



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

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



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### **FEBRUARY IS FOR CURLY FRIES, CT FLOWER SHOW & GREENHOUSE FRIDAYS**

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.

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



Curly Fries 2016 Hosta of Year by Walters Garden



Cattleya Orchid at CT Flower Show by DMP



Thumbergia erecta by UConn EEB

### **‘Curly Fries’ 2016 Hosta of the Year**

The American Hosta Grower's Association's 2016 [Hosta of the Year](#) is Curly Fries. This novelty hosta has extremely rippled, narrow chartreuse leaves with red speckled petioles when they're mature. This hosta is small, forming clumps that grow to 6-in. high and 16 in. across. The best foliage coloration occurs when it's grown in locations with morning sunlight. This one is hardy to Zone 3. (From: Perennial Pulse)

### **Come Visit our Booth at the 2016 CT Flower & Garden Show**

FREE Soil Testing and Gardening Advice at the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, February 18 – 21, 2016 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. The UConn Soil Testing Lab will offer free soil pH testing each day of the show. Bring in ½ cup of soil and we will test it and let you know how much, if any, limestone you need to add for optimal plant growth. Master Gardeners and staff horticulturists from the UConn Home & Garden Education Center will be on hand to answer all of your gardening questions. Free gardening handouts

will help you make the most of your lawn and gardens this year! Check out the gardening seminars offered at the show along with other useful information at: <http://www.ctflowershow.com/>

### **EEB Greenhouse Tour Dates**

Looking for a tropical escape amid winter's monochromatic landscape? Join Professor Terry Webster for tours of the UConn Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Greenhouses. Three more 'Greenhouse Fridays' will be held. Future dates are February 12, February 26, and March 4. Tours begin at 12:15 pm and run for about an hour. Each tour will feature a different part of the greenhouse collection which includes approximately 3000 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 at [jtwebster95@charter.net](mailto:jtwebster95@charter.net). Visit EEB Greenhouse website for directions and plant information at <http://florawww.eeb.uconn.edu/>

Topics that the Center is getting calls or emails on include the emergence of spring flowering bulbs, amaryllis, houseplants, shade tolerant groundcovers and soil testing. 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). Your County Cooperative Extension Centers are also listed on the website.

### **Ten Tips for the February Gardener:**

1. Visit our booth at the 2016 CT Flower & Garden Show in Hartford, February 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. Bring ½ cup of soil for a free pH test and your garden questions for free advice.
2. Turn the compost pile during any stretches of mild weather.
3. Surprise your favorite relative or friend with a floral bouquet on St. Valentine's Day from [UConn Blooms](#) on the Storrs campus.
4. Check houseplants for signs of spider mites and control by spraying with insecticidal soap or water 2-3 times a week after giving them a thorough rinse in the sink.
5. If you are overwintering plants into your garage or cellar, check the soil to see if it needs water. If the soil is frozen the location may be too cold.
6. Purchase seed flats, containers, and peat pellets. Check your cold frame for needed repairs. It's also a good time to finish up your seed order, if you haven't done so already.
7. Begin pruning apples and pears as the weather allows.
8. Start leek and onion seeds now. They need 10 to 12 weeks of growth before going in the garden.
9. Prune grape vines at the end of the month. If you grow currants, remove all stems that are over 3 years old on a mild day.
10. Inspect hemlocks for woolly adelgid. Plan to apply a dormant horticultural oil treatment in April if the cottony egg masses are found at the base of needles.

### **Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:**

**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 Diblik, Debra Knapke and Richard Harper. Rome Ballroom, UConn Storrs Campus. [www.2016slc.uconn.edu](http://www.2016slc.uconn.edu)

**March 18, 2016 – UConn Garden Conference.**

The 2016 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:

- Artist and writer **Andrew Keys**, who will present a talk on *Uncommon Plants for Northeast Gardens: Book Favorites and B-Sides*
- **Ruth Kassinger**, science writer, speaking on *A Garden of Marvels*
- **Lynn Felici-Gallant**, designer and writer, talking about *Slow Containers: Rethinking Annuals-Only Design*
- UConn Plant Diagnostician **Joan Allen**, speaking on *Organic Pest Control in the Vegetable Garden*
- Smith College Assistant Professor **Jesse Bellemare**, talking about *Horticultural Insights into Plant Conservation in the Face of Climate Change*

