November is for November Leaves, Natural Enemies of Arthropods, and Nitrogen-fixing Plants

November Leaves: Rake, Mulch, or Compost?

A recent article in The Day has great information about the options for dealing with autumn leaves with some recommendations by the Home & Garden Education Center’s own Pamm Cooper. Leaves are valuable components of the landscape for nitrogen recycling, wildlife, and microbes. Visit the link below to read the entire article.

Green and Growing: Turning Over a New Leaf
Attracting the Natural Enemies of Arthropods

It is never too early to start thinking about next year's garden. When considering new plants for your flower beds, plants that are attractive to the predators of problem insects are a great idea. From the lovely varieties of peony that are essential to the Spring Tiphia wasp, *Tiphia vernalis*, that parasitizes white grubs in the lawn to the Umbelliferae family of plants that includes Queen Anne's Lace that attract hover flies, whose larvae can consume large numbers of aphids. For the full list of plants please visit the UConn Integrated Pest Management page at the link below.

Plants that Attract Beneficial Arthropods

Nitrogen-fixing Plants

Growing peas, beans, and other legumes in the home garden doesn't only provide fresh, delicious vegetables for your family. It also benefits the soil in the garden. Legumes have a symbiotic relationship with nitrogen-fixing bacteria in their root nodules. Nitrogen fixation converts nitrogen in the air into ammonium that can be utilized by most plants. Leaving pea and bean plants to naturally decompose in the garden after harvest helps to return the nitrogen for next year's plants. Visit our fact sheets below to learn about growing legumes in your garden.

Peas
Snap beans

Gardening Tips for November

- Cut back perennials that were covered in *powdery mildew* during the summer. Cut stalks to the ground and dispose of them. Image by Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org.
- Once the ground has frozen (but before it snows), *mulch* fall planted perennials by placing 3 to 5 inches of pine needles, straw, chopped leaves around them.
- Contact your local garden club for a list of upcoming programs or sign up for a workshop, lecture, or course at your local garden center or through the UConn Master Gardener Program.
- Avoid chilling houseplants by moving them away from windows as nights get colder.
- Trim existing *asparagus* foliage to the ground after the first hard frost and mulch beds.
- *Asian lady beetles* and *brown marmorated stink bugs* may enter the home to overwinter. Use weather stripping or caulking to keep them out.
- After the ground freezes, mulch small fruit plants such as *strawberries*. One inch of straw or chopped leaves is ideal for strawberries. Small branches may be used to keep mulch in place.
- Continue to thoroughly water trees, shrubs, lawn areas and planting beds during dry spells until the soil freezes.
- Protect grafted roses from winter damage by mounding 10-12" of soil around the base once the ground has frozen.
- Cut back most perennials to 3-4 inches. Sedum, rudbeckia, asters, and ornamental grasses can be left to provide winter interest and food for the birds.

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

Connecticut-Made Ideas for the Holidays

The end of November brings the start of the holiday season. If you are looking for gift ideas look no further than our own state for products such as edibles like maple syrup, honey, and artisanal meats and cheeses, handcrafted soaps and furniture, and experiences like a hot-air balloon ride over the Farmington River Valley. For ideas for your entire gift list please visit the link below.

Made in Connecticut

Saw-whet Owl Banding Demonstrations

Connecticut Audubon Society’s Center at Pomfret will be banding Northern Saw-whet owls this fall as the mysterious little birds migrate from the north. The docile Saw-whet owl is small enough to sit in your hand. Any owls caught will be banded, aged and sexed, photographed then released back into the wild. There will also be discussion on the biology of Saw-whets and other owls in our area. Bring your cameras and dress appropriately for the weather. At least five sessions will be open to the public, but registration is required.

Saw-whet owl image by the CT Audubon Society. Friday, November 1, 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 2, 8:00 p.m. Leader: Andy Rzeznikiewicz. To register, call 860-928-4948. Cost: $15 CAS members; $25 non-members.

CT Audubon Society
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.

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 Laborator
Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)

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

Invasive Mobile Apps

Events/Programs/Save the Date

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Reconnecting Stream Habitat to Benefit Migratory Fish: Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Steven Gephard, Supervising Fisheries Biologist, CT DEEP Fisheries Division, 123 Huntington Street, Britton Laboratory, Jones Auditorium, New Haven, CT.

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, November 3, 2019 and the Caroline Black Garden, November 10, 2019, both from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Smaller American Lawns Today (SALT) Conference-Creating Edible Gardens for People and Pollinators: November 9, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meet in Cummings Arts Center, Oliva Hall. $65 before Nov. 1/$80 after ($50 before Nov. 1/$65 after members Arboretum or Wild Ones); registration required, call 860-439-5020 or email.

