



# GARDEN ALMANAC

**IHM Community  
Garden Newsletter**

**April 2024**



## Looking forward to the start of the 2024 gardening season

It may look like nothing much is happening in the garden right now. You can see a few purple deadnettle flowers here and there, trying to poke up above a thick growth of green grass. That grass is winter rye planted last fall and is starting to take off. Earlier this spring, the rye grew in a short, horizontal form. The plants have grown big enough to start sending growth upward. The plants will make visible progress each day, getting taller and taller. While it grows, it absorbs valuable plant nutrients that would otherwise be washed into the subsoil by spring rains. Those nutrients are integrated into the plant parts and used for the eventual goal of producing seed. This rye will not be around long enough to produce a seed crop. Once it gets about 18 inches tall, it will be mowed and tilled into the garden soil. All of the nutrients the rye salvaged during its growth will be slowly released back into the soil, making it available to our vegetable garden plants. Winter rye also leaves behind a lot of organic material, which improves the workability of the soil and provides an environment for beneficial soil microorganisms.

There are a couple of garden plots open and available to rent. Please contact me if you know someone who would be interested in a garden plot at [rduzen@ihmsisters.org](mailto:rduzen@ihmsisters.org)

Good gardening,

Bob



St. Mary Organic Farm Community Garden is located on the IHM property north of the Motherhouse. Here's a view looking south toward the garden in early April. You can see the academy building in the background.



The winter rye in the garden is six inches tall and will begin to grow rapidly as the season progresses.

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



## Bee bumbings April 2024

Spring brings a burst of energy to the hives. Two hives at the IHM bee yard survived winter and are buzzing with activity. As the bees venture out and find pollen, the hives begin to be ready for growth. While some bees prepare cells for the queen to lay eggs in, others collect pollen. At the same time, emerging bees act as nurses caring for the capped brood cells that hold the future for expanded hive growth.

As gardeners prepare their plots, the bees are busy scouting out food sources. As blossoms appear, the early foragers find them and quickly communicate to the hive the location of good sources for pollen and nectar. It is amazing how quickly hundreds of bees can arrive at a food source.

In the fall and spring, we periodically put a mixture of honey and wax caps out a few hundred feet from the bees. On a warm day, within minutes, the first bees arrive, and soon, hundreds follow to indulge. After a few hours, a pile of dried shredded wax is left, and any traces of honey have been reclaimed by the bees. It is fascinating to watch them work.

Dan Pederson  
Beekeeper



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## Soil conditions St. Mary Organic Farm



In early March, the garden was flooded. This is not an unusual occurrence for this time of year.



This photo of the same spot in early April shows how much the soil has dried. It will still be a few weeks until the soil is dry enough to till.

## Raised gardening boxes



Four elevated garden boxes are available for gardeners who might be uncomfortable gardening at ground level.

## Eclipse at St. Mary Organic Farm



Over fifty people of all ages gathered together at the gazebo to experience the eclipse. Here we are at the fifty percent coverage point.

## Grapevines in April



The grapevines during the second week of April were still dormant and ready for pruning. Ninety percent of the growth will be removed during pruning.

## RRI spring seedling sale

The River Raisin Institute will hold a spring seedling sale fundraiser on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the gazebo located at the St. Mary Organic Farm garden area.

All seedlings are USDA organic certified and started in soil blocks using Dairy Doo's 101 Seed Starter. The price is \$5.50 per seedling. Cash or credit cards are acceptable. Preordered seedlings will be available for pickup on Friday, May 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. Click [here](#) to preorder seedlings and view the sale catalogue.

For additional information or help with your order, contact the River Raisin Institute at [riverraisininstitute@gmail.com](mailto:riverraisininstitute@gmail.com) or 734-240-9754. The River Raisin Institute is a Mission of the IHM Sisters. Learn more at [rriearth.org](http://rriearth.org).

## Gazebo available for your event

The gardens make a wonderful setting for our Gazebo. The primary purpose of the 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](mailto:Events@imhsisters.org) or call 734-240-9871



## Consider a gift to St. Mary Organic Farm

### From Pope Francis's Encyclical *Laudato Si'*

There is also the fact that people no longer seem to believe in a happy future; they no longer have blind trust in a better tomorrow based on the present state of the world and our technical abilities.

There is a growing awareness that scientific and technological progress cannot be equated with the progress of humanity and history, a growing sense that the way to a better future lies elsewhere. This is not to reject the possibilities which technology continues to offer us. But humanity has changed profoundly, and the accumulation of constant novelties exalts a superficiality which pulls us in one direction. It becomes difficult to pause and recover depth in life. If architecture reflects the spirit of an age, our megastructures and drab apartment blocks express the spirit of globalized technology, where a constant flood of new products coexists with a tedious monotony. Let us refuse to resign ourselves to this, and continue to wonder about the purpose and meaning of everything. Otherwise we would simply legitimate the present situation and need new forms of escapism to help us endure the emptiness. [113]



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.

Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful', and sitting in the shade.

