Hello Fellow Gardeners! 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! Or, we just might have thought you would enjoy this e-newsletter. 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.

**Pest Patrol/Current Concerns/Topics of Interest**

**Jimsonweed**

Jimsonweed, *Datura sp.*, is also known as downy thornapple, mad apple, stinkweed, Devil’s trumpet, and Angel’s trumpet, among others. The last two names are due to the 4-inch deep, trumpet-shaped flowers that adorn this plant. These fragrant flowers can be white or purple and mature into large, spine-covered seed capsules. Found world-wide, all parts of this annual weed are toxic to humans and animals. It is of particular concern for domestic livestock animals such as cattle, goats, horses, sheep, pigs, and even poultry. Jimsonweed should be removed before hay and silage are made. Should you suspect that any part of a jimsonweed has been consumed by a human, please contact CT Poison Control at 800-222-1222.
‘Jiminy’ Cricket
The chirping of the field cricket, a member of the *Gryllus* genus, can be heard far and wide at this time of year. They can be found in a large variety of habitats, from lawns to fields to woods, in caves, man-caves, and even garages where this image was taken. In their natural habitat crickets prefer to live in shallow areas of warm, moist soil or vegetation. This puts them close to their food sources which, as omnivores, includes fresh or dried plant matter, seeds, and insects, both live and dead. They will feed on grasshopper eggs and butterfly or moth pupae. In a home they may consume a variety of organic fabrics such as wool, silk, and cotton. The cricket in the above image is a female, identified by the long ovipositor at the end of the abdomen, which she will use to deposit her fertilized eggs into moist soil or sand. The ovipositor is missing in the male cricket; they simply have the two cerci. Both sexes of field crickets will ‘chirp’ but the males’ sounds are much louder, especially when the ambient temperature is above 80°F.

Jade Plants
Jade plants are an easy-to-grow houseplant that respond well in a variety of light, temperature, and moisture conditions. Also called the friendship plant, they are considered a symbol of good luck in many cultures. Why not take time now to propagate some new plants as gifts for the holidays? Simply remove a few of the opposing leaf pairs, leave them in an open area for a few days to allow the ends to callous over, and then insert them into a small container with some moistened potting soil. A clear plastic bag placed loosely over it will help to retain moisture as the new roots begin to form. Newly rooted plants can be placed into larger pots in a few weeks. Visit our fact sheet [Jade Plants](#) for additional information on the care and keeping of these succulent plants.

Woodchucks
The UConn Home & Garden Education Center receives many calls at this time of year regarding the damage that woodchucks are doing to home gardens. The newly weaned woodchuck young are striking out on their own at this time and they are all hungry. Woodchucks will feed during early-morning and evening hours and can strip a garden of leafy vegetation and maturing vegetables. Not stopping to consume an entire fruit, they will often work their way through a bed taking one or two bites from each as they move along (see image below on right). Wire fencing at a height of 4 feet with the top 12 inches bent outward at a 90° angle is the best deterrent. Live trapping and hunting are among the other control options that can be found in our [Woodchucks](#) fact sheet.
Lily Leaf Beetle

The beautiful Asian lilies are blooming now in our gardens and, unfortunately, this coincides with the second generation of the lily leaf beetle, LLB, *Lilioceris lilii*. Initially emerging in late March, the first generation of adults will start to feed on the emerging lily growth, laying their bright red-orange eggs in groups of about 12 on the undersides of the leaves. Each female may lay up to 450 eggs per year. The newly-hatched larvae will feed on the underside of the foliage before moving to the upper leaf surfaces and flower buds. These larvae will carry their frass (excrement) on their backs which makes it difficult to control them with a contact insecticide. Two to three weeks later they will drop to the ground to pupate and then emerge 16-22 days later as adults. These adults are causing the feeding damage now and will continue to feed until the fall when they will drop to the ground to overwinter in the soil or in plant debris. Hand-picking the eggs and adults can be done if the infestation is not too severe. Squish them or hold a container of soapy water under the lily leaves as you go along to catch the LLB as they will drop to the ground at your approach. Control options can be found at our Lily Leaf Beetle fact sheet although Neem oil is the best Low-toxicity Insecticide option.

