



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

www.ladybug.uconn.edu

FEBRUARY IS FOR FLORAL CARPET ROSE, FRIDAY TOURS, FLORAL ARRANGMENTS & CT FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW!

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:



Flower Carpet Rose from Tesselaar.com



Bring Your Questions to CT Flower Show



EEB Greenhouse Tours. Photo by C. Morse

20th Anniversary of Flower Carpet Roses:

In February of 1995, Floral Carpet roses were introduced to the U.S. by Tessaleer Plants. This unique rose blooms throughout the summer, is resistant to black spot and powdery mildew, could be used as a groundcover wide, short hedge or as a focal point in large perennial gardens, requires shaping but little text-book pruning and can tolerate cold temperatures (hardy to zone 4). Now Floral Carpet Roses can be found in at least 10 colors and Tessaleer's style of branding (pink pot, tag with plant information, planting and care instructions) has become fairly standard in the nursery industry. <http://www.tesselaar.com/plants/flower-carpet-roses/>

Come Meet Us at the 2015 CT Flower Show:

February 19 – 22, 2015 is the CT Flower & Garden Show at the Hartford Convention Center. Any fortunate visitors who can actually get to their soil are welcome to bring a sample for a free pH test and limestone recommendations. Horticulturists from the UConn Home & Garden Education Center plus Master Gardener volunteers and coordinators will be there to answer all of your gardening questions. The landscape and floral exhibits will bring a welcome breath of spring that we all need. See you there!

Greenhouse Fridays at EEB

Join Professor Terry Webster on February 13 for a tour of the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology greenhouses. This is the first of four Greenhouse Fridays. Other dates include February 27 and March 13. Tours begin at 12:15 pm and run for approximately one hour. Each tour will feature a different part of the greenhouse collection, which includes over 3,000 plant species from around the world. The greenhouses are located behind the Torrey Life Sciences Building on North Eagleville Road.

For more information, contact: Terry Webster, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at terry.webster@uconn.edu

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include seed starting, biting insects, limestone requirements, houseplant care, Indian meal moths and trapping mice. 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 Support Urban Life

Soils are the firm foundation for civilizations, both past and present. Though we sometimes lose sight of soil in our cities we must remember that a structure is only as strong as its foundation. We have cut deep into the soil...our footprint indelibly stamped on the landscape.

View the latest IYS video highlighting February's theme about soil in the urban landscape:

<https://www.soils.org/iys/monthly-videos>

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

Ten Tips for the February Gardener:

1. Visit our booth at the 2015 CT Flower and Garden Show, February 19th-22nd, at the Connecticut Convention Center. Bring ½ cup of soil for a free pH test and your gardening questions for free advice.
2. Provide houseplants with increased humidity by misting often or placing plants over a tray of moist pebbles. Clean the leaves of smooth-leaved plants like dracaena, philodendron, and ficus of dust.
3. Purchase seed flats, containers, and peat pellets. Make your own seed starter mix by combining equal parts of sphagnum peat moss, perlite and vermiculite.
4. If you start your seeds under fluorescent lights check the ends of the tubes for dark rings. This is a sign of aging and they should be replaced. Dispose of the used tubes properly.
5. Start slow growers such as celery, leek, or onion transplants. This is also a good time to start petunias and begonias. Consider using pelletized seed.
6. Check any plants that are being overwintered in the cellar or garage to see if they need water. If the soil is frozen they may need to be moved to a slightly warmer location.
7. Birdwatchers may want to participate in Cornell's Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb 13 – 16th. For more information, go to www.birdcount.org.

8. Look for tan gypsy moth egg masses on tree trunks and branches. Scrape or brush off the masses to remove them and then destroy them.
9. Check on perennials, adding mulch if needed.
10. Turn the compost pile during any stretches of mild weather.

