
2	83°F	63°F
3	83°F	63°F
4	83°F	64°F
5	83°F	64°F
6	84°F	64°F
7	84°F	64°F
8	84°F	64°F
9	84°F	64°F
10	84°F	64°F
11	84°F	64°F
12	84°F	64°F
13	84°F	64°F
14	84°F	64°F
15	84°F	64°F
16	84°F	64°F
17	84°F	64°F
18	84°F	64°F
19	84°F	64°F
20	84°F	64°F
21	84°F	64°F
22	83°F	64°F
23	83°F	64°F
24	83°F	64°F
25	83°F	64°F
26	83°F	64°F
27	83°F	64°F
28	83°F	64°F
29	83°F	64°F
30	83°F	64°F
31	83°F	64°F

## July record temperatures 1874-present

Date	Record high	Year	Record low	Year
July 1	98°F	1931	47°F	1965
2	99°F	2011	46°F	2001
3	100°F	1911	48°F	1971
4	102°F	2012	49°F	1972
5	96°F	1988	47°F	1972
6	100°F	1988	42°F	1972
7	101°F	1988	44°F	1984
8	104°F	1936	45°F	1984
9	102°F	1936	50°F	1883
10	102°F	1936	51°F	1895
11	101°F	1936	47°F	1978
12	100°F	1936	43°F	1978
13	102°F	1936	48°F	1976
14	104°F	1936	46°F	1967
15	102°F	1977	50°F	1971
16	102°F	1988	49°F	1945
17	102°F	2012	46°F	1978
18	99°F	1942	49°F	1971
19	100°F	1946	48°F	1984
20	97°F	1977	48°F	1971
21	100°F	2011	50°F	1970
22	96°F	1940	49°F	1970
23	98°F	2016	50°F	1981
24	105°F	1934	52°F	1974
25	99°F	1940	51°F	1953
26	97°F	1941	50°F	1977
27	100°F	1955	48°F	1971
28	100°F	1930	48°F	1978
29	99°F	1940	50°F	1971
30	98°F	1916	50°F	1984
31	96°F	2006	48°F	1918

## July 2020 twilight

Date	Morning twilight begins EDT	Evening twilight ends EDT
July 1	5:28 a.m.	9:46 p.m.
2	5:28 a.m.	9:46 p.m.
3	5:29 a.m.	9:46 p.m.
4	5:30 a.m.	9:45 p.m.
5	5:30 a.m.	9:45 p.m.
6	5:31 a.m.	9:45 p.m.
7	5:32 a.m.	9:44 p.m.
8	5:32 a.m.	9:44 p.m.
9	5:33 a.m.	9:43 p.m.
10	5:34 a.m.	9:43 p.m.
11	5:35 a.m.	9:42 p.m.
12	5:36 a.m.	9:42 p.m.
13	5:37 a.m.	9:41 p.m.
14	5:37 a.m.	9:40 p.m.
15	5:38 a.m.	9:39 p.m.
16	5:39 a.m.	9:39 p.m.
17	5:40 a.m.	9:38 p.m.
18	5:41 a.m.	9:37 p.m.
19	5:42 a.m.	9:36 p.m.
20	5:43 a.m.	9:35 p.m.
21	5:44 a.m.	9:34 p.m.
22	5:45 a.m.	9:33 p.m.
23	5:46 a.m.	9:32 p.m.
24	5:47 a.m.	9:31 p.m.
25	5:48 a.m.	9:30 p.m.
26	5:49 a.m.	9:29 p.m.
27	5:50 a.m.	9:28 p.m.
28	5:51 a.m.	9:27 p.m.
29	5:53 a.m.	9:26 p.m.
30	5:54 a.m.	9:25 p.m.
31	5:54 a.m.	9:23 p.m.

## July 2020 sunrise and sunset

Date	Sunrise EDT	Sunset EDT
July 1	6:02 a.m.	9:13 p.m.
2	6:02 a.m.	9:13 p.m.
3	6:03 a.m.	9:12 p.m.
4	6:04 a.m.	9:12 p.m.
5	6:04 a.m.	9:12 p.m.
6	6:05 a.m.	9:12 p.m.
7	6:06 a.m.	9:11 p.m.
8	6:06 a.m.	9:11 p.m.
9	6:07 a.m.	9:10 p.m.
10	6:08 a.m.	9:10 p.m.
11	6:08 a.m.	9:10 p.m.
12	6:09 a.m.	9:09 p.m.
13	6:10 a.m.	9:08 p.m.
14	6:11 a.m.	9:08 p.m.
15	6:12 a.m.	9:07 p.m.
16	6:12 a.m.	9:07 p.m.
17	6:13 a.m.	9:06 p.m.
18	6:14 a.m.	9:05 p.m.
19	6:15 a.m.	9:05 p.m.
20	6:16 a.m.	9:04 p.m.
21	6:17 a.m.	9:03 p.m.
22	6:18 a.m.	9:02 p.m.
23	6:19 a.m.	9:01 p.m.
24	6:20 a.m.	9:00 p.m.
25	6:21 a.m.	8:59 p.m.
26	6:21 a.m.	8:58 p.m.
27	6:22 a.m.	8:58 p.m.
28	6:23 a.m.	8:56 p.m.
29	6:24 a.m.	8:55 p.m.
30	6:25 a.m.	8:54 p.m.
31	6:26 a.m.	8:53 p.m.

