August is for Butterfly Bush, Maidenhair Fern and Gray Tree frogs
Butterfly bush, Buddleia davidii, generally has very fragrant flower clusters that attract large numbers of pollinators and hummingbirds. There are many varieties to choose from in various heights, colors of foliage and flowers and size of blooms.
Northern Maidenhair fern *Adiantum pedatum* is a native fern which thrives in woods and gardens with shade and rich, well-drained soils. Characteristic habit of arching fronds with a circular pattern is a key feature of this fern.

**Maidenhair fern**

**Gray Tree Frogs**
*Hyla versicolor*, the gray tree frog, is native here in the Northeast, and for its small size, it has a very loud voice. Only two inches long at maturity, this frog may stick to the siding of houses where lights are left on at night for easy insect hunting.

**Gray tree frogs**

Connecticut Residents Asked to Report Receipt of any Unsolicited Packages of Seeds

Ct DoAg and CAES officials are asking anyone who receives an unsolicited bag of seeds to immediately contact their state plant regulatory officials, Dr. Kirby Stafford at 203-974-8485 or kirby.stafford@ct.gov or Dr. Victoria Smith at 203-974-8474 or victoria.smith@ct.gov.

Anyone with seeds is asked to hold onto them and the packaging until given further instructions.
Read the latest pest report on vegetables from Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension vegetable specialist.

Insect Highlight -

Great Golden Digger Wasp
Great golden digger wasps *Sphex ichneumoneus* are 1 inch long with a reddish orange abdomen and reddish orange legs and are commonly found on flowers, especially where soils are sandy. This docile solitary wasp seldom harms people. Photo- Gary Alpert Bugwood.org

Great Golden Digger Wasp

Plant Highlights- Clethra Alnifolia and Tall Garden Phlox
Both of these plants attract a multitude of pollinators. Clethra, bottom photo, is a native shrub good for moist areas and is very fragrant.

- Clethra alnifolia
- Tall garden phlox
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.
Commonly known as yellow wood sorrel, the Oxalis plant (*Oxalis stricta*) hits its stride during summer. As both an annual and perennial weed, it is not very particular where it grows and can be found in lawns, perennial beds, under bushes, among ground covers – anywhere there is an open space in any type of soil. Its clover-like appearance and subtle green color provide the camouflage it needs to escape the weeding hand. Each oxalis plant can produce multiple 5-petaled yellow flowers that produce cylindrical seed pods containing 10-15 seeds, which are explosively expelled when the pod ripens. The seeds have no dormant period so they germinate quickly and spread willy-nilly throughout an area. Hand pulling is effective, despite a tap root that allows the plant to grow up to a foot long if left to mature. Pulling the plant before it flowers discourages multiple copies of the plant from becoming established throughout an area.
KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

Powdery Mildew: a Perennial Problem that I Don’t Usually Mind
Some Hydrangeas Make Me Happy.
Battling Beetles
Encountering Nature in the Home Landscape

Sign up to receive our blogs by e-mail

Gardening Tips for August

- Fertilize container plantings and hanging baskets if they look yellow with a ½ strength dose of a balanced liquid fertilizer.
- Continue to deadhead annuals and perennials to encourage continuous bloom.
- Pick summer squash and zucchini every day or two to keep the plants producing.
- The best time to gather herbs and flowers for drying and preserving is during the mid-morning hours, just after the dew has dried but before the sun causes them to wilt. Tie herbs in clusters with the stems attached and hang upside down to dry or dry in the microwave.
- Scout for C-shaped notches on the edges of the leaves of your perennials such as dahlias, roses, basil or coleus that are caused by Asiatic beetle feeding.
- Stop pruning evergreen trees and shrubs to avoid promoting new growth that may not harden off before first frost.
For a more extensive list of tips visit Gardening Tips for August

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
Powdery Mildew
Asiatic Garden Beetle

Tobacco budworms eat flowers and flower buds of many plants including petunias, some geraniums and Calibrachoa. To avoid harming bees, hand pick caterpillars when found or use Bt 'Kurstaki' which targets only caterpillars.

Tobacco Budworm
Woodchucks

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 and Things to Do

**Compost Conference Webinar Series** - The CT Compost Conference scheduled for March 2020, which had been postponed has been restructured into a series of 5 free webinars.

**International Year of Plant Health** - The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health.

**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.

**Wickham Park** - Located on the border of Manchester and East Hartford, this park has many unique gardens including one with a pond containing lotus.

**Harkness Park** - Located in Waterford, expansive grounds and coastline offer opportunities to tour the gardens, have a picnic and go fishing.

**Milford Point/Wheeler Marsh** - Wheeler Marsh and Milford Point are one of the healthiest remaining tidal marsh/barrier beach systems in Connecticut, and as such host several uncommon plant species.

**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 slicing onions make some people cry. According to the National Onion Association, chilling the onion and
cutting the root end last reduces the problem.

Everyday mysteries-onions

CLIMATE CORNER-

The science behind red skies- Is the old adage "Red sky at night, sailor's delight. Red sky in morning, sailor's warning" true, or is it just an old wives' tale? See this Library of Congress 'Everyday Mysteries' question answered.

The science behind red skies

WHO KNEW?

The smell of freshly-cut grass is actually a plant distress call caused by the release of a carbon-based compound called a green leaf volatile, or GLV. Most plants produce GLVs and will release these molecules in response to damage from insects, pathogens or mechanical forces — like a lawn mower. The aroma attracts predatory insects that help control insect pests..

SOS signal of plants

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.

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**Bee Well.**

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.