



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

www.ladybug.uconn.edu

APRIL IS FOR ASH BORERS, ALLIUM TRICOCCUM (AKA RAMPS) & ALMONDS!

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:



EAB from forestry images



Ramps from wildedible.com



Almonds by DMP, 2015

Emerald Ash Borer in Connecticut

"Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adding all of Connecticut to the list of regulated areas for the emerald ash borer (EAB). APHIS is taking this action in response to the detection of EAB in Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, and New London Counties.

To prevent the spread of EAB to other states, the attached [Federal Order](#) outlines specific conditions for the interstate movement of EAB-regulated articles from the quarantined areas in Connecticut. Specifically, the interstate movement of EAB-host wood and wood products from the quarantined areas in Connecticut is regulated, including firewood of all hardwood species, nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species."

For the complete APHIS article, [click here](#).

If you suspect you may have EAB in your ash trees call 1-203-974-8474 or email CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov

Ramps: Russ Cohen's take at the 2015 UConn Garden Conference

Allium tricoccum (aka ramps) is a native plant species ranging from southern Canada through much of the eastern U.S. According to Russ, "the species burgeoning cachet among chefs and foodies is resulting in commercial over-harvesting and the depletion of and damage to ramp patches and the wild habitat they are collected from." His suggestions for the perpetuation of this species and to limit the encroachment of invasive species, like garlic mustard, on over harvested sites, is for chefs and others to just use the leaves in their recipes and leave the bulbs in the soil to regenerate. After attending his talk at the conference and seeing the jars of pickled ramps bulbs lined up for sale, this should be a serious concern for anyone interested in the conservation of native plant species. If you want ramps, consider purchasing plants or seeds and grow your own.

Almonds & the California Drought

By now, most people have heard of the dire drought situation in California. In fact, Governor Jerry Brown has just imposed water rationing for the first time in the state's history. Although the 6500 almond growers do their best to use water as efficiently as possible and have reduced their water usage by one third since 1995, it still takes about 400 gallons of water to produce one pound of almonds and they may account for up to one-tenth of the state's total water use. Almonds are California's largest cash crop with sales expected to top \$6 billion this year. We'll have to keep an eye on what will happen to this crop if the drought continues.

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include soil testing, pruning woody ornamentals and fruit trees, Asian lady beetles, snow molds, reseeding lawns, vole control, how long seeds are good for and planting potatoes. 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). Your County Cooperative Extension Centers are also listed on the website.

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

Watch the International Year of Soils : Soils Clean & Capture Water

Soil is a great water purifier! Soils clean water through physical, chemical and biological systems. We need to find more ways to allow soil to provide this basic service to us, so we can keep our environment, and ourselves, healthier. Download the April [Soils Clean and Capture Water video](#) - it's also excellent for use in classrooms and any other event/activity that will benefit from video! You can also view it directly on [YouTube](#).

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

APRIL is INVASIVE PLANT PEST AND DISEASE MONTH to increase awareness of the importance of this topic. For more info check out: <http://www.hungrypests.com/>

Ten Tips for the April Gardener:

1. Purchase onion sets for planting and set 1 inch deep and 4 to 5 inches apart when soil can be worked.
2. Early spring is a great time to spot spray or hand-dig dandelions. If spraying, choose a product that won't kill grass. If digging, wait until after a rain, when soil is soft.
3. Apply horticultural oil sprays to control insect pests on fruit trees if temperature is over 40°F.
4. Fertilize all fruits mid-month except for strawberries- these are fertilized later in the season.
5. If you have dead spots in the lawn, patch them before the summer heat. Top dress bare areas with a mix of topsoil and compost, then reseed.

6. Raised beds dry out quicker in wet springs, keep soil from becoming compacted by foot traffic and make crop rotation simpler.
7. Plant dahlia tubers indoors in pots. Pinch the growing tips when they reach 6 inches to keep the plant stocky and make transplanting easier.
8. Prune ornamental grasses, sedum, hydrangea, and buddleia to a height of 6-12 inches before new growth appears.
9. Make a note of gaps in flower beds and fill in with spring flowering bulbs next fall.
10. Sow peas, carrots, radishes, lettuces, and spinach weather permitting. Plant seedlings of cauliflower, cabbage, and broccoli but cover if frost threatens.

