



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

www.ladybug.uconn.edu

JUNE IS FOR JETTISONED MAPLE SEEDS, JACK IN THE PULPIT & JALAPENOS!

Hello Fellow Gardeners! You are receiving this email because you have provided us with your email address either when subscribing to our quarterly newsletter, 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:



Silver maple samaras by DMP



Rose Rosette Disease, Clemson.edu



Jack in the Pulpit. Nps.org

Why Are There so Many Maple Seeds?

The Center has received several calls regarding what seems to be a higher than usual number of maple seeds (samaras) being shed over cars, driveways, gutters and gardens. Each one has the potential for germinating which could mean a lot of weeding and clogged gutters. This spring has just been an exceptional one for maple tree seed formation. It was dry and warm so the maple flowers were fully pollinated which is less likely to happen during rainy springs as pollination occurs by wind and insects. Also, there were no heavy frosts, once seed formation started, to reduce the number of seeds being produced. Sweep and rake up what you can and be prepared to weed.

Rose Rosette Disease Confirmed in CT

When tending your rose bushes be on the lookout for symptoms of rose rosette disease (RRD) which can occur on leaves, stems, buds and flowers. They include new growth with an abnormal red color, thickened stems, an overabundance of thorns, deformed cane growth, distorted leaves and/or flowers, and witches' brooms. This disease is caused by a virus spread by a tiny mite. It is incurable and plants usually die within 2 to 5 years. The invasive multiflora rose is very susceptible to the disease and is believed to serve as a reservoir for both the mite

and the virus. Other rose problems can cause symptoms similar to RRD so you may want to contact the UConn Home & Garden Education Center for advice if you suspect a problem with your roses.

Jack in the Pulpit May Signal Invasive Earthworms

Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) is a curious native plant that blooms this month and derives its name from its rather unique flower consisting of a long brown spadix (Jack) enveloped in a hooded spathe (the pulpit). Typically, it is found in moist woodlands. Like skunk cabbage, this plant contains calcium oxalate crystals and other compounds that produce an extreme burning sensation if consumed and may even result in more severe injuries or death. However, there are records of Native Americans consuming this plant (also called Indian turnip) but it is thought that drying the corms (bulblike roots) degraded the crystals. A study in Minnesota (http://www.nrri.umn.edu/worms/forest/plants_herb.html) linked this plant to earthworm activity. Since it contains calcium oxalate and other secondary toxic substances, it is not only avoided by deer but also by earthworms. As non-native earthworms invade our forests, more Jack in the Pulpits are initially encountered as competition from other native woodland wildflowers diminishes because they are either consumed by deer or unable to reproduce because of changes to the environment wrought by the earthworms. Eventually, the soil's physical and chemical conditions are changed enough to render sites unsuitable for this species to persist and eventually it declines too. All the more reason to take our invasive earthworm survey below!

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include winter damage and psyllid injury to boxwoods, powdery mildew prevention, nutsedge control, ants in homes, browning of lawns due to drought, tent caterpillars and poison ivy control. If you have specific questions, gardening queries or pest problems, check out our website, www.ladybug.uconn.edu or call the UConn Home & Garden Education Center (877) 486-6271 (toll-free in CT). You can reach us by email at ladybug@uconn.edu. Your County Cooperative Extension Centers are also listed on the website.

Connecticut is Experiencing Moderate Drought Conditions

We won't know until Thursday what kind of reprieve we received with the recent rains but at the moment we are categorized as being in a moderate drought. According to the National Weather Service, Bridgeport (for example) as of last week had a precipitation deficit of 4.24 inches. (WeatherxEdge) so let's hope for regular rainfall throughout the rest of the growing season. [US Drought Monitor](#)

CT 10% Campaign: Take the pledge!

Pledge to spend 10% of your food dollars locally at <http://www.buyctgrown.com/ct-10-percent>. Locally grown food sustains CT's farming community but more importantly, locally grown and raised food will also increase food security in our Northeast region and support local economies.

