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October is for Winterberry, Black Cohosh and Migrating Butterflies



Winterberry



Ilex verticillata is a native member of the Holly family and is known for its bright red fruit that can remain as winter interest if they are not eaten by birds. There are cultivars of all sizes and some have heavy fruit production, such as the Berry Heavy® cultivar. A cultivar with orange fruit is the *Ilex verticillata* 'Winter Gold' and a cultivar with yellow fruit is Berry Heavy Gold. Male plants are needed for good cross- pollination and fruit production.

Black Snakeroot



Cimicifuga racemosa, also known as black snakeroot, bugbane and black cohosh is a native late- blooming perennial. Spikes of tiny star- like white flowers are heavily scented, sometimes smelling like grapes or they can sometimes smell a bit more unpleasant. A favorite of late season pollinators and butterflies, the plants can get 5 to 8 feet tall and are resistant to deer. Image on left is from Cornell University

Black Cohosh

Migrating Butterflies



There are many species of butterflies that migrate including the painted lady, common buckeye, American lady, red admiral, cloudless sulphur, some skippers, and several other. Late flowering plants like obedient plant, goldenrods, asters, verbena, *Tithonia* sunflowers, lantana, butterfly bush and

others are key food plants for migratory survival. A Common buckeye on goldenrod is shown above.



The red admiral, above left, and the American lady on a *Tithonia rotundifolia* Mexican sunflower, above right, are both fall and spring migrators.

Butterfly Questions And Answers Including Migrating Species

Nine Types of Wild Animals and Insects That Can Help Your Garden Flourish



An article in the September 2021 issue of Martha Stewart Living written by Nashia Baker features quotes from UConn's Tracy Rittenhouse, an associate professor at the University of Connecticut Department of Natural Resources and the Environment and Pamm Cooper, from the UConn Home and Garden Education Center.

Article on Wildlife Gardening

Plant of Interest: Bear's Head Tooth Fungus



Hericium americanum, or bear's head tooth fungus looks like a tight cluster of tiny white icicles hanging from the trunk of a living tree. This one was found off a nature trail in Willington, Connecticut in late September, 2021.

Bear's Head Tooth Fungus

→

Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly Caterpillar



These caterpillars can be found now on spicebush and sassafras within a leaf shelter folded lengthwise. Just before pupating they become a bright orange-yellow.

Spicebush Swallowtail

Electric Fencing Used to Keep Bears Away From Bee Hives



Does it work? Some bears just plow through the fence, while others get a little shock first and stay away. Depends on the bear...

PROTECTION OF APIARIES, BEES AND HONEY

UConn CLEAR-Center for Land Use Education & Research



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CLEAR Webinar Library

Disease Highlight- Anthracnose and Tar Spot on Norway Maples



We have been receiving many questions from people worried about maple trees. Because of excessive rains followed by periods of high heat, non-native Norway maples are experiencing problems as is evident by leaves shriveling and dropping early. Anthracnose and tar spot are two diseases noted on many of these trees. Cornell and UMass Amherst recommend raking up all of the fallen leaves and either remove them from the property or mulch them to reduce the amount of disease producing spores that might infect trees next spring.

Norway Maple Premature Leaf Drop

Insect Highlight- Green Darner Dragonfly



The green darner, *Anax junius*, is one of the largest dragonflies (2.5 to 3.25 inches long), and is found in every state, including Alaska and Hawaii. Their name means “Lord and master of June,” but this migratory species is around until it goes south in the early fall. Dragonflies are hunters both as aquatic immatures and as flying adults and eat a variety of insects including adult and immature mosquitoes.

Green Darner

Bird Highlight- Great Egret



Great egrets are tall, elegant wading birds that are the same size as great blue herons. Both birds have similar habits, wading along edges of wetlands for fish, frogs and other food. Primarily found along the coast, great egrets birds sometimes stray inland, especially in the spring and fall. Great egrets have black legs, yellow bills and all feathers are white.

Great Egret

Plant Highlight- Asters and Summer Phlox



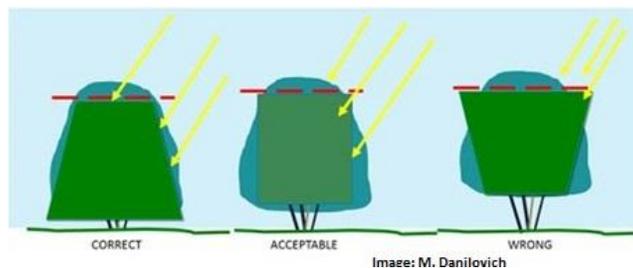
Asters are in bloom now and summer phlox makes a great companion plant. Dead head these plants to prolong blooms for late season bees and migrating butterflies



Tips For Harvesting Squash And Pumpkins

When harvesting winter squash and pumpkins, make sure to leave some of the stem intact to prevent premature rotting around the stem area. Two inches of stem would be ideal. Shown above: a bat-winged mini pumpkin.

