

Home & Garden Education Center

UCONN | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
EXTENSION

NOVEMBER is for Narcissus, Nuisance Insects, and No 'Volcano' Mulching



Narcissus

Mid-November is a great time to pot up some Narcissus paperwhite bulbs so that they will be in bloom for the Christmas holidays. Unlike other bulbs, paperwhites do not require a cooling period before they can be forced to bloom. Paperwhites have a lovely fragrance and their delicate white blooms are a welcome addition to a winter home. For additional information please visit our fact sheet:

[Bulbs: Forcing Flowering](#)

Nuisance Insects in the Home

Insects such as [Asian lady beetles](#) and [stink bugs](#) will enter homes looking for shelter as the weather starts to turn cold. To prevent entry, seal all cracks and openings around windows, doors, siding, pipes, chimneys and other openings with caulk. Repair any tears or holes in screens. Once lady beetles and stink bugs are present in the home, they can be removed with a vacuum cleaner and the bag should be disposed of to avoid a lingering odor. They can also be drowned in a bucket of soapy water. Exterior applications of insecticides labeled for this purpose may offer minor relief, but the effect may be short-lived because some insecticides are broken down chemically by sunlight. Application should be done in the fall prior to bug congregation. Indoor insecticides are not recommended. Whenever using pesticides read and follow all label instructions carefully.

No 'Volcano' Mulching

Fall is the time to prepare trees and shrubs for the upcoming winter. If you are mulching, do not place mulch directly against tree bases. Mulch piled around plants may also serve as lodging for bark and stem eating rodents. Avoid 'volcano' mulching where the mulch is piled into a large cone shape around tree trunks. Pull mulch away from the base of the trunk. For additional information please visit our fact sheet:

[Mulch Basics](#)

November's Bird is the Turkey!



Join the [Connecticut Audubon Society](#) for their annual post-Thanksgiving Turkey Walk as they discuss turkeys, Thanksgiving, Native Americans, and more. This relaxed one-hour walk will be held on Saturday, November 24th, 2018 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

[Turkey Walk Registration](#)

Scenic Hikes in Connecticut



It's not too late to go for a walk or hike in Connecticut. Most of the leaves have fallen but this opens up many scenic vistas in our state; whether from the Heublein Tower in Simsbury or the 1,250 foot elevation of the Pinnacle overlook in Macricostas Preserve, Washington, both of which offer 360 degree views of the countryside. The image was taken from the Heublein Tower by Megan Guild Wojcicki.

[Best Views in Connecticut](#)

Ten Tips for the November Gardener

Click on highlighted links for additional information. For a more extensive list of tips go to Gardening Tips for November at our website.

- Clean bird feeders and stock them with bird seed and suet. Consider sunflower hearts instead of whole seeds. They will provide a better source of calories for the birds and eliminates hull waste beneath the feeder. Don't forget a clean, heated water source.
- Avoid the spring rush and get your [soil tested](#) for next year's garden before the ground freezes. Information can be found at the UConn Soil and Nutrient Analysis Laboratory.
- Mulch garlic beds with 6-12 inches of straw or pine needles to avoid frost heaving.
- Cut [peonies](#) (not the tree variety) down to 3" above the ground, clear away any summer mulch and debris but do not mulch for the winter.
- Protect roses with mulch or soil by mounding it 10-12" around the base of the plant and then adding another foot of straw when the ground has frozen.
- Keep mowing the lawn as long as the grass is still growing.
- Do not leave fuel in the mower or other gas-powered lawn tools over the winter; run engines until the fuel is spent.
- Once the ground has frozen (but before it snows), mulch fall planted perennials by placing 3-5" of pine needles, straw, or chopped leaves around them.
- Inspect your fruit trees. Remove any mummified remaining fruits, and rake up and dispose of old leaves that can harbor diseases over the winter such as [Apple scab](#).
- Clay and ceramic pots can crack over the winter if they fill with rain or melted snow that subsequently freezes and expands. Empty pots and place upside down under a tarp or store them in a shed or the garage.

[For a more extensive list of tips visit Gardening Tips for November](#)



Beat the Spring Rush and Have Your Soil Tested Now for Macro- & Micro Nutrients

Our standard nutrient analysis includes pH, macro- and micro nutrients, 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 Laboratory](#)

[UConn Science of GMOs](#)

[UConn Soil & Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#)

Events/Programs/Save the Date

[Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group \(CIPWG\) and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station](#)

Invasive Plants Council-Tuesday, November 13, 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Valley Laboratory, 153 Cook Hill Rd, Windsor, CT.

