



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

www.ladybug.uconn.edu



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JUNE is for Japanese Barberry, Jolt Dianthus and Jerusalem Artichokes

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 Caterpillars on Bayberry by dmp



Buddleia 'Summer Skies' by Andy Brand, Broken Arrow



White Pine by Stephen Wyka, UMass

Rainy Weather Puts Damper on Gypsy Moth

According to the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, entomologists are finding evidence of the fungus, *Entomophaga maimaiga*, which is lethal to gypsy moth caterpillars, in areas around the state. This fungus needs cool, moist weather to germinate. High caterpillar populations in many parts of the state still mean that significant defoliation can take place but the rain we are presently experiencing should reduce gypsy moth populations so less defoliation will occur next year ([Fungus Killing Gypsy Moth Caterpillars, But Infestation Isn't Over Yet](#)). Plants that are defoliated will appreciate some fertilizer as they regrow their leaves. Also, be sure to water these plants during dry periods this summer.

New Butterfly Bushes on Market from UConn Breeder

Butterfly bushes (*Buddleia davidii*) are great for attracting butterflies and other pollinators. However, the standard species and many cultivars reach heights and widths of 6 to 8 feet, often making them an awkward fit for smaller garden beds. UConn's Dr. Mark Brand has introduced some dwarf selections that have recently become available through retail outlets. Check out variegated 'Summer Skies' with

attractive gold-edged foliage and light bluish flowers. Look for it under the Proven Winners label. Also available is the Soda Pop series that remains at 3 to 4 feet in diameter even when not pruned. Read all about them at: [New UConn Butterfly Bushes Land on the Market](#)

White Pine Needle Damage

Many of us have sadly noticed white pines with sparse foliage and an unhealthy brown cast to them during the dry summer months and thought it was winter road salts or summer drought that was causing their demise. What UMass researchers have found is it is the work of at least four fungal pathogens. They cause earlier defoliation than the typical October needle fall. Since pine trees in our area are so efficient at recycling their often limited nutrients, especially nitrogen, this defoliating disease can be devastating to their health. [White Pine Needle Damage Report](#)

Japanese Barberry Here to Stay

According to a study by researchers at UConn and other universities, Japanese barberry is here to stay despite changes in the environment due to climate change. Based on Japanese barberry's positive response to warmer temperatures, it seems likely that this nasty plant will continue to proliferate throughout our landscape and seems especially prone to doing so in disturbed areas. This is disconcerting because its presence is positively related to tick populations as ticks feed on deer mice and they are less vulnerable to predators under this prickly cover. Please eradicate Japanese barberry whenever the opportunity arises. [Read more](#)

Neonics Labelled by Home Depot

Several callers had asked about the tags they found in their Home Depot plants that stated the plants were treated with neonicotinoids and whether they should plant them to attract pollinators. After checking their websites, it looks like both Home Depot and Lowes are phasing out selling flowering plants treated with these pesticides in the next couple of years. Debates and studies are ongoing around the impact of this particular class of pesticides on various pollinating insects but if you are trying to attract insects to your yard either grow your own plants from seeds or purchase those that are not treated with chemicals that can potentially linger in or on the plants.

Orange Petunias GE

An orange petunia would be an attractive score for many gardeners. Unfortunately we won't be getting them any time soon. Through a slip in protocol, a number of orange or orange-shaded petunias were shipped in from Asia, Africa, Central America, Europe, South America, Australia, Israel and Mexico that were genetically engineered. Their safety is not called into question; rather the problem is that there needs to be a permit for their introduction. On the USDA APHIS website (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/biotechnology/brs-news-and-information/unauthorized_petunia) there is a list of the cultivars that are banned.

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include controlling broadleaved weeds in lawns, moss, boxwood psylla, blackberry rust, low mow grass species, chipmunks, pear leafcurl midge, planting gladioli and fast acting limestone. 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 June Gardener:

1. Control and reduce aphid numbers on vegetables, roses, perennial flowers, shrubs and trees with a hard spray from your garden hose or two applications of insecticidal soap about one week apart or according to directions.

2. [White grub](#) preventative control should be applied prior to egg hatch and a target date of June 15 is recommended although it can be done up to July 15.
3. Fed roses in the middle of June with 1/4 cup 5-10-10 fertilizer per bush.
4. If you must overhead water (sprinkler), do so early in the day to allow the foliage to dry as quickly as possible. Using soaker hoses or drip lines or watering at the base of the plant will decrease the risk of disease problems.
5. Plant seeds of bush beans every three weeks through the season for continuous harvests.
6. Check container plants daily during hot or windy weather; they will need water often.
7. Overgrown, multi-stemmed shrubs like spirea, lilac and forsythia can be renovated by removing 1/3 of stems down to ground level each year for 3 years, allowing some new young growth to replace these older stems.
8. Try growing Jerusalem artichokes in containers if worried about them spreading too much: http://smsf-mastergardeners.ucanr.edu/Elkus/Growing_Jerusalem_artichokes/
9. A spray of Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) will control emerging tent and gypsy moth caterpillars but is not toxic to non-caterpillar insects, birds, or humans.
10. If you have plants that you suspect may be facing a pest problem, bring in your sample to the [Home & Garden Education Center](#) or your local Cooperative Extension office and they will help diagnose the problem and recommend the appropriate control.

