March is for Maple Syrup and Monkeyflower

Maple Syrup Time in Connecticut

The sap is running and sugar houses are boiling. The maple syrup industry is alive and well when the weather cooperates providing warm days and cold nights to signal the sugar maple trees to make sap. Maple syrup makers will have to collect 40 gallons of sap to boil down to make one gallon of syrup. March is filled with opportunities to visit sugar houses and festivals around the state.
How Did the Monkeyflower Get Its Spots? Research is being done at UConn EEB on how and why this wonderful wildflower is able to diversify its spots. Stay tuned!
Insect Highlight

Fireflies overwinter in bark crevices and can sometimes be seen crawling on the sunny side of tree trunks on warm winter days.

Bears will be waking up when warm weather hits.

Black bears will be coming out of hibernation with the coming warm days. Their numbers have been growing, and increasing sightings and conflicts with humans. Reduce reasons for them to come into your yard by removing bird feeders and bring in garbage cans promptly.

Black Bear Facts
The Connecticut Conservation Districts are ready to take your orders for their annual plant and seedling sales. Each district will have some unique plants for their sale, such as bloodroot (shown above), pagoda dogwood, swamp milkweed, highbush blueberry, chokeberry and many others. There are five districts throughout our state so check out the ones near you for their sales brochures and ordering forms on the link below.

Connecticut Conservation Districts
Gardening Tips for March

- Seeds of annuals that require 10-12 weeks of growth before transplanting can be started indoors now.
- Pot up begonia and caladium bulbs. Place in a warm, bright location to encourage growth.
- Prune any houseplants that have gotten leggy to encourage new growth.
- Seeds of vegetables, such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and herbs that require 10-12 weeks of growth before transplanting can be started indoors now.
- Check for tan gypsy moth egg masses on tree trunks and branches. Scrape or brush off and destroy if possible.
- Get your soil tested through the UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory before any major planting or fertilizing venture. Soils sent in before April 1 will avoid the spring rush.

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

UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory

Click on the Following Links to Visit Any of Our Sites:

UConn Extension

UConn Food Safety

UConn Home & Garden Education Center

UConn Master Gardener Program

UConn Garden Master Classes - All open to the public

UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory
Events around Connecticut

CT Master Gardener Association (CMGA) Symposium

On Sat., Mar. 21, from 9 am to 4 pm, the Connecticut Master Gardener Association will present "Gardening Any Time, Any Place" at Connecticut College, Crozier Williams Building, in New London. The $65 member/$95 non-member registration includes continental breakfast, lunch, and onsite parking.

For more information, go to https://ctmga.org/2020-symposium-information

“The Olmsted Design Legacy: Rediscovering its Creator”

- Talk on Frederick Law Olmsted presented by The Hartford Wellesley Club.
- Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020
- Time: 11:30 am – 2pm (lunch at noon)
- Location: Pond House Café
- 1555 Asylum Ave, West Hartford, CT 06117
- Fee: $40 per person
- (Buffet lunch includes salad, entrée, dessert, and coffee) For more information and RSVP

CT River Winter Wildlife Eagle Cruises
The 64 ft RiverQuest vessel provides an on-board naturalist narration while you get an up-close view of the River.

**Spring into Gardening Berkshire Gardening Symposium**

Lots of great speakers at this symposium in Lenox, Massachusetts on March 28.

**Sessons 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**
For upcoming outdoor related programs see the offerings from CT State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

**CONNECTICUT COLLEGE ARBORETUMWINTER - SPRING 2020**


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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Walnuts may be good for your heart and gut.

**CLIMATE CORNER**

Half-a-million insect species face extinction: scientists

**WHO KNEW?**

Curbside Recycling is Failing Us, But There Are Alternatives that Work

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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.

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