[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 October at 10:00 a.m. starting at the Olin Science Center. November 4th will be a tour of the Native Plant Collection and November 11th will be the Caroline Black Garden.

SALT (Smaller American Lawns Today!) Conference, Grow Native: Gardening for the Environment Saturday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$65 before Nov. 1/\$80 after (\$55 before Nov. 1/\$70 after members); registration required

[SALT Conference Information](#)

Birding Basics Saturday, November 3rd, 2018 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Meet at the Conn College Arboretum entrance on Williams Street, New London, CT. In conjunction with the Connecticut Audubon Society.

[Birding Basics Registration](#)

[CT DEEP Programs](#)

240th Anniversary of the Winter Encampments in Redding Saturday, November 3rd, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Putnam Memorial State park, Redding, CT

Wildlife Encounters Storytelling Sunday, November 4th, 2018 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Peoples State Forest, Barkhamsted Storyteller: Mat Jobin

Project Wet-Water Science and Impacts Educator workshop - Focused on elementary grade levels this workshop gives lessons to teachers to bring students from awareness to evaluation for issues around our vital resource-water. Wednesday, November 14th, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby, CT



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

Fall 2018 Shows

Equestrian Team Show Schedule: Zone 1 Region 5

- November 3-Sacred Heart University, Double M Ranch, Southbury, CT
- November 4-Trinity College, Folly Farm, Simsbury, CT
- November 10-Sacred Heart University, Double M Ranch, Southbury, CT
- November 17-UConn, Storrs,

CT Western Team Show Schedule: Zone 1

- November 4-UConn, Storrs, CT
- November 18-University of Massachusetts, Orange, MA
- December 2-Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

Dressage Team Show Schedule: Region B

- November 10-Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA.

[Contact Coach Alena Meacham](#)

[UConn Extension](#)

UConn Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo The biennial Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo is co-sponsored by New England Floriculture, Inc. - a group of grower representatives from the Northeast, augmented by University and Cooperative Extension staff in each state who specialize in greenhouse crops and management. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn, share and connect with other industry professionals!

Wednesday & Thursday, November 7-8, 2018 at the Boxboro Regency Hotel in Boxborough, Massachusetts.

[Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo Information](#)

[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 Garden Master Classes](#)



Garden Master Classes such as 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.

Planting for Winter Interest Thursday, November 1st, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
New Haven County Extension Center, North Haven, CT Instructor: Adam Wheeler

Forest Pests Threatening Connecticut Saturday, November 3rd, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington, CT Instructor: Jude Hsiang

Growth Chambers for Horticulture Friday, November 16th, 2018 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam, CT Instructor: Christine Ventura

[Additional Master Gardener Classes](#)

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

[A Food-safe dictionary for home cooks and consumers](#)

[136,000 Varieties of Rice Are Now Protected in Perpetuity](#)

[Sequencing of wheat genome could lead to a breadier future.](#)

CLIMATE CORNER

[Designing a more productive corn able to cope with future climates](#)

[NASA's 'space botanist' gathers first data.](#)

[Drier, less predictable environment may have spurred human evolution](#)

WHO KNEW?

[Garden Trends for 2019](#)

[Getting to the root of lavender's secrets](#)

[This device tracks how well you wash your hands](#)



Ferns may be 2019's 'It' plant

Ferns are non-flowering houseplants that are grown for their many forms of foliage: from the delicate Boston fern to the tough and leathery fronds of the Bear paw fern. As members of the Polypodiopsoda class, ferns are vascular plants that reproduce by means of spores. They have complex leaves that uncoil from fiddleheads into fronds. Although they are native to tropical and sub-tropical rain forests these houseplants are easy to grow and maintain. Ferns require indirect sunlight, moist soil, and a humid atmosphere.

[UConn H & G Fern fact sheet](#)

UConn Extension Home & Garden Education Center

The UConn Home & Garden Education Center (**HGEC**) is a horticultural informational resource for the citizens of Connecticut and beyond. The staff at the Center reach nearly 400,000 citizens in outreach efforts each year. We're ready to assist you.

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! 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.

We Need Your Support!

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 the Home & Garden Education center website.



[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

UConn Extension Home & Garden Education Center: We are on a collaborative journey.

How. We co-create knowledge with farmers, families, communities, and businesses. We educate. We convene groups to help solve problems.

What. Food, Health, and Sustainability.

Join us.

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