

UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

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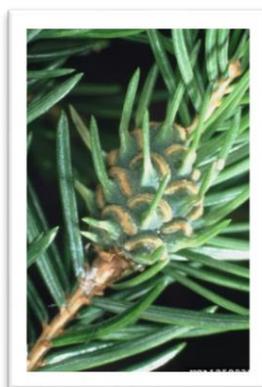
September is for ‘Super Star’ Coreopsis, Spruce Gall Adelgid, & Solanaceous Crops

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:



‘Super Star’ coreopsis
image by Darwin Perennials



Eastern spruce gall adelgid
image by Stanislaw Kinelski, Bugwood.org



Tomato with growth cracks
image by Susan Pelton

‘Super Star’ Coreopsis, *Coreopsis hybrida*

Super Star is a new hybrid coreopsis from Darwin Perennials. Super Star rocks the stage with the largest coreopsis flower on the market, 2 ½ to 3 inches across. This mildew tolerant coreopsis blooms from early spring through late summer when the top 20% of the plant is periodically sheared to promote new blooms. It should be planted in full sun in well-drained soil and fertilized monthly through early September. Additional benefits include: attractiveness to bees and butterflies, deer resistance, heat and frost tolerance, and low maintenance.

Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgid

The Eastern spruce gall adelgid, *Adelges abietis* L., is an introduced species that commonly infests Norway spruce and is also found on white, red, black and Engelmann spruce. The adelgid overwinters as immature insects (nymphs) on twigs near the terminal buds and resumes their feeding in the spring. The adelgids mature about early May and produce a conspicuous, waxy cover under which they lay their eggs. The eggs hatch in about a week, and the young insects feed on the same buds that were fed upon by the overwintering forms. This continued feeding induces abnormal growth of plant cells and progressive enlargement of the bases of infected needles. Eventually, the enlarging needles coalesce and form the characteristic pineapple-shaped gall within which the insect lives and grows. Use horticultural oil or insecticidal soap in mid- to late September when insects emerge from galls and the majority of galls are green. Please see our fact sheet [Spruce Gall Adelgid](#) for additional information.

Solanaceous Crops

At this point in the growing season, many solanaceous crops may show signs of problems. Tomatoes, in particular, may be exhibiting blossom end rot due to the uneven watering periods of this summer, yellow shoulders due to the 90°F plus temperatures, and leaf spot diseases that are favored by long periods of wet weather. Growth cracks may be evident on ripening fruit when long, dry periods are followed by wet weather. Cherry tomatoes are susceptible to growth cracks although the varieties ‘Sunsugar’ or ‘Sungold’ are crack resistant. Please see our fact sheet [Tomatoes](#) for additional information.

Birds



September is a great time to plant trees and shrubs and here is another great reason to do so. Native trees and shrubs (and perennials) help create a bird-friendly environment in your yard. Whether they are providing food or shelter, native plantings are essential to birds and other wildlife. The Audubon Society can provide you with a comprehensive list of plants suited to your area and the possible species that may be attracted through their [Native Plants Database](#). Simply enter your location or zip code and find dozens of suggestions. The common yellowthroat warbler pictured here (image by Pamm Cooper) enjoys dozens of native plant species including black-eyed Susan and American elm.

Connecticut's Native Snakes

There are 14 snake species that are native to Connecticut, two of which are venomous: the northern copperhead and the timber rattlesnake. The remaining 12 includes the eastern gartersnake, *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*. Adapted to a wide variety of habitats, the eastern gartersnake may be found enjoying the sun atop a woodpile or stone wall. Generally feeding during the day, their widely varied diets include some pests like mice, slugs, and leeches. They, in turn, are prey for a large number of animals. Shy and non-aggressive, gartersnakes are harmless to people and are not venomous although they may bite if threatened. For additional information please visit the CT DEEP [Snakes](#) fact sheet.



