



### UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

[www.ladybug.uconn.edu](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu)

### **JULY IS FOR JAPANESE BEETLE BIOCONTROL, JACARANDA and SPIDER MITES ON JUNIPER!**

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](mailto:ladybug@uconn.edu) and ask to be removed from this list.

**PLEASE NOTE: Construction near Ratcliffe Hicks building changes [Center parking!](#)**

### **Pest Patrol/Current Concerns/Topics of Interest:**



Spring Tiphia Wasp on Peony, Pamm Cooper, UConn



Gypsy moth larvae by uwex.edu



Spider mite webbing from [www.entomology.osu.edu](http://www.entomology.osu.edu)

### **A Natural Predator for Japanese Beetles**

Looking for a natural way to control Japanese and other scarab beetles from snacking on your prized plants and at the same time eliminating their larval stage, the grubs that are feeding on the roots of your lawn grasses? Dr. Ana Legrand has been doing research on the effectiveness of using peonies to attract a wasp that parasitizes Japanese and Oriental beetle grubs. Read all about it at:

<http://today.uconn.edu/2015/06/reducing-the-japanese-beetle-population/>

## **Gypsy Moths in CT**

The CT Agricultural Experiment Station (<http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?Q=567516&A=4707>) noted widespread gypsy moth activity in some areas of Connecticut including much of New Haven and Middlesex counties and parts of Hartford and New London counties. Usually a naturally occurring fungus will keep most outbreaks under control but the very dry spring was not conducive to the development of this gypsy moth caterpillar killing fungus which is why some areas saw large amounts of defoliation. The June rains encouraged the development of the fungus and late control was observed. For more information on gypsy moths, check out: <http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/gypsymothld.htm>

## **Spider Mites a Problem on Junipers**

The Center has been getting calls about spider mites on junipers and a number of other plants. As temperatures increase so don't spider mite infestations. Most people notice their plants look a little off color from a distance and upon closer inspection find webbing and foliage that is stippled or bronze looking. Eventually leaves or needles turn brown and fall off. Spider mites feed on the sap of plants and if left uncontrolled, the plant often dies. Often, encouraging the many natural enemies of spider mites and using a forceful stream of water can keep populations in check. For more information on spider mites, check out our [fact sheet](#).

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include crabgrass, grubs, lily leaf beetles, keeping animals out of the garden, clover mites, cottony camellia scale on holly and yews, and invasive plant questions. If you have specific questions, gardening queries or pest problems, check out our website, [www.ladybug.uconn.edu](http://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](mailto:ladybug@uconn.edu). Your County Cooperative Extension Centers are also listed on the website.

## **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.

## **Most Americans Could be Fed Entirely by Local Food**

New research shows that more than 90% of Americans could be fed entirely by food grown or raised within 100 miles of their homes.

The research, led by University of California - Merced Professor Elliott Campbell, used farmland mapping data and land productivity information to compare the potential calorie production of existing farms to the population of American cities. Studying the farms and population within a local radius, they were able to determine what percentage of the population could be supported entirely by food grown locally.

The researchers found surprising potential in major coastal cities. For example, New York City could feed only 5% of its population within 50 miles, but could feed as much as 30% within 100 miles. The greater Los Angeles area could feed as much as 50% within 100 miles.

More people could eat entirely locally if they switched to a plant-based diet. For example, local food around San Diego can support 35% of the people based on the average U.S. diet, but as much as 51% of the population if people switched to plant-based diets.

The popularity of “farm to table” has skyrocketed in the past few years as people become more interested in supporting local farmers, but Elliot’s research suggests that there is enough farmland that eating locally doesn’t have to be a passing fad. However, as his maps suggest, careful planning and policies are needed to protect farmland from suburbanization and development.

The research did not specifically look at greenhouse farming as an option to grow more food locally, especially in urban areas.

You can find and purchase the full research paper in the June 2015 peer-reviewed publication *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*.