## July precipitation records

Date	Greatest amount of rain	Year
July 1	1.52 in.	1876
2	1.56 in.	2011
3	2.17 in.	1902
4	2.38 in.	1969
5	1.76 in.	2012
6	1.12 in.	1975
7	4.34 in.	1998
8	2.80 in.	1957
9	2.51 in.	1937
10	2.05 in.	1879
11	3.08 in.	1979
12	3.19 in.	1966
13	1.48 in.	1914
14	1.26 in.	1886
15	1.94 in.	1937
16	0.93 in.	1988
17	1.20 in.	1983
18	2.70 in.	1903
19	2.61 in.	1982
20	2.04 in.	1989
21	1.19 in.	1899
22	1.73 in.	1994
23	1.69 in.	2010
24	2.34 in.	1912
25	1.16 in.	1964
26	2.17 in.	1878
27	2.62 in.	1896
28	2.16 in.	2011
29	3.54 in.	1909
30	1.75 in.	1915
31	4.74 in.	1925

## Around the garden



Four elevated beds are available at the garden site for those who find it difficult to garden at ground level.



During the second week of July, our grapevines looked like they were on their way to produce normal harvest. Very few pests are evident despite no sprays being used.



This year, we have a community garden within the community garden. Our gardeners planted a 30'x60' area with plants they donated and have volunteered to care for the plot. Plants include squash, pumpkins, melons, cucumbers and assorted other vegetables.

# Nature Explorers

## Do you know what a raptor is?



**Raptor**, from the Latin word “rapere,” means to seize or to take by force. The term raptor is used to refer to all hawk-like birds of prey that are **diurnal** (hunt during the day). These birds are **carnivores** (meat eaters) and many are able to catch other birds in mid-air.

Raptors are made for hunting, having hooked beaks with sharp edges, curved and sharp talons and keen hearing and eyesight. Their eyesight is up to eight times better than a human's.

When a raptor screeches in flight, it is probably either searching for a mate during mating season or defending its territory from another predator bird.

Observe the sky for raptors during the day. There are quite a few in Michigan, but the red-tailed-hawk (hawk is the term for a medium-sized raptor) is the most common hawk in North America.

Did you know that raptors mate for life and both mother and father take turns sitting on the eggs and caring for their young?

## 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*

In this sense, social ecology is necessarily institutional, and gradually extends to the whole of society, from the primary social group, the family, to the wider local, national and international communities. Within each social stratum, and between them, institutions develop to regulate human relationships. Anything which weakens those institutions has negative consequences, such as injustice, violence and loss of freedom. A number of countries have a relatively low level of institutional effectiveness, which results in greater problems for their people while benefiting those who profit from this situation. Whether in the administration of the state, the various levels of civil society, or relationships between individuals themselves, lack of respect for the law is becoming more common. Laws may be well framed yet remain a dead letter. Can we hope, then, that in such cases, legislation and regulations dealing with the environment will really prove effective? We know, for example, that countries which have clear legislation about the protection of forests continue to keep silent as they watch laws repeatedly being broken. Moreover, what takes place in any one area can have a direct or indirect influence on other areas. Thus, for example, drug use in affluent societies creates a continual and growing demand for products imported from poorer regions, where behavior is corrupted, lives are destroyed, and the environment continues to deteriorate. [#142]

## Phases of the moon July 2020

	Last Quarter - July 12
	New Moon - July 20
	First Quarter - July 27
	Full Moon - Aug. 3

## IHM Garden Bee Journal: June 6

By Judy Durfy

A lot has happened since the fall when I found both hives had hive beetles in them. In October, one hive was too infested to save but the other was still strong and had kept the beetles in check. That hive made it through winter, but when I checked on it later in the spring, the beetles had destroyed the hive.

I was prepared; I had ordered two bee packages during the wintertime. They arrived in mid-May. I had already prepared the hives for their arrival by destroying the beetle infested frames and foundations and replacing them with all new wood and wax. I also used a new “no-chem” beetle control method. In all four corners of the top box, I placed a bunched-up microfiber paper towel. Supposedly the tiny beetles will get stuck in the towels because the microfiber acts like velcro. I placed the new bees and their queens into the hives.

It was a beautiful sunny afternoon today as I drove toward the hives. I was surprised to see a big red fox slowly trotting down the drive. With so few people outside nowadays, the fox was enjoying being out and about. As I approached the hives, I could see bees flying out of both.

One hive hadn't been quite as prolific as the other and I had been worried about it. On today's hive check, it was clear that the queen in that hive had failed and the population was dwindling. Fortunately, the other hive appears very strong. I did see a few hive beetles trapped in the microfiber towels, so the towel method does appear to have some merit. The bees in the strong hive had practically filled the two hive bodies all the way up with brood and honey, so I added more space. Now it's up to mother nature to provide the bees with good weather and enough nectar.



### July precipitation records

**Normal monthly precipitation:** 3.37 inches

**Wettest July:** 8.76 inches in 1878

**Driest July:** .50 inches in 1930



**“The foolish man seeks happiness in the distance.  
The wise man grows it under his feet.”**

**— James Openheim**

