



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

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November is for Northern Spy, Nasty Plants and Late Fall Nectar Sources

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:



Northern Spy apples by dmp



Oriental bittersweet berries by dmp



Pollinator on late blooming single mum by dmp

Apples are Abundant Despite Spring Freeze

While February's deep freeze pretty much wiped out Connecticut's peach crop, apple trees fared better in spite of April's sudden temperature drop right after a March warming. About 60 varieties of apples are grown in Connecticut and according to Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky "apples are one of the state's largest and most important agricultural crops, with an average yearly harvest of about a half-million bushels worth \$12 million." Many of Connecticut's orchards have added activities and products to attract a wide array of customers. Visit a local orchard to pick up some Connecticut grown apples today. For a listing of where to go check out <http://www.newenglandapples.org/listorchard.php?state=CT> or <http://www.ctapples.org/pick-your-own>.

Oriental Bittersweet - Contender for Nasty Plants List

Now that the leaves are falling from woody plants, the bright orange fruits of Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) can be seen far and wide. Native to Asia, it was brought to the U.S. in the mid 1800s as an ornamental. It is now found throughout the Northeast and in a number of north central states. Oriental

bittersweet was first noticed in Connecticut in 1916 and the sale of it was prohibited in this state in 2004. For years, the attractive fruits were widely used for both indoor and outdoor flower arrangements. Birds and other animals, including humans, are blamed for its widespread occurrence. This aggressive vine climbs up and over other vegetation as well as buildings. Bittersweet clad trees are more likely to break during stormy or snowy periods and the leaves of bittersweet shade underlying plants. There is a native species of bittersweet (*C. scandens*) which can be differentiated by the location of its fruit. It is not very common, however. Bittersweet can be controlled with persistence using methods suggested in: <http://cipwg.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/244/2014/03/CIPWGandUConnOrientalBittersweetFactsheet.pdf>



Aggressive bittersweet vines clamber up trees and buildings. Photo by dmp.

Fall Nectar Plants for Pollinators

As the gardening season draws to a close, it is only natural to clean up the garden beds, mow the lawn once last time and rake the leaves. Keep in mind that while you want to get the garden cleaned up, there are still those whose survival depends on finding nectar sources, whether they be migrating butterflies or native pollinators. Be sure to leave some frost tolerant annuals and late blooming perennials to provide these vital insects with the food they need. Stick a few hardy annuals like snapdragons, alyssum and calendulas in warmer pockets to lessen frost damage and prolong their blooming periods. Late flowering perennials like asters, boltonias, Montauk daisies and especially the hardy single flowering mums provide both pollinators and butterflies with a vital food source this time of year.

CT DEEP Reclassifies Neonicotinoid Pesticides

Public Act 16-17 requires that, not later than January 1, 2018, the Commissioner classify all neonicotinoids (as defined by the Act) that are labeled for treating plants, as restricted use. Pursuant to the Act, the classification of pesticide products currently registered in Connecticut which contain clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam will be changed from general use to restricted use effective January 1, 2017.

The [Notice of Reclassification of Neonicotinoid Pesticides Used for Treating Plants](#) provides information on the implementation of the Act and a list of the affected pesticides.

NOTE: This list may change as various pesticides come up for reregistration.

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 composting leaves, insects coming into homes, too late to fertilize lawns, arborvitae needles turning brown, digging up tender bulbs and pruning raspberries. 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.

Ten Tips for the November Gardener:

1. Clean bird feeders and stock them with bird seed and suet. Consider sunflower hearts instead of whole seeds. It will provide a better source of calories for the birds and eliminates hull waste beneath the feeder. Don't forget a water source.
2. Keep mowing the lawn as long as the grass is still growing. Do not leave fuel in the mower or other gas-powered lawn tools over the winter; run engines until the fuel is spent.
3. Cut back to the ground any perennials that had powdery mildew over the summer; remove and bag all waste.
4. Put rodent guards on the base of fruit trees to protect them. Remove any mummified fruits and rake up and dispose of old leaves.
5. After the ground freezes, mulch small fruit plants such as strawberries with one inch of straw or leaves.
6. Drain hoses and rain barrels to prevent them from bursting when the water freezes.
7. Pull stakes and plant supports, clean them with a 10/1 solution of water /bleach.
8. Protect grafted roses with mulch or soil by mounding it 10-12 inches over the base of the plant and then adding another foot of straw when the ground has frozen or use rose cones.
9. Trim asparagus foliage to the ground after the first hard frost and mulch the beds.
10. Smaller leaves from trees such as ash, honey locust, dogwood, and birch may be chopped with a mulching mower when dry and left on the lawn.

Winter Rose Protection – One of our readers, Armand J. Lapierre, rosarian and author of *Rose Growing Simplified*, shared the following tips for protecting grafted roses:

- Prepare your roses for the winter around Thanksgiving week or when nightly temperatures consistently fall below freezing
- Cut all canes down to 18 inches
- Strip any remaining leaves and either rake or blow any leaves that have collected around the plant.
- Pull back the mulch surrounding plants to expose bud union and consider applying a natural or synthetic dormant rose spray.
- On bushes with widely spread canes, loosely tie canes into a more upright form.

- Pour fine mulch over the center of the plant to form a 15 to 18 inch mound.

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:

2017 UConn Master Gardener Program Accepting Applications

UConn Extension is accepting applications for the 2017 Master Gardener Program. Master Gardener interns receive horticultural training from UConn, and then share knowledge with the public through community volunteering and outreach efforts. Enrollment in the UConn Extension Master Gardener program is limited and competitive.

