



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

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

#### **OCTOBER is for OIL BEETLES, OSO EASY ROSE & OLIVE OIL!**

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:**



Oil beetle photo from: [www.umich.edu](http://www.umich.edu)



McIntosh apples photo by DMP



Rhode Island Red photo by DMP

#### **Oil Beetles**

Several black beetles have been brought to the UConn Home & Garden Education Center for identification during the last few weeks because they are appearing on the lawn in groups of 20 or more. They are in the *Meloidae* (Blister beetle) family due to their ability to emit an oily substance from their leg joints when disturbed. The 'oil' contains the chemical cantharidin which will cause a painful blister on skin. The adult is unable to fly and feeds on grass, leafy weeds and some flowers. The larvae, however, feed on the larvae of other insects, mainly in underground nests of hosts including solitary bees. There are several different species of *Meloe* beetles with each one preferring a different host food as prey. Oil beetles are not considered a bad thing in the garden or lawn. They usually cause little damage to plants and the larvae can control other pest insects.

## Great Year for Apples in CT

Connecticut's apple crop is expected to be very strong this season, and customers for the first time can find information on orchards across the state through a new digital mobile phone app available for free from the CT Apple Marketing Board (CAMB.)

Although many growers had to irrigate during the recent dry weather, the crop is bountiful and orchards are in full swing, said Brian Kelliher, chairman of the apple marketing board. "The dry conditions actually serve to create an intense flavor in the apples," said Kelliher, owner of Easy Pickin's Orchard in Enfield. "Growers have been able to irrigate enough to ensure an excellent crop, so everyone will be able to find their favorite varieties at their local orchard."

Finding orchards and details about them can be done through the mobile app – created with the help of a grant from the USDA and the state agriculture department – that is available for free download on the CAMB website: [ctapples.org](http://ctapples.org). The app features an interactive map that links smartphone users directly to the website of individual orchards for information including directions, hours of operation and what apple varieties are available. The app also includes a customer-loyalty program that offers a discount for participants that make four visits to any Connecticut orchard, and a "children's passport" filled with fun and educational activities. CAMB's social media presence also includes Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said apples are one of the state's largest and most important agricultural crops, with an average yearly harvest of about a half-million bushels worth \$12 million. "It's exciting to see the success that the CAMB is having in using social media to promote the state's orchards," Reviczky said. "This is a great way for customers to learn about our extraordinary Connecticut Grown apples and where to find them."

Connecticut Department of Agriculture ([www.morningagclips.com](http://www.morningagclips.com))

---

## Poultry Owners: Register Your Flocks

HARTFORD — The state Department of Agriculture today urged all poultry owners in Connecticut to register the location of their flocks with the state as a precaution to help reduce the risk of spreading a disease that has led to the disposal of more than 48 million birds in the West and Midwest since late last year. No cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) have been detected in Connecticut – where there are an estimated 5 million poultry – or the Northeast. The virus poses a low risk to humans and the food supply.

Poultry are typically infected by direct contact with wild birds or a contaminated environment, and there is concern that the virus may spread to the Northeast during the fall or spring wild bird migration. It is also spread by the movement of infected poultry, contaminated poultry equipment, and people who can transfer the virus between farms on their shoes and clothing.

Most of Connecticut's poultry are owned by several large and medium-sized commercial egg-producing operations, with the remaining in backyard and relatively small commercial flocks. It is particularly important that small-flock owners register with the state, because the virus typically spreads to poultry from wild birds and, once established, can grow rapidly.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said voluntary registration provides valuable information about the locations and numbers of poultry kept in the state. The information will be used only for emergency response purposes if HPAI is detected in Connecticut, and will help the state prepare a robust response. “The key to limiting the spread of disease is knowing specifically where birds are being raised and having timely communication with farmers and other owners,” Reviczky said. “Registering the location of birds is a proven tool to help accomplish both goals. We strongly urge those with flocks big and small to register them. It’s an important step for farmers and for Connecticut’s HPAI response team.” Poultry owners may register their flocks with the state by going to the homepage of the Dept. of Agriculture’s website: [CTGrown.gov](http://CTGrown.gov).