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:

SAVE THE DATE:

February 14, 2015 - Vegetable Pest and Disease Workshops II: Solanaceae & Legumes. (For beginning farmers but open to everyone), 9 am – 1 pm, Tolland County Extension Center. Information and registration can be found at <http://www.extension.uconn.edu/root/feb-veg-wkshp.php> Contact: joan.allen@uconn.edu or (860) 486-6740

February 14, 2015 - Bald Eagle River Excursion and Museum Tour - Learn about the heritage of New England's great river as you explore the museum and enjoy an eagle-watching cruise with a naturalist on the Connecticut River. 10:30 am – 2:30 pm. Essex CT. Registration required/fee.
http://www.cac.uconn.edu/mnhcurrentcalendar.html#bald_eagle

February 19 – 22, 2015 – CT Flower and Garden Show, *The Spirit of Spring*. Bring your garden questions to be answered by UConn Home & Garden Education Center horticulturists and Master Gardener volunteers and coordinators. Bring ½ cup of soil for a free pH test by UConn Soil Testing Lab staff.

February 26, 2015 – Teale Lecture: Dispatches From a Hotter Planet and a Cooler Cosmos
Seth Borenstein, AP Science Writer and New York University Adjunct Professor. Just what can science tell us about where we live, who we are, and what our future will be? 4 pm – Konover Auditorium, Dodd Research Center, UConn. http://www.cac.uconn.edu/mnhcurrentcalendar.html#hotter_planet

February 27, 2015 - Look Up! It's the Winter Milky Way! Dr. Cynthia Peterson, Physics, UConn. Explore winter's night sky during this visit to UConn's historic planetarium. Advance registration required/fee.
http://www.cac.uconn.edu/mnhcurrentcalendar.html#milky_way

March 5, 2015 – UConn Perennial Plant Conference. Speakers include Mike Yanny, Kristen Schwab, Mark Brand, Denise Adams, Kim Stoner, Kelly Norris, Ben Campbell, Mark Dwyer. Rome Ballroom, UConn Storrs Campus. <http://www.2015perennial.uconn.edu/>

March 19, 2015 – UConn Garden Conference. Rome Ballroom, UConn Storrs Campus.

The 2015 UConn Garden Conference features an exciting lineup of top national speakers and local experts on various aspects of garden design, maintenance, and plant selection. This all-day conference offers valuable educational opportunities for gardeners of all levels, from the casual gardener to the Advanced Master Gardener. The speakers featured at the conference will include:

- Keynote speaker, author, and acclaimed photojournalist **Mark Hirsch**, who will present a talk based on his inspirational book *That Tree*.
- **Art Wolk**, award-winning bulb grower, writer and lecturer, speaking on *Bulb Forcing for Beginners & the Seriously Smitten*.
- Landscape designer **Amy Sampson**, owner of AES Landscape Design & Consultation, talking about *Residential Landscape Design Principles*.
- Smithsonian Gardens Horticulturist **James Gagliardi**, speaking on *Creating Seasonal Interest for Winter Gardens*.

- Professional Environmentalist and Wild Foods Enthusiast **Russ Cohen**, speaking on *Edible Native Plants for Your Landscape*.

Program and registration information, including online registration, is available at

www.2015garden.uconn.edu. A pre-registration fee of \$90 per person is due by March 12. The fee is \$100 per person if postmarked after March 12 or for walk-ins. **A registration discount of \$20 per person if registering groups of 3 or more together is available.** Student registration is \$25 with valid school ID. Registration is limited and nonrefundable. Please make checks payable to the **University of Connecticut and send to Joan Allen, University of Connecticut, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, 1376 Storrs Road, Unit 4067, Storrs, CT 06269-4067.**

Included with your registration: an information packet, lunch, morning and afternoon snacks, free parking, and selected autographed books plus a wide array of gardening books for sale at the Garden Conference bookstore. Plants are also available for purchase.

If you have questions about the conference, please contact Joan Allen at 860-486-6740, email: joan.allen@uconn.edu or visit our website at: www.2015garden.uconn.edu.

