



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

www.ladybug.uconn.edu



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JANUARY IS FOR JOHNNY JUMP-UPS, BLUE JAYS & JAPANESE MUSTARD

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:



Johnny jump-ups by DMP



Blue Jay by DMP



www.all-americanselections.org

Johnny Jump-ups in January

Finally colder temperatures are starting to arrive but the month of December was the warmest on record for much of New England according to www.accuweather.com. That was great for us Northeasterners traveling over the holidays but caused a lot of plant weirdness. Calls had been coming in about dandelions blooming in people's lawns, flowering cherries and rhododendrons sporting colorful blooms, Johnny jump-ups flowering in the gardens and spring flowering bulbs sending forth foliage. There really is not much we can do about the temperatures except hope that they do not plummet too quickly as our woody plants, in particular, like to go into full dormancy gradually and some injury may occur if the temperatures change too rapidly.

Blue Jays Get a Bad Rap

Blue Jays are gregarious, raucous birds that liven up the winter bird feeding station. For unknown reasons they have been given a bad rap as egg-stealing, nestling killing varmints when scientific studies have found that for the most part, blue jays feed mainly on insects, nuts, berries and seeds, and occasionally on small animals. They

make a huge contribution to the distribution of nut bearing trees, and are credited for the spread of oaks, beeches and in the past chestnuts into new areas. Their vocal range is quite varied. Find more information on them at: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Blue_Jay/id

2016 All America Selection Vegetable Winner:

Mustard greens may not be on everyone's top ten favorite vegetables but I think that is only because they have not tried them. For the first time, AAS has awarded a Japanese mustard, 'Red Kingdom F1' as one of their 2016 AAS award winners. Not only is the color just a beautiful addition to salads and stir fries, but this mild tasting green could be grown as an ornamental in garden beds or even containers. I grow mustards each year and since they bolt (flower and produce seeds) as soon as summer temperatures begin to rise, I pull all but a few plants which I allow to reseed. This gives me a second crop in the fall and sometimes new plants for the following year. 'Red Kingdom F1' is said to tolerate higher temperatures than other mustards so the new leaves can be harvested over a longer growing season. Also yields are reportedly higher so this may be a great new plant to try.

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include sweet alyssum blooming, poinsettias losing leaves, springtails, boxwood problems and houseplant ID. 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.

Ten Tips for the January Gardener:

1. 2015 was a banner year for gypsy moth caterpillars in Connecticut. Check for tan gypsy moth egg masses on tree trunks and branches, scrape or brush off and destroy.
2. When you are finished with holiday evergreen boughs, use them to mulch tender perennials and shrubs.
3. Inspect stored bulbs, tubers and corms for rot or infestation. Discard those showing signs of decay or insect damage.
4. Review garden catalogs for new vegetable varieties to try. Consider varieties with improved insect and/or disease resistance and drought-tolerant types.
5. Winter is a good time to sign up for gardening classes or seminars offered by many garden centers, town recreation offices, or the [UConn Master Gardener Program](#).
6. Feed the birds regularly and see that they have water. Birds like suet, fruit, nuts and bread crumbs as well as bird seed.
7. Protect your young fruit trees from hungry mice that can chew the bark off at the soil line. Keep mulch several inches from trunks to keep the mice from hiding under it or consider putting wire-screen mouse guards around the trunks of the trees.
8. When using salt to melt ice on walks and driveways, spread it carefully to avoid damage to nearby shrubs. Consider using sand or sawdust instead.
9. Houseplants also will benefit from fertilizer applications once or twice this winter.

10. Seasonal decorations of poinsettia or cyclamen will continue to bloom with proper care. Keep the soil moist but remove foil wrapping to allow the water to drain out. Place your plant in a cool (60 to 65 degrees F) location that gets plenty of light.

