



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

www.ladybug.uconn.edu



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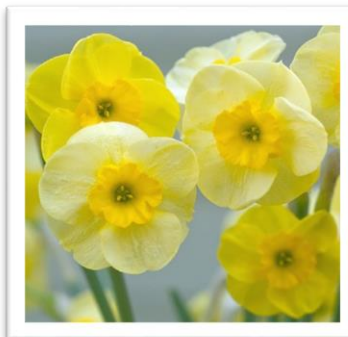
JANUARY IS FOR GOLDEN JACKPOT, JONQUILS & JUSTICIA

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:



Poinsettia by DMP



Sun Disc www.colorblends.com



Justicia brandegeana from eeb website

Holiday Plant Care

With millions of poinsettias and other holiday plants being brought home as festive decorations or given as gifts this holiday season, often questions arise on the care of particular species. For the most part poinsettias and amaryllis enjoy moderate temperatures while holiday cacti, cyclamen and those mini holiday trees prefer cooler temperatures. All like bright light and to be kept away from drafts and heat sources. Water when potting mix begins to dry out being careful not to overwater. For more information, check out: <http://www.thewesterlysun.com/news/mysticriverpress/mysticnews/9767444-154/tips-on-caring-for-plants-received-during-the-holidays.html> (Note - incorrect author photo)

2017 is the Year of the Daffodil

The National Garden Bureau has declared 2017 to be the year of the daffodil. This cheery class of bulbs has much more variety than most are aware of. The American Daffodil Society lists 13 divisions of daffodils including one known as Jonquilla. Jonquils, as they are commonly called, can have 1 to 5

blossoms per stem, with spreading or reflexed petals and usually they are deliciously fragrant. Varieties include 'Sun Disc', 'Quail' and 'Sailboat'.

Got the Winter Chills? Warm Up by Visiting the EEB Greenhouse!

The UConn Biodiversity Education & Research Greenhouses are home to one of the most diverse plant collections in the northeast. There are plant collections from all over the world as well as special collections including ant plants, carnivorous plants, spice plants and parasitic plants. The greenhouses are located on the main campus in Storrs and are open Monday through Saturday. So if you are looking for a taste of the tropics this winter, be sure to visit. Check out their website: <http://florawww.eeb.uconn.edu/> for directions, visiting hours and to see what is in bloom this week like the shrimp plant pictured above (*Justicia brandegeana*).

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include potting up amaryllis, meal moths, winter protection for evergreens and houseplant care. If you have specific questions, gardening queries or pest problems, check out our website, www.ladybug.uconn.edu, call the UConn Home & Garden Education Center (877) 486-6271 (toll-free in CT) or email us at ladybug@uconn.edu. Your County Cooperative Extension Centers are also listed on the website.

Ten Tips for the January Gardener:

1. Check perennials that may have frost heaved their way out of the ground and press back into place. It's not too late to mulch.
2. Start seeds for onions and leeks indoors under lights.
3. Keep bird feeders full. Supplying sunflower seed hearts allows birds to expend less energy cracking seed open.
4. If indoor potted geraniums get leggy, cut them back by half, repot the plants in fresh soil and set them in a cool, bright window.
5. Try to stay off lawn areas during winter months as it can damage grass crowns.
6. When placing your seed and plant orders keep in mind that many seeds have improved insect and/or disease resistance. Watch also for drought-tolerant types.
7. To prolong bloom, protect poinsettias from drafts and keep them moderately moist.
8. Prop up ice covered branches and wait for the ice to melt instead of attempting to remove it. Prune away storm-damaged branches promptly.
9. Check stored fruits and vegetables such as potatoes and apples for bad spots which may lead to decay. Remove and use those which show signs of spoiling.
10. Protect your young fruit trees from hungry mice that can chew the bark off at the soil line, weakening and possibly killing the trees. Keep mulch several inches from trunks to prevent mice from hiding under it.

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates: SAVE THE DATE:

January 6, 2017 – CT DEEP: Goodwin Conservation Center Open House. Come join us for an open house on January 6th, anytime between 5pm and 8pm for some food and to learn about upcoming programming, discover recreational and volunteer opportunities within the community at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton, CT. Pre-registration is requested but not required. Jasper Sha at (860)455-9534 or email: jasper.sha@ct.gov For more information: <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/calendar/viewev.asp?id=6240>

January 14, 2017 – CT DEEP: The Apiary Series – Starting Your Hive. This program is part of a year-long series that will teach you all you need to know about keeping bees. 1 – 2:30 pm. Dave Gilbert joins us again as he teaches us where and how to get supplies and how to start off a new hive during the winter months. Pre-registration is requested but not required. Jasper Sha at (860)455-9534 or email: jasper.sha@ct.gov. For more information: <http://www.ctwoodlands.org/CFPA-events/beekeeping-for-beginners-1-the-apiary-series>

January 24, 2017 – CT DEEP: Fungus and its Benefits in the Garden. During this program we will explore the role of mycorrhizal fungi in personal gardens and forests. We will learn how specific practices can maximize the benefits of mycorrhizal fungi in gardens. 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Instructor, Valerie Milici is a Ph.D. student who studies interactions between mutualistic fungi, pathogenic fungi, and their plant hosts, and how these interactions shape our tropical forest communities. Pre-registration is requested but not required. Jasper Sha at (860)455-9534 or email jasper.sha@ct.gov. For more information: <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/calendar/viewev.asp?id=6247>

February 23 – 26, 2017 – CT Flower and Garden Show, Woodland Enchantment. Bring your garden questions to be answered by UConn Home & Garden Education Center horticulturists and Master Gardener volunteers. Bring ½ cup of soil for a free pH test by UConn Soil Testing Lab staff. Collect your samples now!

