Hello Fellow Gardeners! You are receiving this email because you have provided us with your email address either when 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:**

**Apple Maggot**

The apple maggot, *Rhagoletis pomonella*, is one of the most destructive pests of apples in the Northeast. From late June to September the adult flies emerge from their pupae in the soil with highest populations appearing from late July through August. The female flies will pierce the skin of developing apples with their ovipositors, laying a single egg beneath the surface. The eggs will hatch into larvae that leave distinctive browning trails as they feed. Severely infested fruit will drop prematurely. Pick up and discard any fruit that has fallen to the ground. For additional information, please visit our fact sheet [Apple Maggot](#).
**Aggressive Invasive: Wineberry**

The UConn Home & Garden Education Center has been receiving requests to identify wineberry, *Rubus phoenicolasius*. A member of the same genus as raspberries and blackberries, wineberry was introduced to the U.S. in the late 19th century from Asia. A woody shrub, it can produce canes up to 9 feet long and will aggressively out-compete native raspberry and blackberry species. It will also choke out understory plants in woodland environments. Repeated mowing of large areas or hand-pulling of small patches may control wineberry or use a systemic herbicide on the foliage or on cut stumps. Go Botany has information on plant characteristics to identify this plant at *Rubus phoenicolasius*.

**Advantages of Growing Houseplants**

Homes and workplaces alike can reap benefits from growing houseplants. The process of photosynthesis takes in carbon dioxide and releases the oxygen that we require but did you know that many houseplants also remove other gases and pollutants from the indoor environment? Among these are formaldehyde, benzene, and trichloroethylene, most of which are released into the air from manmade products. A 2-year study from NASA showed that a plant’s roots and the potting soil also contribute to the purification process. All the more reason to keep plants healthy, happy and in our homes. For a list of plants that will provide benefits, please visit our fact sheet [Houseplants for Healthier Indoor Air](#).

**Birds in Connecticut: The Endangered Sedge Wren**

The Connecticut Audubon Society’s Bafflin Sanctuary in Pomfret is home to one and possibly two pair of nesting sedge wrens. These birds are rarely seen in Connecticut so they have attracted a lot of attention as they built their nest to rear their hatchlings. The young birds have already fledged but they can still be observed foraging in the area with the parents. The [CT Audubon Society’s site](#) has information on visiting and also images and recordings of this rare treat.

The image on the right is by Aaron Bourque.

**Deer Damage & Control**

As crabapples and apples mature, they can attract deer onto property where they may also feed on any other fruits and vegetables that are accessible to them. As they are not particularly fussy eaters, they will go after a wide variety of crops such as corn, pumpkins, tomatoes, berries and fruit trees. Deer damage can be identified by the jagged edges of their feeding which is unlike the clean-cut edges of rodent and rabbit feeding. They will actively feed in the early morning or late evening when they may not be observed by homeowners. Suggestions for control may be found at our fact sheet [Deer Damage and Control](#).

Doe and fawns. Image by Lisa Rivers
Summer Lawn Care and Grub Control
The heat and reduced rainfall of August can create issues for our lawns. Home lawns that do not have supplemental irrigation may go dormant during summer months, especially if the species of grass is Kentucky bluegrass or rye grass. Fescues have the best drought tolerance although any dense, well-maintained lawn that is kept at a height between 2 1/2 to 3 inches has a good chance of sustaining itself. Use a mulching blade when mowing to return moisture and nitrogen to the lawn. If a systemic grub preventative was not applied by July 15th, then a curative control product may be applied in early August as the newly hatched grubs feed. Biological and chemical control suggestions can be found at our Grub Problems in Turf fact sheet as can instructions on monitoring for grubs to determine if a control measure is warranted.

Ten Tips for the August Gardener:
Click on the links for additional information. For the full list of tips, visit Gardening Tips for August.

- August is the month to order peony roots for September planting. Peonies should be in the ground about a month before the average first frost date.
- Fertilize container plantings and hanging baskets if they look yellow with a 1/2 strength dose of a balanced liquid fertilizer every other week.
- Houseplants can dry out quicker in the heat and extra sunlight of summer. Check them frequently to evaluate their moisture needs.
- Pick summer squash and zucchini every day or two to keep the plants producing.
- Remove old plants that have stopped producing to eliminate a shelter for insects and disease organisms. Replant sites with chard, quick maturing beans or cucumbers, leafy greens etc.
- Scout for C-shaped notches on the edges of the leaves of your perennials such as dahlias, roses, basil or coleus that are caused by Asiatic beetle feeding.
- Pick up, bag, and trash (do not compost) any dropped apples showing signs of apple maggot damage.
- Reseeding the lawn in late August gives the new grass two growing periods (fall and spring) before the heat of summer. Be sure to keep the seed moist until germination.
Fruiting plants such as winterberry, holly, and firethorn need regular watering during dry spells to ensure that berries mature and do not drop off.

