April is for Asian lilies, an *Ailanthus altissima* Pest, and Arboreta

**Asian Lilies**

Asian lilies, in the genus *Lilium*, are lovely additions to any landscape, whether planted in the ground or in containers. One variety, 'Tiny Orange Sensation', is a dwarf specimen that only reaches 12 to 14” and has upward facing orange flowers with maroon speckles. Its long-lasting blooms are great for cut flower arrangements. Hardy in zones 3-9, this perennial summer bloomer does well in full sun or partial shade. Asian lilies are host plants for the bright scarlet Lily leaf beetle. Growing the lilies in containers is a great way to minimize the damage of this pest which prefers to overwinter in the soil beneath plants. For additional information on the Lily leaf beetle please visit the link below.

[Link to Lily Leaf Beetle]

**Ailanthus Pest**

*Ailanthus altissima*, also known as ailanthus or Tree of Heaven, is a non-native, deciduous woody ornamental tree (pictured below). Originally brought to the US in 1784, this native of China was initially a popular specimen tree but people soon learned that it not only produced prodigious amounts of suckers, it also emits a foul odor. This plant is currently on the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group list as an invasive species and is banned from purchase in CT by a state statute. As if all of that isn't enough to deter you from planting one in your yard, it is also a preferred host of the Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, an invasive planthopper that is also native to China. The Spotted Lanternfly has been working its way to the Northeast since being spotted in Pennsylvania in 2014. A single
A dead adult was found in CT in 2018. For additional information including Spotted Lanternfly identification and sightings reporting please visit the UConn IPM link below. Spotted Lanternfly image by Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org.

Arboreta Tours

Spring is a great time to visit an arboretum, a botanical collection of trees and sometimes woody shrubs, where you can see a wide variety of labeled species such as the Abies fraseri pictured above on the left. Among some of our local arboreta are the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, the Arboretum at Connecticut College, the Highstead Arboretum in Redding, and the Tree Walk at Bushnell Park, while a nice day trip will get you to the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA or the Ross Conifer Arboretum at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, New York City, NY.

Many arboreta hold events such as the Flower Mandela Workshop at the Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens in Stamford, CT on Thursday, April 18th, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Instructor: Michael Russo. The $50 fee includes materials. Please see the link below for additional information.
Connecticut Conservation Districts Plant Sales

**CT River Coastal Conservation District Plant & Seedling Sale:** Friday to Sunday, April 26th to the 28th, 2019. Friday & Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Westbrook Outlets, Westbrook, CT.

**Eastern Conservation District Spring Plant Sale:** Friday, April 26th, 2019 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. & Saturday, April 27th, 2019 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, CT.

**North Central Conservation District Plant Sale** Friday, May 3rd, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. & Saturday, May 4th, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Tolland Agricultural Center in Vernon and 4H Education Center at Auer Farm in Bloomfield. Pre-order and day of sale.

**North Central Conservation District Seedling Sale** Friday, April 12th, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday April 13th, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at both the Tolland Agricultural Center in Vernon and the 4H Education Center at Auer Farm in Bloomfield.

**Northwest Conservation District:** Earth Day Plant Sale Friday to Sunday, April 26th to the 28th, 2019. Goshen Fairgrounds, Goshen, CT.
Ten Tips for the April Gardener

Click on highlighted links for additional information.

- Prune old, leggy growth from heather (which flowers on new growth in late summer) but prune heath (which sets its flower buds in late spring) just enough to shape it in the early spring.
- Start dahlia tubers in pots indoors in a cool spot. Pinch back tips when they reach 6” and transplant outdoors when the ground temperature reaches 60°F.
- Inspect houseplants for pests and use low-toxicity insecticidal controls as needed.
- Place seedlings in cold frames around April 25 or later to harden off.
- Continue to directly sow peas, carrots, radishes, lettuces, and spinach every two weeks through mid-May for staggered harvests.
- Spread fertilizer under apple trees and small fruits except strawberries which are fertilized in late August.
- Apply pre-emergent crabgrass weed control when the forsythia bloom.
- Early spring is a great time to spot spray or hand-dig dandelions. If spraying, choose a product that won’t kill grass. If digging, wait until after a rain, when soil is soft.
- Celebrate Arbor Day on April 26th by planting a tree. Choose planting sites based on exposure to sun, shade, wind and distance from water source.
- Check for raised mole tunnels in the yard and plan to put down a grub control product as necessary (the presence of moles does not mean there is a grub problem) between mid-June and mid-July.

