

UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

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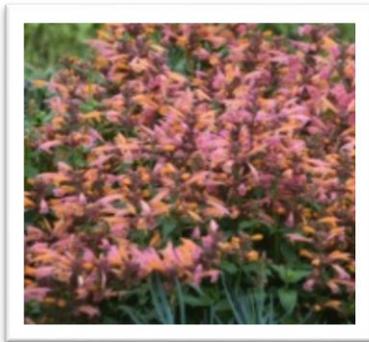
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APRIL IS FOR AGASTACHE ‘MANGO TANGO’, ANNUAL PLANT SALES, & ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION

Hello Fellow Gardeners! You are receiving this email because you have provided us with your email address either when 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:



Agastache ‘Mango Tango’ by Meghan Shinn



Dogwood by the NCCD



Dandelion by UConn

It’s Never Too Early to Think about Late-Summer Blooms

Most of our perennials are just starting to make their appearances above ground and many won’t be in bloom for months but if you are planning ahead you may want to consider agastache ‘Mango Tango’. This mid- to late-season perennial will have peachy-orange flowers on 18” stems well into the fall, long after many plants have gone by. When planted in full sun agastache ‘Mango Tango’ is a narrow plant that fills in small spaces nicely, providing a minty fragrance when the leaves are brushed against.

Support the Conservation Districts and Local Garden Groups Plant Sales

The [Connecticut Conservation Districts Spring Plant sales](#) are going on now. These plant sales are the major fundraisers for the districts and are a great source of native trees, shrubs, fruiting plants, perennials, groundcovers and more for your garden. Pre-orders are recommended with the form that can be found at their [online store](#), or there is a limited selection of grab-and-go items on the days of the sale. Here are links to the individual Connecticut Conservation Districts:

[Eastern Connecticut Conservation District](#) April 20th and 21st, 2018 in Gales Ferry, April 27th and 28th in Brooklyn. Order deadline April 4th.

[Northcentral Conservation District](#) April 20th and 21st, 2018 in Vernon and Bloomfield. Order deadline April 4th.

[Northwest Conservation District](#) April 20th to the 22nd, 2018 at the Goshen Fairgrounds. Order deadline April 11th.

[Southwest Conservation District](#) (no plant sale this year)

[Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District](#) April 27th to the 29th, 2018 at the Old Saybrook Shopping Center, Old Saybrook. Order deadline April 6th.

Dandelions Reproduce Asexually

If you have ever stood in your yard wondering how so many dandelions could have appeared seemingly overnight the answer may be asexual reproduction. Not one to wait for the whims of a passing insect to aid in pollination, dandelions are able to reproduce asexually through a process called apomixis. During this process, the seed embryo forms from a single parent without meiosis (the recombination of DNA from the two parent cells), creating a clone that is genetically identical to its parent. This perennial turfgrass weed can be dug up using a forked weeding tool or visit the [New England Guide to Weed Control in Turfgrass](#) for other options.

The Connecticut Bird Atlas Needs Your Help

The CT Bird Atlas is a joint project of the CT DEEP and UConn with additional funding from the Connecticut Ornithological Association, Great Hollow Nature Preserve, New Haven Bird Club, and several other donors. Last published 32 years ago, the CT Bird Atlas summarizes the distribution of the 175 confirmed species of breeding birds in CT. In order to reflect the many regional, global, and climate changes that have occurred, data is once again being collected. The success of this project depends on the support of volunteer birders. If you are interested in helping please visit the [CT Bird Atlas](#) site or send an email to ctbirdatlasvol@gmail.com.

2019 Migratory Bird Conservation (Duck) Stamp Art Contest



Since you are doing all of that bird-watching anyway, why not enter the Duck Stamp contest? The CT DEEP is holding their annual art competition to determine the image for the 2019 stamp. All artists, young or old, professional or amateur, are welcome to submit a piece of original artwork that depicts an eligible waterfowl species of CT. Entries must be postmarked on or before April 15, 2018. For full contest rules and an official entry form visit the [CT DEEP Duck Stamp](#) site.

