



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

www.ladybug.uconn.edu



Like us on Facebook!

JULY is for Japanese Snowbell pest, Jewelweed and Jolly Good Clematis

Hello Fellow Gardeners! You are receiving this email because you have provided us with your email address either when subscribing to our quarterly newsletter, having your soil analyzed, or testing the horticultural prowess and investigative abilities of our incredibly well-versed staff at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center! Or, we just might have thought you would enjoy this e-newsletter. If you do not wish to receive our monthly email updates on gardening tips, pest problems, events and other information, please email us at ladybug@uconn.edu and ask to be removed from this list.

Pest Patrol/Current Concerns/Topics of Interest:



Gypsy Moth Females Laying Eggs
by Pamm Cooper taken 7/6/16



Ambrosia Beetle 'Toothpicks'
by Margot Abrams



Large-leaved basil by dmp

Gypsy Moths Still Eliciting Calls

Many folks continue to contact the Center about the gypsy moth infestation. In many parts of the state they are now pupating and transitioning into moths. The pupae have a dark brown, shell-like casing which is about 2 inches long and may be attached to trees or found in leaf litter. The adult moths emerge in 10 to 14 days. The female moths seen in the picture have cream-colored wings but are flightless. The male moths, on the other hand, are quite obvious, flittering about in many areas looking for females. Each female can lay between 500 and 1000 eggs. They are laid in a mass on tree trunks and other outdoor objects and have a tan, fuzzy covering.

Not only are gypsy moths harmful to trees and annoying to people but they can have widespread effects on area ecosystems. Some birds, in particular yellow-billed and black-billed cuckoos, gobble up the hairy caterpillars and they are expected to do well this year. As tree leaves were devoured by caterpillars more sunlight was able to reach the understory and forest floor. Plants limited by lack of sunlight are now better able to grow. Both native and invasive plants will take advantage of this opportunity. More sunlight means drier conditions and this can affect amphibian and reptile populations. It is important to keep in mind the connectivity of the world around us. Read more about the effects of the gypsy moth outbreak at <http://s.uconn.edu/gypsymothsaffectecosystems>

Invasive Beetle Found on Japanese Snowbell (*Styrax japonica*)

The Master Gardener Coordinator in Fairfield County, Julia Cencebaugh-Kloth was contacted by one of her volunteers about the death of her Japanese snowbell due to an infestation of the granulate ambrosia beetle. A curious symptom of initial infestation is extruded bark shavings which look like toothpicks sticking out of the tree trunk or branch. This tiny reddish-brown beetle (1/10th inch) originated in the subtropics and was first noticed in 1974 on peach trees in South Carolina. It has since spread to various parts of the U.S. including, unfortunately Connecticut. Apparently there was a recent outbreak at a nursery in the Haddam area. After burrowing into the tree, the beetle infects the tree with one of two species of fungus upon which the beetle and its offspring feed. The many burrows and possibly the fungus lead to the tree's demise. While *Styrax* is a favorite, this insect can attack many species of trees including aspens, beech, maples, dogwoods, oaks and cherries – all found in our yards and forests. For pictures and more information see:

http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/trees/asian_ambrosia_beetle.htm or <http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/files/ep-GranulateAmbrosiaBeetleFactsheet.pdf>

Make Pesto – Now!

A disease called basil downy mildew has been infecting basil plants mid to late summer for several years now. It does not overwinter here but spreads via wind from the south each year, arriving in Connecticut in late July through early August. This disease requires high humidity (at least 85%) to be able to infect plants and this is usually during rainy periods or overnight. This disease first arrived in Florida in 2007. Initial symptoms include a yellowing of leaves and many growers, at first, suspected a nutritional problem and not a disease. Next, purplish grey spores appear on the underside of leaves and they are no longer usable. It is thought that this disease may have originated in Uganda and that it is also seed-borne. Harvest healthy leaves for drying or turning into pesto. Basil plants look good now so collect leaves now. See one pesticide-free control for this disease: <http://livegpath.cals.cornell.edu/gallery/basil/how-gardeners-can-manage-downy-mildew-in-basil/>

Arborvitae Needle Blight

Arborvitae have been planted throughout the southern New England landscape because they are tough, attractive plants and, except for deer browsing, have relatively few pest problems. This may be changing as reports of arborvitae needle blight diagnosed by the UMass Plant Diagnostic Lab are becoming more common. <https://ag.umass.edu/fact-sheets/arborvitae-needle-blight>. To date, no reports of this blight have been reported in Connecticut but if these symptoms are noticed, please let us know (www.ladybug.uconn.edu).

Our Plant Sample Submission App Now Available for Android Devices

The Plant Sample Submission App, developed in cooperation with Purdue and other universities, is supported by the UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab. The download is free and is available for iPhones, iPads (at app store) and now Android devices at: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.in3.samplesubmission> If UConn is the selected lab in the app, submissions, including information & images, go directly to the UConn diagnostician's email. You will receive a response within 1-2 business days.



