August is for Annuals, Apple Maggot, and 'Aphrodite' Rose of Sharon

Annuals

Annuals have so much to offer with their continuous bloom and wide assortment of colors, flower shapes and sizes. There are plenty of choices for both the sun and the shade and even a fair number that can tolerate drought conditions, such as portulaca and succulents. Some are perfect for bedding while others perform superbly in containers and hanging baskets. Keep in mind that annuals are fast-growing, short-lived plants. They germinate from seed, grow, bloom, set seed and die all within a single growing season. As such, they need care consistent with their cultural requirements for optimal display, such as monthly fertilizing. Please visit the link below for information on growing annuals.

Apple Maggot

The apple maggot, *Rhagoletis pomonella*, is one of the most destructive and common pests of apples in the Northeast. In the larval stage, it chews its way through developing fruit flesh leaving a winding brown trail of decay. The fruit of early ripening apple trees seems to be preferred by the apple maggot as it is softer making for easier eating and causing more damage than to the harder, later developing varieties. Other hosts the apple maggot feeds on include crabapple, pear, plum, cherry, and hawthorn. The highest number of adults emerge from early July to mid-August when the females will lay their eggs in the ripening fruit. The feeding by the larvae inside the apple causes the distinctive brown trails that are associated with apple maggot. As a control measure, remove and bag any dropped fruit; do not compost it. For other control information please visit the link below.
Apple Maggot

'Aphrodite' Rose of Sharon

If you are thinking about adding a flowering woody shrub to your landscape this fall then you might want to consider the Rose of Sharon variety 'Aphrodite'. An eye-catching deciduous shrub that produces little to no seed, 'Aphrodite' means an abundance of nearly continuous, exceptional flowers over a long bloom season. The heavily ruffled, clear pink blooms have a deep red eye. The densely branched habit with thick, deep green deciduous foliage is perfect for a hedge or screen, and is easily trained as a small tree. Rose of Sharon prefer full to partial sun and 1-2” of water per week. Growing at a moderate rate to 10 feet tall at maturity, Rose of Sharon are well-suited to a home landscape. For information on planting trees and shrubs please visit the link below.

Planting Trees and Shrubs

Connecticut Fair Season is Starting!

Goshen Fair: August 31 to September 2, 2019
Haddam Neck Fair: August 30 to September 2, 2019
Woodstock Fair: August 30 to September 2, 2019

For a full listing please visit the link below.

Connecticut County Fairs
Ten Tips for the August Gardener

Click on highlighted links for additional information.

- Fertilize perennials with a 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 product to encourage continued blooming.
- Scout for C-shaped notches on the edges of the leaves of your perennials such as dahlias, roses, basil or coleus that are caused by Asiatic garden beetle feeding.
- Houseplants can dry out quicker in the heat and extra sunlight of summer. Check them frequently to evaluate their moisture needs.
- Keep an eye out for insect, slug, and snail damage throughout the garden. Use the controls in our fact sheet Snails and Slugs.
- Remove old plants that have stopped producing to eliminate a shelter for insects and disease organisms. Replant sites with chard, quick maturing beans or cucumbers, leafy greens etc.
- Even though tomatoes continue to ripen after picking, fruits develop greatest flavor when allowed to ripen on plants. The exception is cherry tomatoes since many varieties are prone to splitting. Pick any almost ripe ones before a heavy rain.
- Pick up, bag, and trash (do not compost) any dropped apples that show signs of apple maggot.
- Think about what fruits trees you might like to add to your yard this fall. Some suggestions for native plants may be found at Trees and Shrubs: Suggested Native Species for Pollinators.
- Reseeding the lawn in late August gives the new grass two growing periods (fall and spring) before the heat of summer. Be sure to keep the seed moist until germination.
- Fruiting plants such as winterberry, holly, and firethorn need regular watering during dry spells to ensure that berries mature and don't drop off.

For a more extensive list of tips visit Gardening Tips for August

Have Your Soil Tested for Macro- & Micro Nutrients

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
RSVP at the link on the left below and let us know if you want to make a worm bin as you will need to bring certain supplies (the link in the middle) and we will need worms!

A $5.00 donation is suggested to cover worm costs.

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!

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
Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)

Invasive Mobile Apps: Download these Invasive/Early Detection/Reporting Apps on your mobile device!

Events/Programs/Save the Date

Nutrition Matters/Soil Health Builds Human Health

The Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) 45th Annual Summer Conference will be held on the weekend of August 9 -11, 2019 at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. The keynote speaker will be Sandor Katz. Always a family friendly event, you can bring the whole family to enjoy workshops for adults, kids and teens, over 60 vendors, live music, games and amazing food!

NOFA 2019 Summer Conference info

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

109th Plant Science Day: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Lockwood Farm, Hamden, CT

This one-day event features reports on research, field plots, barn exhibits, tours and other opportunities for Connecticut residents to discuss plant science with the CAES staff.

Free and open to the public.

Plant Science Day info
Connecticut College

Visit the Plant Collections  The Connecticut College Arboretum manages four major plant collections containing 6,195 individual, accessioned living plants. Meet in front of the Olin Science Center at 10:00 a.m. Tours last 60 to 90 minutes. Free; no registration required. Tours are given on select Sundays through November as listed below:

Native Plant Collection: Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3

Caroline Black Garden: Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10

Meadows and Field Walk: Saturday, August 3, 2019 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 33 Gallows Lane, New London, CT. Fee: $96.00 ($80 for members), not suitable for children under 12 or dogs. Bring a bag lunch. Speaker: Kathy Connolly.