From Inside Grower 6/22/15

## **LET’S CELEBRATE! 2015 is the INTERNATIONAL YEAR of SOILS**

### **Watch the International Year of Soils: Soils Are Living**

Soil is alive. There are more species of organisms in the soil than there are above ground. These organisms include everything from badgers and gophers to bacteria and viruses that are invisible to the human eye. A single handful of soil contains millions of individual living organisms. Many of the ecosystem services provided by soil are actually performed by soil organisms. Watch the July video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qas9tPQKd8w>

Learn more about International Year of Soils at [www.soils.org/IYS](http://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 July Gardener:**

1. Do not prune rhododendrons and azaleas after the second week of July as they will begin setting their buds for next year’s blooms.
2. Put netting on fruit trees and bushes a few weeks before the fruit begins to ripen to protect it from birds and squirrels.
3. Fertilize roses for the last time in mid-July.
4. Pinch back herbs to stop flowering and encourage branching. Pick herbs early in the day when they are well-hydrated. Air dry, microwave or freeze.
5. Raise the mower height to 3 inches in hot weather.

6. Water plants and lawn early in the day to reduce the loss of water due to evaporation. Check containers again at day's end as they can dry out during a hot day.
7. Control mosquitos by eliminating sources of standing water.
8. Inspect garden plants regularly for the presence of insects and disease.
9. Grub controls should be applied to the lawn no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>.
10. Check out the [UConn Dairy Bar](#)'s summer ice cream flavors – peach and blueberry cheesecake!

## Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:

**CELEBRATE UCONN'S ANNUAL BUG WEEK FROM July 20th to 25<sup>th</sup>**



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:

- Educational workshop at the Museum of Natural History
- Insect collecting event at Spring Valley Student Farm
- Tour of the insect collections with the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Insect cooking event
- Photo contest
- **UConn 2015 BioBlitz**

For a full schedule of events, please visit our website at [www.bugs.uconn.edu](http://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](http://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](http://www.bugs.uconn.edu) or email [bugweek@uconn.edu](mailto:bugweek@uconn.edu) or call 860-486-9228.

### **2015 UConn EXTENSION HOME FOOD PRESERVATION WORKSHOPS**

Learn the basics of home food preservation. The workshops consist of 4 sessions and will be offered 3 times: on Tuesday nights at the New Haven County Extension Center (July 7, 14, 21, 28), Saturday during the day at the Middlesex County Extension Center (July 11, 25 and August 15) and Thursday during the day at the Middlesex County Extension Center (July 30 and August 6). There is a \$10 registration fee. Go to [www.ladybug.uconn.edu](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu) for more information and registration forms or contact Diane Hirsch at (203) 407-3163 or [diane.hirsch@uconn.edu](mailto:diane.hirsch@uconn.edu).

### **HYDRANGEA DAY July 18<sup>th</sup>**

At Van Wilgen's Garden Center in North Branford, CT from 10 am to 1 pm featuring Special Guest, Dr. Michael Dirr. Dr Dirr is the father of the revolutionary Endless Summer Hydrangea Collection. He will be discussing what everyone wants to know about hydrangeas. Along with everything you need to know about planting, pruning, fertilizing and cut flowers for arrangements as well as design suggestions for great companion plants.

There will be a raffle and light refreshments will be served. This is a **FREE** event. We are just looking for people to let us know if you will be joining us at [RSVP@vanwilgens.com](mailto:RSVP@vanwilgens.com).

### **OUTDOOR EXOTIC BLOOMING PLANT SALE at UConn Blooms Ends July 10th!**

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. 50% off all of our plants in Greenhouse 2-3 and 50% off all large cactus in Greenhouse 2-2. Come check them out!

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](mailto:uconnblooms@uconn.edu).

### **MILLION POLLINATOR GARDEN CHALLENGE**

Twenty-two different conservation and gardening organizations and seed businesses have formed a new collaboration called the National Pollinator Garden Network. One of its goals is to develop one million pollinator gardens across the country by 2016. The '[Million Pollinator Gardens Challenge](#)' was

announced with the help of First Lady Michelle Obama as part of an event for her Let's Move initiative, which teaches kids about healthy eating and the importance of exercise.

## **FREE MILKWEED SEEDS**

[SaveOurMonarchs.org](http://SaveOurMonarchs.org) offers free milkweed seeds to anyone requesting them.

The seeds are of the perennial species swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, which proliferates across the US.

