

St. Edna's website

<http://www.stedna.org/parishLife/activities/gardeningForGod>



*"The United States is the only country with a known birthday."*

James G. Blaine

July 3rd marks the beginning of the "dog days of summer." The dog days of summer are between July 3 and August 11. During this time the sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the Dog Star. It was once believed that due to the star's position at this time of year that it somehow conspired with the sun to make the days hotter. Many people also believed that the hot days of the summer caused dogs to go mad – that is the story and lore of dog days.

Other lore days in July include...<http://www.farmersalmanac.com/blog/2011/07/06/july-lore/>

July 15 – St Swithin Day – if on St. Swithin's Day ye do rain, for forty days it will remain.

July 25 – Puffy white clouds on this day foretells much snow in the coming winter.

July 26 – St. Anne's day – Rain on St. Anne's will continue for a month and a week.



**How to identify Aphids and be get rid of them safely:**

Aphids are tiny, often invisible to the naked eye depending on what color they are (white, black, yellow, light green, even pink!). The best way to determine whether you have aphids is to look for misshapen, curling, or yellow leaves or stems. Look at your garden on a regular basis, to prevent or minimize the problem as best you can – cut off leaves/stems and through them in the garbage. Introduce ladybugs or other good insects to your garden. Spray leaves/stems with a mixture of dish soap, oil and water. Good luck with the battle with the Aphids!

-  Deadhead spent blossoms — snap or snip them off — to reinvigorate flowering plants; you'll be rewarded by more flower and root growth. Cut back to half their height and fertilize.
-  Fertilize active summer growing and blooming plants.
-  Irises should be separated and given a bit more space between now and August. Dig them up and cut apart their knobby rhizomes. Set them in the shade for a few days to harden off. Replant at the same depth (level rhizomes with the ground) in soil that's been with processed manure/compost garden soil.
-  Plant seeds of leafy green and red vegetables: spinach, kale, Swiss chard, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, lettuce, radishes, beets, carrots, peas, bush beans, onions and scallions.
-  Thin plants to give them better air circulation and exposure to the sun.
-  Keep feeding the compost pile with organic materials and turn over the pile ever week. If the compost becomes too dry the bacteria will die, so give your heap a shower whenever it starts drying out during the hot summer days.
-  Water your plants, grass, etc., either early mornings or early evenings so not to burn out the plants and grass and to prevent quick evaporation.



Hal Tyrrell Trailside Museum: <https://fpdcc.com/nature-centers/hal-tyrrell-trailside-museum/>

Established in 1931, Trailside Museum of Natural History served as the first public nature education facility of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Visitors to the Museum, housed in a historic mid-1870's Victorian mansion, will discover displays of live native animals, colorful wildflower gardens, information about local wildlife and their habitats, [...]