Control mosquitoes by eliminating all sources of stagnant water. Clean birdbaths and any outdoor pet water dishes often.

Have Your Soil Tested for Macro- & Micronutrients

Late summer through fall is a great time to send your soil sample in for testing. Get your soil ready this fall for spring planting. Our standard nutrient analysis includes pH, macro- and micronutrients, a lead scan and as long as we know what you are growing, the results will contain limestone and fertilizer recommendations. The cost is $12/sample. You are welcome to come to the lab with your ‘one cup of soil’ but most people are content to simply place their sample in a zippered bag and mail it in. For details on submitting a sample, go to UConn Soil and Nutrient Laboratory.

Click on the Following Links to Visit Any of Our Sites:

- UCONN EXTENSION
- UCONN FOOD SAFETY
- UCONN HOME & GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER
- UCONN PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LAB
- UCONN SCIENCE OF GMOS
- UCONN SOIL NUTRIENT ANALYSIS LAB

Events/ Programs/Save the Date:

**Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Invasive Plant Symposium** - Invasive Plants in Uncertain Times: Achieving More with Less
Thursday, October 4, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Student Union, UConn, Storrs
Click here for additional information. Early registration ends August 23, 2018.

**Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station**

*Plant Science Day* Wednesday, August 8, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lockwood Farm, Hamden, CT

**Connecticut Dahlia Society** will hold their annual Dahlia Show on Saturday, August 25, 2018 from 1:30 – 4:30 pm at the Pond House in Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. www.ctdahlia.org
Connecticut College

Visit the Plant Collections The Connecticut College Arboretum manages four major plant collections containing 6,195 individual, accessioned living plants.

Guided Tours Join Arboretum docents for free guided tours the first and second Sundays of August at 10:00 a.m. starting at the Olin Science Center. August 5th will be a tour of the Native Plant Collection and August 12th will be the Caroline Black Garden.

CT DEEP Programs

Discover Goodwin Forest Youth Series: Pollinators Sunday, August 5, 2018 from 1:00 to 3:00pm James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT Instructors: Lynn Kochiss and Caroline Driscoll

Field Insect Discovery Sunday, Saturday, August 11, 2018 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby, CT

Why We Love Lichens Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Peoples State Forest Nature Museum, Barkhamsted, CT Instructor: Naturalist Juan A. Sanchez, Jr.

Discover Outdoor Connecticut Day Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 10 am to 4 pm. Franklin Wildlife Management Area, North Franklin, CT. Visit www.ct.gov/deep/DiscoverOutdoorCT to see list of activities and how to enter the photo contest.

Connecticut Bird Atlas will catalog all breeding, migrating and wintering birds in our state. The Atlas belongs to everyone who cares about birds and nature and, as such, volunteer birders are collecting much of the important data. To learn more and also help, please visit www.ctbirdatlas.org.

UConn Extension

Meet the new Extension Commercial Vegetable Educator, Dr. Shuresh Ghimire.

Dr. Ghimire joined UConn Extension and the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources on July 6th of this year. Dr. Ghimire comes to us from his native Nepal by way of Washington State University.

Read more about Dr. Ghimire at this UConn Extension blog: Shuresh Ghimire Joins UConn Extension.

Each week during the growing season, a Vegetable Pest Update is published with great pictures of current vegetable diseases and insect pests. It is free and a great resource for commercial growers but also home gardeners who want to know what is affecting their vegetable plants. To receive the update, contact Dr. Ghimire at shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu.
UConn Department of Animal Science Summer Riding Lessons

Looking for something fun to do this summer? How about horseback riding?
Once again, the University of Connecticut's Animal Science Department will be offering its popular Summer Riding Program to the public. Please note that Dressage, Hunt Seat, Polo, Western riding lessons and Trail Riding are open to adults and children who meet the minimum age requirements.

Connecticut Art Trail Passport
The William Benton Museum of Art on the UConn campus is among 21 museums that you can visit this summer with the $25.00 Art Passport. For more information on the passport and participating museums visit Art Passport.

Visit the UConn Animal Barns
Everyone is welcome to explore our animal barns that are open to the public and to learn more about the animals that are used in the Department of Animal Science program. Visitors can see dairy and beef cows, sheep, and horses. The poultry units are closed to the public. Young animals can be found in the barns at the following times of year at barns that are opened to the public: baby foals in the summer in outside paddocks at Horse Unit II, lambs during February and March outside only at Livestock Unit 1, dairy calves year-round at the Cattle Resource Unit and beef calves beginning in mid-March outside at Livestock Unit 1.
Every day visitors can view the UConn dairy cows being milked from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the Kellogg Dairy Center.

