



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

www.ladybug.uconn.edu



Like us on Facebook!

JULY is for Happy Jack Clematis, Jagged-edged Irises and Jumping Worms

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.

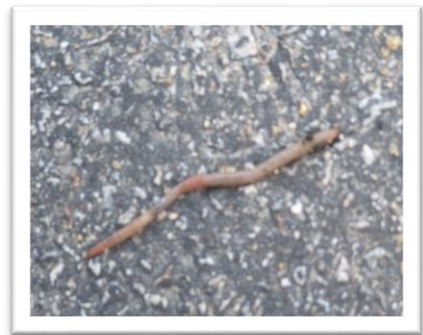
Pest Patrol/Current Concerns/Topics of Interest:



Cabbage-worm by Ana Legrand, UConn



Iris borer larva by dmp



Alabama jumper worm (Amyntas) by dmp

Cabbage Family Pests Abound

According to UConn entomologist, Ana Legrand both imported cabbage-worm and diamond back moth caterpillars were feeding on cabbages at the UConn Plant Science Research Farm. Cabbage-worms were in various stages of development. The caterpillars are green with a faint yellow stripe appearing as they reach maturity and are ready to pupate. They blend in well with the foliage. Dr. Legrand noticed that diamond back moths were emerging from their pupae. Both insect species can have 3 or more generations each growing season here in Connecticut. Also, be on the lookout for cross-striped caterpillars and cabbage loopers. For more information on cole crops see:

<http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/FactSheets/brassicac.php>

Iris Borers

Now that your irises have finished blooming, it is time to do a little grooming, dead-heading and dividing. We have been getting several reports on iris damage from iris borers. These insects hatch from eggs laid

on leaves or debris and burrow into the stem and eventually the rhizome as they mature. They make the rhizomes susceptible to a really stinky bacterial rot. Jagged edges on leaves is a sure sign your plants have borers. Clean up dead leaves and cut down spent flower stalks. Then dig up rhizomes and cut back the leaves to 3 or 4 inches. Inspect the rhizomes and discard any infested with borers and the old dead centers. Replant, fertilize and water. For more specifics on dividing, see:

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2001/6-15-2001/dividiris.html>

Alabama Jumpers aka Crazy Snake Worms aka Amyntas aka Invasive Earthworms

Maybe because of the warmer winter or moister spring, there appears to be an abundant amount of invasive earthworms in many people's gardens. These are rather large worms that are native to Asia. Their most notable characteristic is that they thrash and squirm rapidly when disturbed reminding some folks of a slithering snake. Learn more about these destructive and invasive creatures at:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~entlab/Greenhouse%20IPM/Workshops/2014/InvasiveEarthworms.pdf>

Tickapocalypse Continues

Usually as summer progresses and the weather becomes hot and dry, ticks retreat into shadier and moister locales but because of the relatively regular rainfall events we've been experiencing, they are still plentiful in areas like stone walls and woody plantings. Here is some more information on ticks which may be of interest: http://today.uconn.edu/2017/06/tick-hikers-guide-galaxy/?utm_source=launchdistribution&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=monthly_email

Cleaning Up After Gypsy Moths

Calls have been coming in about how to clean up all the droppings left behind by the gypsy moth caterpillars. If it was not swept up regularly, the brownish/greenish frass is probably staining driveways, patios, decks, outdoor furniture and anything else it landed on. Hosing it down or power washing is best but if there are stains on furniture cushions try washing them, if possible, with laundry or dish detergent. Some set in stains may be difficult or impossible to remove. <http://www.courant.com/features/home-garden/>

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include [liverworts](#), [rose sawflies](#), [peaches with Coryneum blight](#), lowering the pH for blueberries, missing leaves on weeping cherry, raspberry viruses, early blight on tomatoes, pollinator plants, squash bugs, 4-lined plant bugs, leafhoppers and bird mites. 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 July Gardener:

1. Systemic grub control should be applied to the lawn by mid-July to be effective when grubs hatch in early August.
2. Cucumbers are heavy drinkers and feeders. Keep the soil evenly moist during hot spells to avoid bitter fruit and side-dress plants with 1 tablespoon of 10-10-10 fertilizer.
3. Inspect garden plants regularly for insect and disease problems. Monitoring, good sanitation practices, insecticidal soaps and insect traps are alternatives to pesticides.
4. Summer blooming shrubs should be pruned after they have finished flowering. Do not prune azaleas and rhododendrons after the 2nd week of July as they are forming buds for next year's blooms.
5. Put netting on fruit trees and bushes a few weeks before the fruit begins to ripen to protect it from birds and squirrels.
6. Raise the mower height to 3 inches in hot weather and mulch garden beds to help conserve water.
7. Fertilize roses for the last time in mid-July so that new growth can harden off before frosts.