Coyote Sightings and Encounters are on the Rise



Coyote image by the CT DEEP

There were more than 70 reported coyote incidents involving pets and humans in Connecticut in 2017, almost three times as many as in 2016. As the coyote population increases the chance for an encounter also increases although these intelligent animals rarely pose a threat to humans. Non-native to Connecticut, the coyote was first seen here in the 1950s and has since spread to all corners of the state. They can live in close proximity to humans and still thrive. If you see a coyote safely view it from a distance. For additional information see our fact sheet [Coyotes](#).

Take a Moment to Prune & Feed Heath and Heather Plants

Prune old, leggy growth from heather (which flowers on new growth in late summer) but prune heath (which sets its flower buds in late spring) just enough to shape it in the early spring. Give them a dose of Holly-tone once a year when fertilizing other acid-loving plants such as rhododendron, azalea, or holly making sure that it doesn't adhere to the foliage and reaches the drip line of the plant. As with any fertilizer it should be watered in. Do not use lawn fertilizers near heath and heather which may kill the plant by over-fertilizing with nitrogen. See [Heath and Heather](#) for additional information.



Photo by S. Pelton, UConn 2018

Ten Tips for the April Gardener:

Click on highlighted links for additional information.

For a more extensive list of tips go to [Gardening Tips for April](#) at our website.

- Cut ornamental grasses, sedum, and hydrangea to a height of 6" before new growth appears. Cut buddleia, Russian sage, and Artemisia to a height of 8-12".
- Hardy water lilies may be planted in pools in spring but wait until the water reaches 70° for tropical water lilies.
- Transplant houseplants that need repotting. Cut back plants that have grown leggy.
- Continue to directly sow [peas](#), carrots, radishes, lettuces, and spinach every two weeks through mid-May for staggered harvests.
- Purchase onion sets for planting and set 1 inch deep and 4 to 5 inches apart when soil can be worked.
- Spread [fertilizer](#) under apple trees and small fruits except strawberries which are fertilized in late August.
- Dead spots in the lawn can still be [renovated](#) in early April. Top dress bare areas with a mix of topsoil and compost, reseed, and keep moist until germination.
- Apply pre-emergent [crabgrass weed control](#) when the forsythia bloom.
- A new generation of [gypsy moth](#) and [Eastern tent](#) caterpillars will hatch in late April and begin feeding on the leaves of many tree species. Remove and destroy any egg masses you find on your trees.
- Set up a bat house early in the month to encourage them to roost. Visit the DEEP's [Bats](#) fact sheet for information and bat house plans.

Now is the Time to Have Your Soil Tested for Macro- & Micronutrients



Beat the spring rush and send your soil sample in for testing now. Our standard nutrient analysis includes pH, macro- and micronutrients, a lead scan and as long as we know what you are growing, the results will contain limestone and fertilizer recommendations. The cost is \$12/sample. You are welcome to come to the lab with your 'one cup of soil' but most people are content to simply place their sample in a zippered bag and mail it in. For details on submitting a sample, go to the [UConn Soil and Nutrient Laboratory](#).

Photo by dmp, UConn

Click on the Following Links to Visit Any of Our Sites:

[UCONN PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LAB](#)

[UCONN SOIL NUTRIENT ANALYSIS LAB](#)

[UCONN EXTENSION](#)

[UCONN FOOD SAFETY](#)

[UCONN SCIENCE OF GMOS](#)

Events/ Programs/Save the Date:

UCONN GARDEN MASTER CLASSES such as the following three items are offered through the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program. These classes provide continuing education for Certified Master Gardeners as part of the Advanced Master Gardener certification process. These classes are also open to the **General Public**. Anyone with an interest in gardening and horticulture is welcome. For a full list of classes go to: [UConn Master Gardener Program](#)

Gardening as if the World Depends on Us Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 10 am to noon.
Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington, CT. Instructor: Tovah Martin

Rain Garden Design & Construction Wednesday, April 18, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Tolland County Extension Center, Vernon. Instructor: Michael Dietz

Grow Your Own Meadow, Large and Small Tuesday, April 24, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
New Haven County Extension Center, New Haven. Instructor: Kathy Connelly

Aquaponics Growing Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Bigelow Brook Farm, Eastford, CT. Instructor: Rob Torcellini

Ethnobotany Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m.
Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington. Instructor: Dr. Manuel Lizarralde

Growing Trends at the Garden Barn Wednesday, May 2, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
The Garden Barn Nursery, Vernon, CT. Instructor: Kim Gliha

Boot Camp for Your Senses Wednesday, May 3, 2018, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Edgerton Park Carriage House, New Haven. Instructor: Tovah Martin

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station-New Haven

“Willows Beyond Wetlands: Uses of *Salix* L. Species for Ecosystem Services”
Wednesday, April 11, 2018 -Prof. Julia Kuzovkina, Department of Plant Science LA, UConn.

