

UConn | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



UConn Home & Garden Education Center Knowledge to Grow On!

www.ladybug.uconn.edu

AUGUST IS FOR AUER FARM, ANISE HYSSOP & AVOCADOS!

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Construction near Ratcliffe Hicks building [changes Home & Garden Education Center parking!](#)

Pest Patrol/Current Concerns/Topics of Interest:



Auer Farm Mushroom Barn, www.auerfarm.org



Late blight on tomato leaves by J. Allen



Browning on White Pine Needles by J. Allen

Historical Preservation Campaign to 'Save the 'Shrooms' Barn' at Auer Farm

At the 4-H Education Center in Bloomfield sits the only known hollow clay barn in Connecticut. It was built in 1919 for mushroom production and is now on the National Historic Register. Time has taken its toll and the structure is in need of repairs and will eventually become part of a visitor center/museum space. To find out more about this historical treasure and how you can support renovation efforts go to: <http://www.auerfarm.org/>

Be on the Lookout for Late Blight

Tomato and potato growers and gardeners: Protect your crops NOW from late blight infection. The disease has been reported in Litchfield County, Connecticut on July 18, 2015. With moist weather conditions the pathogen, *Phytophthora infestans*, will sporulate prolifically and spread rapidly on wind currents. Fungicide products can be applied preventively to protect plants. Active ingredients to look for include chlorothalonil, maneb, mancozeb, and copper formulations. Organic growers can use copper formulations. Symptoms of late blight include large brown leaf lesions, dark brown stem lesions, and brown, bumpy and firm lesions on fruits. During humid or wet weather, white sporulation will be visible within the lesions. The UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab (877-486-6271) will accept tomato and potato samples believed to be infected with late blight for no charge at this time. Infected plant parts or plants should be removed and disposed of. Bag and place in the trash or bury about a foot deep. More information and photos are available in the fact sheet at this website:

http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/factsheets/documents/Late_Blight_of_Tomato_and_Potato.html

Browning Pine Needles Could Signal Disease

There's been widespread browning of eastern white pine noted this year throughout the northeast. Sometimes a needle disease fungus can be identified but, at other times, no cause is apparent. Environmental stress is a possible contributor. Two cases of brown spot (*Mycosphaerella dearnessii*) have been confirmed at the UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab but there have been a couple of cases with no causal agent found. Trees of various ages and in both landscapes and natural settings are affected. Samples can be sent to the lab for a disease analysis if interested (usual \$15 fee applies). Some background information from a past occurrence can be found at:

http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/palerts/white_pine/eastern_white_pine.pdf

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include powdery mildew on cucurbits, rusts on apples, crabapples and hollyhocks, black root weevils entering homes, dogwood anthracnose, milkweed bugs, Monarch sightings and dying elms. 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.

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.

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

Watch the International Year of Soils: Soils Support Health

Soils provide nutrients, biodiversity and physical support, all crucial to healthy living

Aug. 3, 2015 (News release by sfisk@sciencesocieties.org.) In celebration of the International Year of Soil 2015 (IYS), the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is coordinating a series of activities throughout the year to educate the public about the importance of soil. August's theme is "Soils Support Health". In SSSA's August 1 Soils Matter blog post, experts explain the role of larger animals in the soil ecosystem.

According to Nick Comerford, “Healthy humans indeed need healthy soils!” Comerford is a soil scientist with University of Florida.

“Healthy soils grow nutrient-rich foods,” says Comerford. “The calcium in broccoli comes from soils. Proteins found in wheat start out as nitrogen in the soil. If the soil is deficient in any of these nutrients, the crops grown won’t be as nutritious as crops grown in healthy soil.”

Additionally, soils provide space for a diverse animal population, from animals we can see (gophers and ants) to single-celled microbes. Finally, soils provide a physical support for root structure of plants from the size of a flower to tall trees.

To read the entire blog post, visit <http://soilsmatter.wordpress.com>. Watch the August video here: <https://www.soils.org/files/videos/soils/iys/iys-august.mp4>

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 August Gardener:

1. Remove non-productive plants from the vegetable garden and sow cool weather crops for fall harvesting.
2. Renovate strawberry beds by mowing to a height of 1 ½ inches, thinning plants and side-dressing with a balanced fertilizer.
3. Stop pruning evergreen trees and shrubs to avoid promoting new growth that will not harden off by the first frost.
4. Pick summer squash and zucchini often to keep the plants productive.
5. Fertilize container plantings and hanging baskets.
6. Reseed the lawn in late August. Be sure to keep the seed moist until germination.
7. Allow tomatoes to ripen on the vine for the best flavor although some cherry tomatoes are prone to splitting if left too long.
8. Continue to scout for insects in the vegetable and flower garden, hand-picking them when possible.
9. Practice good sanitation by removing any fallen fruit or plant debris from the garden, do not compost it.
10. Don’t forget that trees and shrubs require water during extended dry periods.

Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:

Annual CT Dahlia Show Saturday, Aug 29, 2015. Elizabeth Park, Hartford, CT. Free admission. www.ctdahlia.org.