All Monarch butterfly caterpillars require an *Asclepias* species for their survival. Swamp milkweeds are great additions to perennial, wildflower and pollinator gardens and, once established require virtually no maintenance.

**Save Our Monarchs** provides over 100,000 milkweed seed packets per MONTH, to all that request them. Our hopes are to provide over 1 million this year.

Just send your request for seeds to [SaveOurMonarchs.org](http://SaveOurMonarchs.org) and you will receive the free **Milkweed Seed Packets** immediately.

Remember: **No Milkweed, No Monarchs!**

(Editor note: This species does require a cold stratification period. Fill a small pot with moistened soilless potting mix, sprinkle seeds on top, cover lightly with more mix, place in a zipper lock bag and then into your refrigerator for about 2 months. Then take them out and expose to light and warmer temperatures and the seeds will germinate. Do it now or wait until next February. OR plant outdoors in the later fall where they are to grow. Cover lightly with soil and look for seedlings in late April or May the following year.)

## **We Need Your Help – Take Our Invasive Worm Survey**

Crazy snake worms are just beginning to become noticeable in garden beds now. 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](http://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](mailto:dawn.pettinelli@uconn.edu). Thank you!!!

# **KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!**

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**BPA May Prompt More Fat in the Human Body**

**Top Salads with Eggs to Better Absorb Vegetables' Carotenoids**

<http://grist.org/food/farms-are-growing-more-vegetables-but-americans-still-want-to-skip-straight-to-dessert/>

**Spicy Solution to Curb Colorectal Cancer**

<http://civileats.com/2015/06/15/superwheat-kernza-could-save-our-soil-and-feed-us-well/>

**Local sweet corn ready for 4th of July | Morning Ag Clips**

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

**NPR: Oh no! Why the world may be running out of chocolate farmers!**

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

## **CLIMATE CORNER**

**Climate-Change Impacts Heightened by Popularity of Coastal Living**

**Climate change threatens to undermine the last half century of health gains**

**Plants may run out of time to grow under ongoing climate change**

**How to convert US to 100 percent renewable energy**

## **WHO KNEW ?**

**What makes fireflies glow?**

**Fruity Alternative to Toxic Insect Repellents**

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fruity-alternative-to-toxic-insect-repellents/>

**Pet owners reluctant to face up to their cats' kill count**

**Snake fungal disease parallels white-nose syndrome in bats**

**Ladybird colors reveal their toxicity**

Folic acid may help elderly weather heat waves. **READ MORE...**

**Chemical Tsunami Goes Unnoticed: Of Nearly 85,000 Chemicals Used Commercially in U.S., 20 Percent Kept Secret**

**UCONN SUSTAINABLE LIVING WEBSITE:** [www.sustainableliving.uconn.edu](http://www.sustainableliving.uconn.edu)

**UCONN EXTENSION WEBSITE:** [www.extension.uconn.edu](http://www.extension.uconn.edu)

**UCONN FOOD SAFETY WEBSITE:** [www.foodsafety.uconn.edu](http://www.foodsafety.uconn.edu)

## **‘BONSAI BLUE’ JACARANDA**



Photo from [www.hortmag.com](http://www.hortmag.com)

We love ‘Bonsai Blue’ jacaranda for its deep purple flowers as well as its fernlike foliage that adds a unique textural element to the garden. The tubular, dark purple flowers that emerge in the spring are irresistible to hummingbirds. Once established, this plant is tolerant of drought and heat.

**Botanical Name:** ‘Bonsai Blue’ jacaranda

**Flowers:** Deep purple, tubular shaped

**Blooms:** April-May

**Foliage:** Bright green, fern like, semi-evergreen

**Habit:** Fast growing, 6 feet tall and 5 feet wide

**Origins:** American Tropics

**Zones:** 9-11

**Growing ‘Bonsai Blue’:** This plant prefers rich, well-drained soil in the sun. It is drought tolerant once established. In warmer climates provide ‘Bonsai Blue’ with deep, regular watering the first growing season. In USDA Zones colder than Zone 9, ‘Bonsai Blue’ may be better suited for container gardening and brought indoors in the winter or treated as an annual.