LET'S CELEBRATE! 2015 is the INTERNATIONAL YEAR of SOILS

Watch the International Year of Soils : Soils Support Recreation

What do a nice walk in the forest or beach, a soccer game, and a horse race all have in common? They're all activities we enjoy because of soil. Soils are the backbone of the world we live in! Watch the June video here: <https://www.soils.org/files/videos/soils/iys/iys-june.mp4>

Learn more about International Year of Soils at www.soils.org/IYS

"Each soil has its own history. Like a river, a mountain, a forest, or any natural thing, its present condition is due to the influences of many things and events of the past." -Charles Kellogg, *The Soils That Support Us*, 1956

Like the UConn Soil Testing Lab on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UCONN-Soil-Nutrient-Analysis-Laboratory/111473772212603>

Ten Tips for the June Gardener:

1. Control and reduce aphid numbers on vegetables, roses, perennial flowers, shrubs and trees with a hard spray from your garden hose or two applications of insecticidal soap.
2. Plant seeds of bush beans every three weeks for a continuous harvest.
3. Heavy rains encourage slug problems. Check for slugs during rainy periods and hand pick the pests.
4. Watch for and control blackspot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.
5. Keep mower blades sharp and set your mower height at 2-3 inches. Remove no more than one-third of the total height per mowing and mulch to return the nitrogen to the soil.
6. For the sweetest pea harvest, pick regularly before pods become over-mature and peas become starchy.
7. Stake or cage tomatoes and spray them if necessary to prevent disease problems. Call the UConn Home & Garden Education Center (877) 486-6271 if you suspect tomato disease problems.
8. To minimize diseases, water with overhead irrigation early enough in the day to allow the foliage to dry before nightfall. Use soaker hoses instead if possible.
9. White grub preventative control should be applied prior to egg hatch and a target date of June 15th is recommended although it can be done up to July 15th.
10. Check apple, cherry and other fruit trees for nests of tent caterpillars. Blast low-lying nests with water to destroy them, or knock them to the ground and destroy them. A spray of *Bt* will kill emerging caterpillars but is not toxic to beneficial insects, birds, or humans.

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:

Proven Biological Control Programs For Indoor and Outdoor Ornamentals June 18, 2015

UConn Extension and UMass Extension
WB Young Bldg., University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

8:00 – 9:00 Registration, Coffee available

9:00 - 10:00 Biological Controls of Disease: Fungus vs. Fungus in the Greenhouse

Margery Daughtrey, Cornell University, LIHREC, Riverhead, NY

Margery will discuss the biological control options available to you for keeping your mildews and rots at bay! Learn how to deploy beneficial microbes to help your crops be healthy.

10:00- 11:00 Evaluating Your Biological Control Program
Suzanne Wainwright–Evans, Buglady Consulting, Slatington, PA

Once you release the good guys, how do you know they are really working? What do dead pests that have been fed on look like? Learn how to identify eaten and parasitized pests through images.

11:00 to 11:15 Break

11:15 to 12:15 Implementing a Biological Control Program at Longwood Gardens
Grant Jones, IPM Specialist, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA

Grant will discuss the biological control program Longwood uses in their conservatory and production greenhouses. He will discuss their decision-making process from scouting to releasing beneficial insects and discuss some of the challenges they face.

12:15 to 1:15 Lunch provided

1:15 to 2:15 Using Biological Controls in Outdoor Production

Suzanne Wainwright-Evans, Buglady Consulting, Slatington, PA

Biological control started outdoors, but most of the research has been done on protected crops. There is now a trend to take biological control back outdoors. Learn some specific how-to tips and strategies for how to do this.

2:15 to 2:30 Break

2:30 to 3:30 Grower Panel on IPM & Biologicals: Steven Courcy & Keith Salcines, DS Cole Growers, Loudon, NH & Michael Calhoun, Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, CT

Five pesticide recertification credits have been approved in categories PA & 3A (New England States)

Directions: Room 100, Wilfred B Young (WB Young) Building, 1376 Storrs Road, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269

Directions to WB Young Building:

Take I-84 east/west to Exit 68:

Turn south onto State Highway 195 (cross routes 32 and 44) and travel approximately 7 miles to the campus. After entering the Storrs campus, continue to bottom of hill and turn left at the traffic light on Horsebarn Hill Road. The W.B. Young Building is up the first driveway on the left. Park in the parking area along Horsebarn Hill Road (Student Lot A), and then walk up the driveway to W.B. Young Building. Enter through the double doors in the back of the building, go up the three stairs and through the next set of double doors. Turn left, room 100 is all the way at the end of the hall.

