



## March is for Mock-orange 'Snow White', Melon 'Orange SilverWave', and Macrame Plant Hangers



### Mock-orange

Snow White™ Mock-orange, also known as *Philadelphus*, is a compact, round, deciduous shrub that produces very fragrant white blossoms in late-May to early-June in Connecticut. The blooms last for two to three weeks and then this 4-5' tall shrub sports has dark green foliage that makes it great for a mixed border or as a backdrop for later-blooming species. It does well in full sun to partial shade in moist, well-drained soils and is a great early season plant for pollinators. For additional information on *Philadelphus* visit the link below. Image by JC Raulston Arboretum.

[UConn Plant Database-Philadelphus](#)

## Melon 'Orange SilverWave'

A new melon cultivar was a Northeast & Southeast All-America Selections regional winner. Melon 'Orange SilverWave' is an exotic cultivar from South Korea. Each plant can produce up to six 5-inch light green, striped, oval fruit. The melons can be eaten fresh, added in a fruit salad, or used as a smoothie ingredient. Seeds can be direct sown in sunny garden beds after the danger of frost is past or they can be started indoors. Melons are ready to pick about 75 days after planting. Give plants some space as they may spread 6 feet or so. While staking is not essential, keeping the fruit off the ground with a trellis or other support will reduce the incidence of diseases. Try this new variety in your garden this year. For additional information on starting your vegetable garden visit the link below. Image by All-America Selections.

### [Vegetable Garden Basics and Plant Selections](#)

## Macramé Plant Hangers

If you had a home, apartment, or dorm room in the 1960s or '70s then the chances are good that you had a least one spider plant in a decorative macramé hanger. Originating in 13th century Arabia, the craft of tying and knotting spread through Europe and became a pastime for sailors on long voyages. Macramé's favor faded in the 1980s but it has enjoyed a resurgence as a trendy and nostalgic way to display houseplants. Many of the common houseplants that are suitable for hanging, such as Boston ferns, English ivy, and the aforementioned spider plant are also able to provide cleaner air in our homes. Check out the link below to our fact sheet. Image by Susan Pelton.

### [Houseplants for Cleaner Indoor Air](#)



## Ten Tips for the March Gardener

Click on highlighted links for additional information.

- Plant cool-season annuals, such as pansies, snapdragons, and calendulas at the end of the month, weather permitting.

- Visit the greenhouses at [Elizabeth Park](#) in West Hartford to view the tulips and other spring-flowering bulbs.
- Pot up begonia and caladium bulbs. Place in a warm, bright location to encourage growth.
- Send your vegetable garden soil samples to the [UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#) for testing.
- [Raised beds](#) are a great alternative when the available soil is poor and now is a good time to construct them.
- Prune or peel off and destroy [Eastern tent caterpillar](#) egg masses. Favorite hosts include cherry, crab apple, and apple. Look for the shiny, dark brown egg masses about 1" wide wrapped around small twigs.
- As the ground becomes workable, de-thatch the lawn if you find an inch or more of thatch; seed any bare spots.
- [Horticultural oil](#) treatments for maple bladder gall mite, [pear psylla](#), and scale on shrubs and trees can be applied; check labels for specifics on appropriate weather conditions.
- Keep any birdseed and pet food that is stored in the garage in tightly covered containers to prevent rodents and wildlife from getting into it.
- Save plastic milk jugs or 2-liter containers to use as individual [hot caps or cloches](#) to extend the season. They will fit nicely over small garden plants, creating a free miniature greenhouse.

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



## Have Your Soil Tested for Macro- & Micro Nutrients

Beat the spring rush and send your soil sample in for testing now. 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

Visit the **Connecticut Gardener Magazine** online calendar for a listing of events for the gardening community.

[Connecticut Gardener Calendar](#)

## [Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station](#)

### 4th Annual Creating and Improving Pollinator Habitat Conference



This year's focus will be on the diversity of types of pollinator habitat in various environments across New England. Thursday, March 14th, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Snow date Friday, March 15th, 2019) Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT. Pesticide and NOFA credits.

### [Pollinator Conference Information](#)

### [Connecticut College](#)

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

**The Art and Science of Pruning:** Saturday, March 30th, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to noon Meet in New London Hall, Classroom 101. \$10 (free to members), registration is required. Instructor: Jim Luce, Retired Supervisor of Grounds

### [CT DEEP Programs](#)

**Vegetable Gardening with John Lorusso:** Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT.

**The Secret Life of Beavers:** Friday, March 8th, 2019 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT Speaker-Ben Goldfarb

**Maple Sugar House Tour:** Sunday March 10th, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Bright Acres Farm, Hampton, CT.

**March Mushroom Madness (in conjunction with the CT Mycological Society):** Sunday, March 17th, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area (WMA), 341 Milford Street, Burlington, CT

**Butterfly Farming:** Saturday, March 23rd, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT Instructor: Deb Field

**The Apiary Series: Starting your own Hive:** Sunday, March 24th, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT.



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

### **Spring 2019 Shows**

Equestrian Team Show Schedule: Zone 1 Region 5

- March 3 Sacred Heart University, Rolling Meadows Farm, Southbury, CT
- March 30 Regionals, Mystic Valley Hunt Club, Gales Ferry, CT
- April 6 Zones, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA
- May 2-5 Nationals, Syracuse, NY

CT Western Team Show Schedule: Zone 1

- March 16 & 17 Western Semi Finals, Ocala, FL
- May 2 - 5 Nationals, Syracuse, NY

Dressage Team Show Schedule: Region B

- March 9 Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA
- March 10 UConn, Storrs, CT
- March 24 Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA
- March 31 UConn, Storrs, CT
- April 26-28 Nationals, Lake Erie College

[Contact Coach Alena Meacham](#)

## [UConn Extension](#)



### **UConn Biodiversity Education & Research Greenhouses**

**Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Greenhouse Friday Tours:** Fridays, March 1, 8, & 15, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.