**Program and registration information, including [online registration](#), is available at [www.2016garden.uconn.edu](http://www.2016garden.uconn.edu).** A pre-registration fee of \$90 per person is due by March 11. The fee is \$100 per person if postmarked after March 11 or for walk-ins. 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 in the Rome Commons dining room, morning and afternoon snacks, free parking (in an adjacent lot to the conference), and selected autographed books plus a wide array of gardening books 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](mailto:joan.allen@uconn.edu) or visit our website at: [www.2016garden.uconn.edu](http://www.2016garden.uconn.edu).

**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, 2016 – 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](mailto:laura.rogers-castro@ct.gov) or by calling (860) 424-3011.

**April 20, 2016 - Urban Agriculture: A way to reduce food desert communities in Connecticut**

Urban agriculture may be an alternative for Connecticut and similar states to increase farmland acreage, increase the number of farmers, reduce food desert areas, and engage urban residents, like Hispanics, in food

production. Presented by **German Cutz, Ed.D.**, Sustainable Families & Communities Educator, UConn Extension held from 11 AM - 12 PM in ATL 109, UConn Storrs Campus. Informal discussion and refreshments to follow presentation.

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

**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

**Garden Tool & Small Engine Maintenance** Wednesday, Feb 24, 2016 from 10 am to 12 pm. UConn Plant Science Research Farm, Storrs. Deadline for registration: Feb. 17, 2016. Instructor: Stephen Olsen

**Real-time Design: Isham-Terry House** Thursday, Feb 18, 2016 from 1 pm to 4 pm. West Hartford Extension Center. Deadline for registration: Feb 11th. Instructor: Sarah Bailey

**Seed Starting/Exchange** Tuesday, March 1, 2016 from 1 pm to 3 pm. Tarrywile Mansion Greenhouse, Danbury. Deadline for registration: Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. Instructor: Julia Cencebaugh Kloth

**Select and Install a Home Irrigation System** Wednesday, March 2, 2016 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Middlesex County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: Feb 24, 2016. Instructor: Jim Woodworth and Tom Kalal

**Native Plants with a Twist: Unexpected Excitement from our Native Flora** Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 10 am to 12 pm. Litchfield County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: Feb 26, 2016. Instructor: Adam Wheeler

**Conifer Culture II** Tuesday, March 8, 2016 7 pm to 9 pm. Hartford County Extension Center. Deadline for registration March 1, 2016. Instructor: Kevin Wilcox.

**Growing Hops in Connecticut** Saturday, March 12, 2016 10 am to 12 pm. New London County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: March 4, 2016. Instructor: Dr. Katja Maurer.

**Available, Yet Still Underused Shrubs** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Tolland County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: March 10, 2016. Instructor: Kevin Wilcox.



**Vegetable Crop Pests You Need to Know**

*Presented by Jude Boucher of UConn Extension and Joan Allen of the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture*

*\*Offered at Two Different Locations\**

**1. Fairfield County Extension Center -Tuesday, February 16, 2016 (Snow Date February 17th) from 1-4pm**

Fairfield County Extension Center, 69 Stony Hill Road, Bethel, CT 06801

**2. Middlesex County Extension Center - Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (Snow Date February 22<sup>nd</sup>) from 1-4pm**

Middlesex County Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Rd, Haddam, CT 06438