February 16 & 23, 2017 – Fruit Workshop I: Pests & Diseases of Small Fruits, February 16th at Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington and February 23rd at Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam. Review of common and important problems of grape, strawberry, blueberry, brambles, currants & gooseberries. Target audience is farmers; all are welcome. More info: <http://plant.lab.uconn.edu/workshops/> or contact: Joan Allen, joan.allen@uconn.edu or 860-486-6740, Mary Concklin, mary.concklin@uconn.edu or 860-486-6449.

March 11-12, 2017 – CT NOFA Winter Conference. Western CT State University, Danbury, CT. CT NOFA's Annual Winter Conference is the premier event where farmers, landscapers, foodies, gardeners, and community leaders convene to learn innovative practices, share ideas, and network with others! <http://ctnofa.org/winterconference/>

Garden Master Classes (open to all, fee, <http://mastergardener.uconn.edu/>)

Gardening Indoors for Happy Houseplants Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017 (snow date Jan 31st) from 1 to 3 pm. Fairfield County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Jan 10th. Instructor: Nicole Christensen

Sustainable Design for Organic Farming Wednesday, Jan 25, 2017 from 10 am – noon. Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford. Deadline for registration: Jan. 11th. Instructor: Dina Brewster

Pollinator Gardening: What to do Before & After Planting Saturday, Feb 4, 2017 (snow date Feb 5th) from 10 am – noon. Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford. Deadline for registration: Jan. 11th. Instructor: Shaun McCoshum

Gardening for the Ages Monday, Feb 6, 2017 (snow date Feb 7) from 3 to 5 pm. Auer Farm, Bloomfield. Deadline for Registration: Jan 23rd. Instructor: Christina Beebe

Plant Pruning Basics Thursday, Feb 9, 2017 from 7 to 9 pm. Hartford County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Jan 26th. Instructor: Kevin Wilcox

A Day in the Greenhouse Saturday, Feb 11, 2017 from 10 am - noon. Geremiah's Greenhouse, Wallingford. Deadline for Registration: Jan 28th. Instructor: Kevin Sullivan

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ANIMAL SCIENCE

Equestrian Team Show Schedule
Schools competing are part of Zone 1 Region 5

Spring Shows 2017

February 5 Trinity at Oak Meadow Farm
February 12 Fairfield University
February 25 UConn Hosts in Storrs, Connecticut
March 4 Conn College
April 1 Regionals at Mystic Valley
April 8 Zones at Mount Holyoke College
May 3-7 Nationals

Western Team Show Schedule
Schools competing are part of Zone 1

Spring Shows 2017

Feb 11 UConn Hosts in Storrs, Connecticut
Feb 12 UConn Hosts in Storrs, Connecticut
Feb 18 Mount Holyoke College Double Header
Mar 12 Regional Championship in Orange, MA
March 25-26 Western Semi Finals, NY
May 3-7 Nationals

Dressage Team Show Schedule
Schools competing are part of Region B

Spring Shows 2016

Mar 11 Mount Holyoke College
Mar 25 Mount Holyoke College/University of Massachusetts Co-host
April 2 UConn Hosts in Storrs, CT
April 29-30 Nationals- Centenary College, NJ

Please contact Coach Alena Meacham at 860-486-3377 or Alena.Meacham@UConn.edu for more information.

Revised 12/05/2016

WINTER GETTING TO YOU? PICK UP SOME FLOWERS OR A HOUSEPLANT AT UCONN BLOOMS

UConnBlooms 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. Call us at 860-486-6000 to order early. Look for us online at <https://web9.uits.uconn.edu/uconnblooms/> or email uconnblooms@uconn.edu.



KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Can I still eat this? This American Chemical Society *Reactions* video shows how to tell if that expired food is still OK to eat

Beans and peas increase fullness more than meat

Will shoppers be filling their carts with purple foods next year?

What if our food labels reflected the real costs of food and how it impacts our food system?

Research is confirming that butter is not so bad after all.

CLIMATE CORNER

Sea ice hit record lows in November

How tequila could be key in our battle against climate change

Global habitat loss still rampant across much of Earth

WHO KNEW ?

Birds Have Skills Previously Described as “Uniquely Human”

Thousands of U.S. Areas Afflicted with Lead Poisoning beyond Flint's

The challenges we are facing with labor in food and agriculture.

Bugs Butcher America’s Forests

UConn Sustainable Living Website: www.sustainableliving.uconn.edu

UConn Extension Website: www.extension.uconn.edu

UConn Food Safety Website: www.foodsafety.uconn.edu

Weigela ‘Golden Jackpot’



Perhaps the brightest weigela yet, this exciting new shrub shines with brilliant golden leaves that hold their color all season long, undaunted by summer sun. Prolific crimson buds open to deep pink blooms and last for nearly a month. A great border, hedge or foundation plant. Deciduous. (Picture & text from: <http://www.monrovia.com/>)

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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 or sign up for free email version**. Find the subscription form at <http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/subscribe-to-hg-news.php>

January 2017 DMP