Pruning Tips



Read all about pruning on this great fact sheet from West Virginia University. Remember to avoid pruning spring/early summer bloomers that produced flower buds on this year's wood like some shrub hydrangeas, currant and most lilacs.

Pruning

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

[Halloween's Mascot](#)

[Propagating a Few Houseplants](#)

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

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Gardening Tips for October

1. Move houseplants indoors that were moved outside for summer growth when nighttime temperatures go below 60°F. Before moving them inside, check thoroughly for insects and treat or eliminate insects to prevent an indoor infestation. Before moving indoors is an ideal time to repot, if necessary.
2. .Remove dropped fruits around crabapples and other fruit trees to help reduce insect and disease carryover to next year, as dropped fruits can harbor certain disease pathogens and some insect pests like apple maggot. Fruits can be composted, buried or destroyed (such as by burning) or thrown in the trash.
3. Lawns should be seeded before October 4 for best results as new grass should not be covered by leaves or raked too hard as roots will not be deep and new grass plants may be pulled from the ground
4. Watch for frost warnings and cover tender plants. Do not use plastic if will be touching foliage.
5. Remove and compost spent annuals and perennial seed heads unless seed heads are good sources of food for birds and wildlife.
6. 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.
7. Lift and store tender bulbs, such as cannas, dahlias and gladiolus, after the first frost. Caladiums can be potted and brought indoors for winter foliage interest, or tubers can be cleaned and stored in a cool, dry place
8. Fall is a good time to get a soil test to see if a lime application is needed to adjust soil pH to the optimum range for plant growth. The

best time to apply lime is during the fall so that the lime will have time to change the soil pH by next spring.

9. Add a touch of fall to your home and landscape with sedum, hardy mums, asters, and fall pansies
10. Collect mature seeds. from annuals and perennials, dry and store in proper containers. Remember to label them.
11. 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. Remove plant debris from landscape, flower and vegetable beds and bag any diseased plant parts- put these in the trash or take it to a landfill but do not compost.
12. Amaryllis bulbs can be started soon for holiday bloom- many take 4- 6 weeks to flower.

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

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](#).

[UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#)

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[UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory](#)

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[UConn Garden Master Classes - All open to the public](#)

[UConn Science of GMOs](#)

Things to do/events



[Connecticut Trail Finder](#)- Connecticut Trail Finder is a new resource for those looking to explore the Nutmeg State's 2,000 miles of trails.

[Essex Steam Train](#)- Essex steam train and boat excursions are a fun way to see the southern stretch of the Connecticut River. Pedal-a-rail-bike is also available.

[Garlic and Harvest Festival](#)- the 16th Annual Connecticut Garlic & Harvest Festival. It will be held on October 9-10, 2021 at the Bethlehem Fairgrounds on Route 61 in Bethlehem, Connecticut

[James L. Goodwin State Forest](#)- trail maps are available on-line.
Contact them for any upcoming guided tours and other events

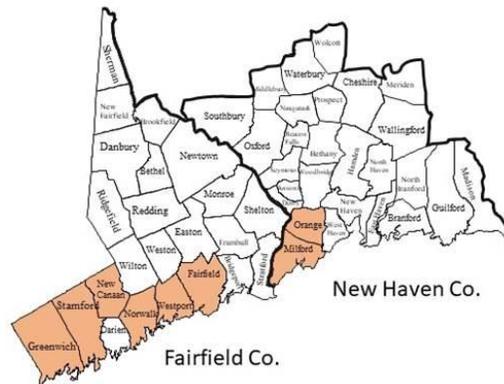
[Connecticut College Arboretum](#)- there are several trails,
including a native plant collection featuring spring wildflowers
and the Nancy Moss Native Azalea Collection

Spotted Lanternfly

Connecticut map showing Fairfield County, Connecticut as of August 2021 with regulated areas (e.g., towns) based on detections of established populations of SLF in 2020 and 2021. All of Connecticut is under state quarantine for SLF as of July 1, 2021. Regulated areas are defined as areas with established populations of SLF. Homeowners should use a checklist available on the CAES website if moving out of a regulated area.

Regulated areas in Connecticut with established populations of spotted lanternfly (SLF) in Fairfield and New Haven County as of 24 August 2021

Greenwich
Stamford
New Canaan
Norwalk
Westport
Fairfield
Orange
Milford



 Towns with established populations of spotted lanternfly

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive sap-feeding planthopper that attacks many woody plants 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.

Food for thought

Drying beads provide a method to help save high quality seeds in countries with humid climates. Drying beads are a desiccant product using zeolite noted for its ability toward ion-exchange

and reversible dehydration When used with airtight containers, the drying beads provide a method for drying high-value horticultural seeds and maintaining seed quality during storage.

[Drying Beads For Seed Storage](#)

Weather

From Maine to Delaware coastal northeastern United States is a global warming hotspot. Research from UMass Amherst reveals this area is heating faster than most regions of North America.

[Coastal NE Warming Trend](#)

Who knew?

Read some fun plant facts, such as - a notch in a tree will remain the same distance from the ground as the tree grows

[Plant 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.

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