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:

**Juniperus virginiana (Eastern Red Cedar)**
There is widespread browning of the older needles of the eastern red cedar in southern New England although the new growth often appears green and healthy. These symptoms are thought to be caused by environmental stress as opposed to a disease or insect problem. If the tips are dying back, it could be a number of abiotic or biotic problems including winter injury, road salt, fungal tip blight or increased levels of shade. For additional information visit the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station fact sheet [Browning, Dieback, and Decline of Eastern Red Cedar](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu).
**Japanese Knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum)**

Japanese knotweed, also known as false bamboo, is evident along roadsides, waterways, and even in yards in Connecticut. It is a quickly spreading invasive herbaceous perennial that shades out any native plant competition. It forms dense thickets that can alter ecosystems, reduce wildlife habitat, and interfere with landscaping. Japanese knotweed is difficult to eradicate. The different methods include grubbing (removing the entire plant including all roots and rhizomes), cutting, and herbicide treatment (this treatment starts with cutting or mowing stalks in late June). The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group provides additional information on [Japanese knotweed](#) in their publication.

**Jack Frost Maple**

Jack Frost maple, also known as Northwind™ maple, is a hybrid of the Japanese maple (Acer palmatum) and the Korean maple (A. pseudosieboldianum). These small ornamental trees were developed by the Iseli Nursery in Oregon to be cold-hardy to -30°F and will thrive in USDA zone 4 without dieback. These low-canopy trees won’t grow more than 20’ tall in sun or partial shade and do well in almost any soil as long as it is well-drained. The leaves start out a bright orange-red in the spring, turning light green during the summer and then finishing with crimson in the fall.

**Black Vine Weevil**

The black vine weevil, Otiorrhynchus sulcatus, was introduced to the United States from Europe 150 years ago. Adult male black vine weevils have never been observed in the United States and the adult females are able to reproduce parthenogenetically meaning that the embryos develop from an unfertilized egg. Black vine weevil adults emerge in late May and early June to begin their feeding damage on the foliage of a wide variety of woody and herbaceous ornamental plants. (Image by Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org)

The adults are difficult to spot as they hide during the day in debris beneath the host plants and emerge at night to feed, leaving the tell-tale notched or crescent-shaped injuries on the edges of the foliage. The eggs are laid in the soil at the plant’s base, hatching into larvae about 10 days later. These larvae can do a lot of damage as they feed on the roots. The use of beneficial nematodes to control the root-feeding larvae is one of the options outlined in our [Black Vine Weevil](#) fact sheet.

**Connecticut’s Bald Eagle**

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), along with local volunteers, monitors the nesting bald eagles in CT. Nesting bald eagles are protected by state and federal laws and the Wildlife Division works to protect individual nests and the bald eagle population in general. Baby chicks hatch in the spring, usually in early April, and enter their fledgling stage at the end of June or early July. The chicks have grown their flight feathers and are eager to try them out. They start by jumping and flapping in the nest and then begin an action referred to as ‘branching’ where they move out to nearby branches. This action may cause them to fall to the ground but they are capable of eventually flying back up to the nest. Although they are vulnerable to predators while on the ground the adults are nearby keeping watch. You can report an eagle nest or nesting behavior at the [CT DEEP’s survey site](#).
Peonies will be in bloom in landscapes all over Connecticut for the next 6-8 weeks. These herbaceous perennials have exquisite, fragrant flowers that are a beautiful addition to any yard or cut flower arrangement. Peonies grow up to 4 feet high and some varieties require support when the blooms become top heavy. The ideal planting site for peonies is in full sun. They will grow in areas of part shade that still receive 5-6 hours of sun a day although they will produce fewer blooms in those locations. Peonies in your yard will not only have aesthetic value, the prefloral nectar attracts the beneficial spring Tipha wasp, *Tiphia vernalis. T. popilliavora*, the summer Tipha, feeds on the nectar of the wild carrot. These wasps parasitize the grubs of Japanese and oriental beetles.

Photo by S. Pelton, UConn 2018

Ten Tips for the June Gardener:
Click on the links for additional information. For the full list of tips, visit [Gardening Tips for June](#).

- Scout for lace bugs and aphids. Spray with water or use a [low-toxicity insecticide](#) to control them.
- To move spring-blooming bulbs to another spot, wait until the foliage has turned yellow, carefully dig them up and let them dry in a shady spot for a few days. Store the bulbs in a cool, dry place until it’s time to plant them in fall.
- Sow seeds of fast-growing annuals like marigolds, zinnias, and cosmos directly in the garden.
- There is still time to sow seeds of [beans](#), beets, carrots, [cucumbers, and summer squash](#). Plant seeds of bush beans every three weeks for a continuous harvest.
- Check for small holes that signal flea beetle damage on tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.
- Heavy rains encourage [slug](#) problems. Check for slugs during rainy periods and hand pick the pests.
- Check apple, cherry, and other fruit trees for nests of [eastern tent caterpillars](#). Blast low-lying nests with water to destroy them, or knock them to the ground and destroy them.
- Keep mower blades sharp and set your mower height at 2-3 inches.
- Scout for [black vine weevil](#) adults feeding on azalea and rhododendron foliage and use a foliar insecticide.
- Mosquitoes breed in standing water. To discourage them, change the water in bird baths and outdoor pet dishes every few days.
Click on the Following Links to Visit Any of Our Sites:

UCONN EXTENSION
UCONN FOOD SAFETY
UCONN HOME & GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER
UCONN PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LAB
UCONN SCIENCE OF GMOS
UCONN SOIL NUTRIENT ANALYSIS LAB

Events/ Programs/Save the Date:

**UConn Garden Master Classes** 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.

**Garden Design at Elizabeth Park** This class is held in 3 sessions on Wednesdays, June 6, 13, and 27, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
Elizabeth Park, West Hartford, CT. Instructor: Rosemary Aldridge

**Mountain Laurel: An Intimate Introduction** Wednesday, June 6, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, CT Instructor: Dick Jaynes

**Widdershins Labyrinth Garden Tour** Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
168 Mt. Archer Road, Lyme, CT Instructor: Paul Armond

**What’s Going on Out There?** Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam, CT Instructor: Kathy Connolly

**A Bouquet of Beneficials: Insectary Plants that Conserve Insect Predators, Parasitoids, and Pollinators** Tuesday, June 26, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel, CT Instructor: Ana LeGrand, Ph.D.

**Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station**

**Invasive Plant Control Workshop-From Theory to Practice**
Tuesday, June 12, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Valley Lab, CT Agricultural Experiment Station, Windsor, CT Assorted Instructors

**Plant Science Day** Wednesday, August 8, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lockwood Farm, Hamden, CT

**Connecticut College**

**CT Trails Day: Goodwin Natural Area** Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
33 Gallows Lane, New London, CT Instructor: Maggie Redfern

**Tree Climbing Competition** Saturday, June 9, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Chapel Green, Conn College
**CT DEEP Programs**

**CT Trails Day** Saturday, June 2, 2018  
Assorted locations and times, visit the CT DEEP Events site for more information.

**Senior Walk** Wednesday, June 13, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Thursday, June 14, 2018 from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m.  
James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT

**Gardener’s Roundtable** Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT

**CT Historic Gardens Day** Sunday, June 24, 2018 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.  
Osborne Homestead Museum, Derby, CT

**Soils: The World Beneath Our Feet** Sunday, June 24, 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT

**UConn Extension**

**Bug Week 2018** - July 23 to the 28th  
Stay tuned for more details on Bug Week 2018. Questions? Contact Stacey Stearns at bugweek@uconn.edu or 860-486-9228.

**Visit the UConn Animal Barns**

Everyone is welcome to explore our animal barns that are open to the public and to learn more about the animals that are used in the Department of Animal Science program. Visitors can see dairy and beef cows, sheep, and horses. The poultry units are closed to the public. Young animals can be found in the barns at the following times of year at barns that are opened to the public: baby foals in the summer in outside paddocks at Horse Unit II, lambs during February and March outside only at Livestock Unit 1, dairy calves year-round at the Cattle Resource Unit and beef calves beginning in mid-March outside at Livestock Unit 1. Every day visitors can view the UConn dairy cows being milked from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the Kellogg Dairy Center.

**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.
**Connecticut Horticultural Society**

Native Plants for New England Gardens  Wednesday, June 13 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery, Woodbury, CT Instructor: Dan Jaffe

Cactus and Succulent Garden Visit  Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Elliman Private Residence, Danbury CT Host: Master Gardener Cindy Elliman

Secret Garden Tours, Newport, Rhode Island  
Friday through Sunday, June 15, 16, & 17th, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

**KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!**

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Barbeque Season is here: Brush up on Food Safety

Shade Trees Can Have a Positive effect on Cocoa Plants

Connecticut Dining: From Farm to Fork

Drinking Kefir May Prompt Brain-Gut Communication to Lower Blood Pressure

Mediterranean diet boosts beneficial bacteria, study finds

**CLIMATE CORNER**

Drought Continues to Stress Crops, Rangelands

Major Shifts in Global Freshwater

Massachusetts and Rhode Island Contract for 1,200 MW of Offshore Wind

Climate change will boost global lake evaporation -- with 'extreme' consequences

Climate Change Puts More Ticks in More Places

**WHO KNEW?**

Trees are not as 'sound asleep' as you may think

Women Have Always Worked: The U.S. Experience 1920-2016
This and many other free online courses are offered through edX, a collaborative online learning experience from MIT, Harvard U., and many other universities around the world.

The mystery of lime-green lizard blood
Long-term study reveals one invasive insect can change a forest bird community


The 2018 Edible Vegetable Winner
Hungarian Pepper Mexican Sunset F1

Mexican Sunset Pepper F1 is a compact, high-heat Hungarian hot wax pepper well-suited for traditional gardens as well as urban and container gardening. Fruit sets early then prolifically throughout the summer bringing a variety of colors to the garden as the fruits mature. These conically pointed peppers produce a thick-walled fruit that can be eaten at any stage and as the judges said, the fruits just continue to taste better the riper they get! Great eaten fresh, stuffed and baked, grilled or pickled.

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.

June 2018 SAP