“Soil Protists - Enhancing the Growth of Plant Growth Promoting Bacteria”
Wednesday, April 25, 2018-Dan Gage, Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology, UConn.

Greenwich Garden Center Presents Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf



A viewing of the film about the revolutionary Dutch garden designer will be held on Monday, April 9th, 2018 at the Cole Auditorium in the Greenwich Library at 12:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members and day of/door and can be purchased [here](#).

Connecticut College



Image by S. Pelton

Growing Plants from Seeds Wednesday, April 4, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Maggie Redfern, Arboretum Assistant Director and Leigh Knuttel, Horticulturalist

Meet in New London Hall, Botany Lab, Room 112.

\$25 (\$15 members), registration required

From annuals and perennials to trees and shrubs, success can be achieved if you understand what triggers germination and the growing process. This workshop is for beginners and those who have been frustrated in past attempts to transform seed to seedling. Students will leave class with a selection of potted seeds.

Nature Art Greeting Cards Friday, April 20, 2018, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Sean Kane, MSW and Artist

Use Williams Street entrance to the Arboretum, meet at Buck Lodge.

\$10 (\$5 members); registration required

Join with other nature enthusiasts to forage for emerging leaves and flowers, then create greeting cards to welcome the joys of the season. All supplies included.

Annual Wildflower Walk Friday, May 4, 2018, from noon to 1 p.m.

Glenn Dreyer, Arboretum Director

Use Williams Street entrance to the Arboretum; meet at the Outdoor Theater.

Free

On a slope just south of the Laurel Walk lies the Edgerton and Stengel Wildflower Garden, containing over 75 species of wildflowers. Some of the flowers you can expect to see include: Jack-in-the-pulpit, Virginia Blue Bells, Wild Geranium, Solomon's Seal and Trillium. Bring a picnic lunch to eat by the pond, and then enjoy a 45-minute walk in the Wildflower Garden.

Just for Kids: Wildflower Walk Friday, May 4, 2018 from 4 to 5 p.m.

Caroline Driscoll, Arboretum Volunteer Meet at Arboretum entrance on Williams Street.

Free, reservations requested

Through interactive play, children will learn the identity of several types of wildflowers. They will then test their newly acquired skills on a walk in the Wildflower Garden to find the real living flowers.

Appropriate for ages 4 to 10, accompanied by an adult.

Annual Friends Celebration: Azalea Garden Walk and Reception Thursday, May 24, 2018, from 4 to 6 p.m. Meet at Arboretum entrance on Williams Street.

Free to members, reservations required

Established 40 years ago, the Nancy Moss Fine Azalea Garden displays 18 different types indigenous to eastern North America. At least one species can be found in bloom from late April through mid-August. This tour coincides with what we anticipate to be peak bloom time, so you are sure to experience the variety of fragrance and color.

CT Botanical Society

Connecticut Botanical Society, P.O. Box 9004, New Haven, CT 06532

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 28, 2018 9:00 am -noon

PRESENTATION AT CT FOREST & PARK ASSOC. 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall 06481

Followed by FIELD TRAINING IN CROMWELL

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Claire E Rutledge Research scientist at Connecticut Agricultural Station (CAES), in New Haven

Claire Rutledge is one of the leading researchers on EAB, and is responsible for dissemination of parasitoid bio-controls in Connecticut, in order to control EAB spread over the long term. Following a presentation at CFPA, we will car pool to a nearby site in Cromwell for a first hand look at trees. Dr. Rutledge will teach the straightforward technique of *bark peeling*. It shows whether the parasitoid wasps are present, and doing their work. If so, tree removal can be delayed until late May, after wasps have emerged. Various techniques to slow the spread of EAB from infested trees will be discussed, like heat treatment or debarking prior to use as fire-wood.