Eastern gartersnake image by the CT DEEP

Renovating the Lawn

Late summer is an ideal time to renovate a lawn in poor condition in New England. Usually the shorter days bring slightly cooler weather where grass seed can germinate quickly but weed competition is less severe. There is still time for the grass seedlings to put down an adequate root system before the ground freezes and to store up carbohydrates for the next spring. Late summer and early fall rains help keep the seed moist for germination and help new plants take up the nutrients they need for proper establishment. If a slow release fertilizer is used instead of a starter fertilizer, another application should not be necessary before the grass stops growing. Seed small bare spots to keep weeds at bay the next spring. For additional information please see our [Lawn Renovation and Repair](#) fact sheet.



Sod replacement image by Pamm Cooper

Ten Tips for the September Gardener:

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

- Plant [peonies](#) now, but make sure the crowns are buried only one and a half to two inches below ground level. Planting them deeper than two inches may keep them from blooming.
- Get a jump on next year's lawn and gardens by having a soil test done through the [UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#).
- Now is the time to [de-thatch and aerate lawns](#) to promote root growth.
- Remove [bagworm](#) egg masses from evergreen shrubs to eliminate the spring hatch from overwintered eggs.
- Apply [fall fertilizer](#) to lawns between Sept. 15th and Oct. 15th.
- Continue to water any [new shrub or tree plantings](#) until the first hard frost.
- Rake up leaves, twigs, and fruit from crabapple trees and throw them in the garbage to help control [apple scab disease](#).
- As [tomatoes](#) end their production, cut down plants, pick up any debris and put dead/diseased plant parts in the trash or take to a landfill. Many diseases will over-winter on old infected leaves and stems so these are best removed from the property.
- At the end of the month, dig and store tender bulbs like caladiums and tuberous begonias. Wait until dahlias and cannas are blackened by frosts before digging.

- Keep herbaceous plant material located a few feet away from the house to eliminate hiding places for insects and [mice](#) that could wind up indoors as temperatures plummet.

Have Your Soil Tested for Macro- & Micronutrients



Send your soil sample in for testing now in preparation for next year's planting. 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 [UConn Soil and Nutrient Laboratory](#).

Photo by dmp, UConn

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:

[Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Invasive Plant Symposium](#)

Invasive Plants in Uncertain Times: Achieving More with Less

Thursday, October 4, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Student Union, UConn, Storrs

[Click here](#) for additional information.

[Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station](#)

Nursery and Landscape Research Tour Thursday, September 13, 2018 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Windsor, CT

This free seminar will update nurserymen, landscapers, gardeners and the public on the latest research and diagnostics being done at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Come hear about the

soil conditions, insects, weeds, pollinators and diseases that affect our nurseries, landscape and home ornamental gardens.

[Connecticut College](#)

[Visit the Plant Collections](#) The Connecticut College Arboretum manages four major plant collections containing 6,195 individual, accessioned living plants.

[Guided Tours](#) Join Arboretum docents for free guided tours the first and second Sundays of August at 10:00 a.m. starting at the Olin Science Center. September 2nd will be a tour of the Native Plant Collection and September 9th will be the Caroline Black Garden.

Native Fern ID Workshop Sunday, September 9, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Use Williams Street entrance to the Native Plant Collection, meet at Buck Lodge.
\$25 (\$15 members Arboretum or CBS)

[CT DEEP Programs](#)

[Apiary Series: Fall Session](#) Sunday, September 9, 2018 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT Instructor: Dave Gilbert, a local beekeeper, walks you through a multi-event journey in the world of beekeeping.

[Goodwin Homeschool Series: Invasive Plants](#) Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT

[Discover Outdoor Connecticut](#) Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area

[UConn Extension](#)

[UCONN GARDEN MASTER CLASSES](#)

The following 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.