Questions: Leanne Pundt, University of Connecticut, 860.626.6855, email: leanne.pundt@uconn.edu
<http://ipm.uconn.edu>

CELEBRATE UCONN'S ANNUAL BUG WEEK FROM July 20th to 25th

MANSFIELD, Conn. — Come join **UConn Extension** this summer for our annual Bug Week from July 20th - 25th. All ages are welcome to attend and explore the activities and events dedicated to insects and their relatives. Bug Week programs include:

- an educational workshop at the Museum of Natural History
- an insect collecting event at Spring Valley Student Farm
- a tour of the insect collections with the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- an insect cooking event
- photo contest
- **UConn 2015 BioBlitz**

For a full schedule of events, please visit our website at www.bugs.uconn.edu

Bugs are the unsung heroes of our ecosystem, providing services such as pollination and natural pest control. However, bugs don't stop at environmental benefits. They have also impacted our culture through the manufacturing of silk, sources of dyes, wax and honey production, food sources, and the improvement of building materials and structures. There are also problem bugs, like the Emerald Ash Borer and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, who are a concern in Connecticut. Visit our website at www.bugs.uconn.edu for featured insects and resources.

UConn Extension offices are spread across the state and offer an array of services dedicated to educating and informing the public on innovative technology and scientific improvements. Bug Week is one example of UConn Extension's mission in tying research to real life by addressing insects and some of their relatives. For more information on Bug Week, please visit our website at www.bugs.uconn.edu or email bugweek@uconn.edu or call 860-486-9228.

Bethel Garden Fair

The University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program of Fairfield County and the Connecticut Master Gardener Association will sponsor their 13th annual Gardening Fair on Sunday, June 28,

2015 from 12:20 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fairfield County Extension Center, 67 Stony Hill Rd., Bethel, CT. The theme is **Common Ground for the Common Good**.

Our theme this year will explore the importance of individual actions toward building the health of ourselves, our community and our planet”, says Julia Cencebaugh Kloth, Fairfield County Master Gardener Coordinator. This year being the *International Year of Soils*, the focus will be on the profound importance of soil for human life.

The event is free and requires no pre-registration. It offers an opportunity to learn about sustainable gardening activities and practices. Demonstrations, presentations, walks, information booths and hands-on activities for children are planned. Topics include managing and improving soil, composting, vegetable gardening, pruning, beekeeping, pollinators, wildflowers and native plants, invasive plants and insects and more. The website will provide the most current details on all events.

Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer gardening questions and free soil pH testing is provided. There is also be a sale of plants donated by the Master Gardeners and gently used gardening books.

For more information go to: www.bethelgardenfair.org.

Rose Sunday at Elizabeth Park in West Hartford, CT

Rose Sunday in the Rose Garden from 10 am until 4 pm. Go to www.elizabethparkct.org or call (860) 231-9443. See the **Garden Tours** page for information on garden and tree tours taking place on Rose Sunday.

Bartlett Arboretum Spring Garden Tour

Saturday June 6, 2015 from 10 am to 4 pm. Visit private gardens in Stamford with UConn certified Master Gardeners. Lunch under the tent at the Marketplace Boutique. www.bartlettarboretum.org.

CT Horticultural Society

Thursday June 18, 2015. 7:30 pm Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford. ‘Designing the Light: Using Sundials and a Sense of Place to Understand the Play of Sunlight in Your Garden. Presenter: Robert Adzema. Call (860) 529-8713 or email: connhort@gmail.com or go to www.cthort.org.

Outdoor Exotic Blooming Plant Sale at UConn Blooms

Hibiscus, mandevilla, bougainvillea, pomegranate and ornamental grasses are now available at UConn Blooms. Bring a look of the tropics to your yard, deck or balcony with these large plants. Big and beautiful, these plants are show-stoppers!!! Hibiscus in red, bougainvillea in pink or purple or mandevilla in white will be the talk of your summer garden! Our ornamental grasses will give you that wispy 3 to 4 feet sway to bring movement to any landscape.