Jacaranda is a native to tropical and subtropical regions of Central America, South America, Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica and the Bahamas. It has been planted extensively in Asia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. In South Africa the town of Pretoria is popularly known as The Jacaranda City because of the vast number of Jacaranda trees used in the streetscapes, parks and gardens.

- See more at: <http://www.hortmag.com/featured/bonsai-blue-jacaranda-is-at-home-in-the-garden-and-containers#sthash.EUjZ7EQn.dpuf>

June 2, 2015 | by Jennifer Smith

## **"Savannah" takes Best in Show at the 2015 Biltmore International Rose Trials**

*Asheville, NC (June 2015)*



An international jury of rose experts awarded "Savannah," a dusky pink rose bred in Germany, the George & Edith Vanderbilt Award for Most Outstanding Rose/Best in Show during the third annual Biltmore International Rose Trials competition on Saturday, May 30.

Growers, distributors and all-around rose appreciators joined the jury for the event, the culmination of two years' growth of roses submitted by breeders in 2013 to be cared for and tested by Biltmore's expert gardening team. Rose breeds from the U.S. and several other countries made it through preliminary judging rounds for Saturday's final contest, held at Biltmore's 120-year-old Rose Garden.

"Savannah" is bred by Kordes Rosen in Germany, and also captured the categories for Best Hybrid Tea and Most Fragrant. Two roses bred by Bill Radler took three categories. Radler is creator of the breed called Knock Out Roses, well-known in both home gardening and professional landscaping circles.

Pat Shanley, international jury member and president-elect of the American Rose Society, said trials like these provide an opportunity to not only admire the beauty of roses, but to eradicate the long-thought notion that roses are difficult to grow and need to be treated with pesticides. The roses trialed at Biltmore's contest are bred especially for the casual gardener to grow and nurture.

The trial roses are on display amid rose specimens that have been growing in Biltmore's Rose Garden for more than 100 years. Guests at Biltmore are welcome to stroll through and judge for themselves.

Here are all of the winners of the 2015 Biltmore International Rose Trials. A photo gallery of all of the winning roses is available [here](#).

- **The George & Edith Vanderbilt Award for Most Outstanding Rose of the Trials (Best in Show):** “Savannah,” bred by Kordes Rosen in Germany
- **The Pauline Merrell Award for Best Hybrid Tea:** “Savannah,” bred by Kordes Rosen in Germany
- **The Cornelia Vanderbilt Cecil Award for Most Fragrant Rose:** “Savannah,” bred by Kordes Rosen in Germany
- **The Award of Excellence for Best Established Rose:** “Queen Elizabeth,” a Grandiflora rose.
- **The Edith Wharton Award for Best Floribunda:** “Tequila Gold,” bred by Meilland in France.
- **The Honorable John Cecil for Open Group:** “Popcorn Drift,” bred by Nova Flora, a breeder in West Grove, Pa.
- **The Gilded Age Award for Best Climber:** “FlyingKiss,” bred by Ping Lim, based in Portland, Oregon.
- **The Chauncey Beadle Award for Best Shrub Rose:** “Peachy Keen,” bred by Bill Radler, of Milwaukee, Wisc.
- **The William Cecil Award for Best Growth Habit:** “Phloxy Baby,” bred by Bill Radler, of Milwaukee, Wisc.
- **The Lord Burleigh Award for Most Disease Resistant:** “Peachy Keen,” bred by Bill Radler, of Milwaukee, Wisc.

### **About Biltmore**

Located in Asheville, North Carolina, Biltmore was the vision of George W. Vanderbilt. Designed by Richard Morris Hunt, America’s largest home is a 250-room French Renaissance chateau, exhibiting the Vanderbilt family’s original collection of furnishings, art and antiques. Biltmore estate encompasses more than 8,000 acres including renowned gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture. Today, Biltmore has grown to include Antler Hill Village, which features the award-winning Winery and Antler Hill Farm; the four-star Inn on Biltmore Estate; Equestrian Center; numerous restaurants; event and meeting venues; and Biltmore For Your Home, the company’s licensed products division. More information is available at [www.biltmore.com](http://www.biltmore.com) or by calling 877-BILTMORE.

# **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](http://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>

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July 2015, DMP