October is for Organic Lawn Care, Overwintering Pests in the Vegetable Garden, and Outdoor Walks

**Organic Lawn Care**
Fall is the perfect time for lawn renovation and repair and organic lawn care is one option for homeowners who would like to reduce their use of water, synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides. Knowledge of proper lawn management practices includes understanding different turf species and their growing requirements, soil preparation and testing, diseases and pests of turf grass, watering and organic fertilization requirements of turf species, and weed control. For information on organic lawn care practices please click on the link below.

[Organic Lawn Care](#)

**Overwintering Pests in the Vegetable Garden**
Many insect pests of the vegetable garden will overwinter in the soil and plant debris so that they can emerge in the spring to wreak their havoc once again. The squash vine borer, *Melittia cucurbitae*, and Leafminers, in the order Diptera, will overwinter as pupae in the soil. The adults of squash beetle, *Epilachna borealis*, and squash bugs, *Anasa tristis*, will overwinter in leaf debris. The apple maggot, *Rhagoletis pomonella*, will overwinter in the soil as a hard pupal case for up four years. Proper sanitation practices at the end of the growing season are helpful to control many insect pests (and diseases). Clean up and dispose of all plant debris, do not compost it. For additional information on pest and disease controls please visit our fact sheets at the link below.

[Home & Garden Fact Sheets](#)

**A Beautiful Outdoor Autumn Walk Through the UConn Arboretum**
The University of Connecticut Campus Arboretum serves as both an aesthetic and scholarly resource for the University and greater Connecticut communities. It functions as a living laboratory and integral part of the curricula of University of Connecticut. Furthermore, the outstanding outdoor environment provided by the Campus Arboretum is an essential part of what makes UConn a great place to study and work. The Arboretum Committee strives to enhance the tree, shrub and vine plantings on campus by recommending new plants to add to the collection and by providing input on how to best preserve and maintain existing specimens. A self-guided walking tour visiting trees of special interest on the main campus of the University of Connecticut, Storrs, such as the Varied directions larch, *Larix decidua* pictured above, can be found at the link below.

[UConn Campus Tree Guide](#)
Ten Tips for the October Gardener

Click on highlighted links for additional information.

- Dig and store tender bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tubers in a cool, dark, place.
- Remove plant debris from the flower beds. Bag any diseased plant parts and put it in the trash or take it to a landfill but do not compost.
- Take a scenic drive to observe the changing fall foliage. The CT DEEP has [fall foliage driving routes for Connecticut](#).
- Rosemary is not hardy in most areas of CT. Bring plants in before temperatures drop too low but check plants thoroughly for insects such as mealybugs. Rinse the foliage, remove the top layer of the soil surface, and wipe down containers.
- Squash and pumpkins should be harvested when they have bright color and a thick, hard skin. These vegetables will be abundant in farmer's markets and will make a colorful and healthy addition to fall dinners.
- 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.
- Remove, bag and trash any Gypsy moth, Bagworm, or Eastern tent caterpillar egg masses or spray them with a commercial horticultural oil to smother them.
- Cold-hardy fruit trees such as Honeycrisp and Cortland apples, Reliance peach, Superior plum, most pawpaws and American persimmon can still be planted into October. Continue to water until the ground freezes hard.
- Outwit hungry squirrels and chipmunks by planting bulbs in established groundcovers.
- Drain garden hoses and store in a shed, garage, or basement for the winter. Turn off all outside faucets.

For a more extensive list of tips visit [Gardening Tips for October](#)

### 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

### UConn 2019 Master Composter Program

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.

[UConn Master Composter Program](#)
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 below and let us know if you want to make a worm bin as you will need to bring certain supplies (the link in the middle) and we will need worms!
A $5.00 donation is suggested to cover worm costs.

RSVP  Supply List

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)

Fall General Meeting of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group: Thursday, October 24, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Tolland County Education Center, Vernon, CT. All are welcome to attend.
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 Form

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

Connecticut Audubon Society Estuary Explorations Guided Paddle at Hamburg Cove

Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Hamburg Cove, Lyme, CT. Scenic Hamburg Cove is the outlet of the Eightmile River, which is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River. Please provide your own canoe or kayak. Life jackets are required and binoculars are strongly recommended. After the paddle, bring a lunch or snack to enjoy while overlooking the cove from the terrace of Reynolds’ Subaru. Suitable for ages 16 and up. $15 for college students, $30 for members, $40 for non-members. CT Audubon Society kingfisher image.
Is it a coincidence that October is Bat Appreciation Month and that bats are one of the quintessential images of Halloween? Long perpetuated as a scary creature, bats are one of the most misunderstood animals around. These furry little mammals are not dangerous to humans as they are primarily insectivores. A single little brown bat like the one pictured above can consume up to 1200 mosquitoes an hour! To find out more about these creatures please visit the CT DEEP link below. Image by the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, SRS, Bugwood.org

**Events/Programs/Save the Date**

**URI School Garden Conference**

The University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension School Garden Conference will be on **Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Open to all, this one day event will be most beneficial to educators, school administrators, parents, Extension staff and volunteers, gardeners and others seeking to learn more about the value of a school garden in fostering academic achievement in an engaging and memorable way. Kicking off the popular conference is a keynote address by writer, advocate, and past Executive Director of the Edible Schoolyard Project, Katrina Heron.

