May is for Trillium, Bob-o-links-and Columbine
Trillium are native woodland flowers that bloom from late April-June, depending upon species. One of the earliest is red trillium, *Trillium erectum*, which is found in moist woodlands. Do not pick flowers as plants can be killed or cease flowering for up to seven years.
Bobolinks are birds of grassy pastures or undisturbed fields. Males have a distinctive yellow cap and a black body with white markings. Males seem to float over tall grass as they sing their chirpy songs. UConn's Horsebarn Hill not only is a home for this threatened bird, but also is a breeding ground for kestrels, meadowlarks and Savannah sparrows.
Columbine

Columbine is a member of the buttercup family whose brilliant red and yellow downward hanging flower has been likened to a rocket ship. It makes an excellent addition to a woodland garden.

UConn Extension educators have curated resources to help families, parents with children at home, citizens, and farmers during the COVID-19 outbreak. We have resources for children's activities, staying healthy, and cooking and recipes.

Extension is in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources and has more than 100 years' experience strengthening
communities in Connecticut and beyond. Our educators are ready to work together with your community.

Be careful mulching around trees

Trees should not be mulched directly up to the base of the trunk. Mulch should also be no deeper than three inches. Mulch that is placed too high around the base of a tree- called "volcano mulching"- is not good for the tree and will cause problems over time.
Juvenal's duskywing, *Erynnis juvenalis*, is an early flying butterfly whose males perch on twigs or plant stems low to the ground to patrol for females. The caterpillar feeds on oaks.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird Alert

Get your feeders cleaned and filled and hung out. Check out the hummingbird migration map on link below. Photo courtesy L. Ackerman.

Hummingbird Migration Map
Shop Local Connecticut Farmers and Farm Markets

Connecticut State Government – site that includes listings of where to get produce and meat from local farmers.

CitySeed – organizations that are operating an outdoor, pre-order farmers market in New Haven.

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut – map and directory of farms, farmers markets, and farm stands.

Grow Your Own Vegetables

Have you been thinking about starting your own vegetable garden while staying home and staying healthy? UConn's Extension has gathered our various outreach groups to contribute to their new webpage that will help get you started, select seeds, start your seeds, avoid common garden mistakes, test your soil, diagnose plant problems (we can help with that!), and identify pests.
KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

Early Garden Arrivals
What is a virus?
Leave it to Beaver – Or Not!
Time in the Garden

Sign up to receive our blogs by e-mail

Gardening Tips for May
As night temperatures moderate into the 60's, move houseplants outdoors (avoid full sun and windy locations).

Plant tomatoes, peppers, corn, cucurbits, and melons after all danger of frost is gone and the soil is warm. This is usually the last week in May.

Lily leaf beetles often show up first in spring on leaves of the crown imperial (Fritillaria). Hand-picking the adults and the egg masses is the easiest control method.

Thin or compacted turf will benefit from core aeration and overseeding.

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

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
Look for these pests

Lily leaf beetles (left) will be active when native and exotic lilies begin growth in the spring. Snowball aphids are active as soon as new leaves appear on cranberry and snowball viburnums, and can be found feeding inside curled leaves on tips of twigs.

Lily leaf beetle

Snowball aphid

Click on the Following Links to Visit Any of Our Sites:
COVID-19 Resources from UConn Extension

UConn Extension

UConn Food Safety

UConn Home & Garden Education Center

UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory

UConn Science of GMOs

UConn Master Gardener Program

UConn Garden Master Classes - All open to the public
**Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)**

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

![Invasive Mobile Apps](image)

**Events**

**International Compost Awareness Week** May 3 - 9, 2020

**Sessions Woods Wildlife Preserve** in Burlington, CT. Take a hike on your own.

**CT DEEP** Connecticut’s system of state parks and forests, state boat launches, and waterways offer fabulous outdoor recreation.

**Connecticut College** consider walking on some of the trails on the Connecticut College campus- the Arboretum’s native plant collection is open now. They have a wonderful native spring wildflower section.

**Dig for Victory**—Dig for Victory 2020 is a non-profit organization bringing people together to focus on something we can control (maybe!) – our gardens.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Many people are looking for food security by raising their own chickens as an egg or meat source. Learn the best way to care for and house poultry from UMaine Extension’s animal science web site.
CLIMATE CORNER

Lower emissions bring clearer skies.

WHO KNEW?

The smallest flowering plant in the world; can become invasive.

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.