Topics that the Center is getting calls or emails on include growing lawns in shaded conditions, poor vegetable plant performance, Oriental beetles, radishes going to seed, plant bug damage to mums, dried up lawns and dividing irises. If you have specific questions, gardening queries or pest problems, check out our website, www.ladybug.uconn.edu or call the UConn Home & Garden Education Center (877) 486-6271 (toll-free in CT). Your County Cooperative Extension Centers are also listed on the website.

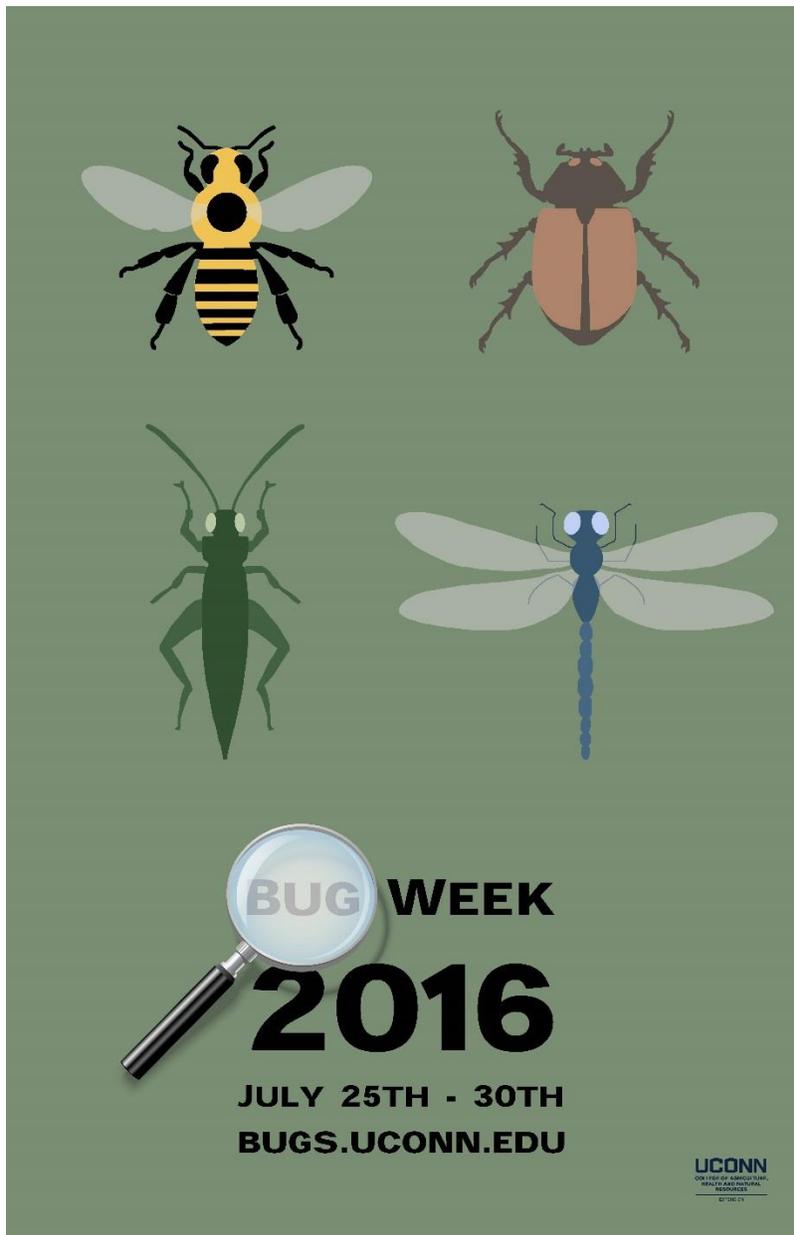
Big Bug Hunt

Researchers from the U.K. are working on creating a pest prediction service for gardeners and are collecting data on plant pests. They welcome input from the U.S. as well. So if you would like to report pests found in your yard or garden, go to www.bigbughunt.com.

Ten Tips for the July Gardener:

1. Grub controls should be applied to the lawn by July 15th to be effective when grubs hatch in early August.
2. Tomato hornworms are large green caterpillars that feed on the leaves of tomatoes and related plants. Hand-pick or control with Bt.
3. Water plants and lawn early in the day to reduce water evaporation. Container and hanging plants may need additional water later in the day if hot and windy conditions prevail.
4. Raise the mower height to 3 inches in hot weather and mulch clippings if possible.
5. Summer blooming shrubs should be pruned after they have finished flowering. Do not prune azaleas and rhododendrons after the 2nd week of July as they are forming buds for next year's blooms.
6. Hummingbirds are attracted to red salvia, coral bells, bee balm and jewelweed.
7. Inspect garden plants regularly for insect and disease problems. Monitoring, good sanitation practices, insecticidal soaps and insect traps are alternatives to pesticides.
8. Fertilize roses for the last time in mid-July.
9. Cucumbers are heavy drinkers and feeders. Keep the soil evenly moist during hot spells to avoid bitter fruit and side-dress plants with 1 tablespoon of 10-10-10 fertilizer.
10. Plant cool-season crops such as broccoli, spinach, kale, lettuce, and chard where they will shaded from the sun.