Join in the Big Bug Hunt to Beat Garden Pests!

Major citizen science project tracks garden bugs to identify when and how they spread

Key points

1. The Big Bug Hunt is an international research project to track when and how garden bugs spread.
2. Participants are helping to create a pest-alert system that will warn gardeners when pests are heading their way.
3. Anyone can take part and reporting a bug takes seconds. The more reports received, the quicker the pest-alert system can be developed.
4. Now - in its second year, The Big Bug Hunt has already identified patterns in the way some major pests spread. Additional reports will improve accuracy and speed development of the pest-alert system.

BigBugHunt.com

Did You Know?

Since CT tax receipts were lower than anticipated, Governor Dannel Malloy has [proposed budget cuts and state worker layoffs](#) to get the budget balanced by June 30th. Among the budget cuts were 12 full-time state park staffers leaving 35 full-time employees to keep 110 state parks and 15 campgrounds cleaned and maintained. Also, the governor's budget proposes the taking of more than \$1.5 million from the 'dedicated accounts' of 18 state parks that have raised money through facility rentals and various

entrepreneurial activities since 2010. These funds were earmarked for park repair, maintenance and improvement. From ECO Rhode Island news 6-4-17

Support Pollinators!

The Rhode Island Audubon Society offers some tips to support and encourage the diversity and health of pollinators:



Go natural with your lawn. Allow flowers such as clover and dandelions to grow. Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides.

Select native New England flowering plants and bushes. Use pollen-producing plants in planters and on apartment balconies.

Refrain from clearing leaf litter and old plant stalks in spring as bees lay their eggs in these.

Minimize or eliminate pesticide use in your gardens. Predatory insects will come for those beetles and cutworms. Garden plants can tolerate a little bit of defoliation without much harm.

Leave dead trees on your property, as many pollinators use decaying trees to lay their eggs and pupate into adults. Bumblebees use brush piles, old burrows and tree cavities for nests.

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:

UConn | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
EXTENSION



SAVE THE DATE!

Native Plants and Pollinators Conference
Thursday, October 19, 2017
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
UConn - Storrs, CT
Details to follow.

Bug Week – July 24th – 29th, 2017



- Pests and Guests – Cooking with Bugs, Games and More – **Monday, July 24th at 5:30 PM**
 - Activities include: cooking with bugs, games and demos for the whole family, and learning about bugs in the garden. Please RSVP at bugweek@uconn.edu or 860-486-9228
- Insect Wonders at the Farm – at [Spring Valley Student Farm](#) – **Tuesday, July 25th from 9-10:30 AM**
 - Join UConn Extension faculty and [Spring Valley Student Farm](#) staff and students for an interactive, fun-filled ‘buggy’ event. Learn about our amazing and important insect friends by collecting and observing them. Activities for the whole family will include insect collecting, insect-inspired crafts, Bug-Bingo and a scavenger hunt.
- [Tour of the Insect Collections](#) – **Thursday, July 27th from 2 PM to 4 PM**
- [AntU](#) – **Thursday, July 27th from 1 PM – 5 PM**
 - AntU presentation at 1 pm
 - One hour tours (schedule above) PLUS exhibit activities, microscope stations, giveaways, and a live ant colony. ALSO, special Greenhouse displays and tours available to attendees from 2pm – 5pm.
- Pollinators with [Auerfarm](#) – **Friday, July 28th from 9 AM – 12 PM**
 - The event will have station on the beehive, pollinator plants and a hands-on make and take activity. Open to youth and adults. Please RSVP at bugweek@uconn.edu or 860-486-9228
- Bug Walks in Vernon (24 Hyde Avenue) – **Saturday, July 29th 10 AM – 1 PM**
 - Find out all about insects and where to look for them at Bug Walks at the Tolland Agricultural Center in Vernon. The program will have live insects on display, right out in the open, plus part of the insect collection from the UConn Natural History Museum, as well as three bug hunts that include going to the butterfly/ pollinator garden and the vegetable garden on the property.