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates: SAVE THE DATE:



2014 National Champions



University of Virginia



Westmont College

2015

UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE
Championships

April 6-11, 2015

Hosted by:

UConn

POLO

University of Connecticut
Horsebarn Hill Arena

Come watch the Best of the Best in collegiate Equine Athletics as the top Men's and Women's polo teams from across the country vie for the 2015 National Title!

Hosted by one of the premier collegiate facilities in the US, the University of Connecticut.

Admission is free and open to the public!

Wednesday April 8
6:30 & 8:30 PM: Men's Semi Finals

Thursday April 9
4:30 & 6:30 PM: Women's Semi Finals

Friday April 10
6:00 PM: Alumni

Saturday April 11
10:00 AM USPA NIC Women's Final
1:00 PM USPA NIC Men's Final



- Alfred State College
- Brown University
- Cal Poly
- Colorado State University
- Cornell University
- Emory University
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- Michigan State University
- Montana State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Oregon State University
- Princeton University
- Roger Williams University
- Skidmore College
- Southern Methodist University
- Stanford University
- Texas Tech University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Christian University
- Texas State University
- University of California - Davis
- University of Connecticut
- University of Idaho
- University of Kentucky
- University of Louisville
- University of Massachusetts
- University of Miami (FL)
- University of Michigan
- University of the Pacific
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of South Carolina - Aiken
- University of Southern California
- University of Texas
- University of Virginia
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Virginia Tech
- Washington State University
- Washington & Lee University
- Westmont College
- Yale University



United States Polo Association®
9011 Lake Worth Road Lake Worth, FL 33467
1-800-232-USPA www.uspolo.org

For more information on the Interscholastic & Intercollegiate Polo Program, please visit the I/I Pages on the USPA Website, www.uspolo.org

UConn

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

ANIMAL SCIENCE

ANNUAL SPRING HORSE AUCTION

Saturday, April 25, 2015

SALE PREVIEW TIME: 11:00 AM

Horsebarn Hill Arena - Storrs, CT

HORSE AUCTION: 1:00 PM

Tack/Equipment Tag Sale will be held ALL DAY beginning at 9AM

The auction is organized exclusively by UConn students with faculty and staff supervision



Amy Zembroski, ANSC major, poses with One Hot Tamale

If you would like catalog information or you are interested in selling items at the Tag Sale please call (860) 486-2034

Check our website for updated sale information and horse photos at
www.animalscience.uconn.edu

**Refer to website for information on 5% Buyer's Premium Fee*



Garden Master Classes (open to all, fee, <http://mastergardener.uconn.edu/>)

Gardening for the Five Senses Tuesday, Apr 11, 2015 from 1 to 3 pm. Fairfield County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Apr 7th. Instructor: Tovah Martin

Roses 101: Yes Virginia You Can Grow Roses Wednesday, Apr 22, 2015 from 6 to 8 pm. Tolland County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Apr 15th. Instructor: Marci Martin

Airport Transformation Tuesday, May 12, 2015 from 10 am - noon. Salt Meadow Park, Madison, CT. Deadline for registration: May 5th. Instructor: Jude Hsiang

Herbal Teas From Your Garden Thursday, May 14, 2015 from 6 to 8 pm. Windham County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: May 7th. Instructor: Lisa Withers

Summertime & Weeds You Love to Hate Monday, May 18, 2015 from 10 am to noon. Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford. Deadline for Registration: May 11th. Instructor: Peter Russell

Local Flora Monday, May 18, 2015 from 1 to 3 pm. Haddam Land Trust Bamforth Preserve, Haddam, CT. Deadline for Registration: May 11th. Instructor: Gail Kalison Reynolds

Tree & Shrub Identification Friday, May 29, 2015 from 10 am to noon. New London County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: May 22nd. Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Ward

UConn Blooms for That Welcome to Spring Bouquet

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.