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:



UConn 2016 Master Composter Program

Almost 25% of household waste can be recycled through composting. The purpose of the Master Composter program is to educate and train residents about the basics of small scale composting and in exchange for the training, **volunteers will pass on their knowledge to others through outreach activities** such as talks, demonstrations, tabling at events, providing promotional activities, working with schools or community gardens etc. Master Composter classes will be held at Auer Farm in Bloomfield. There will be 4 week night lectures, Worm Day and 2 Saturday field trips with only one being mandatory. The cost of the program is \$100. The Master Composter brochure with registration information will be available in short order at www.ladybug.uconn.edu or call (860) 486-4274 for more information.

Save the Date: October 11, 2016. CT Invasive Plant Working Group biennial **INVASIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM** at UConn, Storrs. More information to follow.

UConn | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ANIMAL SCIENCE

**The Department of Animal Science is hosting their annual
UConn Summer Schooling Show!**

Open to the General Public

Date: Saturday, August 20th, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Horsebarn Hill Arena, Storrs CT

Judge: TBA

English and Western Divisions, Lead Line, and Jumping Classes



To learn more about class descriptions, rules and regulations, and how to register, visit
<http://animalscience.uconn.edu/calendar.php>

Contact Alena Meacham for additional information
at alena.meacham@uconn.edu or (860) 486-3377

Programs at Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center

July 16, 2016. Forest Floor Exploration – Hidden in the shadows of the towering trees and bustling wildlife, the forest floor is an intriguing place filled with life that is often overlooked.

July 30, 2016. Stream Investigation – This program provides a lesson on basic stream ecology, conservation techniques, invertebrates who live in these waters and how these invertebrates can tell us about the health of our streams.

Pre-register by emailing laura.rogers-castro@ct.gov or by calling (860) 424-3011

Digging Deeper: A Native Meadow on Wononskopomuc Lake – The Montgomery-Glazer Property with Larry Weiner. July 30, 2016. \$15/\$20. www.gardenconservancy.org

Plant Science Day at Lockwood Farm. August 3, 2016. Hamden, CT. This annual event features talks, demos, exhibits and field experiments. Sponsored by the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. Free admission. Free parking. Gates open at 9:30. www.ct.gov/caes

Kalmia Garden Chamber Music & Arts Foundation. The Summer Sonatas concert will feature music of Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms, with performers Leah Gastler on viola and pianist Tim Krippner. The first concert begins at 8 p.m. July 15. Music retreat. Garden tours. <http://www.farmhouseconcerts.com/>

COMPOST: Turning Waste into Wealth (*a residues-to-riches story*)
SWCS Southern New England Chapter 2016 Summer Meeting
Friday August 5th - Bear Path Farm (W. Whately) and UMass Amherst
compost2016.eventbrite.com - swcssnec.org/events-training/summer

UConn Blooms Is Closed for the Month of July – Come See Us in August!

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

So before you get really worried about that wood pulp in your parmesan, consider this information...it could actually help lower your cholesterol and may have a real future in food.

You've heard turmeric is trending, but make sure you really know what this food can do for you!

Plant-based sweeteners may help individuals control their blood glucose levels

Chill coffee beans for a more flavorsome brew, say scientists

Eating more whole grains linked with lower mortality rates

Seaweed instead of salt for your diet

Compounds in parsley and dill help fight cancer, research shows

CLIMATE CORNER

Climate change will affect farmers' bottom line

How El Niño impacts global temperatures

Eastern US needs 'connectivity' to help species escape climate change

Climate change, not population growth, plays the main role in predicting extreme droughts, study reveals

Aerosols strengthen storm clouds, lead to extreme weather

WHO KNEW ?

As temperatures rise, flowers emit less scent

Air pollution affects young people's psychiatric health

Chemists Figure Out How to Turn Plastic Into Fuel

[Farm Labor Shortage Vexes Farmers](#) (and may cost us more!)