“Gardening and the study of it is something we can do our whole lives,” says Karen Linder, a 2015 graduate of the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford. “There is always something new to learn – we can get deeper into a subject. Our instructors truly brought subjects to life that I thought could not be made exciting. Who knew soil had so much going on? It has truly changed the way I think and observe the world around me. That is pretty amazing!”

The program is broad-based, intensive, and consists of 16 class sessions (one full day per week) beginning January 9, 2017. The Master Gardener program includes over 100 hours of classroom training and 60 hours of volunteer service. Individuals successfully completing the program will receive UConn Extension Master Gardener certification. The program fee is \$425.00, and includes the training manual. Partial scholarships may be available, based on demonstrated financial need.

“Working at the Courthouse Garden signature project in Hartford gave me the opportunity to use my gardening skills to help feed and educate others,” says John Vecchitto, a 2015 graduate from Hartford County. “We’re teaching others, many of whom have never gardened, to enjoy the gardening experience. People expressed their satisfaction when they heard the produce we grew would go to a shelter to help hungry people. We fed those who needed good food, and we fed the spirits of our participants with a taste of kindness. It was empowering.”

Classes will be held in Haddam, West Hartford, Bethel, Brooklyn, and Stamford. The postmark deadline for applications has been extended to Friday, November 18, 2016.

For more information or an application, call UConn Extension at 860-486-9228 or visit the UConn Extension Master Gardener website at: www.mastergardener.uconn.edu.

UConn Blooms

UConn Blooms will hold its Thanksgiving Centerpiece Workshop on November 21 at 5:30 PM in the Floriculture Building. Always a popular event, Floral Arts instructor Jim Palmieri will show you how to make a cornucopia arrangement using bronze, yellow and rust colored daisy pompons and wheat. This will be a perfect finishing touch for your Thanksgiving table and you can use the keepsake cornucopia for years to come. This is a great thing to do with your fellow workers so start your holiday celebration with lots of fun!

The cost of the workshop is \$30.00 and it will last for about an hour and fifteen minutes. Registration is required ahead of time. Please call UConn Blooms at 860-486-6000 to register.

Our greenhouse also has a good variety of indoor tropical plants. We specialize in cactus and succulents - easy to care for and tolerant of neglect. Our rosemary plants give off the herbal fragrance of summer even in the dead of winter. The UConn Blooms cooler is stocked with roses, sunflowers, snapdragons, and daisies to brighten any vase. We deliver on campus from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

UConn Blooms is located in the Floriculture Building at 1395 Storrs Rd. (Rt. 195) across from the yellow barn. Parking is available alongside our greenhouse in the driveway close to the Towers Staff and Faculty lot. We are open Monday through Friday from 10:30 to 5:00. Check us out at our website, www.uconnblooms.uconn.edu.



Don't have time to make a Thanksgiving arrangement? Order a ready-made one now!

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Microplastics in agricultural soils: A reason to worry?

Fruits and vegetables may slow ALS

The meat paradox

Do breakfast cereals contain endocrine-disrupting pesticides?

As consumers enjoy lower food prices, farmers struggle to make ends meet.

CLIMATE CORNER

As the climate warms, we are 'primed' for worse storms than Sandy

U.S. Winter outlook predicts warmer, drier South and cooler, wetter North

Monthly record-warm streak ends, September second warmest on record for globe

Greenland ice is melting 7 percent faster than previously thought

WHO KNEW ?

<http://s.uconn.edu/plantsseeundergroundbychannelinglighttotheirroots>

Nanobionic spinach plants can detect explosives

Invasive plants dye woodpeckers red

Move over, solar: The next big renewable energy source could be at our feet

Fuel from sewage is the future -- and it's closer than you think

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

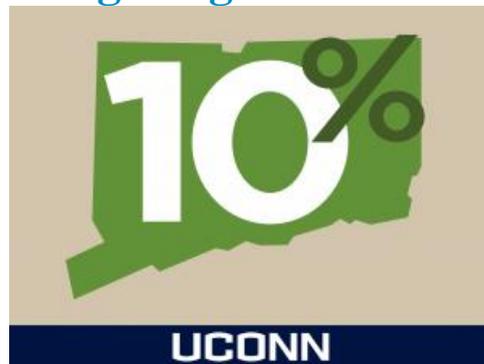
UConn FOOD SAFETY WEBSITE: www.foodsafety.uconn.edu

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

MUMS THE WORD!



Longwood's thousand-bloom mum actually has 1,523!

Here's one for you to try next fall to lure the crowds: Ozukuri, or the thousand-bloom mum. The idea is to grow a single mum plant with as many perfectly spaced blooms as possible. Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania has managed 1,523 lovely flowers on its ozukuri specimen. It was grown as the centerpiece of their annual Chrysanthemum Festival, where you can see thousands of mums in 13 different classes and 70 different forms. The festival runs through November 20.

The thousand-bloom mum is massive: 12.5-ft. wide and almost 8-ft. tall. It took 18 months to grow. As for the variety, it's suitably Japanese: Susono-no-Hikari.

Longwood has been getting better at the craft: In 2011, they got 1,167 flowers, in 2013 they reached 1,416 and they broke the 1,500 mark in 2015, with 1,509.

My only issue with the plant? Longwood brags that it's the largest chrysanthemum ever grown outside of Asia. What's holding you back, Longwood? Grow the most floriferous thousand-bloom mum the world has ever seen!

Here's a [VIDEO](#) from 2009 that shows how it's done. All kidding about world records aside, it really gives you an appreciation for the labor that goes into it!

Photo and text from: [Growers' Talk Acres Online](#) by Chris Bytes

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