December is for Deer Damage, Debunking Garden Myths, and Decorating with Greens.

Deer damage

The photo above left shows damage to an Arborvitae hedge by deer feeding during the winter. Deer will feed on any foliage they can reach, as is shown in this picture. For more information on ways to reduce deer damage to plants, click on link below.

[Deer Damage and Control]

Debunking garden myths

Are you confused about tree and shrub planting, mulching and whether or not to stake or fertilize? If so, see the link below for an excellent fact sheet from the University of Maine that debunks some myths on these topics.

[Debunking Garden Myths]

Decorating with greens

For tips on selecting greenery to use indoors and outdoors and how to keep them fresh, see the fact sheet from Clemson Cooperative Extension on link below. Remember that any greenery you can harvest from your own plants will, in fact, be pruning the plant, so cut wisely.

[Decorating with Greens]
CT Christmas Tree Growers Association

Support your local Christmas tree farmer by choosing a tree grown in your area. Many have trees that you may select and cut yourself or you may choose to get one that is already cut.

Wood Memorial Library annual gingerbread house festival- November 29-December 21
Pruning Hydrangeas

Before pruning hydrangeas, read our fact sheet on the correct time to prune the different species. If you have the pink or blue flowered mophead *Hydrangea macrophylla*, the correct time to prune is after blooms begin to fade in June but before flower buds are set for the following year.

Poinsettia plants add to the festive atmosphere of the holiday season.

Poinsettias have an interesting history and a wide selection of colors and habit can be found at many garden centers and nurseries. Photo is from our UConn greenhouse.
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
Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)

Invasive Mobile Apps: Download these Invasive/Early Detection/Reporting Apps on your mobile device!
Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Audubon’s 120th Christmas Bird Count will be conducted between the dates of Saturday, December 14, 2019 and Sunday, January 5, 2020. Since the Christmas Bird Count began over a century ago, it has relied on the dedication and commitment of volunteers like you.

There is a specific methodology to the CBC, and all participants must make arrangements to participate in advance with the circle compiler within an established circle, but anyone can participate. Each count takes place in an established 15-mile wide diameter circle, and is organized by a count compiler. Count volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile (24-km) diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. It’s not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day. If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. Have fun while learning with like-minded scientists and bird watchers.

Events/Programs/Save the Date

Friends of Goodwin Forest

There are some great events coming up in December sponsored by the Friends Of Goodwin Forest. All are free and will be at the James L. Goodwin State Park in Hampton. See link below
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

Winter 2019 Riding Lessons

Looking for something fun to do this winter? How about horseback riding?

Start the new year off right! Come ride with us! The University of Connecticut's Department of Animal Science offers a winter riding lesson program that is open to the public. Please note that the lessons are open to adults and children who meet the minimum age requirements.

Dressage, Hunt Seat, and Western Lessons - Advanced Beginner Through Advanced

UConn Winter Riding Program information
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. Young animals can be found in the barns at the following times of year: 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.

Events around Connecticut

CT Horticultural Society Symposium

Save the date! Creating a Beautiful and Healthy Oasis – Every Yard Matters Tenth Biennial Symposium – Saturday, February 1, 2020 being held at the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford, CT.


Sessions Woods Wildlife Preserve in Burlington, CT. Take a hike on your own during the winter.
Plant highlight

Winterberry provides fall and winter interest

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

Mouse in the House
Outdoors in November
Pumpkins-carve or cook?
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.

VISIT OUR 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 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
EXTENSION