Birds that You Can Find Now in Connecticut

The Connecticut Audubon Society shares information on several species of birds that you can find now in Connecticut. Among them are the boat-tailed grackle, the worm-eating warbler, the clapper rail, and the chimney swift, pictured here. Chimney swifts land only to roost, preferring to spend more of their time in flight and even eating insects while on the wing.

Image by Jim McCulloch
Ten Tips for the July Gardener:

Click on highlighted links for additional information.
For a more extensive list of tips go to Gardening Tips for July at our website.

- Water early in the morning to reduce the loss of water to evaporation during the hottest days.
- Cut back mums, tall asters, boltonia, Montauk daisies and helianthus by about one-quarter for bushy, more floriferous plants.
- Check out the UConn Extension Bug Week website for events, activities, and programs during the week of July 23-28, 2018.
- Consider propagating some new Dieffenbachia or Jade plants to pass along to friends or family.
- 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.
- Cucumbers are heavy drinkers and feeders. Keep the soil evenly moist during hot spells to avoid bitter fruit and side-dress plants with 2 tablespoons of 10-10-10 fertilizer or the equivalent when vines begin to run.
- Put netting on fruit trees a few weeks before the fruit begins to ripen to protect it from birds and squirrels.
- Apply grub control no later than July 15th so that it is systemically in place in grass roots when the grubs hatch in early August.
- Do not prune azaleas and rhododendrons after the 2nd week of July when they begin setting their buds for next year's blooms.
- Check family members and pets for ticks after being outside, especially when in tall grass or wooded areas.

Have Your Soil Tested for Macro- & Micronutrients

Our standard nutrient analysis includes pH, macro- and micronutrients, a lead scan and as long as we know what you are growing, the results will contain limestone and fertilizer recommendations. The cost is $12/sample. You are welcome to come to the lab with your ‘one cup of soil’ but most people are content to simply place their sample in a zippered bag and mail it in. For details on submitting a sample, go to UConn Soil and Nutrient Laboratory.

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

UCONN EXTENSION

UCONN FOOD SAFETY

UCONN HOME & GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER
UCONN PLANT DIAGNOSTIC LAB
UCONN SCIENCE OF GMOS
UCONN SOIL NUTRIENT ANALYSIS LAB

Events/ Programs/Save the Date:

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association’s Summer Field Day Wednesday, July 25, 2018 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Lockwood Farm, 860 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden, CT

Plant Science Day Wednesday, August 8, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lockwood Farm, Hamden, CT

Connecticut College
Visit the Plant Collections The Connecticut College Arboretum manages four major plant collections containing 6,195 individual, accessioned living plants.

CT DEEP Programs
Edible Wild Plants & Fungi of Summer Saturday, July 7, 2018 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT Instructor: the Three Foragers

Discover Goodwin Forest Youth Series: Pollinators Sunday, July 29, 2018 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm
James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT Instructors: Lynn Kochiss and Caroline Driscoll

Gardener’s Roundtable Saturday, July 21, 2018 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT

Senior Walk Wednesday, July 18, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Thursday, July 19, 2018 from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. James L. Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton, CT

UConn Extension

Bug Week 2018 - July 23 to the 28th, 2018

UConn Extension hosts Bug Week each July. There are events, interactive activities, and programs that you can do on your own. Browse our programs page, and if you have questions email us at bugweek@uconn.edu or call Stacey Stearns at 860-486-9228.
UConn Turfgrass Field Day – Tuesday, July 17, 2018, educational opportunities for turfgrass professionals at all levels.

UCONN GARDEN MASTER CLASSES are offered through the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program. These classes provide continuing education for Certified Master Gardeners as part of the Advanced Master Gardener certification process. These classes are also open to the General Public. Anyone with an interest in gardening and horticulture is welcome.

Bug Hunting (and Other Insects too)! Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Fairfield County Extension Center, Bethel, CT Instructor: Pamm Cooper, UConn Home & Garden Education Center

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group CIPWG Symposium Thursday, October 4, 2018, Invasive Plants in Uncertain Times: Achieving More with Less, University of Connecticut Campus, Storrs, CT

Cornell Cooperative Extension National Children & Youth Garden Symposium Wednesday to Saturday, July 11-14, 2018 Ithaca, NY Designed for Educators, Garden Designers, Community Leaders, Program Coordinators, and others involved with connecting kids to the natural world.