Please visit our [registration site](#) to RSVP. You can register for any of the programs at <http://s.uconn.edu/3r7>. If you have questions about any of our programs, please email us at bugweek@uconn.edu or call 860-486-9228. Programs are free of charge for all participants, and sponsored by UConn Extension and the Connecticut Museum of Natural History. We do require RSVP for all programs as space is limited.

Xerces Society’s Conservation Biological Short Course

4-H Education Center at Auer Farm 158 Auer Farm Rd. Bloomfield, CT Tuesday, June 13th, 2017, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm EDT. Taught by Dr. Ana Legrand of UConn.

The content of this course is tailored to the needs of farmers, NRCS, SWCD, Cooperative Extension and state department or agricultural employees as well as crop consultants, natural resource specialists and non-governmental conservation organization staff. Registration fee: \$45/person and includes Xerces Society’s Biocontrol Toolkit and a copy of Farming With Native Beneficial Insects.

Learn a science-based strategy that seeks to integrate beneficial insects for natural pest control!

To register and read course agenda follow this link:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07edzb5sy3ab747be9&llr=tnjebhdab>

Please bring a sack lunch – lunch will not be provided.

CT Botanical Society field trip to Biehn Open Space and Highstead Arboretum in Redding on Saturday, June 17, 10 am. Free. Non-members are welcome. Rain date Sunday, June 18. ct-botanical-society.org

CT Horticultural Society Landscape Design Bloopers with C.L. Fornari at in West Hartford on Thursday, June 15, 7:30 pm. Ice Cream Social at 6:30 pm. Non-members \$10. Info at cthort.org

Newport Rhode Island Secret Garden Tours June 16-18 <http://secretgardentours.org/>

Beautiful Geraniums at UConn Blooms – Pick Up Yours Today!

UConn Blooms has the most beautiful geraniums in the area! These large and lush plants will bloom until October's frosts. Placed in full sun they will bloom all summer. Our geraniums go great with other plant companions in containers or use them in a bedding scheme. At \$4.99 each, these 15-inch plants have four or five blooms and plenty of buds. One Geraniums will fill a large pot for your front stoop or grace your patio. They even make a beautiful gift plant that can be used as an outdoor table centerpiece.

Our final flower arranging workshop (Sunflowers to Start The Summer) will take place on June 21. This will be Jim Palmieri's final workshop before his retirement. There is always a full house of attendees so register now. Sign up to learn the various styles of floral design that work well with this native American wonder flower! The workshop will take place at the Floriculture Building at 1395 Storrs Road with parking available in our driveway and back parking lot. It starts at 5:30 and includes flowers and a glass cube vase. The fee is \$30.00.

UConn Blooms also has a full assortment of beautiful flowers in our cooler and a greenhouse stocked with tropical plants and seasonal offerings. UConn's on-campus flower and plant shop is open daily from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

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 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 olive oil protect the brain from cancer?

<https://www.labroots.com/trending/neuroscience/6147/common-item-fight-brain-cancer>

Thirty-six million pounds of **corn and soy just got passed off as organic.**

Good news for grilling: Black pepper helps limit cancerous compounds in meat, study shows

Chance of colon cancer recurrence nearly cut in half in people who eat nuts

Tests show that nearly **40 percent of canned foods contain BPA.**

CLIMATE CORNER

2017 hurricane season follows year of extremes

Saving Lives and Money: The Potential of Solar to Replace Coal

Two Factors for Why Sea-Level Rise Worse in Northeast

NOAA Betting on Another Busy Atlantic Hurricane Season

Brood Awakening: 17-Year Cicadas Emerge 4 Years Early

Climate change: Extreme rainfall will vary between regions

WHO KNEW ?

Drinking Tea Alters Women's **Epigenetics** <https://www.labroots.com/trending/cancer/6116/drinking-tea-alters-women-s-epigenetics>

How Do the Chemicals in Sunscreen Protect Our Skin from Damage?

How exactly does water get to homes?

Is This in Our Future Too?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/borrowing/mortgages/12012333/Now-its-not-only-knotweed-that-will-stop-you-getting-a-mortgage.html>

No escaping ocean plastic: 37 million bits of litter on one of world's remotest islands

American chestnut rescue will succeed, but slower than expected

Monarch butterflies: The problem with herbicides

UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab: www.plant.lab.uconn.edu

UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Lab: www.soiltest.uconn.edu

UCONN EXTENSION: www.extension.uconn.edu

UCONN FOOD SAFETY: www.foodsafety.uconn.edu

Dianthus 'Jolt'



Photo from: <http://all-americanselections.org/product/dianthus-jolt-pink/>

Bright colors and a heat-tolerant, non-stop performance are perfect reasons for using this series of dianthus in your gardens. Plants grow about a foot and a half high and are well branched and disease resistant.

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