July is for Milkweeds, Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly and Wood Lilies
Milkweeds are members of the dogbane family and are an important source of food for a menagerie of insects, many of which are considered beneficial. Pictured above is the native swamp milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*. Butterfly weed, poke milkweed, common milkweed and whorled milkweed are a few that are native here in Connecticut.

**Baltimore Checkerspot**
Baltimore checkerspots are a colorful native butterfly that is usually in flight when common milkweed is blooming. This butterfly is considered a threatened species in Connecticut mostly because of habitat loss. This one was seen in Vernon.

Wood Lily

Wood lilies, *Lilium philadelphicum*, are native to Connecticut and have the widest ranging of our true lilies. It is found throughout the United States and Canada. It begins to flower here around the fourth of July. These plants are rare or endangered in some states and the flowers should not be picked.
Early vegetable pests Video by UConn vegetable specialist Shuresh Ghimire

Photos of cabbage maggot from UMass Extension

Watch video

Disease Highlight-

Septoria leaf spot on Rudbeckia
Septoria leaf spot caused by a fungus named *Septoria rudbeckiae*, starts out as 1/8-inch-diameter brown spots that merge to cause large brown areas on otherwise dark green leaves. This disease begins on lower leaves and then progresses up the plant. Overhead watering should be avoided. Other *Septoria* sp. are host specific on many other plants. Picture from Michigan State

---

**Insect Highlight -**

**Scorpionfly**
Scorpionflies are harmless, but are so named because the males curl the tip of their abdomen up like a scorpions' stinger. Life of adults and larva are not well known, but both are omnivores, eating decaying vegetation and insects. Adult scorpionflies have a head resembling that of a horse.

**Scorpionfly**

---

**Plant Highlight- Indian Pipe**

Found in moist, mature fores, Indian pipe belongs to the same plant family as blueberry- the Ericaceae Family. A single flower forms at the end of its stem which has scales but no leaves. Indian pipe needs no light for photosynthesis, as it relies instead on a fungus that obtains nutrients from the roots of green plants. Because Indian pipe uses the fungus as a bridge between itself and the host plant of the fungus, the Indian Pipe is considered a parasitic plant.
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.

Planning on Canning? Freezing Food in Your Future?
Check out UConn Extension Food Safety food preservation resource list for all the accurate information you will need to can, freeze or dry the garden bounty.

**UConn Extension Food Safety Food Preservation Resources**

**10 Rules for Safe Canning**

---

**New Invasive Insect- Spotted Lanternfly**

![Image: PENN STATE](image)

This plant hopper, a native to Asia, has the potential to damage trees, crops, landscapes and natural ecosystems. Grape, hardwoods, tree fruits and many other plants may be destroyed by this insect which feeds on sap and can occur in huge numbers on a single plant. For information on how to report sightings of this insect, see Ct. DEEP alert on link below.
A new strain of the invasive water weed hydrilla has been found in the Connecticut River, according to a survey conducted by the Connecticut Agricultural Extension Service Invasive Aquatic Plant Program (CAES IAPP). Studies of the strain found in the Connecticut portion of the river found that it is genetically distinct from other strains found in North America. A task force formed by the CAES IAPP in 2018 to survey the length of the Connecticut River from Vermont/New Hampshire south to Long Island Sound for the presence of hydrilla found that it is not present from the southern border of Massachusetts northward. However, it is common southward in Connecticut and is abundant in main portions of the river, including protected coves, some marinas, most tributaries, and shallow areas along the main sections of the river. Some areas of the river are choked with the plant. Small populations of the weed are also present in some Connecticut lakes. Where it occurs, hydrilla crowds out native plants, affects wildlife, interferes with boating and swimming activities and decreases property values. A 2019 survey found that hydrilla populations in the main stem of the Connecticut River are much more dense than usually found in southern states where it is a very troublesome invasive water plant. Further studies hope to survey the river from Haddam to the Massachusetts border to determine the extent of the weed and to develop a management plan.
Cocoa hull mulch, Straw mulch, and Wood Chip mulch.

Mulch is an underused garden tool that offers many benefits to both the gardener and the garden. Number one, among its many attributes, is its ability to conserve soil moisture and moderate soil temperature. Just what many of our plants need during these hot, dry days. Mulched areas also keep weeds at bay so we can spend more time enjoying our flowers and vegetables harvests and less weeding. Match the mulch to the garden. Straw mulches work well in the vegetable garden. Finer cocoa or buckwheat hulls accentuate more delicate herbs. Shredded bark mulches are attractive and long lasting in ornamental beds. Wood chips are often free at local transfer stations.
KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

Groundcovers
Apple Scab on the Rise!
Scales and Slugs and Sawflies, Oh My!
Sights and Songs of June
Three All Too Common Invasive Plant Species in Connecticut

Sign up to receive our blogs by e-mail

Gardening Tips for July

- Water early in the morning to reduce the loss of water to evaporation during the hottest days.
- Container and hanging plants may need additional water later in the day if hot and windy conditions prevail. Check plants again at day's end to see if any additional water is necessary.
- Mulch garden beds to help conserve water.
- Hummingbirds are attracted to red salvia, coral bells and bee balm.
- Tomato hornworms are large, green caterpillars that feed on the leaves of tomatoes and related plants. Hand-pick or control with Bacillus thuringiensis. Do not remove caterpillars that are covered in white pupae as they have been parasitized by beneficial wasps.
- Pinching back herbs to stop flowering will keep the best flavor in the leaves and encourage branching. Herbs can be air dried, dried quickly in the microwave or frozen.
For a more extensive list of tips visit Gardening Tips for July

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

Look for these
Early blight on tomato

We are still seeing feeding damage from 4-lined plant bug nymphs and adults. Severe damage can be done to plants, especially herbs if populations are high and multiple generations are on the same plants. A few damaged leaves on most plants is not harmful.

4-Lined Plant Bugs

Aphids

Aphids feed on both woody and herbaceous plants and species can be host-specific. Check plants wilting on newer growth and
see if masses of aphids may be feeding on the stems causing new tips to wilt. Check and see if any syrphid fly, lady beetle or lacewing larvae are feeding on aphids as the presence of these predatory insects may provide acceptable aphid control.

Aphids

Hibiscus sawflies

Look on the undersides of hibiscus leaves that have chewing damage for the hibiscus sawfly larvae. Like viburnum sawflies, these pests can cause severe damage. They are often mistaken for caterpillars.

Hibiscus sawfly
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!

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-

Learn the science behind why apples turn brown after slicing, Rice Krispies go snap crackle and pop when milk is added, wintergreen life savers spark when bitten and other food facts
Where do you keep your tomatoes, in the fridge or on the counter? Research from Germany says it depends on the variety.

CLIMATE CORNER-
Habitat loss, urbanization, agricultural crops, nighttime lighting (not LED lights as much), pesticide use, pollution, warming trends, and other factors have combined to threaten insect populations globally.

WHO KNEW?
Tools such as visual inspection, tomography and resistance microdrilling can be used together to detect inner decay in standing trees.

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.

Stay Cool!

---

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.*

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

Unsubscribe

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