



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

www.ladybug.uconn.edu

MAY IS FOR MINERS, MITES & MACAROONS!

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:



Boxwood leafminer damage from oregonstate.edu



Spinach Crown Mite by J. Allen UConn



Lily Leaf Beetle by D. Ellis, UConn

Boxwood Leafminers

Some boxwood owners are noticing brown blisters on the leaves of their plants. These are most likely due to boxwood leafminer activity. Boxwood leafminers are found throughout the U.S. but prefer some species of boxwoods over others. At this time the overwintering pupae are hidden between the upper and lower sides of the leaves. Adults will emerge as a small yellow to reddish orange gnat-like insect this month. The midges swarm over boxwoods, mate and lay eggs in the undersides of the leaves. When the eggs hatch, the young larvae will begin feeding inside the leaf and the cycle will repeat itself next year. Because the larvae are inside the leaves, it is difficult to control them with insecticides. Cultural controls include selecting resistant boxwood cultivars and species and pruning out infected foliage. Call the UConn Home & Garden Education Center (860) 486-6271 for other control suggestions.

Spinach Crown Mites

Some spinach cultivars are expected to have pretty bumpy, puckered leaves. If your plants are not that type, but the leaves look like that or have small holes in them when they expand, crown mites (*Rhizoglyphus* sp.) are a possible cause. Conditions that favor mite activity and damage are a soil high in organic matter and a cool, moist environment. Mites can be found in both soil and within the smallest, just-opening leaves in the crown

of the plant. Read more at: <https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/2015/04/17/deformed-spinach-could-be-crown-mites/>

Lily Leaf Beetle - Your Help is Needed For Our Research Project!

Researchers at UConn are conducting a lily leaf beetle biological control project during the summer of 2015. If you grow lilies in Connecticut, have a minimum of 12 plants in the lily family (Oriental lilies, Asiatic lilies, Turk's Cap lilies, or Fritillaria) in your garden, and have lily leaf beetles feeding on them, we would like your help. We will be introducing two species of beneficial parasitic wasps in June and would like to collect lily leaf beetle larvae from June through August. The parasitic wasps attack lily leaf beetle larvae and over time these natural enemies will disperse from release sites and begin to spread through the state to reduce populations of lily leaf beetles. The wasps were first introduced in Connecticut in 2012 and have also been released in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, where they are establishing and starting to impact lily leaf beetle populations. Please contact Gail Reynolds (email gail.reynolds@uconn.edu; phone 860-345-5234) if you would like to participate in the research project.

For additional information, please see <http://ipm.uconn.edu/documents/raw2/html/569.php?aid=569>



Lily Leaf Beetle Larva by Donna Ellis, UConn

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include azalea leafminers, orange growths on hardwood trees (<http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=452>), crabgrass control, fertilizing lawns, pruning roses, blueberry care and types of wood to use for raised beds. 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.

MAY is LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

The Eastern Highlands Health District in Mansfield, CT wants to spread the word about Lyme disease, ticks and prevention. According to Robert Miller, Director of Health at the EHHD, “This winter’s snow cover provided good protection for the tick population. We are expecting a very active and very hungry tick population this spring.” Read about Lyme disease and their BLAST strategy for prevention at:

http://www.ehhd.org/filestorage/111/EHHD_Observes_Lyme_Disease_Awareness_Month_in_May.pdf

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

Watch the International Year of Soils : Soils Support Buildings and Infrastructure

Your home, school, workplace...all of them are built on soil...and often with it. The foundations of buildings need to be on strong soil to support them. Septic systems, storm water systems and waste water management all rely on soils to help clean our water. Soils are the backbone of the world we live in! Watch the May video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJi-73qeE-0>

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 May Gardener:

1. Thin or compacted turf will benefit from core aeration and over-seeding. Keep new seed moist until germination.
2. Remove spent blooms on tulips, daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs to focus its energy on growing new bulbs rather than producing seeds.
3. Plant tomatoes, peppers and melons after the danger of frost is past and the soil temperature is 65° F – usually around the last week in May. Rotate plants each year to reduce insect and disease problems.
4. Ground covers such as vinca, ajuga, pachysandra, creeping foamflowers, lamium, and ivy can be divided, transplanted and fertilized now.
5. Start to monitor lilies for red lily leaf beetles. Check the underside of leaves for the clusters of tiny orange eggs and remove. Spray with Neem every 5-7 days to kill larvae and adults or handpick and destroy.
6. Plant dahlias, gladioli, cannas and other summer flowering bulbs. Put hoops and stakes in place for floppy plants.
7. Turn your compost pile to add oxygen and speed decomposition.
8. Feed azaleas, rhododendrons, and other ericaceous ornamentals with fertilizers for acid-loving plants.
9. Begin deadheading roses and apply fertilizer in mid-May, mid-June and mid-July.
10. Fill hanging baskets and containers with trumpet-shaped blooms such as nasturtiums, nicotiana, fuschias, and salvias to attract hummingbirds.