UConn Blooms is located in the Floriculture Building on Route 195 (1395 Storrs Road) across from the yellow barn. Parking is available alongside our greenhouses in the driveway. We are open from 10:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and we will deliver on campus. Call us at 860-486-6000 to order early. Look for us online at <https://web9.uits.uconn.edu/uconnblooms/> or email uconnblooms@uconn.edu.

We Need Your Help – Take Our Invasive Worm Survey

Some of you may be aware of the problems our forest ecosystems, and in some cases our gardens, are experiencing due to the arrival of the invasive earthworm species, *Amyntas*, also known as the crazy snake worm or Alabama jumper. Here is a link from the soil lab’s website to a fact sheet on them written by Dr. Josef Gorres of the University of Vermont.

<http://www.uvm.edu/~entlab/Greenhouse%20IPM/Workshops/2014/InvasiveEarthworms.pdf>

Dr. Gorres and I would like your help in assessing the degree to which this species has taken up residence in our state. To gauge their distribution, we are asking that anyone interested take this brief survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2ZFBBMC>

You are welcome to forward this survey to anyone else that might be interested in helping us with our documentation efforts. A summation of your replies will be put on the soil lab's website, www.soiltest.uconn.edu when the results are tabulated. If you want to be individually contacted, you can include your contact information.

If you have questions you can contact: dawn.pettinelli@uconn.edu. Thank you!!!

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder

<http://modernfarmer.com/2015/05/uglier-food-at-prettier-prices/>

Greek Yogurt's Dark Side

http://contextly.com/redirect/?id=xSRgs3kfmL:35820:191:13::vLnrAst23gU90NSO1qYAnAeM1:only_previous:554b716edc3126-03550842

App to stop food waste

http://contextly.com/redirect/?id=rXGqOTHXWV:35820:191:13::vLnrAst23gU90NSO1qYAnAeM1:only_previous:554b716edc3126-03550842

Dying Trees Can Send Food to Neighbors of Different Species via 'Wood-Wide Web'

CLIMATE CORNER

Record global carbon dioxide concentrations surpass 400 parts per million in March 2015

Massive southern invasions by northern birds linked to climate shifts

Climate change attitudes are reflected on social networks

Eat More Plants to Improve Health, Combat Climate Change

WHO KNEW ?

Gut Instincts May Not Be Wrong

<http://links.email.scientificamerican.com/ctt?kn=40&ms=NDg2MDEwOTIS1&r=NTM5ODcxMjgxNQS2&b=0&j=NjgwNzc2NjExS0&mt=1&rt=0>