**Rudyard Kipling**

**April 2024 sunrise and sunset**  
**Eastern Daylight Time**

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

**April 2024 twilight hours**  
**Eastern Daylight Time**

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

**April normal  
temperatures  
1991- present**

Date	Normal High	Normal Low
1	53°F	34°F
2	53°F	34°F
3	54°F	34°F
4	54°F	35°F
5	54°F	35°F
6	55°F	36°F
7	55°F	36°F
8	56°F	36°F
9	56°F	37°F
10	56°F	37°F
11	57°F	37°F
12	57°F	38°F
13	58°F	38°F
14	58°F	39°F
15	59°F	39°F
16	59°F	39°F
17	59°F	40°F
18	60°F	40°F
19	60°F	40°F
20	61°F	41°F
21	61°F	41°F
22	61°F	42°F
23	62°F	42°F
24	62°F	42°F
25	63°F	43°F
26	63°F	43°F
27	63°F	43°F
28	64°F	44°F
29	64°F	44°F
30	65°F	45°F

**April record  
temperatures  
1874 - present**

Date	Record High	Year	Record Low	Year
1	80°F	2010	14°F	1923
2	83°F	1963	17°F	1881
3	77°F	1999	14°F	1954
4	74°F	1921	9°F	1874
5	79°F	1921	16°F	1881
6	83°F	1929	18°F	1982
7	83°F	1991	10°F	1982
8	79°F	2001	11°F	1982
9	78°F	1931	19°F	1985
10	86°F	1977	20°F	1989
11	87°F	1977	22°F	1940
12	89°F	1977	18°F	1976
13	87°F	1977	19°F	1950
14	82°F	2023	20°F	1950
15	85°F	2003	21°F	1935
16	86°F	2002	17°F	1875
17	85°F	1976	10°F	1875
18	86°F	2004	8°F	1875
19	83°F	2005	23°F	1897
20	82°F	1985	20°F	1897
21	86°F	1987	21°F	1875
22	87°F	1980	20°F	1875
23	88°F	1925	23°F	1986
24	86°F	2009	27°F	1892
25	87°F	1994	26°F	1892
26	86°F	2009	27°F	1926
27	84°F	2009	28°F	1996
28	84°F	1986	28°F	1934
29	83°F	1899	26°F	1977
30	87°F	1942	28°F	1876

**Daily precipitation records for  
April 1874 — present**

Date	Most Rain for the Day	Year
1	1.3 in.	1959
2	1.44 in.	1945
3	1.06 in.	1980
4	1.06 in.	2003
5	2.59 in.	1947
6	2.41 in.	1886
7	0.92 in.	2010
8	0.94 in.	2002
9	1.4 in.	1998
10	1.21 in.	1939
11	1.6 in.	1965
12	1.24 in.	1903
13	1.52 in.	1979
14	1.14 in.	1980
15	1.48 in.	1919
16	1.19 in.	1930
17	1.56 in.	1930
18	0.93 in.	1917
19	1.38 in.	1911
20	3.58 in.	2000
21	1.13 in.	1937
22	1.23 in.	1952
23	0.96 in.	1977
24	1.57 in.	1880
25	1.41 in.	1961
26	1.1 in.	1998
27	1.4 in.	1943
28	1.93 in.	1936
29	1.99 in.	1909
30	2.1 in.	2019

**April daily snowfall records  
1874 — present**





Date	Snowfall	Year
1	3.30 in.	1881
2	2.00 in.	1975
3	4.00 in.	1903
4	2.70 in.	1920
5	5.00 in.	1982
6	24.10 in.	1886
7	6.00 in.	1894
8	1.30 in.	1938
9	1.80 in.	1942
10	3.50 in.	1923
11	2.50 in.	1885
12	2.30 in.	1932
13	2.50 in.	1940
14	2.40 in.	1923
15	2.60 in.	2014
16	2.00 in.	1943
17	4.50 in.	1921
18	2.30 in.	2022
19	3.00 in.	1943
20	3.30 in.	2021
21	0.30 in.	1978
22	1.00 in.	1911
23	1.20 in.	2005
24	3.10 in.	2005
25	0.40 in.	1976
26	0.10 in.	1932
27	0.00 in.	2023
28	0.00 in.	2023
29	3.00 in.	1909
30	0.00 in.	2023

**Monthly precipitation records  
for April**

Normal rain for April.....3.26 inches  
 Rainiest April.....6.89 inches 1947  
 Driest April.....0.53 inches 1899  
 Most April snow.....25.7 inches 1886



**Primary phases of the moon**

	New moon - April 8
	First quarter - April 15
	Full moon - April 23
	Last quarter - May 1

**The Pasture**

by Robert Frost

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring;  
 I'll only stop to rake the leaves away  
 (And wait to watch the water clear, I may):  
 I sha'n't be gone long.—You come too.  
 I'm going out to fetch the little calf  
 That's standing by the mother.  
 It's so young,  
 It totters when she licks it with her tongue.  
 I sha'n't be gone long.—You come too.



**Gardening in 1906**



**HAMMOND'S SLUG SHOT FOR  
POTATO BUGS**

TO THE EDITOR OF AMERICAN GARDENING :

In your issue of June 18, on page 399, I noticed a good article on the Colorado Beetle or Potato Bug. For the benefit of your numerous readers I would advise them to try **Hammond's Slug Shot**. I have used it here this season with excellent results, on Potatoes, Egg Plants, Cucumbers and Squash,—for Potato Bugs, and also for striped Beetles, and it is the best remedy I know of, simple and effective. I purchased two of the **Dusters** which he advertised in your paper, and they are very useful articles. The best time to dust the plants is early morning, as the substance adheres much better when the dew is on. A light dust-

ing is sufficient, and woe betide the bugs or the larvæ. Once they get a taste of it they shrivel up right away.

**Sold by Seed Dealers and Merchants all over America.**

GEORGE STANDEN, Gardener to Col. D. S. Lamont, Millbrook, N. Y. 1904  
 Send for Pamphlet on Bugs and Blights to BENJ. HAMMOND, Fishkill-on-Hudson, N. Y.