



November is for Canada Geese, Winterberry and Letterboxing



Canada Geese



Canada geese migration in the fall is a reliable sign that cold weather is here to stay. While some Canada geese remain year-round, others migrate in spring and fall. Sometimes huge numbers gather in fields where corn was recently harvested or where grass is abundant as they fuel up before long flights.



© Pamm Cooper

Canada Geese

Winterberry



Winterberry- *Ilex verticillata*- is a native member of the holly family originating from eastern north America. Female plants produce vibrant red fruits that are attractive in the winter landscape. A favorite food of birds, berries may be eaten early in winter depending upon the abundance of other food sources. Robins, above, are eating winterberry cut for outdoor Christmas decorations. Plant a male along with a female winterberry for fruit production.

Winterberry

Letterboxing



Letterboxing involves using clues or just good observation skills to locate hidden, waterproof containers usually placed along hiking trails. Containers may have a stamp or paper and pencil inside so the finder can record visiting the box. Some people have their own personal stamp that they bring along when hiking a trail

with letterboxes on them. Clues are often posted online where public trails feature them.



Letterboxing in Connecticut

Overwintering Cannas



Canna, shown above, are tropical plants that can be stored over the winter and planted the following spring. Prune away leaves and stems after frost has killed top growth, and then dig up the tuberous rhizomes carefully. Store as directed in link below.

[Digging and Storing Canna](#)

For information on how to store Caladium, geranium, begonia and gladiola, click on button below

[Winter Storage of Tender Bulbs, Rhizomes and Tubers](#)

Ornamental grasses- prune in the fall or not?





Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster' feather reed grass Rutgers.edu

Ornamental grasses do not need to be cut down before winter. They can add interest as seed heads and foliage stand out of any snow cover, plus the foliage can insulate the crown of the plant from the cold. Prune to a height of 4-6 inches in height before growth resumes in the spring.

Pruning Ornamental Grasses

**Upcoming Southern New England Vegetable
Series of Webinars**



Join UMass, Rhode Island, and Connecticut Extensions in a series of webinars for vegetable growers this January and February. Topics will be added to website soon. To register, click button below.

[Southern New England Vegetable Growers Webinar](#)

Plant Highlight- Calamint



Calamint- *Clinopodium nepeta*(formerly *Calamintha nepeta*) a short-lived perennial native to the Mediterranean, is an attractive plant in the mint family. Covered with tiny white, white and lavender or pink flowers, calamint is drought and deer resistant and highly attractive to pollinators and small butterflies. This year, calamint bloomed from early summer into October.



Red-banded hairstreak butterfly visiting calamint flowers in Manchester, Ct. late this summer

Calamint

Bird Highlight - Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



Yellow-bellied sapsuckers drill shallow holes in neat rows to obtain sap from trees. Similar to downy woodpeckers, sapsuckers appear almost as though a downy fell down a chimney and got covered with soot. Sapsuckers can be differentiated from downys by their red throat (males), fuller red cap, and the white stripe along the wings. They sometimes visit suet feeders in the winter.



Male sapsucker-Cornell University

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

**Plant Highlight- *Caryopteris clandonensis*,
Bluebeard**



© Pamm Cooper

Caryopteris is a shrub-like perennial that blooms from mid to late summer. Highly attractive to bees and butterflies, this non-native plant is a fine addition to a pollinator garden. Prune back hard in the spring, do not prune back extensively in the fall.

Caryopteris

Tree Fruits and Nuts



It can be fun to try and identify trees from their fruits, nuts and leaves. See how many you can identify. Answers at bottom of page.



It's Harvest Time



Storing Winter Squash

Whether you grew your own or bought at it your local farm market, winter squashes are great to store for a long winter or

during quarantine times. There are many varieties to bake, saute or cook up in soup. Squash will need to be stored in a dry and cool area out of direct sunlight with good ventilation. Leave a portion of the stem to keep end from rotting. Do not store outdoors unless protected from animals that like to eat them!



This squirrel is eating a piece of winter squash left outdoors on an open porch

[Cure and Store Winter Squash](#)

**Speaking of Squirrels... Check Out the Nutty
Narrows Bridge**



The Nutty Narrows Bridge in Longview, Washington was built by Amos Peters in 1963, who constructed it to help squirrels safely cross a busy street. It is now listed on the national register of Historic places.



[Nutty Narrows Squirrel Bridge](#)

Keep Apples Cold for Long Term Storage.