2018 UConn Master Composter Program
Become a UConn Master Composter! The purpose of the Master Composter Program is to provide local compost enthusiasts with the tools and information necessary to educate and teach interested community members about composting and reducing the amount of solid waste sent to the state’s incinerators and landfills. Participants would attend classroom sessions at the Tolland County Agricultural Center in Vernon, CT. Two field trips will also be scheduled, with one being mandatory. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 16, 18, 23 and 25 from 6 to 9 pm plus on Worm Day which is held on Saturday October 20th.

A Master Composter Certificate is awarded to those who have attended all program sessions, demonstrated a solid understanding of composting principles and practices, and engaged in a minimum of two outreach activities. Program fee is $100 payable to University of Connecticut. Enrollment will be limited to 24 participants.

Visit www.ladybug.uconn.edu for more information or call (860) 486-4274.
WORM DAY!!!

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
MASTER COMPOSTER PROGRAM

Saturday, OCTOBER 20, 2018, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Tolland County Agricultural Center
24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066

This is a great opportunity to simply learn about earthworms: Good, Bad, or Invasive? Or try your hand at vermicomposting and take home a completed vermicomposting bin.

OUR PROGRAM FEATURES:
Dr. Josef Gorres, University of Vermont:
INVASIVE EARTHWORMS IN NEW ENGLAND & VERMICOMPOSTING
Carol Quish, UConn Home & Garden Education Center: VERMICOMPOSTING 101

AND THEN MAKE YOUR OWN WORM FARM!

RSVP at ladybug@uconn.edu or call (877) 486-6271.
Let us know if you want to make a worm bin as you will need to bring certain supplies and we will need worms!!
$5 suggested donation to cover worm costs.
Click here for additional information on the UConn Master Composter Program
**Visit the UConn Animal Barns**
Everyone is welcome to explore our animal barns that are open to the public and to learn more about the animals that are used in the Department of Animal Science program. Visitors can see dairy and beef cows, sheep, and horses. The poultry units are closed to the public. Young animals can be found in the barns at the following times of year at barns that are opened to the public: baby foals in the summer in outside paddocks at Horse Unit II, lambs during February and March outside only at Livestock Unit 1, dairy calves year-round at the Cattle Resource Unit and beef calves beginning in mid-March outside at Livestock Unit 1. Every day visitors can view the UConn dairy cows being milked from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the Kellogg Dairy Center.

**UConn Department of Animal Science Summer Riding Lessons**

Looking for something fun to do this summer? How about horseback riding or Polo lessons? Once again, the University of Connecticut's Animal Science Department will be offering its popular Summer Riding Program to the public. Please note that Dressage, Hunt Seat, Polo, Western riding lessons and Trail Riding are open to adults and children who meet the minimum age requirements.

**KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON!**

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*Are the Benefits of Fish Oil Overrated?*

*Green Tea Molecule Could Prevent Heart Attacks*

*Peace is Fundamental to Reducing Hunger*

*Secret to Longevity may Lie in the Microbiome and the Gut*

*UConn Relies on Robots at Milking Time*

**CLIMATE CORNER**

*Alien Apocalypse: Can Any Civilization make it Through Climate Change?*

*Could Climate Migrants be Relocated to Rust Belt Cities?*
Global Warming Hits Poor Hardest

Predicted Environmental Changes Could Significantly Reduce Global Production of Vegetables

2018 Hurricane Season Predictions Coming in Hot

WHO KNEW?
Are Humans causing Cancer in Wild Animals

Bees Adjust to Seasons with Nutrients in Flowers and ‘Dirty water’

Recycled Electrical Products Lead to Hazardous Chemicals Appearing in Everyday Items

3 New Veggie Seeds Honor Park Seed’s 150th Anniversary!

The Park Seed Company celebrates 150 years of continuous business with the introduction of three new vegetable varieties. According to park Seed, these varieties all share in ease of growth, excellent disease resistance, and superb flavor. The Park’s Whopper II Hybrid bell pepper is resistant to bacterial leaf spot and tobacco mosaic virus. The Park’s Legacy tomato supposedly delivers 10-12-ounce fruits that ripen over a period of a few weeks, a benefit to gardener’s that like to make sauce or can their harvest. The Park’s jalapeno peppers can be picked green or allowed to ripen fully into even hotter bright red fruit. Its heat measures 2100-2500 units on the Scoville Heat Index.

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 our website, UConn Home & Garden Education Center.

July 2018 SAP