September is for Septoria Leaf Spot, *Stachys officinalis*, & Skunk Damage in Lawns

**Septoria Leaf Spot**

Septoria leaf spot, caused by the fungal agent *Septoria lycoperdici*, affects the foliage of tomato plants. The symptoms show up first on lower leaves as numerous small spots with black specks in the center on the leaves. Tomato fruit is generally unaffected but it can get sun scald from a lack of foliage cover. This late-season infection is promoted by long stretches of high temperatures and humidity. It can be enabled by periods of long-lasting morning dew in August and September. Septoria leaf spot overwinters on the debris of tomato plants or of solanaceous weed hosts such as horse nettle, nightshade, or jimsonweed and can also be spread by infected seed. Remove and bag infected leaves, do not compost them. Rotate crops every 2-3 years and look for disease-resistant varieties. Do not overhead water and space plants to allow good air circulation so that wet foliage can dry off quickly.

**Tomatoes**

*Stachys officinalis* 'Hummelo'

*Stachys officinalis*, also known as Hummelo betony or Hummelo stachys, is the Perennial Plant Association's 2019 Perennial Plant of the Year. Betony is an easy-to-grow herb with late-summer spikes of purple flowers that are loved by pollinators. Its 1 1/2 to 2' height and ability to gently spread by rooting stems make it good for rock gardens, as an edging plant, or as a groundcover. Plant betony in full sun in well-drained soil and plan to divide it every three years or so.
**Skunk Damage in Lawns**

The Eastern striped skunk, *Mephitis mephitis*, is a common visitor to Connecticut back yards. The eastern striped skunk has fluffy black fur and distinctive double white stripes that run along its back. Weighing in at 6 to 14 lbs. and at 24" in length they are about the size of the average house cat. The main issue with these nocturnal creatures is usually their spray; a malodorous, sticky yellow fluid that they can project up to 10' with pretty good accuracy. But they can also cause a fair amount of damage to a lawn by digging cone-shaped divots that can be 3-4" in diameter as they look for grubs and insect larvae. Controlling grubs in the lawn may help to alleviate this activity. For additional information please visit the CT DEEP link below.

**Discover Outdoor Connecticut Day**

Sunday, September 15, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT

Spend a free, fun-filled day exploring Connecticut's fish and wildlife resources and legacy of outdoor traditions with live animals, demonstrations, fish casting, fly tying, archery, kid's activities, outdoor skills, a photo contest, and more. Stop by the festival and talk to UConn Master Composters about composting food and yard waste in your own back yard. They will be there both days. Bring a picnic lunch (concessionaire also on site) and stay for a few hours or the whole day! This event is open to the public and registration is requested but not required. Images by CT DEEP.
Ten Tips for the September Gardener

Click on highlighted links for additional information.

- Perennials like daylilies and bearded irises can still be dug up and divided.
- Visit a local nursery or garden center and select spring flowering bulbs to add to your gardens. Plant the bulbs among perennials, under trees and shrubs, or in larger groups for a splendid spring show. Choose colors that complement other spring flowering plants as well as nearby plantings. Work a little Bulb Booster or 5-10-10 into the bottom of the planting holes.
- Examine houseplants carefully for insect pests before bringing them back inside. Give them a good grooming if necessary. You may want to spray plants with insecticidal soap after hosing off the foliage. Let the plants dry first.
- Wait until after a light frost to harvest peas, cabbage and beets from your fall garden to obtain the best flavor. 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. This may not be an option in areas with heavy vole populations.
- Get a jump on next year’s lawn and gardens by having a soil test done through the UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory.
- Be prepared to cover remaining vegetables with landscape fabric or cloth if an untimely frost occurs.
- Pick and discard any dropped apples that show signs of apple maggot.
- Use a mulching blade to finely chop fallen leaves and let them decompose on the lawn.
- Early fall is a good time to plant trees and shrubs and allows time for the root systems to get established before the ground freezes.
- Outwit hungry squirrels and chipmunks by planting bulbs in established groundcovers. Lift and store tender bulbs, such as cannas, dahlias and gladiolus, after the first frost.

For a more extensive list of tips visit Gardening Tips for September

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
Why Become a Master Composter? By encouraging residents to recycle organic waste materials that would otherwise end up in landfills or incinerators, Master Composters promote sustainable living and resource conservation at individual and community levels. Through this program, you too can make a difference by educating the public about making and using compost. Visit the link below for additional information.

WORM DAY!!!