To register E-mail sigrun.n.gadwa@gmail.com Limit 20. Free but donations to CAES welcome

CT DEEP Programs

Medicinal Weeds of Connecticut Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT. This workshop will emphasize the identification and use of wonderful weeds.

Earth Day Bird Walk Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. Celebrate Earth Day with an early morning Bird Walk at the Balding WMA in Vernon, CT. Learn to identify birds by sight and sound.

Garlic Mustard Pull: Edible and Invasive with Ed McGuire Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT. DEEP Forester Ed McGuire is here to teach you all about the edible and invasive garlic mustard while you help out Goodwin in return.

Gardener's Roundtable Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT. This workshop is intended for gardeners of all experience levels. We share best practices and pitfalls for gardening in eastern Connecticut.

For more information and additional programs visit ct.gov/deep/calendar



[UConn Equestrian, Western, and Dressage Teams 2018 Spring Shows](#)

Equestrian

Saturday, April 7, 2018, the Zone Championships at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

Tuesday, May 1st to Sunday, May 6th, 2018, the IHSA Nationals in Harrisburg, VA

Western Team

Tuesday, May 1st to Sunday, May 6th, 2018, the IHSA Nationals in Harrisburg, VA

Dressage Team

Thursday, April 26th to the 29th, 2018, the IDA Nationals at Lake Erie College, Painesville, OH

Please contact [Coach Alena Meacham](#) for more details.

Save the Date:(click on hyperlinks for additional information)

[UConn Extension](#)

Boot Camp for Your Senses Thursday, May 3, 2018, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

New Haven County Extension Center, New Haven. Instructor: Tovah Martin



[UConn Department of Animal Science Summer Riding Lessons](#)

Looking for something fun to do this summer? How about horseback riding?

Once again, the University of Connecticut's Animal Science Department will be offering its popular Summer Riding Program to the public. Please note that Dressage, Hunt Seat, Polo, Western riding lessons and Trail Riding are open to adults and children who meet the minimum age requirements.

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

[Food Safety During Power Outage, Flood, or Other Disaster](#)

[Everything that You Need to Know About Eating Activated Charcoal](#)

[What Everyone Ought to Know About Iced or Cold Brew Coffee](#)

[Dine Out for No Kid Hungry](#)

[5 Cool Ways Food Waste is Getting Upcycled](#)

[Is the Moringa Tree the Next Super Food?](#)

CLIMATE CORNER

[Climate Action at UConn](#)

[NASA-Taking the Pulse of Greenhouse Gases](#)

[Iconic Swallowtail Butterfly at Risk from Climate Change](#)

WHO KNEW?

[How Do Snakes Eat Live Crabs? By Being Finicky Diners.](#)

[Great Pacific Garbage Patch Growing Rapidly](#)

[Insect Toxin Detected in the World's Longest Animal](#)

[In Field Tests, Device Harvests Water from Desert Air](#)

Allium 'Millenium'

The 2018 Perennial Plant of the Year



Photo by Walters Gardens, Inc.

The Perennial Plant Association has awarded the title Perennial Plant of the Year® 2018 to *Allium* 'Millenium'. This herbaceous perennial from the onion family was bred by Mark McDonough, a horticulture researcher from Massachusetts and was introduced through Plant Delights Nursery in 2000 where it has proven itself year after year earning rave reviews. 'Millenium' is spelled with one "n", as registered, but is sometimes incorrectly listed with two "n"s. This cultivar is the result of a multigenerational breeding program involving *Allium nutans* and *A. lusitanicum* (formerly *Allium senescens* ssp *montanum*), selected for late flowering with masses of rose-purple blooms, uniform habit with neat shiny green foliage that remains attractive season long, and for its drought-resistant constitution. Plant it in full sun and enjoy it for years to come as it has no serious pest problems-even deer and rabbits will leave it alone.

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](#), following us on [Pinterest](#) or [Instagram](#), checking out our weekly [Ladybug blog](#), or visiting our website, [UConn Home & Garden Education Center](#).

April 2018 SAP