June is for Mountain Laurel, Luna Moths and Clematis
Mountain laurels will be blooming soon. Stamens of mountain laurels have pollen laden tips of the stamens inserted in little ‘pockets’ in the petals, then as the flower opens, the stamens are pulled tighter. Bees visiting the flowers contact the stamens and pollen is released like a rock from a slingshot.
Luna moths, one of our native giant silkworm moths, begin to emerge from their cocoons around mid-May and after. The luna moth is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful of North American moths. Giant silkworm moths only have vestigial mouths and are unable to feed.
Clematis can provide a spectacular flower show all summer when all of the 3 main groups are planted in the garden. All clematis types require moist, well-drained soil and do best when planted where their “heads are in sun and feet are in shade.” Blooming times listed here apply to Connecticut seasons.

Group 1 clematis bloom in late spring to early summer from buds produced on the previous season’s growth. No regular pruning is required.

Group 2 plants bloom on old wood and are repeat bloomers with one flush in May to June and often again in August on new growth if the vine is not heavily pruned after first bloom.

Group 3 clematis are large flowering, late blooming plants. Stems can be cut back to 24 inches in late winter to ensure vigorous new growth that will produce many blossoms.

Above photo is of Clematis “Guernsey Cream” (Group 2)
Pruning Clematis

Early vegetable pests Video by UConn vegetable specialist Shuresh Ghimire

Photos of cabbage maggot from UMass Extension

Watch video
Native mountain laurels are being hit hard by the fungus *Mycosphaerella colorata (Phyllosticta kalmicola)* which is characterized by round to irregular, greyish white to silvery spots, that have reddish or purple borders. They also get other fungal leaf spot diseases.
Insect Highlight -

Coleomegilla maculata-the spotted lady beetle

Along with feeding on other arthropods like aphids and mites, flowers with a heavy pollen load like dandelions provide an essential part of this lady beetle's diet. Lady beetles like C. maculata can consume a large amount of aphids that are on crops and perennials.

C. maculata lady beetle
An iris has two types of petals called ‘falls’ and ‘standards’. The falls are the three petals that are curved downwards while the standards are the three petals that are straight up. **Bearded irises** (*Iris germanica*) have a distinct fuzzy area at the base of each fall petal shown in picture below.
Shop Local Connecticut Farmers and Farm Markets

Connecticut State Government – [site](https://www.ct.gov/agriculture/agriculture-practices/organic-farming) 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.

Tomatoes- Determine or Indeterminate?

Determinate tomatoes grow to a certain height and then stop, and have a defined season of production. Fruit are all set in a 4-5 week period, with no fruit produced after that. Roma and Celebrity are two examples of determinate tomato varieties.

Indeterminate tomatoes are generally called vine tomatoes, and will continue to grow and produce fruit until frost. They need sturdy support as they may get 12 feet or more tall. Sungold and Early Girl are examples of indeterminate tomato varieties.
Determinate vs. Indeterminate Tomatoes

UConn Extension Vegetable Resource Page

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

Three All Too Common Invasive Plant Species in Connecticut

Vegetable Gardens Sprout During Tough Times

Cold Weather and Finding Old Friends in the Garden

May Wildflowers

Sign up to receive our blogs by e-mail
Gardening Tips for June

Sow seeds of fast-growing annuals like marigolds, zinnias, and cosmos directly in the garden.

Plant summer-flowering bulbs such as cannas, gladiolas and dahlias.

All plants, especially newly planted ones, need 1” of water per week. Water deeply and thoroughly as needed.

Plant seeds of bush beans every three weeks for a continuous harvest.

Move houseplants outside to the deck or patio and enjoy them outdoors for the summer. It is best to gradually introduce them to more direct sunlight to prevent the leaves from being burned.

Rain encourage slug problems. Check for slugs during rainy periods and hand pick the pests.

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

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

Feeding damage from 4-lined plant bug nymphs and adults, left photo. Adult- right photo, severe damage can be done to plants, especially herbs.

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

- COVID-19 Resources from UConn Extension
- UConn Extension
Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)

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

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.

Florence Griswold Museum- visit the Artists’ Trail, a half-mile walk around the Museum’s riverfront landscape and gardens.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT-

Growing your own food has multiple benefits to physical and mental health, and is often cost-effective. Read this article from the University of New Hampshire

Benefits of growing your own food

CLIMATE CORNER-

NASA Climate Kids website has videos, games, activities and general climate information just for kids
WHO KNEW?

Studies show that bumblebees have ways of speeding up pollen production by pinching leaves of some plants that are short on pollen production.

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 Extension 1376 Storrs Road Unit 4134 Storrs, Connecticut 06269 United States (860) 486-9228

Copyright © 2020 UConn Extension, all rights reserved. UConn Extension is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and program provider.

Unsubscribe