For a more extensive list of tips visit Gardening Tips for April
Have Your Soil Tested for Macro- & Micro Nutrients

Send your soil sample in for testing now. Our standard nutrient analysis includes pH, macro- and micro nutrients, 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.

Photo by dmp, UConn

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

UConn Extension
UConn Food Safety
UConn Home & Garden Education Center
UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory
UConn Science of GMOs
UConn Soil & Nutrient Analysis Laboratory
Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)

Invasive Mobile Apps: Download these Invasive/Early Detection/Reporting Apps on your mobile device!

Cornell Bird Lab Global Big Day

Plan ahead for the May 4th Global Big Day and you can be part of birding’s next big record! Watch birds on May 4, 2019: It’s that simple. You don’t need to be a bird expert, or go out all day long. Even 10 minutes in your backyard will help. Global Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report birds from anywhere in the world along with more than 30,000 other people by using the eBird website or the app. Check out the link below for additional information.

Events/Programs/Save the Date

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

The History, Status and Potential of Biologicals for Pest Management & Plant Health: Tuesday, April 9th, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. Part of the CAES Seminar Series in the Jones Auditorium at CAES in New Haven. Free. Speaker: Dr. Pam Marrone.

Reintroducing Hops to Connecticut: Varietal Testing and Integrated Pest Management: Wednesday, April 17th, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. Part of the CAES Seminar Series in the Jones Auditorium at CAES in New Haven. Free. Speaker: Dr. Elisha Allen-Perkins.
Connecticut College

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

Growing Plants from Seed: Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Students will leave class with a selection of potted seeds. Meet in New London Hall, Botany Lab, Room 112. $15/$20. Registration required. Instructor: Maggie Redfern.

Orchids for Beginners: Wednesday, April 17th, 2019 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Participants will learn about their light and water requirements, tour the Connecticut College greenhouse orchid collection, and take part in a repotting demo. Registrants are invited to bring in their own plants to learn how to repot or diagnose plant problems. Meet in New London Hall, Botany Lab, Room 112. $5/$10. Registration required. Instructors: Lydia Pan and Leigh Knuttel.

Full Moon Walk: Thursday, April 18th, 2109 from 8:00-9:00 p.m. Meet at the Arboretum entrance on Williams Street. Bring a flashlight. Free, no registration required. Instructor: Maggie Redfern.

CT DEEP Programs

Landscaping for Wildlife: Using native plants to sustain wildlife in your own backyard: Saturday, April 13th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Tolland County Agricultural Center, Vernon, CT.

Seed Celebration: Saturday, April 20th, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Kellogg Environmental Center, 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby, CT. Free.

Earth Day Bird Walk: Saturday, April 20th 2019 at 8:00 a.m. Belding Wildlife Management Area, Bread and Milk Road, Vernon, CT.

UConn Equestrian, Western, and Dressage Teams

Spring 2019 Shows

Equestrian Team Show Schedule: Zone 1 Region 5
- April 6 Zones, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA
- May 2-5 Nationals, Syracuse, NY

CT Western Team Show Schedule: Zone 1
- May 2 - 5 Nationals, Syracuse, NY

Dressage Team Show Schedule: Region B
- April 26-28 Nationals, Lake Erie College

Contact Coach Alena Meacham
Summer 2019 Riding Lessons

Looking for something fun to do this summer? How about horseback riding or polo?

The University of Connecticut's Animal Science Department offers a summer horseback riding program to the public with something for everyone! Dressage, Hunt Seat, Polo, Western riding lessons and Trail Riding are open to adults and children who meet the minimum age and skill level requirements.

Prior to registering, individuals interested in riding in the trail program who have never ridden in UConn’s trail program, or who have not participated in the trail program for over a year, will be required to take a riding evaluation lesson (one hour assessment, cost $36.25) to confirm their riding level. This assessment needs to be completed one week prior to the session starting.

UConn Summer Riding Program information

UConn Extension

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.
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.

**Enhancing Habitat for Songbirds & Beneficial Insects:** Thursday, April 4th, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the New London County Extension Center in Norwich. $50. Instructor: Peter Picone

**Real-time Garden Design:** Saturday, April 13th, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Torrington Library. $75. Instructor: Sarah Bailey.