The Department of Agriculture and other state and federal agencies have created a task force that is preparing for a potential incident of HPAI in Connecticut, and is ready to implement a response plan if necessary. The task force includes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) – which is responsible for monitoring the wild bird population – the Department of Public Health, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

The agriculture department is also working with the USDA, UConn, and the Connecticut Poultry Association to raise awareness of the virus and how to reduce the risk of its spread, and has an emergency-response plan in place if needed.

In addition to registering flocks, the state recommends the following steps to reduce the risk of spreading the virus:

- Eliminate opportunities for domestic birds to interact with wild birds by closing holes in coops and installing bird netting.
  - Restrict the movement of poultry, poultry equipment and people between farms. The virus can be spread through manure, equipment, vehicles, egg flats, crates, and people whose clothing or shoes have come in contact with the virus.
  - Those who must visit another premises with poultry should practice strict bio-security measures, such as wearing clean clothes and shoes, and keeping vehicles clean and free of dirt, manure and other organic material.
  - Monitor the health of birds on a regular basis and know the signs of the virus, which include high mortality, nasal discharge and respiratory distress; swelling around the head, eyes and neck; decreased consumption of food and water and a drop in egg production.
- Domestic poultry are already monitored by the agriculture department in a number of ways:
- All poultry and hatching eggs imported into the state must have credentials ensuring that they are disease-free and meet other health standards.
  - Large commercial poultry or egg-production operations are inspected and birds tested whenever flocks are moved.
  - Poultry auctions and live markets are also inspected and tested, as are domestic birds being entered into agricultural fairs or exhibitions.
  - Connecticut also has strict importation restrictions to prevent the introduction of poultry disease into the state.
  - Only licensed poultry dealers may sell live poultry here.

Poultry may only be moved into Connecticut from areas known to be free of avian influenza, and must be tested for the virus before entering the state. Imported poultry must be accompanied by an import permit, which are free and available by calling the department at 860-713-2508.

Any poultry owner seeking to participate in the free quarterly avian influenza surveillance program should contact the agriculture department at 860-713-2504. Suspected cases of HPAI may also be reported to the agriculture department at 860-713-2504, or the USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593.

—Connecticut Department of Agriculture

Connecticut Department of Agriculture ([www.morningagclips.com](http://www.morningagclips.com))

Other items that the Center is getting calls or emails on include weeds going to seed, cross-striped cabbageworms, bird's nest fungi, saving seeds and Volutella blight of pachysandra. 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). You can reach us by email at [ladybug@uconn.edu](mailto: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 and the Products That We Use**

Soil provides many services and many products. The plants that are grown in soil can be used for food, clothing, recreation, aesthetics, building materials, medicines, and more. The minerals that make up soil particles can be used for dyes, make-ups, and medicines, or shaped into bricks, plates, and vases. All of our food, and many everyday objects that we use, depend on soil as their natural resource.

Download our October [Soils and the Products That We Use video](#)- it's also excellent for use in classrooms and any other event/activity that will benefit from video! You can also view it directly on [YouTube](#). Feel free to share widely!

Learn more about International Year of Soils at [www.soils.org/IYS](http://www.soils.org/IYS)

**Like the UConn Soil Testing Lab on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UCONN-Soil-Nutrient-Analysis-Laboratory/111473772212603>

