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 Moths Still a Concern in Many Parts of Connecticut**

Calls are coming into the Center from folks concerned about their trees being defoliated by gypsy moth caterpillars. A recent map from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station shows areas where gypsy moth activity is likely to be high. From CAES website: [Follow this link for a larger 2016-2017 Gypsy Moth Egg Mass 7-Mile Grid Survey Results](#)

Aerial survey map of Connecticut showing areas defoliated by the gypsy moth in 2016 overlaid with the results of the 2016-2017 CAES egg mass 7-mile grid ground survey. Survey and map produced by the Office of the State Entomologist, CAES. The aerial survey is funded by the U.S. Forest Service.

Gypsy moths are controlled naturally by a fungus called *Entomophaga maimaiga* which needs moist weather in May and June to effectively infect the caterpillars. So while this cooler weather with potential rainfall predictions puts a damper on some gardening activities, it will aid in caterpillar control and let us...
Another Banner Year for Ticks
Tick populations are high most likely due to the past two mild winters and callers are reporting finding ticks on themselves and other family members as well as pets. Of the two tick species most commonly found in Connecticut, the tiny deer tick is of most concern because it can carry several diseases including Lyme disease, human babesiosis and human granulocytic anaplasmosis all of which can lead to serious health problems if untreated. Find out how to protect yourself and where to get ticks tested for these diseases at: http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/FactSheets/ticks.php

Be on the Lookout for Red Lily Leaf Beetles
Bright red adult lily leaf beetles are emerging from the soil and litter in which they overwintered and have begun feeding on true lilies. The adults will then mate and lay eggs on the undersides of the leaves. As the larvae feed, they cover themselves in their own droppings, making them unappetizing to predators like birds and unappealing for us gardeners to remove as well. For more information on the life cycle of the lily leaf beetle and control options, go to: http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/FactSheets/lily-leaf-beetle.php

Migratory Birds
May 13 is International Migratory Bird Day – Celebrate this special day that highlights ’Stopover Sites: Helping Birds Along the Way’. Learn more at www.birdday.org.

Ten Tips for the May Gardener:
1. Pachysandra blight affected many plantings in Connecticut last year. Thin out thick plantings to increase light and air circulation. Prune out diseased plants and plant parts during dry conditions.

2. Remove spent blooms on tulips, daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs. The plant will focus its energy on growing leaves and new bulbs rather than producing seeds.
3. Transplant seedlings of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant when all danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed to 65°F, usually the last week of May. Bean and squash seeds also will benefit from warm and dryer soil.

4. Monitor lilies for red Lily Leaf beetles. Check the underside of leaves for the clusters of tiny orange eggs and remove. Spray with Neem every 5-7 days to repel larvae and adults or handpick and destroy.

5. If possible, plant vegetable families (Solanaceae, cole crops, cucurbits) in different locations in the garden from the previous year to reduce disease and insect issues.

6. Keep mower blades sharp and set your mower height at 2-3 inches. Remove no more than one-third of the total height per mowing and mulch to return the nitrogen to the soil.

7. Aerate, turn and moisten the compost pile to speed decomposition.

8. Late-summer and fall-blooming perennials such as chrysanthemums and asters can be divided. Pinching back new growth will keep plants compact.

9. As temperatures moderate, move houseplants outside to partially shaded, wind-protected locations.

10. Set up supports and stakes for flowering plants that tend to get floppy, such as peonies, clematis, and spiderwort.

**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?**

Scientists and engineers from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Aquaculture, Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration’s Shellfish Sanitation Program are conducting a hydrographic dye dilution study. They will be tracking the flow and dispersion of wastewater discharging into Long Island Sound from the Greenwich Water Pollution Control Facility, on Grass Island in Greenwich Harbor. The coastal waters of Greenwich are home to some of Connecticut’s most important natural eastern oyster and hard clam producing areas. Information collected during this study will be used to evaluate the impact of wastewater discharges on shellfish growing areas in Greenwich, and will help scientists determine where shellfish may be safely harvested. The Greenwich facility operates an advanced treatment process using ultraviolet disinfection, which has proven to be an
effective treatment against pathogenic bacteria and viruses contained in sewage, and doesn’t require the introduction of chemicals into the waters of Long Island Sound. From ECO Rhode Island news 4-4-17

From: Jennifer Polanz of Inside Grower, Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Geeking Out (Just a Bit)

Now I’m the one who’s going to geek out a bit, so bear with me. Yesterday at 11:11 a.m., the Atlas V rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral, and 21 minutes later the Orbital ATK Cygnus cargo spacecraft (dubbed the S.S. John Glenn) separated from the rocket, on course for the International Space Station carrying about 7,600 lbs. of food, supplies and science experiments.