Mind Your P

<http://grist.org/food/the-next-big-war-might-be-over-phosphorus/>

World's First Solar Road Already Generating More Power than Expected

Bats treated for white nose syndrome released in wild: New optimism

Natural plant chemicals could help fight tooth decay, study shows

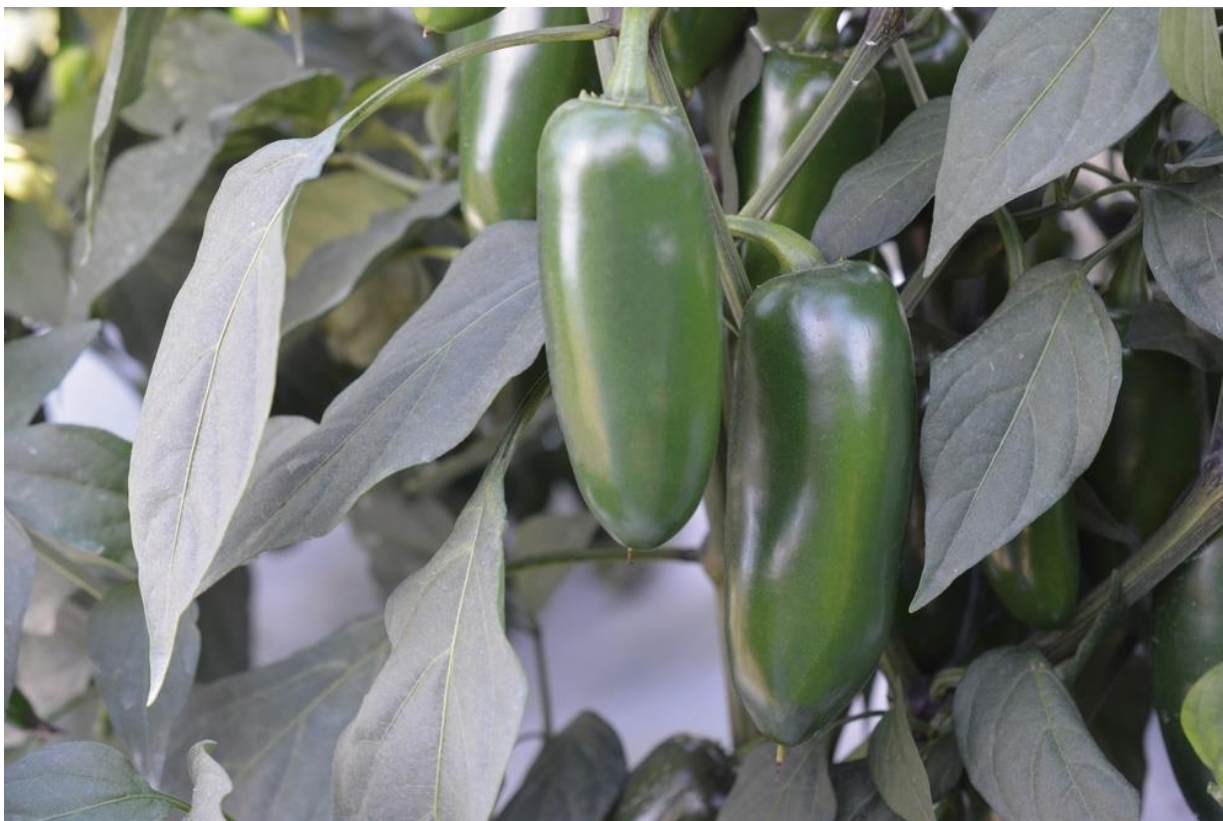
Survey: Beekeepers Lose 40% Of Bees In 2014-2015

UConn Sustainable Living Website: www.sustainableliving.uconn.edu

UConn Extension Website: www.extension.uconn.edu

UConn Food Safety Website: www.foodsafety.uconn.edu

**Pepper Emerald Fire F1
2015 AAS Vegetable Award Winner**



A grill master's delight! At 2,500 Scoville units, this is the hottest pepper in this year's pepper winners but it boasts extra large and very tasty jalapeno fruits that are perfect for stuffing, grilling or using in salsa. Emerald Fire produces gorgeous, glossy green peppers with thick walls that have very little cracking, even after maturing to red. Gardeners will appreciate the prolific fruit set on compact plants that resist disease better than other similar varieties on the market.

Emerald Fire is a strong and vigorous hybrid jalapeno plant that sets a large amount of concentrated fruit. This high yielding X3R variety produces tasty extra large hot jalapenos that are great for fresh and canning uses.

Picture and Text From <http://all-americanselections.org/winners/details.cfm?WinID=596>

IMPATIENS 'BOUNCE' BACK

The last few years have been devastating to impatiens lovers as impatiens downy mildew has turned magnificent, colorful plantings into leafless, dying stems. While disease control for homeowners has been difficult, new interspecific hybrid releases have made it possible to once again stuff those window boxes and

planters with all season long color. Try the new 'Bounce' series which can tolerate sun or shade and comes in pinks, lilacs, violets and white. SunPatiens series will take full sun and also tolerates heat and humidity. Both series are resistant to downy mildew as are New Guinea impatiens.

See more at: http://www.hortmag.com/plants/plants-we-love/disease-and-heat-cant-keep-bounce-impatiens-down?et_mid=749640&rid=236959490#sthash.3oqhJKy8.dpuf



Photo from: <http://all-americanselections.org>

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** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UConn-Home-Garden-Center/136211899745967>, **checking out our weekly blog** www.uconnladybug.wordpress.com, or **SUBSCRIBING TO OUR PRINTED, 20-PAGE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR \$10/YEAR**. Find the subscription form at <http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/newsletter/index.html>

THANK YOU LOYAL READERS – PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS!!

“An equal opportunity and program provider “