A limited number of need-based scholarships are available for teachers, school personnel and volunteers involved with school garden programs who are attending the conference. Learn more by visiting the link on the right.

- General Conference Info
- Scholarship Application

**Connecticut College**

**Visit the Plant Collections:** The Connecticut College Arboretum manages four major plant collections containing 6,195 individual, accessioned living plants. **Native Plant Collection Tour on Sunday, October 6, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** and the **Caroline Black Garden Tour on Sunday, October 13, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** Both tours are free and begin at the Olin Science Center.

**Invasive Plants Talk and Walk: Sunday, October 6, 2019 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Meet at 33 Gallows Lane. Free but registration is required.

**New London Tree Walk from A to Z:** **Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** Maggie Redfern, Connecticut College Arboretum Assistant Director. Meet at the Public Library of New London Community Room, 63 Huntington Street. Free, no registration required.
Fall Migration to Benham Meadows: Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Robert Askins, Professor Emeritus of Biology. $10 (free for members of the Arboretum or CT Audubon); registration is required.

All about Autumn Color Tour: Sunday, October 27, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Miles Sax, Arboretum Director. Meet at the Arboretum entrance on Williams Street. Free; no registration required.

CT DEEP Programs
Relaxed Ramble: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. James L. Goodwin Conversation Center, Hampton, CT. Also on Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Goodwin Arts and Nature Day: Sunday, October 6, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. James L. Goodwin Conversation Center, Hampton, CT.

UConn Equestrian, Western, and Dressage Teams
Fall 2019 Shows
- 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

Contact Coach Alena Meacham

UConn Extension

A Cognitive Garden Takes Root
The new cognitive garden at UConn Avery Point is intended to help everyone interact more directly with nature. Cognitive gardens are landscape features designed to encourage learning through the senses, experience, and thought. They tend to be designed for children, but can be enjoyed by people of all ages. The labyrinth is a place for visitors to follow a set path and spend time pondering what is around them. (Sean Flynn/UConn Photo)
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.

Plants & Insects/Friends or Foes? Tuesday, October 1, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. New London County Extension Center, Norwich, CT. Inst: Margery Winters.

Native Plants: Not Just a Pretty Face: Tuesday, October 8, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hartford County Extension Center, Farmington, CT. Inst: Margery Winters.

Real Time Garden Design: Saturday, October 12, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. New Haven County Extension Center, North Haven, CT. Inst: Sarah Bailey.

Rain Gardens: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington, CT. Inst: Donna Katsuranis.

Tree Risks: How Trees Stand Up: Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel, CT Inst: Lars Cherichetti.

Additional Master Gardener Classes

Events around Connecticut

Greenwich Botanical Center: Forest Days Weekly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:15 to 2:45 p.m. through January 16, 2020. For children ages 3-5. Register here.

CT Garlic and Harvest Fest: Saturday & Sunday, October 12 & 13, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Bethlehem Fairgrounds, Bethlehem, CT.

Elizabeth Park Rose Garden, Tree Tour with UConn Arborist John Kehoe: Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Green Cottage, Elizabeth Park, 1561 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT

Sessions Woods Wildlife Preserve Fall Foliage Hike: Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center, Burlington, CT.
Gatsby Gal® Oakleaf Hydrangea

Gatsby Gal® Oakleaf Hydrangea is a compact, North American native plant with lots of blooms. A little smaller than other oakleaf hydrangeas, but with impressively large flowers, and lots of them. Full panicles of pure white blooms are held upright above the foliage. The flowers are quite large relative to the plant's compact size and make this plant a great choice for smaller gardens. The blooms are not affected by soil pH, but will transform from white to pink during the growing season and then it reveals dramatically branched stems with cinnamon-colored bark in after the foliage drops. It is hardy in USDA zones 5-9. For information on growing hydrangeas, including when to prune them, please visit our fact sheet below.

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Eating nuts linked to lower risk of fatal heart attack and stroke.
Crows are getting high cholesterol because they're eating fast food.
Seize some seeds from the garden for planting next year.

CLIMATE CORNER

As monarch butterflies vanish, researchers investigate road salt as culprit and cure.
Birds are vanishing from North America.

WHO KNEW?

Anxiety and depression: Why doctors are prescribing gardening rather than drugs.
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.

UConn Extension Home & Garden Education Center