CT DEEP Programs

Turtle Talk: Saturday, August 3, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby, CT. Free, registration requested.

The Story of the Monarch: Saturday, August 17, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby, CT. Free, registration requested.

Outdoor Nature Drawing: Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby, CT. Free, registration requested.

Registration for DEEP programs

Summer 2019 Riding Lessons

Looking for something fun to do this summer? There is still time to sign up for horseback riding or polo lessons.

The University of Connecticut's Animal Science Department offers a summer horseback riding program to the public with something for everyone! Dressage, Hunt Seat, Polo, Western riding lessons and Trail Riding are open to adults and children who meet the minimum age and skill level requirements.

Prior to registering, individuals interested in riding in the trail program who have never ridden in UConn’s trail program, or who have not participated in the trail program for over a year, will be required to take a riding evaluation lesson (one hour assessment, cost $36.25) to confirm their riding level. This assessment needs to be completed one week prior to the session starting.

UConn Summer Riding Program information

UConn Extension

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 open 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.

There are no Garden Master classes for the month of August.

**Additional Master Gardener Classes**

**Events around Connecticut**

**Herb Garden and Fern Allee Tours:** Sunday, August 4, 2019 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the [Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens](https://www.bartlettaboretum.org), Stamford, CT

**Perennial Gardens Design Tour:** Sunday, August 18, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the [Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens](https://www.bartlettaboretum.org), Stamford, CT

**The American Chestnut Tree Talk & Hike:** Saturday, August 24, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at the [Sessions Woods Wildlife Preserve](https://www.sessionswoods.org), Burlington, CT. 8 years old and up only. Register: Laura Rogers-Castro

**Connecticut Dahlia Society 61st Annual Show:** Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Pond House, [Elizabeth Park Rose Garden](https://www.elizabethparkfoundation.org/), 1561 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT

**New Britain Rose Garden at Walnut Hill Park** is looking for volunteers to help with summer maintenance. Workdays are each Wednesdays, August 7, 14, & 21, 2019 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 17, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

**Notable Architects Tour:** Saturday, August 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the [Cedar Hill Cemetery](https://cedarhillct.org), 453 Fairfield Avenue, Hartford, CT. The tour begins at the flagpole at the end of the entrance drive, no registration is required but there is a $5.00 fee.

**Butterfly Gardens are for the Birds:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Simsbury Public Library with Margery Winters from the Roaring Brook Nature Center. The event is free but registration is required.

**Connecticut Botanical Society Field Trip Schedule:** Field trips are a long-standing tradition of the Connecticut Botanical Society. They provide an opportunity to learn about Connecticut's plants and habitats from some of the area's most knowledgeable botanists -- and an opportunity to share your own knowledge with others. The trips also add to knowledge of the state's flora. On each field trip, we make a list of all plant species we have identified, and this list becomes part of the Society's records.

For the field trips, wear sturdy footwear and bring a lunch. Sunscreen and insect repellent are also recommended. For plant identification, you may want to bring field guide(s), a hand lens, and a small notebook. Familiarity with plant taxonomy is helpful, but not required. Upcoming trips include the Litchfield Land Trust Prospect Mountain Property on Saturday, August 3 at 9:00 a.m. and Avalonia Land Trust in Preston on Saturday, August 10 at 10:00 a.m. Visit the link for additional information.
Rutgers' New Basil Varieties

Researchers at Rutgers University, NJ have come up with four new sweet basil varieties that are resistant to downy mildew. The four varieties—Rutgers Devotion DMR, Rutgers Obsession DMR (above image by Andy Wyenandt), Rutgers Passion DMR and Rutgers Thunderstruck DMR—are now available to commercial growers and home gardeners.

Here's the rundown on their attributes, according to Rutgers All-Star Varieties website:

- Rutgers Obsession DMR: Sweet basil for field and potted plant production; vigorous growth, high leaf-to-stem ratio, dark green color, highly resistant to fusarium wilt
- Rutgers Devotion DMR: Genovese-type basil for potted plant production and fresh market; uniform, upright growth and dome or cup-shaped leaf
- Rutgers Thunderstruck DMR: Sweet basil primarily for field production; medium-sized, slightly ruffled leaf with bright green color
- Rutgers Passion DMR: A beautiful sweet basil for potted plant and field production; exhibits vigorous growth with a high leaf-to-stem ratio; ability to regrow after many harvests over a season and slightly cupped leaf of a greater size compared to Rutgers Obsession DMR

The plants are vigorous and can be cut and harvested many times over many months. Those interested in learning more about the basil breeding program or finding sources for purchasing the seed can visit the link below.

All-Star Basil Varieties

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Nature's nutritious seeds-10 reasons why you should opt for pulses.

Backed in black: How to get people to buy more produce.

Parthenocarpic plants are highly resistant to Cucumber mosaic virus with additional resistances to other common cucumber ailments.

CLIMATE CORNER

Defining a heat stress index.

First data from NASA's OCO-3 mission: CO2, I See You.

Climate change puts pressure on sea turtles.

WHO KNEW?
Why do mosquitoes choose us?

Seven garden mazes from across the pond.

How mammals' brains evolved to distinguish odors is nothing to sniff at.

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 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.


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