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:

SAVE THE DATE:

THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA ★ CONNECTICUT UNIT ★ ANNUAL HERB SYMPOSIUM

Star Spangled Herbs

An herbal parade of red,
white & blue flowering herbs



Wednesday, May 27, 2015
9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Join us for informative presentations,
delicious herb-themed luncheon
featuring herb of the year, savory &
exciting gifts and raffle baskets for sale!

Pond House Cafe ★ Elizabeth Park
1555 Asylum Ave. ★ West Hartford, Connecticut

Herb Society Member \$30 ★ Non-Member \$40 ★ Patron \$50 (listing in program)

To reserve your place mail form + check to: Kathy Donohue, P.O. Box 1231, Litchfield, CT 06759
Checks payable to HSA-CTU • More info: email jack.kathy.herbs@gmail.com, or phone 860-567-9656

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Member _____ Non-member _____ Patron _____ Amount Enclosed _____

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

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 Mother's Day Flowers

Geraniums, petunias, gerbera daisies, pansies, nasturtiums, coleus, portulaca, begonias, treasure flowers, vinca and many other annuals are on sale now at UConn Blooms. Our three greenhouses have a wide assortment of annuals, perennials, tropical foliage plants and cacti. With a vast array of reds, pinks, purples, oranges and yellows, these plants will brighten any Mother's Day planting. Help Mom or Grandma start their spring/summer garden with UConn grown plants. The planting season is upon us, so order early to ensure the best quality.

UConn Blooms also has a cooler full of fresh cut flowers for indoor display or that Mother's Day table. Roses, carnations, daisies, irises and hydrangeas make a beautiful bouquet or centerpiece. Honor that special woman in your life with nature's beauty of color and fragrance.

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

World's Hottest Pepper At Risk Of Losing Its Title

New evidence for how green tea, apples could protect health

Pears could be part of a healthy diet to manage diabetes

Diet swap has dramatic effects on colon cancer risk for Americans and Africans

CLIMATE CORNER

This wind turbine design may not be feasible now but it looks promising:

http://bullhorn.nationofchange.org/silent_rooftop_turbine_produce_energy_needs

Pollen and clouds: April flowers bring May showers?

WHO KNEW ?

Plants can take up nicotine from contaminated soils and from smoke

Make your home a home for the birds

'Flameproof' falcons and hawks: Most polluted bird on record found in Vancouver

Are bees 'hooked' on nectar containing pesticides?

Facts about our microbial menagerie

Bat disease: Scientists identify tissue-degrading enzyme in white-nose syndrome

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

UConn Extension Website: www.extension.uconn.edu

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

Shasta Daisy 'Macaroon' – one of new introductions from Terra Nova Nurseries

(<http://www.terravanurseries.com/growers/leucanthemummacaroon-p-800.html>)



The perfect little "cookie", *Leucanthemum 'Macaroon'* forms a low, tight mound only 13" tall and is well-branched with many stems. The double flowers start out yellow and open to bicolor white with yellow centers, then when fully mature are white with gold centers. Charming and useful in containers, edges and in mass. (Photo and text from: www.terranoanurseries.com)

And Now For Something Completely Different!



Grafted Ketchup 'n' Fries (photo and text from Territorial Seeds)

NEW! Potatoes and Tomatoes harvested off the same blimey plant! This exciting grafted combination was first introduced to U.K. home gardeners last year, and was a smashing success. Now for the first time this same tomato/potato grafted combination known as Ketchup 'n' Fries is being exclusively offered mail order to American gardeners by Territorial Seed Company. This thoroughly tested duo is the ultimate container plant, but will do equally well in the open garden.

ABOVE GROUND: Tomatoes

You can expect harvests of over 500 red cherry tomatoes with a Brix level of 10.2. Makes for delicious snacking, salad toppers, drying and some very sweet ketchup!

BELOW GROUND: Potatoes

Incredibly you'll be making your French fries from up to 4 1/2 pounds of delicious white potatoes. They also taste great baked, mashed, or roasted.

Tomatoes are members of the potato family and are therefore naturally compatible with potatoes. Each Ketchup 'n' Fries plant is hand-grafted to create this unique double cropping novelty. There is no genetic modification—it's an all-natural process.

Plants come with complete growing instructions (not that you really need them as TomTatos® are easy to grow) and a certification of authenticity to demonstrate proof to your astonished friends. They are going to think Ketchup 'n' Fries are the Bees Knees!

Ketchup 'n' Fries TomTatos are shipped in 2 1/2 inch pots in our custom designed plant shipping box so you can be sure your plant will arrive in perfect shape. Brilliant!

Available only within the contiguous US.

www.territorialseeds.com

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 “

May 2015, DMP