



GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community
Garden Newsletter**



August/September 2021

Summer growing challenges

Frequent rain made for very wet growing conditions during mid-July through mid-August. Several of our garden plots were literally underwater after some of the torrential rainfall events that occurred.

Wild animals including deer, woodchucks and racoons visited the garden often and caused much damage by feeding not only on vegetables but on the vegetable plants as well. Deer were particularly bad early August. It's an on-going challenge that our gardeners have been dealing with for some time. Urban city deer are hard to deal with because they are so used to living around people.

Hot summer daytime temperatures combined with excessive rain caused plenty of stress on garden plants. Because plant roots were killed by drowning in standing water, garden plants were unable to handle hot weather — weeds of course bounced back quickly.

Despite all of the challenges, nearly all of our gardeners plan to return next year. Some have already ordered seeds for next year.

If you would like to join us in our gardening journey, email me to be placed on the waiting list to rent a plot for next year's growing season.

Good gardening,

Bob Dluzen

St. Mary Organic Farm



Approaching St. Mary Organic Farm Community Garden from the south.



Many of our gardeners plant marigolds around their borders. According to some, 2021 has been the best year for marigolds in recent memory.

IHM Bee Log Aug. 15, 2021

As I traveled to the beehives, I noticed many large tree branches down along the route because of the recent storms.

I was relieved to see the area around the hive had only twigs come down and the hive was intact. The honeybees were going about their business with foragers consistently traveling in and out of the bottom entrance.

When I opened the hive, I was happy to see the bees had been filling up the upper-level super with honey. There were five completely drawn frames, capped with pure white wax, and filled with a light honey. Each deep frame holds about nine pounds of honey, meaning the bees had stored over 50 pounds of honey to use this winter. I lifted the heavy box off and found the next super had a lot of capped brood almost ready to hatch.

Over the next few weeks, the newly hatched bees will be special “winter bees” able to live through an entire winter, instead of only a few weeks. Usually, I try to leave at least 100 pounds of honey for the winter bees. The pure Russian bees go through winter with a smaller population, but they will need more honey. Fortunately, goldenrod will be blooming soon, giving the bees more nectar to collect before winter sets in.

I placed an empty super filled with drawn comb on top of the deep super to make room for more honey. Each medium frame holds about six pounds of honey, so that will allow the bees to store up to 60 additional pounds.

Yellow jacket wasps took advantage of the nearby empty hive, making a nest inside an empty super. Many people call me to “save” the “bees” they notice early in the fall that are inside their porch, bricks, or a hole in the ground.

In the fall, honeybee hives are reducing in population, but wasp and hornet nest keep increasing - to the point they all can't fit inside. If you notice a lot of “bees” coming out of a structure as fall approaches, they are most likely not gentle honeybees at all, but instead, aggressive yellow jackets.



A frame of finished honey from our bee hives in August. The white areas are wax caps that the worker bees make to cover the cells once they are filled insuring safe, plentiful storage of honey for winter and early spring.



Left, honey bee; right, yellow jacket. Honey bees are fuzzy, while yellow jackets are smooth and glossy. Yellow jackets markings are bright, while honey bees are somewhat duller.

Grapevines in late August



In late August, concord grape sugar content begins to rise, as the fruit is beginning to change color. At this stage they are astringent and still quite sour.

Gardening in 1905



Advertisement from the September 1905 issue of *Garden Magazine*.

Minimal irrigation system usage in August

Because of frequent rain, our drip irrigation was turned on only once during August. Soil was just beginning to get dry at that time. We could have skipped that watering since thundershowers rolled through later that evening.



Nature Explorers

A native American



The sunflower originated in North America where it was used for food, medicine, dye and oil.

They actually follow the sun. It's a behavior called **heliotropism**. A young plant will face east in the morning and follow the sun's movement throughout the day. As the plant gets older, the stems stiffen and the plant no longer moves; it just faces east.

The flower head is made up of many tiny flowers called florets. The scientific name for the sunflower is *Helianthus*. Greek words Helia for sun and Anthus for flower. Spanish explorers took seeds to Europe in the 16th century. The sunflower is the national flower of Russia and the state flower of Kansas.

Sunflower oil is used to make a healthier version of potato chips. Look at your favorite brand and see if it is part of the ingredients.

Look for SunButter the next time you are at a grocery store. It is a peanut-free butter similar to peanut butter.

Nancy Coman, St. Mary Organic Farm Volunteer



IHM Associate Nancy Coman has been volunteering for the IHM Sisters in various capacities since 2009.

In 2018, in addition to other activities for the Sisters, she began caring for the plantings around the Gazebo and signs along the road leading to St. Mary Organic farm.

Since then, Nancy has transformed those flower beds from “barely getting by” to the beautiful gardens you see out there today.

She continues to help in other ways around the garden such as installing grapevine netting, harvesting grapes, weeding vegetable plots, assisting community gardeners and other tasks when called upon.

Vegetables used in IHM kitchen



Every year vegetables are grown for use in the IHM Motherhouse kitchen. This year's plot was located in the lowest part of the garden, so it was growing under adverse conditions much of July and August. Despite the waterlogged soil, cucumber vines recovered once the rains let up and the soil began to dry out. Although a few cucumbers were picked earlier, the first good picking happened the third week of August. The pepper, tomato, cabbage and other plants did not really recover.

Sunflowers are a favorite in the garden



By mid-August sunflowers had lost their upright stance and vibrant flower petals. Their nodding seed heads were heavy with ripening seeds.

