We headed to town early this morning and we noticed the familiar bloom of the Chicory plant lining both sides of the road. When I arrived home, I headed to my favorite wildflower reference book, *Wildflowers of Ohio*, written by Stan Tekiela. My husband quickly commented, “Wildflower? Isn’t that a weed?”

Tekiela’s information for **Chicory** (*Cichorium intybus*) includes:

**Family:** Aster (*Asteraccae*)

**Height:** 1-4 Feet

**Flower:** Stalkless sky blue flowers, 11/4 inches wide, each with up to 20 petals (ray flowers); flowers sparsely populate a tall stem and close by early afternoon; petals (ray flower) are square-tipped and fringed; color ranges from white to pink, depending upon age and location

**Leaf:** long, toothed basal leaves, 3-6 inches long, similar to dandelion leaves; stem leaves are oblong and much smaller, ½-1 inch long, lack teeth and clasp the stem

**Bloom:** summer, fall

**Cycle/Origin:** perennial, non-native

**Habitat:** dry, sun, along roads, open fields

**Range:** throughout

Also known as Blue Sailor or Ragged Sailor, its few flowers open one at a time and last only one day. This European import, believed to come from Eurasia, was brought to the United States to be cultivated for its long taproot, which can be roasted and ground as a coffee substitute or additive. Its edible leaves, like dandelion leaves, are high in vitamins and minerals, but taste quite bitter. Have you tried Chicory “coffee”? I must admit that it is not at the top of my list to try!

The weather has certainly been hot and humid. I have been watering the raised bed gardens every few days. I planted the fall garden seeds yesterday. This is new for me as a gardener. Usually I am ready to “throw in the trowel” at the end of the summer growing season, but this year I am anxious to see if I can extend my harvest into the cooler months. The first planting of Green beans is waning, so I threw some more seeds in the ground. I also planted Spinach, lettuce, Swiss Chard, Radishes, Kale, Sugar Snap Peas, and cucumbers. It will be fun to see what happens. After all, if the frost gets them, I am only out a few seeds. I lightly mulched the seed beds and got up early to water. I was almost finished when it started to pour down rain! We got a nice hour-long shower, but 10 miles away they didn’t even get a sprinkle! Welcome to Ohio!