Why is this important? The cargo ship is carrying the Advanced Plant Habitat, or APH, a fully automated growth chamber designed by Wisconsin-based ORBITEC that will allow astronauts on the ISS to continue with experiments related to growing their own food. I’m just putting the finishing touches on a story for the June issue of Inside Grower interviewing researchers at NASA, as well as university researchers here in the
U.S. and in the Netherlands to gain a better understanding of the experiments happening on the ground and up in the stars.

Watch the liftoff here and stay tuned for more on the APH in future issues of Inside Grower and in the June print supplement.


Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:
Late March through Mid-May - Colorblends Spring Garden in Bridgeport. Now in its 3rd year, it features 40,000 flower bulbs selected to bloom in sequence all spring. Open to the public each spring; dawn to dusk, no fee, plenty of street parking. 893 Clinton Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06604. Up-to-date bloom reports are posted on: Facebook.com/ColorblendsHouseAndSpringGarden and ColorblendsSpringGarden.com.

UConn Summer Riding Programs – Come Ride with Us!

Visit UConnSummerRiding.UConn.Edu for registration and fee information.
Several sessions available throughout the summer.

What’s Wrong With My Tomatoes? Plainfield Agriculture Commission talk presented by Joan Allen of UConn. Monday, May 22nd at 7:00pm, Plainfield Town Hall. Free and open to the public.

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

**Catching the Bug** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 from 1 to 3 pm. University of St. Joseph, West Hartford. Deadline for registration: May 10th. Instructor: Dr. Kirsten Martin.

**Identifying Wildflowers with Keys** Tuesday, June 6, 2017 from 1 to 3 pm. New Haven County Extension Center, North Haddam. Deadline for registration: May 23rd. Instructor: Susan H. Munger.

**Arthropod Acupuncture and ID** Tuesday, June 6, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Tolland County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: May 23rd. Instructor: Dr. Kirsten Martin.

**Start a Spring Tradition at UConn Blooms**
Fulfill another UConn tradition by purchasing a world-renowned ‘Bartlett’ geranium. Colors come in a wide range from traditional reds to soft dotted lavenders with some that feature unique zonal leaves for an added layer of color and interest. These annual specimens make great additions to containers or gardens. They will be greatly appreciated as a gift to that special someone. We only have a **limited supply**, so be sure to secure your own classic geranium available now for $4.99! Check out our other colorful annuals as well.

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/](https://web9.uits.uconn.edu/uconnblooms/) or email [uconnblooms@uconn.edu](mailto:uconnblooms@uconn.edu).
KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Low-sodium diet might not lower blood pressure

Nearly two billion people depend on imported food

Here is a glimpse of what our food could look like as a result of climate change.

Wondering why you should eat more spicy foods? Here are five reasons to heat things up.

Fresh fruit consumption linked to lower risk of diabetes and diabetic complications

11 percent of disappearing groundwater used to grow internationally traded food

There's a new approach to nutrition that is growing, and physicians and dietitians are writing prescriptions for therapeutic diets.

CLIMATE CORNER
Farming becoming riskier under climate change

Extreme weather events linked to climate change impact on the jet stream

Climate change's toll on mental health

Plants have been helping to offset climate change, but now it's up to us

Global warming making oceans more toxic, breaking climate change research shows

Is climate change responsible for record-setting extreme weather events?

We Just Breached the 410 PPM Threshold for CO2

WHO KNEW?
A 1,000-Year-Old Recipe Could Be The ‘Silver Bullet’ Of Medicine by Erin Connelly

New use for a pesky weed

Wax worm caterpillar will eat plastic shopping bags: New solution to plastic waste?


Lyme disease researchers seek consensus as number of cases grows

Nitrogen, phosphorus from fertilizers and pet waste polluting urban water

New England's glacial upland soils provide major groundwater storage reservoir

US streams carry surprisingly extensive mixture of pollutants
Grasses continue to grow in demand as landscape design moves from less formal to more naturalistic forms. *Miscanthus sinensis ‘Little Miss’* is a stunning variety of from German breeder client Klaus Menzel with more than a few outstanding qualities. Origin: Germany

Description / Plant Notes:

- Narrow arching foliage emerges green in spring developing carmine and purple tones from early May with strongest coloring in October and November
- Clump centers remain fresh green for a lovely two-tone effect
- Reddish flower heads sport buff seed heads from July-October for long season of interest
- Vigorous, easy care, drought tolerant once established
- USDA Zone 4 (-30°F or -34°C)
- Tidy clumping compact habit, 2’-3’ height and width at maturity
- Excellent for containers, borders and modern landscape plantings


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](https://www.facebook.com/pages/UConn-Home-Garden-Center/136211899745967), checking out our weekly blog [www.uconnladybug.wordpress.com](http://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](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/subscribe-to-hg-news.php)

May 2017 DMP