



September is for Closed Gentians, Sunflowers and Clouds





Closed Gentians



Closed bottle gentian *Gentiana andrewsii* is a native wildflower that blooms in Connecticut from mid- August through October. Look for these plants along moist edges of lakes, ponds and streams or in other moist areas.

Closed Gentian

Sunflowers



Sunflowers are native to North America and are easy to grow from seed. They love sunny locations in well-drained soils and come in a variety of colors and sizes. The one shown above is called Firecatcher. Birds like goldfinches will perch on flower heads to get the seeds.

Sunflowers

Clouds



Water vapor that rises upward into the sky will only form a visible cloud when it becomes small water droplets or ice crystals as it cools. Cloud types are given different names based on their shape and their altitude above the earth's surface. This classification system to group clouds into types can help meteorologists predict their effects on the weather. Photo: thunderheads on August 24, 2020 brought a lot of rain and lightning to this area of Glastonbury.

Clouds and Cloud Types

Annual Tree Swallow Migration



The annual tree swallow migration starts in Connecticut from late summer into early fall. They congregate on an island in the Connecticut River and put on a show as they fly together in groups. There are river cruises that provide a great opportunity to see these birds as they gather nightly near the mouth of the Connecticut River.

[Tree swallow migration](#)

Vegetable Pest Alert



Read the latest pest report on vegetables from Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension vegetable specialist.

UConn Vegetable Pest Alert

Weed Highlight- Velvetleaf





Images of Velvetleaf by Peter M. Dziuk

Velvetleaf

Insect Highlight -

Spiny oak slug caterpillar



©Pamm Cooper

Larvae of the diminutive slug moths are very uncaterpillarlike. They have medial suckers instead of legs and many have urticating spines which can cause a painful sting if touched. They are seldom pests and are interesting to come across in the late summer. Above: the spiny oak slug moth caterpillar

Spiny Oak Slug

Plant Highlights- Goldenrods and Joe-pye weed



These native plants attract a multitude of pollinators and provide food for migrating and resident late season butterflies. Above photo is of the entrance to Harkness Memorial State Park with natural masses of goldenrods and spotted Joe-pye weed.

Goldenrods

Joe-pye weed

Trees- Plan Before You Plant



When planting trees on your property, make sure to plant the right tree in the right place. Make sure to plant where the tree will not interfere with power lines on the property when it reaches its mature size. Above- a smaller tree would have been a better choice- one that would fit without touching the wires and the house. Below- wires running directly to the house from the street are now among the branches of two trees



Eversource-plan before you plant

Morton Arboretum- planting near power lines



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](#)

Drought and Lawns



The extended high temperatures and drought conditions have affected many plants and many will recover if temperatures cool and rainfall occurs at a decent level. Lawns are often the first to show drought stress and most lawn grasses go dormant until favorable growing conditions return. Some lawn grass species may in fact be dead, and areas may need re-seeding. Seed must make contact with the soil surface and be kept moist for optimum germination. For large areas, a slice-seeder works well..Consider replacing chronic problem areas of a lawn with other plants more suited to soil and environmental conditions as in the picture below.



Lawn renovation/repair

Selecting grass species for lawns

UConn Extension Vegetable Resource Page

**KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest
Ladybug blogs**

[Pickled Pink](#)

[Saving Tomato Seeds](#)

[Outdoors in August](#)

[August Still Offers Garden Interest](#)



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Gardening Tips for September

- Mid to late September is a great time to add accent plants, like vivid mums and starry asters, that will provide autumn colors in the landscape. Use them along with cool-colored ornamental cabbages and kales to replace bedraggled annuals in containers as well.
- Watch for frost warnings and cover tender plants.
- Examine houseplants carefully for insect pests before bringing them back inside. Give them a good grooming if necessary. You may want to spray plants with insecticidal soap after hosing off the foliage. Let the plants dry before applying the soap.
- Remove and compost spent annuals and fallen leaves.
- Weed and mulch perennial beds using a loose organic material such as bark chips or leaves to keep down weeds, preserve moisture, and give roots a longer time to grow before the soil freezes.
- Outwit hungry squirrels and chipmunks by planting hardy bulbs in established groundcovers.

- Lift and store tender bulbs, such as cannas, dahlias and gladiolus, after first frost.
- Perennials like daylilies and bearded irises can still be dug up and divided.
- Visit a local nursery or garden center and select spring flowering bulbs to add to your gardens. Plant the bulbs among perennials, under trees and shrubs, or in larger groups for a splendid spring show. Choose colors that complement other spring flowering plants as well as nearby plantings. Work a little Bulb Booster or 5-10-10 into the bottom of the planting holes.
- Late season cabbage and beets can stay in the garden until a light frost for best flavor. Some root crops, including certain varieties of beets, carrots and parsnips, may be left in the ground for storage. Wait until temperatures drop and growth stops and cover with a thick layer of straw or leaves. Harvest as needed during the winter. This may not be an option in areas with heavy vole populations.

[For a more extensive list of tips visit Gardening Tips for September](#)



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

Late Blight



American oil beetles are blister beetles that eat a variety of plants, including some crops. Wingless and dark metallic blue, they can occur in large numbers and often hide under rocks and leaf litter near host plants. Do not touch with bare hands!

Spotted or striped cucumber beetles are pests of vegetables and flowers. In late summer they will feed on flower pollen and can damage flowers they feed on, especially Montauk daisies.

American Oil Beetle

Cucumber Beetle



Ravenel's Stinkhorn

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

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[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](#)

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.

[Florence Griswold Museum](#)- visit the Artists' Trail, a half-mile walk around the Museum's riverfront landscape and gardens.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT-

One of the most diverse grain crops found in nature, corn cannot survive in the wild and its history is an enigma. Oldest cobs dating back 7000 years were found in Tehucan, Mexico

[History and classification of corn](#)

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT-

Upcoming celestial events include a Blue Moon in October, a lunar eclipse in November, and various meteor showers later in the fall.

[2020 Celestial calendar](#)

WHO KNEW?

This summer there was a noticeable occurrence of mown grasses looking like they were blackened due to fire. See what caused this in an article from UMass.

[Why are lawns turning black](#)

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.

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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.



Racing along toward autumn...



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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.

What. Food, Health, and Sustainability.

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