Tell them that they are to do good, and be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share.



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 the 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, email the IHM Events Department at Events@imhsisters.org or call 734-240-9871.

From Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*

Jesus lived in full harmony with creation, and others were amazed: "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" (*Mt* 8:27). His appearance was not that of an ascetic set apart from the world, nor of an enemy to the pleasant things of life. Of himself he said: "The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard!'" (*Mt* 11:19). He was far removed from philosophies which despised the body, matter and the things of the world. Such unhealthy dualisms, nonetheless, left a mark on certain Christian thinkers in the course of history and disfigured the Gospel. Jesus worked with his hands, in daily contact with the matter created by God, to which he gave form by his craftsmanship. It is striking that most of his life was dedicated to this task in a simple life which awakened no admiration at all: "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?" (*Mk* 6:3). In this way he sanctified human labor and endowed it with a special significance for our development. As Saint John Paul II taught, "by enduring the toil of work in union with Christ crucified for us, man in a way collaborates with the Son of God for the redemption of humanity" [paragraph # 98]

Consider a gift to St. Mary Organic Farm



Donations are always appreciated and tax-deductible. Your contribution will go toward local educational programs on gardening, healthy eating and lifestyle, environmental 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, 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 write: "St. Mary Organic Farm" on the memo line.

Thank you for your continuing support.

September 2021 Sunrise and Sunset
Eastern Daylight Time

September 2021 Twilight hours
Eastern Daylight Time

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
1	6:59 AM	8:06 PM
2	7:00 AM	8:04 PM
3	7:01 AM	8:03 PM
4	7:02 AM	8:01 PM
5	7:03 AM	7:59 PM
6	7:04 AM	7:58 PM
7	7:05 AM	7:56 PM
8	7:06 AM	7:54 PM
9	7:07 AM	7:52 PM
10	7:08 AM	7:51 PM
11	7:09 AM	7:49 PM
12	7:10 AM	7:47 PM
13	7:11 AM	7:45 PM
14	7:12 AM	7:44 PM
15	7:13 AM	7:42 PM
16	7:15 AM	7:40 PM
17	7:16 AM	7:38 PM
18	7:17 AM	7:37 PM
19	7:18 AM	7:35 PM
20	7:19 AM	7:33 PM
21	7:20 AM	7:31 PM
22	7:21 AM	7:30 PM
23	7:22 AM	7:28 PM
24	7:23 AM	7:26 PM
25	7:24 AM	7:24 PM
26	7:25 AM	7:23 PM
27	7:26 AM	7:21 PM
28	7:27 AM	7:19 PM
29	7:28 AM	7:18 PM
30	7:29 AM	7:16 PM

Date	Morning Begins	Evening Ends
1	6:30 AM	8:35 PM
2	6:31 AM	8:33 PM
3	6:33 AM	8:31 PM
4	6:34 AM	8:29 PM
5	6:35 AM	8:28 PM
6	6:36 AM	8:26 PM
7	6:37 AM	8:24 PM
8	6:38 AM	8:22 PM
9	6:39 AM	8:21 PM
10	6:40 AM	8:19 PM
11	6:41 AM	8:17 PM
12	6:42 AM	8:15 PM
13	6:43 AM	8:13 PM
14	6:44 AM	8:12 PM
15	6:45 AM	8:10 PM
16	6:47 AM	8:08 PM
17	6:48 AM	8:06 PM
18	6:49 AM	8:05 PM
19	6:50 AM	8:03 PM
20	6:51 AM	8:01 PM
21	6:52 AM	7:59 PM
22	6:53 AM	7:58 PM
23	6:54 AM	7:56 PM
24	6:55 AM	7:54 PM
25	6:56 AM	7:52 PM
26	6:57 AM	7:51 PM
27	6:58 AM	7:49 PM
28	6:59 AM	7:47 PM
29	7:00 AM	7:45 PM
30	7:01 AM	7:44 PM

**September Normal
Temperatures
1991- present**

Date	Normal High	Normal Low
1	79°F	61°F
2	79°F	60°F
3	78°F	60°F
4	78°F	60°F
5	78°F	59°F
6	78°F	59°F
7	77°F	59°F
8	77°F	58°F
9	77°F	58°F
10	77°F	58°F
11	76°F	57°F
12	76°F	57°F
13	76°F	57°F
14	75°F	56°F
15	75°F	56°F
16	75°F	56°F
17	74°F	55°F
18	74°F	55°F
19	73°F	54°F
20	73°F	54°F
21	73°F	54°F
22	72°F	53°F
23	72°F	53°F
24	71°F	52°F
25	71°F	52°F
26	71°F	51°F
27	70°F	51°F
28	70°F	51°F
29	69°F	50°F
30	69°F	50°F

**September Record
Temperatures**

Date	Record High	Year	Record Low	Year
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	2020
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

Primary phases of the moon Sept. 2021

	New Moon - Sept. 6
	First Quarter - Sept. 13
	Full Moon - Sept. 20
	Last Quarter - Sept. 28

September Precipitation Records

Normal September Rain....3.22 inches

Rainiest September.. 7.25 inches 1986

Driest September.... 0.39 inches 1877



St. Mary Organic Farm Monarch Waystation



In our Monarch Waystation we grow a mix of perennial and annual flowers to provide a season-long nectar and pollen source for Monarch butterflies.

By late August, milkweed pods were filling out. Each pod can easily contain 400-500 seeds along with their downy floss.

Our notion of what makes a paradise always returns to the image of a beautiful and fruitful garden

- Jeff Cox