August is for Allium Leafminer Alert, Little Rain Accumulation and Asian Garden Celosia

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:

Be on the Lookout for the Allium Leaf Miner
The allium leaf miner was found last year in Pennsylvania. It is native to Poland and Germany and this is the first time it has been seen in the western hemisphere. It attacks members of the allium family including onions, leeks, garlic, chives, green onions and shallots. Plants are damaged by both adult and larva feeding. The adults are tiny greyish flies with yellowish spots on their head and abdomen. If you notice curled and distorted leaves on your alliums, please contact the UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab (877) 486-6271.

http://ento.psu.edu/extension/vegetables/pest-alert-allium-leafminer

Most of Connecticut in Moderate Drought
The U.S. Drought Monitor week for July 26 labels 98% of Connecticut as "Moderate Drought" affecting 3,556,112 people, with the rest of the state "Abnormally Dry". According to Joan Allen of the UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab, “Many plants, even mature trees, are showing signs of stress or injury which can include wilt,
dieback, leaf curl, leaf or needle scorch (browning of edges), browning of turf, dieback, etc. To make matters worse, drought conditions raise concern about both well and municipal water supplies that have resulted in some water use restrictions and recommendations. Many mature woody plants will not show ill effects of a single season of drought but successive seasons can result in impact. Drought stressed plants are more susceptible to some pest and disease problems. Farms with little to no irrigation for their fields are losing crops this year. Even plants that thrive in warm summer weather can be stressed by temperatures in the 90s including tomato and pepper where symptoms can include slow-ripening fruit and aborted blossoms. These temperatures can also reduce some pollinator activity.” Let’s hope for rain!

**Check for Chinch Bugs**
Chinch bug damage may resemble drought stress in lawns. These tiny, one-sixth inch black insects with white wings that looked crossed on their backs feed aggressively during the hot and dry months of July and August. While these insects might be small they often attack in large numbers of more than 150 per square foot. Their piercing mouth parts inject a toxin into the blades of grass causing it to brown and die. They feed by sucking on plant fluids. To check for chinch bugs one can pound a large coffee can, with both ends removed, about 2 inches into the ground over an area of grass that looks half good and half bad. Fill it up with water and wait to see if chinch bugs float to the surface. Contact the UConn Home & Garden Education Center for control suggestions. [http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/chinch-bugs-in-home-lawns](http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/chinch-bugs-in-home-lawns)

**Avoid Fertilizer Burn**
Now is not the time to fertilize lawns. Applying anything to lawns whether it be a fertilizer or a pesticide is not advisable when temperatures are over 85 degrees F as damage to the lawn may occur. Plus, many products need to be watered in so if your town has a water ban or you are on a well, this may not be possible.

**Look to the Night Sky for the Perseid Meteor Shower August 11-12**
This Thursday night into Friday morning do your best to find a nice dark spot outside and watch the night sky light up with the Perseid meteor showers. According to some scientists, there may be up to 200 meteors per minute. [http://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/everything-you-need-to-know-perseid-meteor-shower](http://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/everything-you-need-to-know-perseid-meteor-shower)

**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](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.

![UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab](https://www.uconn.edu/extension/plant-diagnostic-lab/)

Topics that the Center is getting calls or emails on include drought damage to lawns, gardens and ornamentals, blossom end rot, controlling invasive vines, tomato diseases, soil testing, weed identification, hopper damage on potatoes and lack of Monarchs. 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.

**From the Common Sense Pest Control Quarterly**
“Bringing Back the Monarchs, Birds and Bees” a special wildlife restoration issue of Common Sense Pest Control Quarterly is now online at http://www.birc.org/news.htm

Monarch butterfly populations have seen a 90% decline over the past 20 years. Birds, honey bees, and wild bees have also seen significant declines. This Quarterly briefly reviews relevant biology, and outlines a restoration strategy. The strategy for monarchs includes pesticide reduction, converting lawns into Monarch Way Stations, and planting milkweed in gardens and along highways. Resource lists of organizations, and the best milkweed and nectar plants are provided

**Ten Tips for the August Gardener:**
1. Renovate strawberry beds by mowing to a height of 1 1/2 inches and sidedress with a balanced fertilizer.

2. Plant another row of quick-maturing bush beans.

3. Stop pruning evergreen trees and shrubs to avoid removing newly formed buds.

4. Do not add weeds with mature seed heads to the compost pile. Backyard compost piles may not produce enough heat to destroy weed seeds which can germinate next year.

5. Reduce the number of pests on your fruit tree for next year by picking up and destroying all fallen fruit.

6. Fruiting plants, such as hollies, winterberry, and firethorn, need regular watering during dry spells to ensure that the berries mature and don’t drop.

7. Fertilize containers and hanging baskets with ½ the recommended dose of a balanced liquid fertilizer twice as often as recommended.

8. August is the month to order peony roots for September planting. Peonies should be in the ground about a month before the average first frost date.

9. Continue to deadhead annuals and perennials to encourage continuous bloom.

10. Reseeding the lawn in late August gives the new grass two growing periods (fall and spring) before the heat of summer. Be sure to keep the seed moist until germination.

**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 is available at www.ladybug.uconn.edu or www.soiltest.uconn.edu or call (860) 486-4274 for more information.

2016 Cornucopia
Join us Sunday, October 2nd at the UConn Storrs campus for Cornucopia, a free festival showcasing the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Find out about the programs, opportunities and research-based information the College has to offer. Be sure to bring ½ cup of soil for a free pH test. Horticulturists will be on hand to answer your garden and pest questions. Learn about the UConn Master Composter program and much, much more. Look for information on the UConn website soon.