**You are cordially invited to
the UConn Dairy Club's
Annual Dairy Show
Sunday April 19th, 2015
in the Horsebarn Hill Arena
at 10:00 a.m.**

**Please join us for the banquet as well at 6:00
p.m. in the Ratcliffe Hicks Arena. Our Honored
Speaker this year is Dr. Scott Morey of Fenton
River Veterinary Services. Tickets are \$10.00.**

**Please RSVP to Victoria Vendetta at
ucdairyclub@gmail.com**

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

Eating green leafy vegetables keeps mental abilities sharp

Bill to Halt Patchwork of State GMO Labeling Laws

Color of lettuce and antioxidant effect

<http://www.medicaldaily.com/antioxidant-effect-color-lettuce-decides-how-fast-antioxidants-act-327316>

As Forests Go, So Goes the Food

Nine superfruits and super seeds to add to your diet

New flavors for lager beer: successful generation of hybrid yeasts

High-fat diet alters behavior and produces signs of brain inflammation

http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fiber-famished-gut-microbes-linked-to-poor-health1/?WT.mc_id=SA_WR_20150325

CLIMATE CORNER

CO₂ Levels for February Eclipsed Prehistoric Highs

Global Warming Could Hit Rates Unseen in 1,000 Years

Summer storm weakening leads to more persistent heat extremes

Mass Deaths in Americas Start New CO₂ Epoch

WHO KNEW ?

Cats relax to the sound of music

<http://news.yale.edu/2015/03/23/metals-used-high-tech-products-face-future-supply-risks>

<http://s.uconn.edu/neonicsmightnotbeasbadasthought>

Sewage could be a source of valuable metals and critical elements

Manganese speeds up honey bees

BPS “CURE” WORSE THAN BPA “DISEASE”?

Munching bugs thwart eager trees, reducing the carbon sink

Hidden hazards found in 'green' products

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

UConn Extension Website: www.extension.uconn.edu

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

SHARING SEEDS SHOULDN'T BE ILLEGAL!

While it may be hard to believe, in some states sharing seeds with your fellow gardeners is illegal. All states have laws requiring seed sellers to obtain permits and to label seed with information regarding germination rates, % weed seeds, supplier information and such. This makes sense since it insures that the buyers of seeds, especially farmers, are getting the quality they expect. Historically, backyard gardeners and keepers of heirloom varieties have been casually sharing and exchanging seeds for a long, long time and nobody took notice.

To promote growing one's own food, cutting costs, keeping varieties from becoming lost, preserving biodiversity and just plain sharing, seed libraries have sprung up in several states. According to an article by Christopher D. Cook on www.shareable.net, there are about 300 seed libraries today and these libraries “offer a profound alternative to the corporate takeover of seeds, which has reached frightful proportions; according to the nonprofit ETC group, just three firms control more than half of the worldwide seed business.”

Seed libraries in Minnesota got a rude awakening when they found out that their state's law forbids gardeners from sharing or giving away seeds unless they obtain an annual permit and label their seeds in accordance with the law. They were informed of this by the MN Dept of Agriculture with fines of up to \$7500 per day for non-compliance. The Sustainable Economies Law Center and the Association of American Seed Control Officials have both been looking into this. From my reading of the CT General Laws, there does not seem to be any mention of problems with sharing seeds for free in this state. Please inform us if our interpretation is incorrect. <http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1366&Q=259046>

What can you do? If this trend is troublesome to you, consider supporting the seed librarians and their supporters who are working to straighten out these laws in order to allow seed sharing between gardeners and small farmers at <http://seedmatters.org/save-seed-sharing-petition/>



Purchased and collected seeds @ DMP

April 3, 2015 - EPA Update:

Distribution of Certain Mouse and Rat Control Products Ends

On April 1, 2015, Reckitt Benckiser ceased all distribution of 12 d-CON products that do not meet EPA's current safety standards. EPA reached an agreement with Reckitt, the manufacturer, to cancel these products because they are sold without a protective bait station and pose risks to children and pets. Additionally, eight of the 12 products pose unacceptable risks to certain wildlife. Retailers may sell and consumers may buy these products according to the label until stocks are exhausted. Users of these d-CON products must read and follow the product label instructions.

Household rodenticide products that comply with the Agency's safety criteria are widely available and are required to be sold and used with a bait station in most use scenarios. EPA encourages consumers to use rodenticide products with bait stations, as proper use of a bait station reduces the risk of accidental exposure to children, pets, and non-target wildlife.

- [Learn more about the cancellation of these 12 d-Con products.](#)
- [Find examples of household rodenticide products that meet EPA safety criteria.](#)

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 “

April 2015, DMP