



GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community
Garden Newsletter**

May 2023



2023 gardening season begins

Over 185 million Americans are actively gardening, more now than ever. A world wide survey by UC Davis reports that the most popular reasons for gardening are: connection to nature, relaxation and stress relief. That lines up pretty closely with what I hear from our community gardeners. Other reasons described were a feeling of control and security from food production and experiences of joy and beauty in the garden. A community garden like ours allows gardeners an experience that can be shared with others having the same interest.

The 2023 gardening season at St. Mary Organic Farm began April 13 which is much earlier than usual for us. We had a string of unusually warm, sunny days with temperatures near 80 degrees on some days. That allowed the soil to dry out enough to be tilled.

A group of gardeners then gathered together to install the irrigation system and measure out the plots. A few days later, a cold front brought some rain and more seasonally cool temperatures remained the rest of April and into May.

If you or someone you know might like to rent a garden plot next year, please email me at rdluzen@ihmsisters.org.

Good gardening,

Bob



St. Mary Organic Farm Community Garden on an early spring morning.



Many of our gardeners start their own plants at home from seed. Their gardening season begins months earlier indoors.



***We are here to cultivate the
garden and take care of it.
Genesis 2:15***

Early spring at St. Mary Organic Farm



Grapevines in March before pruning. Except for the trunk, most of the grapevine canes will be removed.



Grapevines in April after pruning. Almost all of the old canes are removed. A few canes were selected, shortened in length and tied to the wire trellis.

Installing the irrigation system



Our irrigation install crew:
Dan P., Dave G., Judy W., Rob P., Sue W.

On a warm April 13, five volunteers from our gardens gathered to install a drip irrigation system. Main water lines were placed. Then 5,760 feet of drip tape was laid into the garden area and connected to supply lines. The plots were measured to size; the corners staked out and side borders marked by twine. That evening an email was sent to the rest of the gardeners announcing the garden was open for planting.

Tilling the garden soil



A view from the tractor seat while tilling the garden with our tractor-mounted rotary tiller.

The entire second week of April was unseasonably warm and dry. Most were breezy, allowing the soil to dry out enough to be tilled. Weeds were still small and easily tilled. One slow pass with the rotary tiller left the soil in fine condition for the gardeners to begin their work.

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 call 734-240-9871 to speak to the IHM Events Planning Department. Or email eventsplanning2@ihmsisters.org.



From Pope Francis's Encyclical *Laudato Si'*

It is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims. War always does grave harm to the environment and to the cultural riches of peoples, risks which are magnified when one considers nuclear arms and biological weapons. "Despite the international agreements which prohibit chemical, bacteriological and biological warfare, the fact is that laboratory research continues to develop new offensive weapons capable of altering the balance of nature." ³⁴ Politics must pay greater attention to foreseeing new conflicts and addressing the causes which can lead to them. But powerful financial interests prove most resistant to this effort and political planning tends to lack breadth of vision. What would induce anyone, at this stage, to hold onto power only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so? [57]

Consider a gift to St. Mary Organic Farm



Donations are appreciated and are 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, 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 continued support.

**The amen of nature is always a
flower.**

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Beekeepers log

April is the hardest month for bees: fluctuating temperatures, storms and little forage. This April was no exception.

On March 27, I was notified a big tree with a wild honeybee hive had fallen during the high winds in Monroe. Unfortunately, the falling tree damaged two houses, a vehicle and a garage. Lying on the ground among the fallen branches were honeybees who had made it through the winter and were clinging to one large wax comb. The bees had been on the ground for a day, so time was of the essence. I reached out to a nearby beekeeper for help. Beekeeper Dan was able to retrieve the bees and put them in a hive. Hopefully, the queen is among them and unharmed. We will have to wait to see how they fare.

It was not long before there were more damaging high winds. On April 4, I was notified one of my hives at the IHM St. Mary Organic Farm had blown over. Because I had winterized the hives with insulation and had taped the boxes together, the fallen hive was intact and the bees were alive. Severe storms were forecast for later that day, so I again reached out to beekeeper Dan for help. Dan rushed to the hive and was able to right it.

The beekeeping community is made up of the nicest people who are always willing to lend a hand! The bees seemed little bothered by the incident as foragers loaded with yellow pollen were busy finding their way back into the hive.

Judy Durfy, Beekeeper



Honeycombs from the fallen tree are exposed .



Winter insulation is shown here on the beehive.



The beehive was blown over by high winds.



The yellow dots are bees loaded with pollen.