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

February 18 – 21, 2016 – CT Flower and Garden Show, *In The Spotlight*. Bring your garden questions to be answered by UConn Home & Garden Education Center horticulturists and Master Gardener volunteers. Bring ½ cup of soil for a free pH test by UConn Soil Testing Lab staff. Collect your samples now!

March 17, 2016 – UConn Sustainable Landscape Conference (formerly Perennial Plant Conference). Speakers include Angela Palmer, Lisa Cowan, Irene Brady Palmer, Roy Dibilik, Debra Knapke and Richard Harper. Rome Ballroom, UConn Storrs Campus. More information to follow.

March 18, 2016 – UConn Garden Conference. Speakers include Joan Allen, Ruth Kassinger, Andrew Keys, Lynn Felici-Gallant and Jesse Bellemare. Rome Ballroom, UConn Storrs Campus. More information to follow.

January 30, 2016– The Bear Reality. Program at Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center, 341 Milford St., Burlington, CT. Starting at 1:30 pm Master Wildlife Conservationist Felicia Ortner will help dispel some of the myths associated with black bears and encourage the audience to become more bear aware. Pre-register by emailing laura.rogers-castro@ct.gov or by calling (860) 424-3011.

February 6, 2016 – Connecticut Horticultural Society Spring Symposium: *Gardening With A Purpose* Featuring Ken Druse, Nancy Dubrulle-Clemente and Dan Furman. Saturday February 6, 2016 from 8:30 am to 4 pm at the Mark Twain House, Hartford, CT. **Pre-registration Required:** Call the CHS office at 860-529-8713. **Click here for registration form.** **Fee:** Members, \$79 before JAN. 10, 2016; \$89 thereafter. Non-members: \$89 before Jan. 10, 2016, \$99 thereafter. Students: \$30. *Pre-registration required.*

February 27, 2015 – Bald Eagles. Program at Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center, 341 Milford St., Burlington, CT. Starting at 1:30 pm Brian Hess of the DEEP Wildlife Division will talk about eagles that winter and nest in Connecticut. He also will provide insight on the history of eagles in CT, how to identify juvenile and adult eagles and additional fun facts. A pre-program potluck will be hosted by Friends of Sessions Woods at 12:30 pm. Pre-register by emailing laura.rogers-castro@ct.gov or by calling (860) 424-3011.

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

Grafting Workshop Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016 (snow date Jan 30th) from 10 am to 1 pm. Auer Farm Bloomfield, CT. Deadline for Registration: Jan 15th. Instructor: Kevin Wilcox

Brighten Up Those Winter Blues – Great Plants for Winter Interest Tuesday, Jan 26, 2016 from 10 – 11:30 am. Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford. Deadline for registration: Jan. 19th. Instructor: Adam Wheeler

Dogwoods: Still Cornus to us Saturday, Jan 30, 2016 (snow date Feb 6th) from 10 am to 1 pm. New Haven County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: Jan 22th. Instructor: Kevin Wilcox

The Story of a 250-year-old Connecticut Farm Wednesday, Feb 10, 2016 (snow date Feb 17) from 1 to 3 pm. New Haven County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Feb 2nd. Instructor: Lars Demander

Managing Your Raised Beds: Tips & Techniques From A Market Gardener Monday, Feb 15, 2016 from 6 to 8 pm. Litchfield County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Feb 8th. Instructor: Ian Gibson



2016 Connecticut Horse Symposium

Saturday, March 5th
& Sunday, March 6th

Sponsored by the Department of Animal Science, University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus

Events include:

- Clinic with Ben Wallace on Body Control, Softness and Lateral Movement
- Meg Brauch Clinic on Natural Asymmetry of the Horse and Five Pillars of Straightness Training
- Hands On Horse Science on Sunday! Learn how to conduct a fecal flotation exam, take a horse's vital signs and more!
- Learn how to improve your riding by picking up techniques from the pros!
- UConn Morgan Drill Team
- UConn Polo Match
- Vendor fair
- Bring your own horse and participate in a clinic (pre-registration required)

As Always a Great Value!