8. Pinch back herbs to stop flowering and encourage branching. Pick herbs early in the day when they are well-hydrated.
9. Cutting late-blooming perennials such as asters, mums and boltonias back by one-third around July 4th will promote bushier growth.
10. Leaky garden hoses and fittings can waste water. Check hoses while they are under full pressure and make repairs.

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

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:

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 three bug hunts that include going to the butterfly/ pollinator garden and the vegetable garden on the property.

Please visit our [registration site](http://s.uconn.edu/3r7) 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.

UConn Native Plants and Pollinators Conference

STUDENT UNION BALLROOM (ROOM 330)
2100 Hillside Road, Storrs, CT 06269
October 19, 2017



Register online on the IPM website (www.ipm.uconn.edu)
Early Registration \$50.00, by Friday, September 8, 2017
\$60.00 after September 8, 2017
Students \$25.00 with valid school ID

Registration fee includes parking, morning refreshments, and lunch.

Sessions include **‘Lifestyles of Pollinators’** by Dr. David Wagner, EEB, UConn, **‘Native Perennials for Bees, Butterflies, and Birds’** by Emily DeBolt, Fiddlehead Creek Nursery, NY, **‘Selecting Native Shrubs for Season-long Pollinator Support’** Dr. Jessica Lubell, PSLA, UConn, **‘Research Update: Examining Pollinator Attraction of Shrub Nativars’** by Jacob Ricker, Grad Student, PSLA, UConn and **‘Native Trees for Pollinators’** by Andrew Brand, Broken Arrow Nursery, CT

**The Department of Animal Science is hosting their annual
UConn Summer Schooling Show!**

Open to the General Public

Date: Saturday, July 22nd, 2017

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Horsebarn Hill Arena, Storrs CT

Judge: Brittany Watras

English and Western Divisions, Lead Line, and Jumping Classes



To learn more about class descriptions, rules and regulations, and how to register, visit
<http://animalscience.uconn.edu/calendar.php>

Contact Alena Meacham for additional information
at alena.meacham@uconn.edu or (860) 486-3377

American Community Gardening Association Annual Conference at Capital Community College in Hartford. July 27 – 30. Workshops, keynote speakers and visits to community gardens, parks, schools and other green spaces throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. The public is welcome.
www.communitygarden.org.

Hike With a Forester – A Walk and Talk with Jeff Ward from CAES at the Naugatuck State Forest in Hamden. See a variety of habitats and forest management practices, invasive species, recovery from a wildfire in the mid-1990s, and an excellent view from the Mt. Sanford overlook. The hike is 2.5 to 3 hours. Info at www.ctwoodlands.org.

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Take a coffee or tea break to protect your liver

Red onions pack a cancer-fighting punch, study reveals

Smelling your food makes you fat

Broccoli Extract Lowers Blood Sugar in Diabetics

Eating fish may reduce arthritis symptoms

CLIMATE CORNER

Turning the climate tide by 2020

Climate change damages US economy, increases inequality

Rising seas could result in 2 billion refugees by 2100

WHO KNEW ?

Ten million tons of fish wasted every year despite declining fish stocks

Microplastics sloughed from synthetic fabrics in the washing machine

Killer Cats Bash Biodiversity

Pollinator extinctions alter structure of ecological networks

Vinegar: A cheap and simple way to help plants fight drought

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

Clematis 'Happy Jack'



Velvety plum-purple flowers with intriguing center highlights and bright yellow stamens characterize this version of the ever-popular 'Jackmanii' clematis. This early and long-flowering beauty blooms from mid-summer into fall, and is noted for its intense purple flower color and large (3-5" blooms). It flowers on new wood and old wood so you simply prune it back to 2 feet each spring. Winner of a Green Thumb award from the Direct Gardening Association. Photo and text from: www.provenwinners.com

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.

July 2017 DMP