January is for junipers, Japanese barberry and Jack-in-the-pulpit

Junipers are hardy shrubs or small trees that can add a variety of shapes, growth habit and textures in a landscape planting. They are versatile as low growing, creeping varieties can fill in slopes or other large areas over time. Some can provide screening and they will do well in drier soils where other plants may struggle. Junipers do not like wet soils and cannot tolerate heavy snow cover for extended periods. Low-growing junipers used under this fence helps control weeds and prevent having to trim grass or weeds around fence posts.
*Berberis thunbergii*, Japanese barberry, was originally imported as a hardy, deer-resistant and attractive landscape plant. Now, it has earned invasive plant status as it has successfully overtaken and replaced many native understory plants important to wildlife and forest health. Japanese barberry in above photo is overtaking a forest understory where native plants like blueberry have been crowded out.

**Japanese Barberry**

*Arisaema triphyllum*, Jack-in-the-pulpit can be found in open moist woodlands in early May. In the fall the seed clusters are brilliant red berries which birds and animals eat. Jack-in-the-pulpit can be used in native woodland gardens combined with other native plants such as ferns, trillium, May apples and *Geranium maculatum*.

**Jack-in-the-pulpit**
Turkey tail fungi are easy to identify as you hike in the woods

Turkey tail fungus, *Trimeles versicolor* is aptly named because of its distinctive shape and sometimes brown colors that are similar to wild turkey tails. One of the more common fungi of the woods, it can be found on dead logs, stumps and dead trunks of hardwood trees, which it helps to decompose.

Winter is a great time to look through seed catalogs

Johnnyseeds    Burpee
Mourning cloak butterflies will sometimes fly in and around woods on warm winter days

Plant Highlight

Blonding to an ash tree due to woodpeckers chipping off bark as they search for emerald ash borer larvae and adults
KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

Bayberry- the Scent of New England

Holiday Plant Care

Giant Silkworm and Slug Moths

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Gardening Tips for January

- Check for frost heaving on perennials during thaws and press back into place. Cover the crowns with extra mulch as necessary.
- The cyclamen with its unique blossoms needs to be kept cool and evenly moist. High temperatures, too little water, or too low light may cause leaves to yellow and drop.
- Order seeds
- At month's end, start seeds of onions, leeks, broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower indoors under lights.
- Try to stay off lawn areas during winter months as it can damage grass crowns
- Brush snow from evergreens as soon as possible after a storm
- Check outdoor plants for animal damage-protect with wire fencing or burlap if necessary. Deer repellents can be used periodically.

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

Send your soil sample in for testing now. 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 Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory
- UConn Extension
- UConn Food Safety
- UConn Home & Garden Education Center
- UConn Master Gardener Program
- UConn Garden Master Classes - All open to the public
Connecticut College

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

Events around Connecticut

CT Horticultural Society Symposium

Registration Open! 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.


Friends of Goodwin Forest There are some great events coming up this winter sponsored by the Friends Of Goodwin Forest. All are free and will be at the James L. Goodwin State Park in Hampton.

CT DEEP Ice Fishing Classes offered around the state. The Fisheries Division is offering FREE Learn to Ice Fish classes starting early January!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Botanists scour aging orchards for long-lost apple varieties
A new tomato ideal for urban gardens and even outer space

CLIMATE CORNER

Forests face climate change tug of war

WHO KNEW?

Sweet potato uses a single odor to warn its neighbors of insect attack
Alternative leather from fungi

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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
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