May 2023 sunrise and sunset
Eastern Daylight Time

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
1	6:30 am	8:32 pm
2	6:28 am	8:33 pm
3	6:27 am	8:34 pm
4	6:26 am	8:35 pm
5	6:24 am	8:36 pm
6	6:23 am	8:37 pm
7	6:22 am	8:38 pm
8	6:21 am	8:39 pm
9	6:20 am	8:40 pm
10	6:18 am	8:41 pm
11	6:17 am	8:42 pm
12	6:16 am	8:43 pm
13	6:15 am	8:44 pm
14	6:14 am	8:45 pm
15	6:13 am	8:46 pm
16	6:12 am	8:47 pm
17	6:11 am	8:48 pm
18	6:10 am	8:49 pm
19	6:09 am	8:50 pm
20	6:08 am	8:51 pm
21	6:08 am	8:52 pm
22	6:07 am	8:53 pm
23	6:06 am	8:54 pm
24	6:05 am	8:55 pm
25	6:05 am	8:56 pm
26	6:04 am	8:57 pm
27	6:03 am	8:58 pm
28	6:03 am	8:59 pm
29	6:02 am	8:59 pm
30	6:01 am	9:00 pm
31	6:01 am	9:01 pm

April 2023 twilight hours
Eastern Daylight Time

Date	Morning Begins	Evening Ends
1	5:59 AM	9:02 PM
2	5:58 AM	9:03 PM
3	5:56 AM	9:04 PM
4	5:55 AM	9:06 PM
5	5:54 AM	9:07 PM
6	5:52 AM	9:08 PM
7	5:51 AM	9:09 PM
8	5:50 AM	9:10 PM
9	5:48 AM	9:12 PM
10	5:47 AM	9:13 PM
11	5:46 AM	9:14 PM
12	5:45 AM	9:15 PM
13	5:43 AM	9:16 PM
14	5:42 AM	9:17 PM
15	5:41 AM	9:18 PM
16	5:40 AM	9:20 PM
17	5:39 AM	9:21 PM
18	5:38 AM	9:22 PM
19	5:37 AM	9:23 PM
20	5:36 AM	9:24 PM
21	5:35 AM	9:25 PM
22	5:34 AM	9:26 PM
23	5:33 AM	9:27 PM
24	5:32 AM	9:28 PM
25	5:32 AM	9:29 PM
26	5:31 AM	9:30 PM
27	5:30 AM	9:31 PM
28	5:29 AM	9:32 PM
29	5:29 AM	9:33 PM
30	5:28 AM	9:34 PM
31	5:27 AM	9:35 PM

**May normal
temperatures
1991- present**

Date	Normal High	Normal Low
1	65°F	45°F
2	65°F	45°F
3	66°F	46°F
4	66°F	46°F
5	67°F	46°F
6	67°F	47°F
7	67°F	47°F
8	68°F	47°F
9	68°F	48°F
10	68°F	48°F
11	69°F	49°F
12	69°F	49°F
13	69°F	49°F
14	70°F	50°F
15	70°F	50°F
16	70°F	50°F
17	71°F	51°F
18	71°F	51°F
19	71°F	51°F
20	72°F	52°F
21	72°F	52°F
22	72°F	52°F
23	73°F	53°F
24	73°F	53°F
25	73°F	53°F
26	74°F	54°F
27	74°F	54°F
28	74°F	54°F
29	75°F	55°F
30	75°F	55°F
31	75°F	56°F

**May record
temperatures
1874 - present**

Date	Record High	Year	Record Low	Year
1	86°F	1942	26°F	1978
2	85°F	2018	29°F	1978
3	89°F	2012	28°F	1978
4	89°F	1949	28°F	1966
5	90°F	1895	29°F	1891
6	90°F	1949	31°F	1974
7	86°F	2000	27°F	1974
8	87°F	2015	30°F	1976
9	90°F	1896	27°F	2020
10	90°F	1936	25°F	1966
11	87°F	1993	30°F	1907
12	90°F	1881	32°F	1934
13	89°F	1977	30°F	2013
14	91°F	1962	34°F	1984
15	92°F	1962	33°F	1973
16	92°F	1962	32°F	1984
17	93°F	1962	31°F	1973
18	93°F	1962	32°F	1973
19	91°F	1934	32°F	2002
20	91°F	1977	33°F	1981
21	92°F	1977	32°F	1883
22	90°F	1994	32°F	1883
23	89°F	1964	34°F	1935
24	87°F	2020	33°F	1925
25	90°F	2012	35°F	1992
26	92°F	1944	36°F	1983
27	91°F	2018	35°F	1915
28	95°F	2012	35°F	1907
29	92°F	2006	32°F	1966
30	93°F	1942	36°F	1966
31	95°F	1895	34°F	1910