Save the Date: Invasive Plant Symposium, October 11, 2016
The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) will present a symposium on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at the Student Union, University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT. The symposium will take place from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The symposium theme is Invasive Plants in Our Changing World: Learn from the Past, Prepare for the Future. People with all levels of interest and experience are invited to attend.

This 8th biennial conference features national, regional, and local experts as well as citizen volunteers sharing practical solutions for invasive plant management and actions needed to promote native species and improve wildlife habitat. The symposium is open to the public and will include introductory information about invasive plants.

Nationally-recognized Keynote speaker, Jil Swearingen, co-author of Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas will present, “We’re Moving on Up: Invasive Plants Heading North”. Karl Wagener, Executive Director of the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, will speak on “Connecticut’s Future: Rooted in Choice”. William Hyatt, Vice Chair of the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council, will provide a legislative update. Charlotte Pyle, recently retired from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will deliver closing remarks.

Concurrent afternoon sessions will include:
• What Are Other States Doing? Panel discussion with New England invasive plant experts.
• Native Plants for our Pollinators – Creating a balanced and healthy pollinator environment.
• Management of Key Invasives: Success Stories and Progress Reports
• Biological Control: No Animal Too Small – Learn about these valuable invasive plant management tools.
• Aquatic Invasive Plants – Updates on Hydrilla and other new aquatic invasive plant threats.
• Plants to Watch Out For – What are the new invasives that threaten our borders?

Research and management posters, an invasive plant identification area, and other educational exhibits will be featured throughout the day.

The symposium agenda and online registration are available at www.cipwg.uconn.edu. Early registration is $50 (on or before 9/12/16); regular registration is $60 (AFTER 9/12/16 or for walk-ins). Students $25. Registration includes parking and lunch. In addition, Pesticide Recertification and other Continuing Education Credits will be available. Attendees are advised to register early, as the last symposium had record attendance and sold out with 500 attendees. Visit the CIPWG website at www.cipwg.uconn.edu to register. For additional information, contact Donna Ellis at 860-486-6448; donna.ellis@uconn.edu.
Northeast Organic Farming Association’s Summer Conference
At the NOFA summer conference, you may learn as much across a lunch table as you will at workshops; solve your most pressing challenge in a chance discussion with a stranger; or create the spark that is going to be your next big idea. | August 12th-14th
2016 Massachusetts Gardening Symposium, Saturday, October 1st. Themed "Inspirations for Next Year's Garden," this day-long educational (and fun!) event is sponsored by the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association and features four award-winning speakers on landscape design and plant selection. The event location (Westford, MA) is only a short 90-minute drive from Hartford.

Registration is open now. Early-bird pricing ($75.00) ends August 15th, and registration closes on September 23rd. Additional information is available at www.massmastergardeners.org/symposium.

WORM DAY!!

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 10 am—3 pm

Interested in Earthworms? Want to learn about both good and bad ones? Tempted to try your hand at vermicomposting? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!!!

Come join us for OUR PROGRAM FEATURING:
Dr. Josef Gorres from the University of Vermont
Giving us the SCOOP on—
EARTHWORMS - GOOD, BAD & INVASIVE
Carol Quish, UConn Home & Garden Education Center
VERMICOMPOSTING 101

JOIN US AND
MAKE YOUR OWN WORM FARM

LOCATION:
Litchfield County Extension Center
843 University Drive,
Torrington, CT 06790

Please RSVP to ladybug@uconn.edu or by calling (877) 486-6271. Let us know if you want to make a worm bin as you will need to bring certain supplies and we will need worms!!! $5 fee for worms payable at door. More info at www.ladybug.uconn.edu.
**UConn Blooms**

UConn Blooms is the University of Connecticut's on campus source for fresh flowers and plants. Our mission is to provide the UConn community a place to purchase the highest quality floriculture products while at the same time providing our students with an opportunity to work in a retail environment learning floral design, plant maintenance and small business techniques.

Stop by our store located in the Floriculture Building on Rt. 195 to see what we have to offer. Order online at uconnblooms@uconn.edu or by phone at (860) 486 – 6000. **UConn Blooms operates in two locations, inside the UConn Co-op and its main storefront in the Floriculture Building.**

UConn Blooms is located in the Floriculture Building on Route 195 (1395 Storrs Road) across from the yellow barn. Parking is available alongside our greenhouses in the driveway. We are open from 10:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and we will deliver on campus. Look for us online at https://web9.uits.uconn.edu/uconnblooms/ or email uconnblooms@uconn.edu.

Send a birthday bouquet to that special someone!

**KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!**

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**Why Americans waste so much food**

**Meat consumption contributing to global obesity**

**London just celebrated the pop up restaurant where everything served is 3D printed.**

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Warmer Winters Affect Spring Development and Summer Pests | OCE
http://s.uconn.edu/readmore

2016 climate trends continue to break records

WHO KNEW?
Hold the nectar, these butterflies feed on galls and honeydew

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Seaweed Farming Takes Root in Southern New England

Sunflowers move by the clock

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

Celosia ‘Asian Garden’

2017 AAS Flower Award Winner
This spiked beauty claimed victory in North America’s trial sites to become the first ever AAS Winner from Japanese breeding company Murakami Seed. The judges gave this entry high marks in the greenhouse for the good branching, almost bushy growth habit and early to bloom flower spikes. In the garden, Asian Garden celosia continued to bloom on sturdy stems, keeping the bright pink color all summer long, holding up even through some of the first frosts of the season. The AAS Judges commented on the fact that this celosia was a pollinator-magnet, making this AAS Winner a sure bet for pollinator-friendly gardens. From: http://all-americaselections.org/

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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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