Full Moon Walk: Tuesday, November 12, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Meet at Arboretum entrance on Williams Street. Free; no registration required. Experience the Arboretum in a new light, under the Beaver Moon with Maggie Redfern, Arboretum assistant director. This night tour will explore best spots for viewing the moon on campus and in the Native Plant Collection. Star gaze as you take in the sights and sounds. Bring your family, your favorite person to watch the moon with and a flashlight.

Fall Foliage and Feathers: Saturday, November 16, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Meet at Arboretum entrance on Williams Street. $10 (free for members of the Arboretum or CT Audubon), registration required, visit the site or call 860-598-4218. Fall in Connecticut means beautiful changing foliage and migrating birds. Experience the best of both in the Connecticut College Arboretum. Join a teacher-naturalist from the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center as we explore the large catalog of tree species and diverse habitats that make for excellent bird watching and leaf peeping. Binoculars recommended. Co-sponsor: CT Audubon Society’s Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center.
**CT DEEP Programs**

**Autumn Tree Identification:** Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The first half of the program will be an introduction to Tree ID inside the center museum, after which we will wander the Discovery Trail, stopping often to identify trees. James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, 23 Potter Road, Hampton, CT.

**Habitat Hike-Preparing for Winter:** Saturday, November 16, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Learn about the different ways animals prepare for winter with this family-friendly nature hike. Dress for the weather. Kellogg Environmental Center, 500 Hawthorne Avenue, Derby, CT.

**UConn Equestrian, Western, and Dressage Teams**

**Fall 2019 Shows**

Equestrian Team Show Schedule: Zone 1 Region 5
- November 10: Sacred Heart University
- November 17: U of Hartford, Full Circle Farm

Dressage Team Show Schedule: Region B
- November 3, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

Western Team Show Schedule: Zone 1
- November 3, UMass Double Header, Orange, MA
- November 16, UConn
- November 23, CCSU Double Header
- December 7, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley MA

**Contact Coach Alena Meacham**

**UConn Extension**

90th Annual Little International Livestock Show on Saturday, November 2, 2019 beginning at 9:30 AM. The show will feature showmanship classes for poultry, beef and dairy cattle, horses, sheep and pigs. Students will show off their animal handling skills with a species that they have been working with for the past two months. Horsebarn Hill Arena, 3099 Horsebarn Hill Road, Storrs, CT

**Livestock Show info**

**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.

**Wetland Habitats and Plants of Connecticut:** Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Hartford County Extension Center, Farmington, CT. Inst.: Lori Benoit.

**All About Fungi and Fungicides—What Every Gardener Needs to Know:** Wednesday, November 6, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Litchfield County Extension Center, Torrington, CT. Inst.: Dr. Yonghao Li.

**Pruning 101:** Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tolland County Extension Center, Vernon, CT. Inst.: Dr. Yonghao Li.

**Magical Witches of Winter:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. New London County Extension Center, Norwich, CT. Inst.: Adam Wheeler.

**Additional Master Gardener Classes**

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CT State Museum of Natural History at UConn

**The Shape of Storrs—A Special Presentation by Dr. Robert Thorson.** In this unique public talk, he will share the fascinating story that explains why Charles and Augustus Storrs would ultimately have the opportunity to donate their land for an agricultural school in 1881.

**Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**
Room 130, UConn Biology/Physics Building, 91 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06269
Events around Connecticut

**Smaller American Lawns Today Conference, Creating Edible Gardens for People and Pollinators:** **Saturday, November 9, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Cummings Art Center, Connecticut College, New London, CT.

**Terrarium Building Workshop** with Tovah Martin at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford on **Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m.** Bring your own glassware. The Bartlett will supply plants, soil and other materials. $35 plus a $20 materials charge. Register by Oct. 27.

**Connecticut Horticultural Society:** **Saving the Bees: The Sweet Life of a Beekeeping Entrepreneur:** **Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at** the Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT. **Speaker:** C. Marina Marchese, Red Bee Honey.

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**No Seed Peppers?**

Seedless, or no-seed peppers, are among some vegetables that are currently in the trial process and may be brought to a seed catalog near you soon. The super-sweet seedless peppers are also called snacking peppers due to their petite size and they are great for kid’s lunchboxes, in sautés, or used fresh with dips. A roasting variety, Peppi Grande Red, is already commercially available. Visit our fact sheet on peppers for information on growing these members of the Solanaceous family in your garden.

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**KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!**

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*Are fruits and veggies healthier raw or cooked?*

*Cooking with greens.*

*There’s a new apple in town next month: Cosmic Crisp.*

**CLIMATE CORNER**

*Why don’t evergreens change color and drop their leaves every fall?*
Buying less is better than buying ‘green’ -- for the planet and your happiness. This bike lane is covered in solar panels. (It’s also in the middle of a highway).

WHO KNEW?

Plants defend against insects by inducing 'leaky gut syndrome'. The biggest source of microplastics in fresh water is laundry lint.

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.

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