March 7-8, 2015. The Connecticut Horse Symposium is scheduled for March 7-8, 2015. This year's symposium will feature clinics on dressage by Meg Brauch 9-12 Saturday morning; showmanship, trail, and Western horsemanship by Brooke Fowlers 1-4 PM Saturday and Draft Horse Driving by Cedar Knoll Farm 9-12 Sunday. Horses will be available for use in the clinics by those in the Horse Practicum and participants are invited to bring their own horses. In addition to the demonstrations, there will be a vendor fair and a UConn women's polo match as well as other demonstrations. Please go to <http://animalscience.uconn.edu/horseSymp/index.php> for more information or contact: Jenifer Nadeau at jennifer.nadeau@uconn.edu

December 20, 2014 – March 4, 2015 – Shebaug Bald Eagle Observation Area open. Located in Southbury, the area is open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays between 9 am and 1 pm. Free of charge but advance reservations required. Call (800) 368-8954 between 9 am and 3 pm, Tuesdays through Fridays.

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

Advanced Pruning Techniques Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015 from 6 to 8 pm. Tolland County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Feb 11th. Instructor: Kevin Wilcox

Bonsai Workshop Saturday, Feb 21, 2015 from 9 am – 5 pm. Litchfield County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: Feb. 13th. Instructor: David Silver. Space limited. Check before registering.

Designing the Shade Garden Wednesday, Feb 25, 2015 from 6 to 8 pm. Tolland County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: Feb 18th. Instructor: Sarah Bailey

Roses: History, Culture & Selection Wednesday, Feb 25, 2015 from 1 to 3 pm. New Haven County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Feb 18th. Instructor: Rebecca Martorelli

Grafting Workshop Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 1 to 4 pm. Auer Farm, Bloomfield, CT. Deadline for Registration: Feb 27th. Instructor: Kevin Wilcox

Understanding Fertilizers: When, Why & How Saturday, Mar 7, 2015 from 10 am to noon. New London County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: Feb 27th. Instructor: Robert Durgy

Scrambling, Rambling & Sprawling: A Closer Look at Weeping Plants. Saturday, Mar 7, 2015 from 10 am to noon. Litchfield County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Feb 27th. Instructor: Adam Wheeler

VALENTINE’S DAY FLOWERS AVAILABLE AT UCONN BLOOMS

Roses are red, violets are blue and Valentine’s Day is just around the corner from you! Whether it’s a dozen roses or two, let UConn Blooms help tell that special someone how much they are loved and appreciated. We are selling, with tax included, single roses for \$5, three roses for \$15, six for \$28, and a dozen for \$50. UConn Blooms will be selling roses in vases too. A three rose vase is \$23.93, a six rose vase is selling at \$42.54, and a dozen rose vase is \$63.81. If red is not the color for you we will be selling small pink and white baskets for \$26. Also, to help set your romantic scene we will be selling rose petals for \$5 too! Orders will be accepted online at uconnblooms@uconn.edu until the end of the day Feb 12, 2015. We will be happy to take orders over the phone and we only deliver to on campus. If you can’t stop by the store, UConn Blooms will be selling rose bunches on Feb 14th at the Student Union for cash payments only.

UConn Blooms also has Orchids for only \$22.95. These are beautiful popular plants that warm many offices and homes. They are very simple to maintain and come in brilliant stunning colors including bicolors with unique spots or blotches on the petals. Perfect for a birthday or just to treat yourself! Call or stop in today before they are gone!

UConnBlooms 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

More whole grains associated with lower mortality, especially cardiovascular

<http://labroots.com/user/news/article/id/249285/title/why-most-food-labels-are-wrong-about-calories>

Blueberries may help reduce blood pressure and arterial stiffness

Oranges versus orange juice: Which one might be better for your health?

The recess swap: Getting kids to eat their veggies at school

CLIMATE CORNER

Global warming reduces wheat production markedly if no adaptation takes place

Estimated social cost of climate change not accurate, scientists say

NASA, NOAA find 2014 warmest year in modern record

WHO KNEW ?

Pitcher plants 'switch off' traps to capture more ants

Shade coffee is for the birds

Study Predicts No Farmers And Ranchers Under Age 35 By 2033

How vitamin C helps plants beat the sun

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

UConn Extension Website: www.extension.uconn.edu

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

Seed Search Engine

www.pickacarrot.com is a customized search engine that helps farmers and gardeners search and compare varieties of seeds from dozens of catalogs. The site features a dedicated search tool that focuses on organic seeds. The service is free to users.



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>

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