**Daily precipitation records for
May 1874 — Present**

Date	Most Rain for the Day	Year
1	1.46 in	1875
2	1.66 in	1892
3	1.31 in	1997
4	1.05 in	1990
5	0.85 in	1991
6	1.75 in	1976
7	0.97 in	1948
8	0.85 in	1974
9	2.12 in	1875
10	2.33 in	1948
11	1.91 in	1914
12	1.48 in	2002
13	1.48 in	1991
14	1.39 in	1916
15	1.46 in	1923
16	1.09 in	1945
17	1.22 in	1980
18	1.71 in	2020
19	1.68 in	1949
20	1.56 in	1959
21	1.69 in	2004
22	1.14 in	1949
23	1.69 in	2004
24	1.26 in	1950
25	1.67 in	2011
26	2.56 in	1968
27	1.68 in	2014
28	2.02 in	1935
29	1.65 in	1876
30	2.27 in	1889
31	1.98 in	1946

**May daily snowfall records
1874—Present**

Date	Snowfall	Year
1	0.3 in	1909
2	0.1 in	1909
3	0.1 in	2005
4	0.2 in	1907
5	0 in	2022
6	0 in	2022
7	0 in	2022
8	0 in	2022
9	6 in	1923
10	0.5 in	2020
11	0 in	2022
12	0 in	2022
13	1.5 in	1912
14	0 in	2022
15	0 in	2022
16	0 in	2022
17	0 in	2022
18	0 in	2022
19	0 in	2022
20	0 in	2022
21	2.3 in	1883
22	2.7 in	1883
23	0 in	2022
24	0 in	2022
25	0 in	2022
26	0 in	2022
27	0 in	2022
28	0 in	2021
29	0 in	2021
30	0 in	2021
31	0 in	2021

Monthly precipitation records for May

Normal precipitation3.72 in
Rainiest May.....8.46 inches 2004
Driest May..... 0.43 inches 1920
Greatest Snow..... 6.0 inches 1923

Primary phases of the Moon May 2023



Gardening in 1906



NEW VEGETABLE WONDER



**A Sensational
Discovery**

Silver King Hardy Celery

3 crops in one season. First crop early in May. Root hardy, everlasting. Multiplies rapidly like asparagus. Guaranteed as represented. Agents make \$5 to \$20 a day.

THE GREENING NURSERY COMPANY
8 Maple St., Monroe, Michigan.

Greening Nursery was started by John Christoph Wilhelm Greening in 1850.

Spacing of vegetable seeds

Some vegetables such as tomatoes, cabbage, peppers, etc. are best grown from transplants. Others are traditionally seeded directly into garden soil. Knowing how much to plant can be a problem, especially for beginning gardeners. Here's a guide that can help you. These are estimates, but at least it will give you an idea of what to expect.

Crop	Inches between seeds	Inches rows apart	Yield /10 ft.
Beans, Lima, bush	4	24	6 lb.
Beans, Lima, pole	36	36	7 lb.
Beans, Snap, bush	4	24	6 lb.
Beans, snap., pole	36	24	7 lb.
Beets	3	15	14 lb.
Carrots	3	15	10 lb.
Chard, Swiss	6	24	20 plants
Collards	18	24	10 lb.
Corn, Sweet	12	24	10 ears
Cucumbers	36	30	8 lb.
Endive	12	18	10 plants
Kale	15	18	24 lb.
Kohlrabi	4	15	20 bulb.
Lettuce, Leaf	8	15	15 bunch
Lettuce, Bibb	6	15	20 heads
Muskmelons	36	72	8 melons
Mustard Greens	12	15	10 lb.
Okra	24	36	100 pods
Onions, dry	4	15	10 lb.
Parsley	6	15	20 bunches
Parsnips	3	18	10 lb.
Peas	2	18	3 lb.
Potatoes	12	24	18 lb.
Pumpkins	48	96	4 fruit
Radishes	1	12	60 roots
Rutabagas	4	18	15 lb.
Spinach	4	18	7 lb.
Squash, bush	24	48	25 fruit
Squash, vine	36	72	20 fruits
Turnips	3	18	7 lb.
Watermelons	36	96	3 melons