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

1. Bring in all houseplants before the first frost.

2. Pot up tulips, hyacinths and other pre-chilled bulbs and store in a cool, dark place until ready to force.
3. Rosemary is not hardy in most areas of CT. Bring plants in before temperatures drop too low but check plants thoroughly for mealybugs.
4. Plant shallots and garlic outdoors.
5. Beets, parsnips, and carrots can be covered with a thick layer of straw or leaves and left in the ground for harvest, as needed, during the winter
6. Mulch perennial beds using a loose organic material such as bark chips or leaves to keep down weeds, preserve moisture and give roots a longer time to grow before the soil freezes.
7. Avoid the spring rush and have your soil tested now by the UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory.
8. Add a touch of fall to your home and landscape with hardy mums, asters and fall pansies.
9. If rain is lacking, continue to thoroughly water trees, shrubs, planting beds and lawn areas and recently planted evergreens. Plants should go into the winter well-watered.
10. As tomatoes end their production cut down plants and pick up any debris and put in the trash or take to a landfill. Many diseases will over-winter on old infected leaves and stems so these are best removed from the property.

## Events/ Programs/Save the Dates:

### UConn Blooms' Workshops!

Create a living piece of art that you can bring home! UConn Blooms will help you construct a dish garden or terrarium with miniature tropical plants of your choice. Be sure to bring in your own container which could be a pot, glass terrarium, large dish or a plastic lined box. It should be large enough to hold five to six plants. We'll go step by step with its construction and decorating. **FREE ROSEMARY PLANT FOR ALL REGISTRANTS!!!!** The workshop fee is \$30.00 and it will be held on Oct 21 between 5:30 and 6:45 in the Floriculture building where UConn Blooms is housed. Parking is available alongside our greenhouses and at the Towers parking lot.

Future workshops include: November 18, Thanksgiving centerpiece and December 16, Christmas centerpiece. Please register in advance since seating is limited. Thank you and we look forward to a fun time!!!

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).

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

**Conifer Cultivars 1** Monday, Nov 2, 2015 from 10 am to noon. New Haven County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Oct 26. Instructor: Kevin Wilcox

**Botanical Latin** Saturday, Nov 14, 2015 from 10 am to noon. Litchfield County Extension Center. Deadline for Registration: Nov 6. Instructor: Jude Hsiang

**Conifer Culture** Tuesday, Nov 10, 2015 from 7 to 9 pm. Hartford County Extension Center.  
Deadline for registration: Nov 3. Instructor: Kevin Wilcox

**Conifer Cultivars 2** Monday, Nov 16, 2015 from 10 am to noon. New Haven County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: Nov 9. Instructor: Kevin Wilcox

**Fabulous Shrubs for the 4 Season Garden** Thursday, Dec 17, 2015 from 1 to 3 pm. Fairfield County Extension Center. Deadline for registration: Dec 10. Instructor: Brid Craddock

## **KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!**

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Healthier, more sustainable olive oil

Using insects for food coloring

October 24<sup>th</sup> is Food Day

Fruit and vegetables aren't only good for a healthy body; they protect your mind too

Foods to improve your mood!

### **CLIMATE CORNER**

Should countries honor their climate debts?

### **WHO KNEW ?**

Birds that eat at feeders are more likely to get sick, spread disease

Ban on microbeads offers best chance to protect oceans, aquatic species

Sweeping study of US farm data shows loss of crop diversity the past 34 years

How much water is captured in the food consumed in a typical day by an average American.

**UConn Sustainable Living Website:** [www.sustainableliving.uconn.edu](http://www.sustainableliving.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)

## OSO EASY LEMON ZEST ROSE

Proven Winners makes it look Oso Easy, as another cultivar in the Oso Easy series wins its second Award of Excellence. The American Rose Society announced that Proven Winners received the Award of Excellence for Oso Easy Lemon Zest rose at the 2015 National Conference. The first Award of Excellence the series received was awarded to Oso Happy Petit Pink rose in 2012. Oso Easy Lemon Zest was bred by Chris Warner from Shropshire, England. It has great disease tolerance and the canary yellow flowers don't fade as they age. Congrats to Oso Easy Lemon Zest and to Proven Winners for another fine introduction.

From Perennial Pulse 7-7-15



# We Need Your Support!

If you 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 \$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 “*