**Pruning Hydrangeas: Let’s Do It Right!** Tuesday, April 16th, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Fairfield County Extension Center in Bethel. $50. Instructor: Lorraine Ballato

**New Insects in Connecticut:** Thursday, April 25th, 2019 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. New London County Extension Center in Norwich. $50. Instructor: Claire Rutledge

**Additional Master Gardener Classes**

**Orchids at the CT State Museum of Natural History at UConn**

Saturday, April 6th, 2019, 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Schedule: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Morning Tea with Charles Darwin (with Prof. Kenneth Noll as Darwin). 1:30-2:30 – Understanding Orchids with Bill Cullina from Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Tours of the EEB Greenhouses during the break.

Biology/Physics Building lobby, 91 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT. Free and open to the public. For more information please email the CSMNH with the link on the left or use the link on the right to visit the website.
Welcome to Dean Indrajeet Chaubey

The UConn Home & Garden Education Center, along with the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, would like to welcome Dean Indrajeet Chaubey. Dean Chaubey will also serve as director of the Connecticut Cooperative Extension System and the Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station. Dean Chaubey will be moderating the GMO 2.0: Science, Society and the Future event on April 24th, 2019. (see below)

Finding understandable science-based information on GMOs is challenging for the public. This project goal is to bridge the information gap surrounding GMOs with farmers and the general public. Moderator: Dean Indrajeet Chaubey, UConn CAHNR. The event is free but RSVPs are appreciated.
Events around Connecticut

Go A Little Batty! Tuesday, April 9th, 2019 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Sessions Woods Wildlife Preserve in Burlington, CT. Wildlife Biologist Brian Hess will talk about bats of the Northeast, their life cycle and migration patterns, the fight against white-nose syndrome and how we can help. Learn how to create a bat-friendly habitat and how to build and where to place a bat house. Everyone attending will be entered into a drawing to win a bat house. You must be present to win. Free/$5/$15/$25.

Rose Pruning Workshops at Elizabeth Park Tuesdays, April 9th or April 30th, 2019 9:00 a.m. at the Elizabeth Park Rose Garden, 1561 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT Instructor: Stephen Scanniello. Participants may arrive at any time between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for a lesson with Stephen and are asked to bring their own gloves and pruners. Suggested donation for the workshop is $10 per person.

Crazy Snake Worms & Other Invasive Worms: Monday, April 15th, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. with Carol Quish at the Simsbury Garden Club, Simsbury Apple Barn, Simsbury, CT.

Pruning Workshop: Wednesday, April 17th, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Elizabeth Park Rose Garden. ARS Master Rosarian Mike Fuss of the CT Rose Society will lead a Pruning Workshop. Please meet in the green Cottage at 9:00 a.m. Participants are asked to bring their own gloves and pruners. The rain date is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th, 2019.

Connecticut Dahlia Society Tuber Sale: Sunday, April 29th, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.. The Connecticut Dahlia Society will host its yearly Dahlia Tuber Sale at the Pond House Cafe in Elizabeth Park, West Hartford, CT.

Hibiscus 'Berry Awesome'

The 2019 Proven Winners Perennial of the Year is none other than Hibiscus 'Berry Awesome'. Give this one a try and you'll see how awesome it really is. Berry Awesome has huge 7 to 8-inch lavender-pink flowers with red eyes. If the appearance of the flowers wasn't enough, Berry Awesome has contrasting deep midnight green foliage. This Zone 4 hardy hibiscus has an attractive 4-foot rounded habit and is perfect as a centerpiece or backdrop in the landscape.
KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mediterranean diet boosts endurance exercise within days, study finds.
High fiber diets improve cancer treatments; probiotics make things worse.
The right way to cook high-antioxidant veggies.

CLIMATE CORNER

Tree facts to share on Arbor Day, April 26th, 2019.
Protecting small forests fails to protect bird biodiversity.
A hidden source of air pollution? Your daily household tasks.
Spring migration is now earlier in European and North American birds.

WHO KNEW?

Samurai wasps could be our secret weapon against stink bugs.
How the humble marigold outsmarts a devastating tomato pest.
What's that sound? 7 wildlife calls you might hear in your backyard.

UConn Extension Home & Garden Education Center

The UConn Home & Garden Education Center (HGEC) is a horticultural informational resource for the citizens of Connecticut and beyond. The staff at the Center reach nearly 400,000 citizens in outreach efforts each year. We're ready to assist you.

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! 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.

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 the Home & Garden Education center website.
UConn Extension Home & Garden Education Center: We are on a collaborative journey.

How. We co-create knowledge with farmers, families, communities, and businesses. We educate. We convene groups to help solve problems.


Join us.