UConn 2015 Master Composter Program

Almost 25% of household waste can be recycled through composting. The purpose of the Master Composter program is to educate and train residents about the basics of small scale composting and in exchange for the training, volunteers will pass on their knowledge to others through outreach activities such as talks, demonstrations, tabling at events, providing promotional activities, working with schools or community gardens etc. Master Gardener classes will be held at the Middlesex County Cooperative Extension Center in Haddam. There will be 4 week night lectures, Worm Day and 2 Saturday field trips with only one being mandatory. The cost of the program is \$100. The Master Composter brochure with registration information is available at www.ladybug.uconn.edu or call (860) 486-4274 for more information.

Worm Day

Curious about earthworms? Want to learn more about the invasive ones that are creating havoc in our forested ecosystems? Would you like to explore vermicomposting? Participants can leave with their very own worm bin. Go to www.ladybug.uconn.edu for more information and registration.

WORM DAY!!!

**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM**



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 10 am–3 pm



**Interested in Earthworms? Want to learn about both good and bad ones? Tempted to try your hand at vermicomposting?
NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!!!**

Come join us for OUR PROGRAM FEATURING:
Dr. Josef Gorres from the University of Vermont
Giving us the SCOOP on—
WORMS FROM THE EARTH, HEAVEN AND HELL!
Carol Quish, UConn Home & Garden Education Center
VERMICOMPOSTING 101
Lisa Krall, Natural Resources Conservation Service
BUILD YOUR OWN WORM FARM

LOCATION: Middlesex County Extension Center 1066 Saybrook Rd. Haddam, CT 06438	\$5 registration fee. Seating limited. RSVP to ladybug@uconn.edu or by calling (877) 486-6271. Let us know if you want to make a worm bin as you will need to bring certain supplies and we will need worms!!! More info at www.ladybug.uconn.edu .
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Cornucopia

Join us Sunday, October 4th at the UConn Storrs campus for Cornucopia, a free festival showcasing the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Find out about the programs, opportunities and research-based information the College has to offer. Be sure to bring ½ cup of soil for a free pH test. Horticulturists will be on hand to answer your garden and pest questions. Learn about the UConn Master Composter program and much, much more. Look for information on the UConn website soon.

UConn Blooms Closed From July 10th through August 17th

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.

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.

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jul/18/dairy-farm-in-northwest-connecticut-to-milk-cows-w/?page=1>

[Effects of spinach extract on satiety: feel full, curb cravings](#)

[Laurel wilt disease likely to increase Florida avocado prices](#)

<https://www.distractify.com/seaweed-bacon-1251424662.html>

[Drinking beet juice regularly may lengthen your workouts](#)

The chemistry behind bbq

<http://www.labmanager.com/news/2014/05/the-chemistry-behind-bbq#.vah2Ingbhiu>

<http://www.npr.org/2015/07/17/423490558/the-great-fish-swap-how-america-is-downgrading-its-seafood-supply>

CLIMATE CORNER

[Soil nutrients may limit ability of plants to slow climate change](#)

[Buzz the alarm: Climate change puts squeeze on bumblebees](#)

[Human-wrought environmental changes impacting crops, pollinators could harm millions](#)

[‘Eco-towers’ will fight climate change](#)

[Oceans slowed global temperature rise, until now](#)

WHO KNEW ?

[Grey squirrels are quick learners, study shows](#)

<http://www.courant.com/reminder-news/rnw-pt-pomfret-saving-ct-grassland-birds-0710-20150706-story.html>

[Pesticides found in most pollen collected from foraging bees in Massachusetts](#)

Not easy to remove artificial ingredients:

<http://www.labmanager.com/news/2015/06/decision-to-remove-artificial-ingredients-a-challenge-says-professor?fw1pk=2#.Vah189GBHIU>

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

UConn Extension Website: www.extension.uconn.edu

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

‘STATE OF THE PLANTS’ REPORT RELEASED BY NE WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

New England Wild Flower Society has released its “State of the Plants” report, the most comprehensive assessment of New England plants and plant communities ever assembled. For more information contact :Carol McGarry at cmcgarry@newenglandwild.org

The report is available at <http://www.newenglandwild.org/stateofplants>.

The report discusses the critical importance of plant diversity, profiles five key habitat types, and identifies primary threats to these habitats and to New England’s plant life as a whole. It assesses the status of hundreds of rare and declining plant species. The report also outlines priorities for researching, conserving and managing thousands of species that together comprise New England’s vibrant flora. Authored by Elizabeth Farnsworth, the Society’s Senior Research Ecologist, the peer-reviewed report draws on hundreds of studies of New England plant communities, the fieldwork of more than 700

volunteers and professional botanists across New England, and the expertise of leading botanical researchers and the 60 partner organizations in the Society's [New England Plant Conservation Program](#).

AGASTACHE (ANISE HYSSOP) 'ARIZONA SANDSTONE'

This native hybrid cultivar from American Takii is very showy and floriferous. Arizona Sandstone is compact, growing only 8- to 10-in. tall and wide. The plants are well branched and produce numerous spikes of dark orange tubular flowers from spring to frost. It's hardy to Zone 6, possibly to Zone 5. This is a first-year flowering plant and can easily be grown and marketed in perennial programs across much of the country. Sure to attract both customers and hummingbirds.



Text and Photo from www.provenwinners.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 “

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