Mercury's origins traced to rare meteorite

Picky eaters: Bumble bees prefer plants with nutrient-rich pollen

Miner Proves to be Tireless Advocate for Connecticut's Waters

UConn PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LAB WEBSITE: www.plant.lab.uconn.edu

UConn SOIL NUTRIENT ANALYSIS LAB WEBSITE: www.soiltest.uconn.edu

UConn EXTENSION WEBSITE: www.extension.uconn.edu

UConn FOOD SAFETY WEBSITE: www.foodsafety.uconn.edu

UConn SUSTAINABLE LIVING WEBSITE: www.sustainableliving.uconn.edu

CT 10% Campaign: Take the pledge!

Pledge to spend 10% of your food dollars locally at <http://www.buyctgrown.com/ct-10-percent>. Locally grown food sustains CT's farming community but more importantly, locally grown and raised food will also increase food security in our Northeast region and support local economies.

[Pledge to go 10% Local](#)

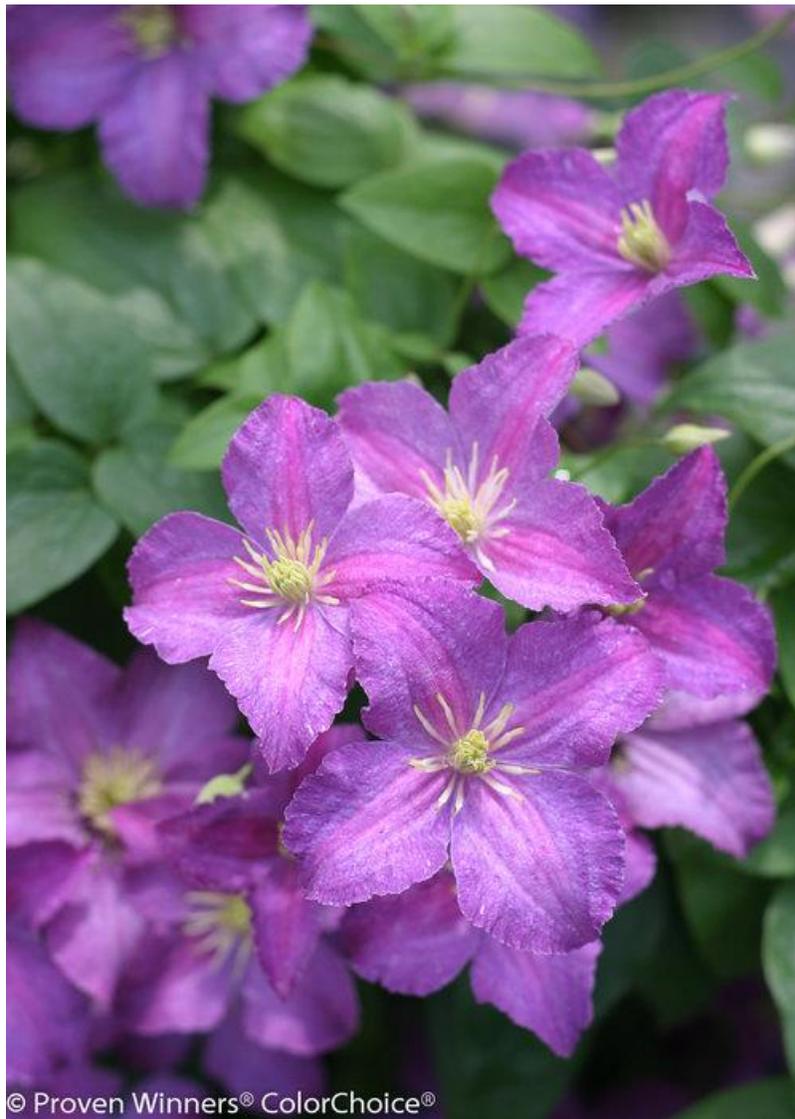


The [Live Local! App](#) invites consumers to discover and experience Connecticut's local food and agriculture. Take the pledge to spend ten percent of your food and gardening dollars on locally grown products.

With the [Live Local! App](#) you can:

- Find out the season's top ten
- Get the lowdown on food and farm events
- Share pictures of in season goodies
- Take the 10% pledge
- Instantly log your spending

Clematis sp. 'Zojogo' USPPAF 'Jolly Good'



New for 2016 from Proven Winners: Abundant light purple flowers with magenta undertones cover this clematis all summer long. Creamy white stamens provide charming contrast. This Jackmanii hybrid is a vigorous grower, yet maintains a nice compact size that is perfect for training on fences or trellises. It flowers on new wood so you simply prune it back to two feet each spring.

We Need Your Support!

If you do enjoy our efforts to keep you informed about horticultural and College-related items, please consider showing your support by **liking us on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UConn-Home-Garden-Center/136211899745967>, **checking out our weekly blog** www.uconnladybug.wordpress.com, or **subscribing to our printed, 20-page quarterly newsletter for \$12/year (new price starting March 1st) or sign up for free email version.** Find the subscription form at <http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/newsletter/index.html>

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