\$20 Adults All Day Pass (Saturday only) **\$10** One Clinic **\$5** Age 9-18/ 4-H Leaders/ UConn Students/ 4-H Members/ after 1PM

\$50 Active Participation - Ride or Drive in Clinic (\$70 to use a UConn horse)

9 & under free! Money raised is used to directly support equine research and extension programs at the University of Connecticut! No pre registration needed for spectators!

Sponsors and Vendors welcome
- call or email for more info

Contact: Dr. Jenifer Nadeau
Email: jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu
Phone: 860-486-4471
Fax: 860-486-4375

horsesymposium.uconn.edu

UConn
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Winter Garden Workshops offered by NHS of New Haven and Common Ground!

Advanced Gardener, Rachel Ziesk, will teach a series of 6 classes that will cover everything you need to be a successful gardener come Spring 2016! Classes are \$20 per individual course or \$100 for all 6 (discounts may also be available). All workshops take place in Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven's Energy Conservation Lab at 333 Sherman Avenue in New Haven. To register, visit:

www.NHSWinterGarden.EventBrite.com.

WINTER GETTING TO YOU? PICK UP SOME FLOWERS OR A HOUSEPLANT AT UCONN BLOOMS

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.



KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Researchers sampled ten espresso machines and found that most of them harbored coffee residues rich in bacteria—including some potentially pathogenic strains.

[Espresso Machines Brew a Microbiome of Their Own](#)

Walnuts get high fives for [helping reduce your risk of diabetes!](#)

Why you [should consider putting hot sauce on everything!](#)

Russia has banned GMOs and [hopes to be the world leader in organic food.](#)

[Wild bee decline threatens US crop production](#)

CLIMATE CORNER

[Emissions rising too high despite the reduction targets set before the Paris negotiations](#)

[Addressing climate change should start with policies to increase energy efficiency](#)

[Global fossil-fuel emissions predicted to decline for 2015](#)

[Study of environmental attitudes finds nine distinct segments of American population](#)

U.S. Bread Basket Shifts Thanks to Climate Change

WHO KNEW ?

What Happened to the Polar Vortex?

Global human freshwater footprint surges

Even the tiniest plastics found in the sea with new technology

Here's Why It's a Good Idea to Pay Attention to the Plastic You Buy

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/happiness/can-empathy-for-birds-lead-to-a-happier-world>

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

UConn Extension Website: www.extension.uconn.edu

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

Last Flowers painted by Jules Breton



The winter scenery and first snow images in previous newsletters reminded reader Jim Jonker of one of his favorite paintings, titled "Last Flowers." This oil painting by Jules Breton, painted in 1890, is on exhibit at the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Thanks for sharing, Jim! This painting reminds me that the last flowers of the season are just as precious as the first ones.

From: Perennial Pulse newsletters@ballpublishing.com

A new version of the [Plant Elements of Design plant selection program](#) is now available from University of Minnesota Extension. Released September 1st, the program features close to 2800 woody and herbaceous plants, and approximately 3500 plant images. More plants and images are being added weekly. Users are encouraged to read the user manual and participate in the user blog. Links are provided in the program. Designed to encourage plant selection based on site conditions and design requirements, Plant Elements of Design is open to the public and free of charge. Visitors are required only to create a user name and password. To select plants, users identify site conditions (soil, light, zone, etc.) and plant characteristics desired (plant type, size, flower, texture, form, use, etc.), from drop-down menus and click search. A list of plants matching the criteria will be listed. Many plants have images and all images are downloadable. Desired plants can be exported to a spreadsheet to build a plant list. Individual plants data sheets including any plant images, can also be printed for future reference.

Contact: Julie Weisenhorn, Extension educator - Horticulture, weise019@umn.edu

From umn <http://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/>

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 \$12/year (new price starting March 1st)**. Find the subscription form at <http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/newsletter/index.html>

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