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019  10 am–2 pm
Middlesex County Extension Center
1066 Saybrook Rd, Haddam, CT 06438

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 the link on the left. Please let us know if you will be making a worm bin as you will need to bring certain supplies and we will need worms!
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)

UConn Native Plants and Pollinators Conference

Join us for the second biennial UConn Native Plants & Pollinators Conference! Come for an exciting day of presentations featuring current science-based research and information on supporting pollinators in managed landscapes. This program is designed for growers and other green industry professionals, landscape service providers, landscape architects and designers, town commissions, municipalities, schools, and homeowners. Learn how to utilize native plants to provide the greatest value for pollinators throughout the year!

October 3, 2019, 8:30 am to 3:30 p.m.
Student Union Ballroom (Room 330),
2100 Hillside Road, Storrs, CT 06269

Agenda & Registration info
CIPWG: Invasive Mobile Apps: Download these Invasive/Early Detection/Reporting Apps on your mobile device!

Acorn Pip Galls

Galls created by the pip gall wasp, *Callirhytis operator*, can cause the unexplained, premature drop of acorns from oaks. While this also may be the result of environmental stress close examination will reveal the distinctive wedge-shaped gall between the one-year-old acorn and the cap. The female pip gall wasp slips her ovipositor between the acorn and its cap to lay an egg. The gall then forms around the developing egg to protect it and provide it with food. The chemistry of the gall causes the acorns to fall to the ground as the acorn fleshy kernel inside the shell softens and shrivel and then the gall falls out leaving a small, triangular hole. Affected acorns are of no use to wildlife. In Connecticut the pip gall wasp attacks black, red, and white oaks primarily and then possibly scarlet, scrub, and Spanish oaks. Chemical control is not recommended as it would affect too many other insects, including beneficial pollinators.

Events/Programs/Save the Date

Connecticut College

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

UConn Equestrian, Western, and Dressage Teams

Fall 2019 Shows

- September 21, 2019: Tournament of Champions, Horse Barn Hill Arena, Storrs, CT
- October 19, 2019: Conn College Show, Mystic Valley Hunt Club, Gales Ferry, CT
- October 26, 2019: Sacred Heart Show, Rolling M Ranch, Southbury, CT
- October 27, 2019: Trinity Show, Folly Farm, Simsbury, CT
- November 10, 2019: Sacred Heart Show, Rolling M Ranch, Southbury, CT
- November 17, 2019: University of Hartford Show, Full Circle, Manchester, CT
- November 23, 2019: UConn Home Show, Horse Barn Hill Arena, Storrs, CT

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.

UConn Garden Master Classes
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.

Canning Basics and Beyond: Monday, September 16, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. at the Middlesex County Extension Center, Haddam, CT. Inst: Jackie Parente.
Introduction to Wild Mushrooms & Fungi: Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Tolland County Agricultural Center, Vernon, CT. Inst: Bill Yule.
Bark: Get to Know Your Trees: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Hartford County Extension Center, Farmington, CT. Inst: Michael Wojtech.
Soil-It’s not just Dirt: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington, CT. Inst: Margery Winters.

Additional Master Gardener Classes

Events around Connecticut

Connecticut Farmers’ Markets: Many are still going strong through October. Click on the hyperlink for a full listing from the CT Department of Agriculture.
Connecticut Grown: Functional & Beautiful Solutions for Designers: Friday, September 13, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Planters' Choice Nursery, Watertown, CT. Registration is required.
Sale of Rare & Unusual Plants: Sunday, September 8, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Hollister House Garden, Washington, CT
Tree Tour with UConn Arborist John Kehoe: Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Park Rose Garden, 1561 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT

Connecticut Fair Season is Starting!

Goshen Fair: August 31 to September 2, 2019
Haddam Neck Fair: August 30 to September 2, 2019
Woodstock Fair: August 30 to September 2, 2019
Hebron Harvest Fair: September 5-8, 2019
North Haven Fair: September 5-8, 2019
For a full listing please visit the link below.

Connecticut Country Fairs
Echinacea Sombrero® Summer Solstice, *Echinacea x hybrida*, is a coneflower that is a great addition to the late-summer perennial bed. Its bi-colored bright yellow blooms have a white ring around the center cone. At 24" high it is one of the more compact echinacea varieties. Sombrero® is winter hardy to zone 4b. It should be planted in full sun in well-drained soil and is drought resistant. Deadheading the spent blooms will prolong its flowering period.

**KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!**

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

- Eating more plant-based foods may be linked to better heart health.
- Are fruits and veggies healthier raw or cooked?
- Cotton candy grapes?

**CLIMATE CORNER**

- Houseplants ability to survive drought can provide useful knowledge for the climate change era.
- Expert discusses the truth about plastic.
- Climate change likely to increase human exposure to toxic methylmercury.

**WHO KNEW?**

- Can plants think? They could one day force us to change our definition of intelligence.
- The history of Labor Day.
- Molecules called ketone bodies may improve stem cells’ ability to regenerate new intestinal tissue.
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.

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