Each date will feature a different section of the greenhouses which contain a collection of approximately 3000 plant species from around the world. Meet at the greenhouse entrance located at the rear of the Torrey Life Sciences Building on North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT. Parking is available in the North Parking Garage on North Eagleville Rd. Tour guide: Professor Emeritus Terry Webster.

[Contact Terry Webster](#)

### [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.

### **Connecticut Master Gardener 2019 Symposium**

**"NATURE'S CREATURES: Bring More Life to Your Landscape"** March 16th, 2019 at Connecticut College, New London, CT

#### [CMGA 2019 Symposium Info](#)

**Micro-greens Workshop:** Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford, CT Instructor: Corinne Hansch

**Underutilized and Exceptional Native Trees and Shrubs:** Thursday, March 7th, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. New London County Extension Center, Norwich, CT Instructor: Adam Wheeler

**All About Fungi and Fungicides – What Every Gardener Needs to Know:** Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel, CT Instructor: Yonghao Li

**Introduction to Permaculture:** Monday, March 18th, 2019 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam, CT. Instructor: Sven Phil

**Edible Gardens:** Saturday, March 23rd, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Windham County Extension Center, Brooklyn, CT Instructor: John Lorusso

**Real Hands-on Pruning Workshop:** Thursday, March 28th, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. New London County Extension Center, Norwich, CT Instructor: Jim Luce

#### [Additional Master Gardener Classes](#)



## Barred Owls in Connecticut

There have been increased daytime sightings of Barred owls in Connecticut this winter. There are several hypotheses as to why this is so, ranging from an excess of food which may have allowed a successful breeding season to a shortage of food which has spurred the owls to search for food during the daytime hours. If you are lucky enough to experience one of these daytime sightings please remember to respect the bird's space by staying far enough away. Above image by Frank Mantlik from the CT Audubon Society site.

### [CT Audubon Society Barred Owl Boom of 2019](#)

A green rectangular graphic containing the Zero Waste Faire logo and event details. The logo on the left consists of the words "ZERO WASTE FAIRE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, stacked vertically within a white-bordered square. To the right of the logo, the event details are listed in white text: "Saturday, March 23, 2019", "11am - 4pm", "Wilton High School", and "Field House".

**ZERO  
WASTE  
FAIRE**

Saturday, March 23, 2019  
11am - 4pm  
Wilton High School  
Field House

Check out compost info table at the Zero Waste Faire in Wilton, CT- Come meet some UConn Master Composters and learn about backyard composting. Check out a worm bin and discover how you can make your own. The Zero Waste Faire is a special event designed to educate, inspire, entertain, and engage the town of Wilton and neighboring communities about zero waste living.

### [Zero Waste Faire Info](#)



Forests and natural systems are under enormous pressure from the effects of climate change, insect damage, invasive plants, and rapid urbanization. What can you do to protect these systems? Learn more about how to restore lost ecological connections, better manage urban land, and create beautiful, highly functioning landscapes at the Ecological Landscape Alliance 25th Annual ELA Conference: Sustaining the Living Landscape. March 6th and 7th, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the UMass Campus Center, Amherst, MA

### [ELA Brochure](#)



**Bulb Show** in the Fitzpatrick Greenhouse at the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge, Mass., March 4-29th, 2019. Open weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and weekends 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Features New England favorites and unusual South African bulbs. Visitors to the greenhouse will see an evolving collection of hundreds of blooming

plants over a four-week period including traditional New England favorites such as narcissus, tulips and grape hyacinths blooming alongside the Garden's unique collection of South African bulbs. These are plants whose dormant period coincides with hot, dry summers rather than the cold winters that constitute the dormant period of our hardy bulbs. The environment created in the Fitzpatrick Conservatory mimics the conditions which would bring these bulbs into bloom in their native Cape Province of South Africa, home to some 1200 species of bulbous plants. Free admission. Image by Berkshire Botanical Garden.

### [Bulb Show Info](#)

## KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

[Fruits and veggies may keep the blues away.](#)

[You are what you eat: A color-changing insect modifies diet to become distasteful.](#)

[The 'blue' in blueberries can help lower blood pressure.](#)

### CLIMATE CORNER

[To solve pollinator health crisis, state governments are key.](#)

[Is your Easter egg bad for the environment?](#)

[Are we watching the end of the Monarch butterfly?](#)

### WHO KNEW?

[This rock brought back from the moon likely came from Earth.](#)

[Gardening by the lunar phases.](#)

[Starling murmurations: the science behind one of nature's greatest displays.](#)



## Marigold 'Big Duck Gold' 2019 All-American Selections Flower Winner

Here is the new big duck in town! The Big Duck Gold marigold will fill flower beds with 15" tall plants that will bloom all season long. The deep green foliage is a great backdrop for the 3" plump golden-yellow blooms. Seeds can be started indoors and then transplanted or directly sown into beds in full sun once the danger of frost has passed. Big Duck Gold has good tolerance to heat and rain and does well in containers. Image by All-American Selections.

# 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](mailto: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.*

**UCONN** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
EXTENSION

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