[Turf Grass Mix-A Closer Look at All Things Turf](#) Saturday, September 15, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel, CT Instructor: Pamm Cooper

[Power Equipment for the Gardener](#) Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel, CT Instructor: Mark Guss

[Digital Garden Photography Basics](#) Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam, CT Instructor: Pamm Cooper

[A Conversation About GMOs](#) Tuesday, October 2, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel, CT Instructor: Dr. Jean Kreizinger

[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.



2018 UConn Master Composter Program

Become a UConn Master Composter! The purpose of the Master Composter Program is to provide local compost enthusiasts with the tools and information necessary to educate and teach interested community members about composting and reducing the amount of solid waste sent to the state's incinerators and landfills. Participants would attend classroom sessions at the Tolland County Agricultural Center in Vernon, CT. Two field trips will also be scheduled, with one being mandatory. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 16, 18, 23 and 25 from 6 to 9 pm plus on Worm Day which is held on Saturday October 20th.

A Master Composter Certificate is awarded to those who have attended all program sessions, demonstrated a solid understanding of composting principles and practices, and engaged in a minimum of two outreach activities. Program fee is \$100 payable to University of Connecticut. Enrollment will be limited to 24 participants.

Visit www.ladybug.uconn.edu for more information or call (860) 486-4274.



WORM DAY!!!

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM

Saturday, OCTOBER 20, 2018, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Tolland County Agricultural Center
24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066

This is a great opportunity to simply learn about earthworms: Good, Bad, or Invasive?

Or try your hand at vermicomposting and take home a completed vermicomposting bin.

OUR PROGRAM FEATURES:

Dr. Josef Gorres, University of Vermont:
**INVASIVE EARTHWORMS IN NEW ENGLAND
& VERMICOMPOSTING**

**Carol Quish, UConn Home & Garden
Education Center: VERMICOMPOSTING 101**

AND THEN MAKE YOUR OWN WORM FARM!

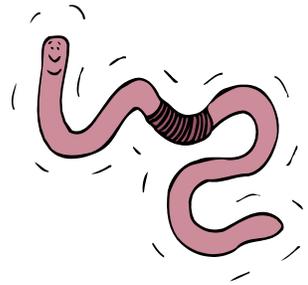
RSVP at ladybug@uconn.edu or call (877) 486-6271.

Let us know if you want to make a worm bin as
[you will need to bring certain supplies](#) and we will need worms!!!

\$5 suggested donation to cover worm costs.

Click here for additional information on the

[UConn Master Composter Program](#)



KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- [High Fruit and Vegetable Consumption May Reduce Risk of Breast Cancer](#)
- [Maggots and Rotting Food Waste-A new recipe for sustainable fish and animal feed.](#)
- [North American diets require more land than we have, study says](#)

CLIMATE CORNER

- [What is causing more extreme precipitation in the Northeast?](#)
- [Understanding soil through its microbiome.](#)
- [Scientists draw new connections between climate change and warming oceans.](#)
- [Wildflowers combat climate change with diversity.](#)

WHO KNEW?

- Think that you know your flowers and foliage plants? Take this quiz from the University of Florida Master Gardener program! [Flowers and Foliage Quiz](#)
- [Those fragrances you enjoy? Dinosaurs liked them first](#)

In Memoriam-Joan Allen



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Joan Allen on August 15, 2018. As the University of Connecticut Plant Pathologist, Joan was an integral part of our team at the UConn Home & Garden Education Center. While at UConn, Joan served on the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Committee, the UConn IPM group, the UConn Sustainable Living Team, as well as being a member of the planning committee for the annual Perennial Plant and Garden Conference. If you are a homeowner or commercial grower that has ever submitted a plant sample for diagnosis then you reaped the benefits of Joan's vast knowledge. Joan brought a great enthusiasm to her job every day and will be dearly missed. Memorial donations in memory of Joan may be made to The UConn Foundation, Inc., Attn: UConn Home & Garden Education Center, 2390 Alumni Drive Unit 3206, Storrs, CT 06269.

If you enjoy our efforts to keep you informed about horticultural and UConn-related items, please show 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](#).

September 2018 SAP