Apple Storage



Matt DeBacco, our interim plant pathologist, grew this whopper pumpkin this year.

BigPumpkins.com

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.

Tips on how to keep foods from going bad and signs they have spoiled



Foods Gone Bad

Frost and cold weather heralds the end of the season for annual plants



Frost, snow or extremely cold temperatures will be the end for annual plants. Pull up and add to compost piles, or allow to remain if seed heads are good food sources for birds. Remove all plant parts and discard if plants were diseased.

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

[Artistry and Whimsy in the October
Landscape](#)

[Halloween's Mascot](#)

[Glorious Garlic!](#)

[Plant Minor Bulbs for Major Impact](#)



[Sign up to receive our blogs by e-mail](#)

Gardening Tips for November

- Wait to spread winter mulch until after the ground has frozen. Mulching beforehand can delay dormancy and makes a good home for voles
- Use small stakes or markers where you've planted bulbs or late starting spring plants in the perennial garden to avoid disturbing them when you begin spring soil preparation.
- Cut back most perennials to 3-4 inches, but ornamental grasses can be left to provide winter interest.
- Give houseplants as much light as possible as shorter fall days begin.
- Reduce houseplant fertilizer by one-half for the winter months.

- Asian lady beetles and Brown marmorated stink bugs may enter the home to overwinter. Use weather stripping or caulking to keep them out.
- Bring out the bird feeders and stock them with bird seed and suet for the birds.
- Clean bird baths and consider a heating unit to provide fresh water throughout the winter.
- Shut off and drain outside faucets.
- Clean and fix all hand tools. Repaint handles or identification marks that have faded over the summer. Sharpen all blades and remove any rust.

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



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](#)

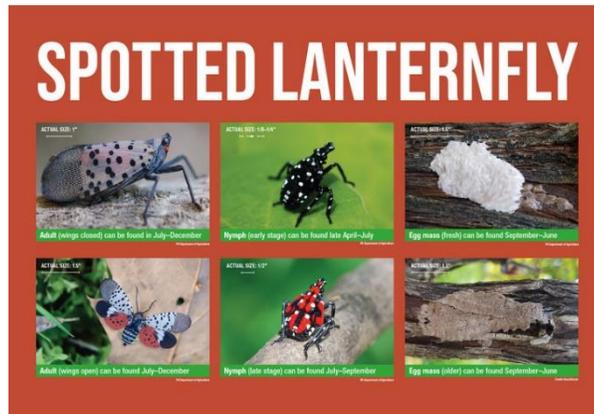
Look for insects that may try to get into your home for warmth



There are several species of insects that will enter homes as they seek warmth as cold weather approaches. Brown marmorated stink bug and Asian multi-colored lady beetles, western conifer seed bugs and boxelder bugs are the most common of these. Make sure windows and doors, screens and any other means of entry are correctly sealed and have no holes or cracks where these insects can enter the home. If insects are vacuumed up and released outdoors, they can still re-enter the home.

Home Insect Invaders

Spotted Lanternfly



The spotted lanternfly is an invasive sap-feeding planthopper that was discovered in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 2014. It is native to China, India, and Vietnam. It attacks many hosts and has the potential to severely impact Connecticut's farm crops, particularly apples, grapes, and hops, as well as a number of tree species like maple. In the fall, adults can often be found congregating on tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus), willows and other trees. They will lay egg masses on trees and almost any nearby surface. The public is urged to report potential sightings of this invasive pest to ReportSLF@ct.gov. Submission of a photograph with any report is encouraged.

Spotted Lanternfly

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](#)

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

Events and Things to Do

[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-

Japan has cultivated watermelons in special boxes where they will grow into square shapes. Limited storage space and more stable display were main considerations for this growing practice

[Square Watermelons](#)

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT-

Access to information about every street tree in New York City. The city's parks department and the conservation nonprofit New York Restoration Project (NYRP), have also collaborated to plant one million trees in the city.

[New York City Tree Maps](#)

[MillionTreesNYC](#)

WHO KNEW?

Read these interesting facts about different ecosystems.

[NASA Ecosystem Fun Facts](#)

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.

Seed, Leaf and Fruit Identification



left to right- black walnut, yellow poplar leaf and seed pod, horse chestnut, jack-in-the-pulpit seeds(not a tree, oh well), Catalpa bean, southern magnolia seeds, Kentucky coffee tree seed pods



sassafras, left. white oak, right



[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.

What. Food, Health, and Sustainability.

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