



March is for Japanese Andromeda, Snowdrop and Comma Butterfly



Japanese andromeda



Japanese Andromeda (*Pieris japonica*) is a deer resistant evergreen shrub that typically flowers in March. Attractive clusters of white flowers that resemble upside down urns can remain for a month or longer and are visited by pollinators active in late winter and early spring. Cultivars with pink flowers are available.

Japanese andromeda

Snowdrop



Common Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) blooms in late February or early March, often when snow still covers the ground. The plant is small- 3-6 inches tall, and is a welcome reminder that spring is coming

Snowdrop

Eastern comma butterfly



Eastern Comma *Polygonia comma* is a member of the anglewing butterflies. If wings are folded, a small white "comma" is visible. They overwinter in sunny forest areas where they are overwintering. Not a frequent visitor to flowers, they instead sip nutrients from sap flows, dung and rotting fruit.

Eastern comma

Blonding of trees by emerald ash borer



Often mistaken for damage from squirrels or other animals , chipped off bark associated with ash trees is actually caused by woodpeckers, especially the pileated. They chip off the bark searching for the larva of the emerald ash borer feeding just under the bark



Newly chipped off bark shows the light color of bark underneath. A tree with this type of damage on lower trunk is severely infested and will likely not recover even if treated with a control product.

Emerald ash borer

Bald Eagle



Bald eagles are beginning their mating routines at this time of year. This eagle was one of a breeding pair in Connecticut photographed along a very busy road, near where they had a nest last year.

Bald eagles in Connecticut

Deer feeding in the wild in winter



Signs of deer looking for acorns under the snow. Look for leaves exposed by their feet scuffing off snow covering any acorns not eaten in the fall.

Plant Highlight- red maple



Red Maple or swamp maple (*Acer rubrum*) is one of our first native trees to flower, often in march. Right now, the red flower buds can be easily seen on roadside red maples when driving by.



The fall color of red maple- easy to see how they got their common name. One of the first trees to flower and the first to turn color.in the autumn

Red maple

Bird highlight- killdeer



Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) are arriving back north from their southern wintering grounds. This chipper plover-like ground-nesting bird breeds very early and often returns when there is still snow on the ground. Downy covered young leave the nest right after hatching and are adorable. Check out video on Cornell's site on link below. image credit- Davey Walters

Killdeer

Upcoming Webinars

PennState-

Vineyard Pest Management: Conventional and Alternative Vineyard Floor and Weed Management- this is a live format for March 31 10:00-noon

Vineyard floor and weed management

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

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Upcoming Master Gardener Symposium

On Saturday, March 20th starting at 9:00 am, Connecticut Master Gardeners, CMGA Members, guests and the public will have the opportunity to hear national and regional experts talk about “Gardening Any Time, Any Place” by virtually attending the Connecticut Master Gardener Association (CMGA) 28th annual garden symposium. Cost-\$60 for members, \$90 for non- members

[Registration /information for CMGA Symposium](#)

Gardening Tips for March

Seeds that benefit from being sown directly onto an inch or two of snow are poppy, calendula, evening primrose, and lupine. Be sure that the area beneath the snow is bare ground.

Seeds of annuals that require 10-12 weeks of growth before transplanting can be started indoors now.

Sign up for gardening classes or seminars offered by many garden centers or town recreation office or through the UConn Master Gardener Program.

Houseplants may now be fertilized monthly as their growth resumes.

Check for tan gypsy moth egg masses on tree trunks and branches. Scrape or brush off and destroy if possible.

Prune out and destroy dark, swollen black knot galls on twigs of cherry and plum before budbreak. On trees, shrubs, fruiting bushes and vines, prune off and destroy cankered twigs and any branches showing dieback. Prune shortly before budbreak, or wait until just after leaves have expanded.

Get your soil tested through the UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory before any major planting or fertilizing venture. Soils sent in before April 1 will avoid the spring rush.

Start cleaning containers and pots so they are ready for planting.

Start your lawn mower, check to see if it needs service, and get the blades sharpened.

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



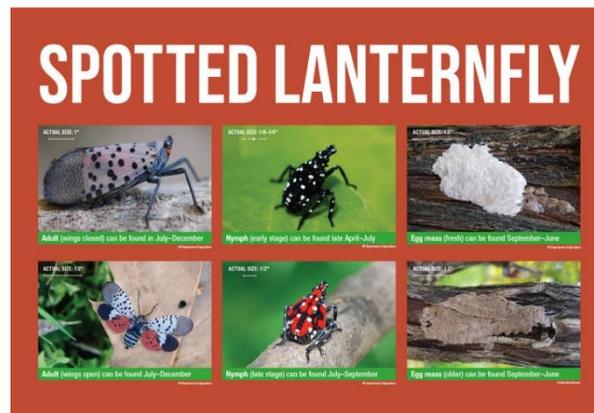
Have Your Soil Tested for Macro- & Micro Nutrients

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

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.

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

[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

[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- okay, you go first!

Europeans will soon be eating bugs after mealworms get the green light from food regulators

Mealworms as food

Who knew?

Native trout lilies offer two colors of pollen to attract local insects



Pamm Cooper

Trout lily pollen

Conservation and the environment-

Using drones as a scouting tool in crops

Drones as IPM tool

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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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. *Join us.*

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HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
EXTENSION

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