1. **Alliums:** onion thrips, onion maggots, purple blotch
2. **Asparagus:** Common and spotted asparagus beetles, Fusarium wilt, cutworms, rust
3. **Basil:** downy mildew, Japanese beetles
4. **Brassica:** Imported cabbage worm, diamondback moth, cabbage looper, cross-striped cabbageworm, black rot, cabbage magots, flea beetles, Alternaria leaf spot, cabbage aphids
5. **Chenopods:** Cercospora leaf spot, flea beetles, leafminers
6. **Cucurbits:** powdery and downy mildew, black rot, Plectosporium, Phytophthora blight, striped cucumber beetles/bacterial wilt, squash vine borer, squash bug
7. **Legumes:** potato leaf hopper, cutworms, seedcorn maggots, Damping-off, white mold, rust, Mexican bean beetle, caterpillars (CEW, CL, ECB), Anthracnose, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)
8. **Lettuce:** aphids, slugs, wirestem, tarnished plant bug
9. **Solanaceous:** early and late blight, Septoria leaf spot, Anthracnose ripe rot, bacterial canker, Phytophthora Blight, bacterial leaf spot, Colorado potato beetle, potato and green peach aphids, flea beetles, Verticillium wilt, BMSB, two-spotted spider mites, tomato/tobacco hornworm
10. **Sweet corn:** corn earworm, fall armyworm, European corn borer, Northern corn leaf blight, BMSB
11. **Umbelliferae:** Alternaria leaf spot, carrot weevil, tarnish plant bug

**Commercial vegetable crop growers may receive 3 Pesticide Credits. Registration fee of \$20 to be paid at the door by check or cash. Pre-registration is suggested.**

**Fairfield** - call 203-297-2249 or visit <http://fcaec.org>

**Middlesex** - Email [mackenzie.white@uconn.edu](mailto:mackenzie.white@uconn.edu) or call 860-875-3331 with name, email address, and phone number.



EXTENSION

# 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](mailto:jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu)  
Phone: 860-486-4471  
Fax: 860-486-4375

[horsesymposium.uconn.edu](http://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](http://www.NHSWinterGarden.EventBrite.com).

## Valentine's Day Flowers at UConn Blooms

**Don't forget this year!** Valentine's Day is quickly approaching and you may be searching for a gift for that special someone. Pick up some flowers from UConn Blooms! We carry everything from fresh cut roses to colorful floral arrangements. Stop by our store located in the Floriculture Building on Rt. 195 to see what we have to offer. Order online at [uconnblooms@uconn.edu](mailto:uconnblooms@uconn.edu) or by phone at (860) 486 – 6000. Contact us today to guarantee you get your flowers in time! UConn Blooms will be open with extended hours on both February 13th and 14th, from 9 am to 3 pm. **UConn Blooms operates in two locations, inside the UConn Co-op and its main storefront in the Floriculture Building.**

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).



## **KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!**

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

It's no secret that eating seafood is good for us, but [will there be enough to go around after El Nino?](#)

[Purple limes, blood oranges could be next for Florida citrus](#)

More evidence is pointing to the need for low sugar diets. A Univ. of Texas study has now [linked high sugar consumption to certain types of cancer.](#)

[MIND diet repeatedly ranked among best](#)

In a time when we desperately need to control food waste, a study from Cornell explores the reasons [why we buy food products we never use.](#)

### **CLIMATE CORNER**

[There's Something Fishy About Climate Change](#)

[Rising carbon dioxide emissions pose 'intoxication' threat to world's ocean fish](#)

[NASA, NOAA analyses reveal record-shattering global warm temperatures in 2015](#)

### **WHO KNEW ?**

[Dandelion uses latex to protect its roots against insect feeding](#)

[Report: Oceans to Contain More Waste Plastic than Fish by 2050](#)

[An Uptick of Lyme Disease in Southern New England](#)

[Your Clothes Are a Blight on the Planet—But It Doesn't Have to Be That Way](#)

[Earthworms could be a threat to biodiversity](#)

[Mercury levels in rainfall are rising in parts of North America](#)

[Human impact has created a 'plastic planet'](#)

**UConn PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LAB WEBSITE:** [www.plant.lab.uconn.edu](http://www.plant.lab.uconn.edu)

**UConn SOIL NUTRIENT ANALYSIS LAB WEBSITE:** [www.soiltest.uconn.edu](http://www.soiltest.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)

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

## Anemone 'Fantasy Cinderella'



One of the dwarf series of Japanese anemones covered with pink blooms from July to September. It only grows about a foot and a half tall and is hardy to zone 5. Plant it in full sun in a well-drained soil or try it in containers. The seed heads are attractive as well resembling small cotton balls. Look for this plant at a garden center or nursery near you.

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