UConn Garden Master Classes such as the following items are offered through the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program. These classes provide continuing education for Certified Master Gardeners as part of the Advanced Master Gardener certification process. These classes are also open to the General Public. Anyone with an interest in gardening and horticulture is welcome.

Bug Hunting (and Other Insects too)! Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel, CT  Instructor: Pamm Cooper, UConn Home & Garden Education Center

2018 UConn Extension
Home Food Preservation Workshops

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: NOTE DEADLINES. SPACE IS LIMITED.

A registration fee of $20.00 will be charged for each lecture/demo workshop. Contact Diane Wright Hirsch at diane.hirsch@uconn.edu or 203.407.3163 for more information and directions.

New Haven County Extension Center, 305 Skiff Street, North Haven, CT

Evening Sessions:
1. Using a water bath canner (jams, jellies, fruits, tomatoes, acidified foods)
   Includes demonstration with group participation.
   Thursday, August 16, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm
   Registration deadline, August 13

2. Using a pressure canner (vegetables, meats and other low acid foods)
   Includes demonstration with group participation.
   Thursday, August 23, 6:00-8:30 pm
   Registration deadline, August 20

Saturday Session:
The basics of home canning, including using a water bath canner (jams, jellies, fruits, tomatoes, acidified foods) and using a pressure canner (vegetables, meats and other low acid foods)
Includes demonstration with group participation.
Saturday, August 18, 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Registration deadline, August 13
WORM DAY!!!
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018  10 am–2 pm
Tolland County Agricultural Center
24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066

This is a great opportunity to simply learn about earthworms: Good, Bad, or Invasive?
Or try your hand at vermicomposting and take home a completed vermicomposting bin.

OUR PROGRAM FEATURES:
Dr. Josef Gorres, University of Vermont:
INVASIVE EARTHWORMS IN NEW ENGLAND & VERMICOMPOSTING
Carol Quish, UConn Home & Garden
Education Center: VERMICOMPOSTING 101

AND THEN MAKE YOUR OWN WORM FARM!

RSVP at ladybug@uconn.edu or call (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!!!
$5 suggested donation to cover worm costs. Click here for additional information on the UConn Master Composter Program.
2018 UConn Master Composter Program

Become a UConn Master Composter! The purpose of the Master Composter Program is to provide local compost enthusiasts with the tools and information necessary to educate and teach interested community members about composting and reducing the amount of solid waste sent to the state’s incinerators and landfills. Participants would attend classroom sessions at the Tolland County Agricultural Center in Vernon, CT. Two field trips will also be scheduled, with one being mandatory. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 16, 18, 23 and 25 from 6 to 9 pm plus on Worm Day, which is held on Saturday October 20th.

A Master Composter Certificate is awarded to those who have attended all program sessions, demonstrated a solid understanding of composting principles and practices, and engaged in a minimum of two outreach activities. Program fee is $100 payable to University of Connecticut. Enrollment will be limited to 24 participants.

Visit [www.ladybug.uconn.edu](http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu) for more information or call (860) 486-4274.

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*For a touch of sweetness, visit your local beekeeper*

Save your seeds now for future plantings

Preserve food safely at home: Home food preservation links and resources

The Scent of Coffee Appears to Boost Performance in Math

We can feed the world if we change our ways

**CLIMATE CORNER**

*The rooftop garden at the Connecticut Science Center makes it a ‘green’ building!*

Consumer food choices can help reduce greenhouse emissions contributing to climate change

Warmer climate will dramatically increase the volatility of global corn crops

Global Warming Linked to Higher Suicide Rates across North America

Climate change linked to potential population decline in bees
WHO KNEW?
West Nile virus-infected mosquitoes found in 5 Connecticut towns

7 steps to a healthy home

Weevils continue to help control mile-a-minute in Connecticut

The Crossword Garden, Part One: 10 Plants You Should Know

The surprisingly lethal price of air-conditioning

Birds eat 400 to 500 million tons of insects annually

Why you shouldn’t kill spiders

Plant Highlight: Anemone ‘Wild Swan’

This graceful perennial has lovely nodding buds atop tall stems that open into pure white flowers with a violet-blue reverse. The blooms stay well above the deep green foliage and make excellent cut flowers. This plant is perfect in a woodland or rock garden setting with moist, well-drained soil where it will receive morning sun or afternoon shade.

Photo by Susan Pelton, UConn

We Need Your Support!
If you enjoy our efforts to keep you informed about horticultural and UConn-related items, please show your support by liking us on Facebook, following us on Pinterest or Instagram, checking out our weekly Ladybug blog, or visiting our website, UConn Home & Garden Education Center.

August 2018 SAP