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November is for Staghorn Sumac, Late Blooming Annuals and Woolly Bears



Staghorn Sumac



Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) is a native member of the cashew family that lends an exotic, tropical look to the northern landscape. Its common name refers to its hairy stems that look like the velvet on a stag's antlers. Compound leaves and pyramid-shaped fruit clusters are vibrant red in the fall. Sumac has a suckering growth habit and can be used as a naturalized planting on steep slopes where mowing grass is difficult.

[Staghorn Sumac](#)

Late Blooming Annuals



This year Connecticut has had a run of warm weather which has not produced a heavy frost yet in much of the state. Many annuals are still blooming and some are still producing new flower buds. This is great for insects that need nectar and pollen late in the year. Shown below are a few annuals still in flower- clockwise from top left- coral salvia, cardinal vine, two salvias and verbena. Mandevilla vine, lantana, zinnias, cosmos, *Cuphea* and many other annuals may still be in flower if frost does not occur soon.



Record Warm, Calm Autumn

Woolly Bears



The woolly bear (*Pyrrharctia isabella*) caterpillar can be seen crawling across roads, sidewalks and lawns in the fall after leaving their host plants that include grasses plantain, dandelion, and nettles in search of a dark and sheltered spot where they can hibernate for the winter. They do not feed during this period, and if found on roads, they can be moved to a safer location so they can continue their search for a winter hideout. Some people can experience mild skin irritation from the hairs, so handle gently.

Woolly Bear Lore

Ohio Woolly Bear Festival

Stilt Rooting of Yellow Birch



Native yellow birch *Betula alleghaniensis* frequently germinate seeds on bare soil, logs or stumps but seldom successfully root into soil if seeds germinate on leaf litter. Roots will grow around the nurse log or stump and into the ground. When the log or roots rotted out from underneath them,

these trees shown above were left standing on "stilt" roots and are now mature trees and are doing well. Hemlocks, cedars and certain other trees may also produce stilt roots in a similar manner, sometimes with the trees forming a line where they grew along the same rotting log.

Yellow Birch

Bird Feeders and Bird Safety



Cornell University scientists say people who feed birds should not blame themselves for the recent outbreak of salmonellosis in redpolls and other flocking species. The article on link below has good advice on periodic feeder cleaning and stress factors thought to contribute to the salmonella outbreak to songbirds in certain states.

Cornell Bird Feeder Safety Tips

Upcoming 2021 On-line New England Fruit and Vegetable Conference



New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference

	MON Dec. 13	TUES Dec. 14	WED Dec. 15	THURS Dec. 16	FRI Dec. 17
Morning Session 9:00-11:00am	Tillage Reduction Innovations	Tree Fruit 1	Vegetable Disease and Pest Updates	Berry Crops 2	Automation for Small Vegetable Growers
Afternoon Session 1:30-3:30pm	Climate Adaptation Strategies on the Farm	Berry Crops 1	Soil Health	Tree Fruit 2	Inspiration from Away

Enjoy the New England Fruit and Vegetable Conference from the comfort of your own living room! The conference will be online this year, and will be a streamlined version of the usual in-person content, with one morning and one afternoon session per day for one week, December 13th-17th. Tree fruit, small fruit, and vegetables will all be covered, and pesticide and certified crop advisor credits will be available. Check out the schedule and registration info below.

New England Fruit And Vegetable Conference

Plant of Interest: Scarlet Oak



Quercus coccinea (scarlet oak) is a member of the red oak group and is named for its beautiful, red-colored fall leaves. Leaves are more deeply lobed than red oak, with sinuses extending almost to the midrib. Acorns are borne singly or in pairs with or without stalks and mature in the autumn of their second year. Acorns are produced after 20 years, which is much faster than many other oaks. It is native from Maine to Florida, west to Missouri.

Scarlet Oak

Now is the Time to Plant Garlic

Plant garlic in the fall through November, so it will be early enough before the first hard freeze for the root system to develop before winter. Cloves are planted pointed up, 2-4 inches deep, and 4-6 inches apart in rows. Soil should be high in organic matter and soil pH should be 6.2 – 6.8. There are hard-necked and soft-necked garlics, both of which have good and bad points, and both types are discussed in the link below'

Planting and Growing Garlic

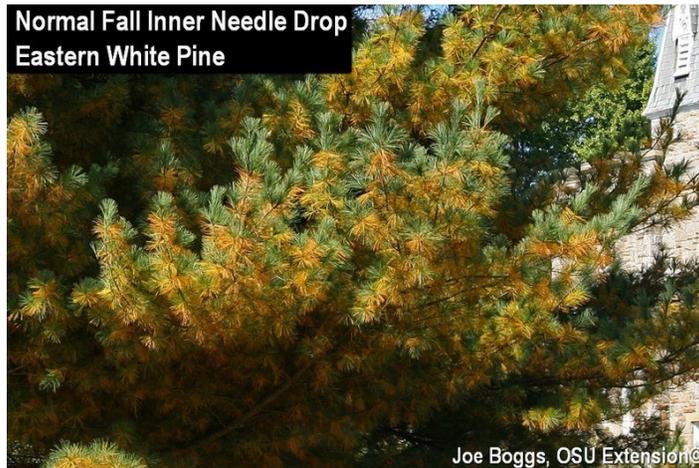
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CLEAR Webinar Library

Seasonal Needle Drop of Pines



We have been receiving many questions from people worried about white and other pines losing their needles. Each fall, normal seasonal needle yellowing and shedding on white pines and other conifers occurs as the trees lose last year's needles, which occur on twigs just behind this year's new green needles., which are on the tips of twigs.

Seasonal Needle Drop

UConn Professor Advises Hallmark Channel Holiday Movie "You Me and the Christmas Trees"



A significant UConn presence is evident in this movie as the movie's screenwriter, Julie Sherman Wolfe, needed some expert advice about Christmas tree growing and potential problems in the world of evergreens and sought advice from UConn's Dr. Mark Brand, professor of horticulture and plant breeding. Image: Dawn Pettinelli

Plant Highlight- Hairy Toad Lily



Hairy Toad Lily, *Tricyrtis hirta*, is a perennial member of the lily family native to Asia and the Philippines. They bloom after most perennials are done flowering and are visited by bees, especially native bumblebees which are active very late in the year. The blossoms are orchid-like, exotic form with colorful markings and interesting flower parts. Plants are small and do well in the front of a shade garden.

Toad Lily

Bird Highlight- Turkeys



Turkeys in the northeastern areas of North America eat fruit, nuts and seeds found in mature oak-hickory forests and woods with red oak, beech, cherry, and white ash. They also eat insects and other arthropods, salamanders, snails, grass and sedge seeds and sometimes bulbs in lean years. Turkeys roost high in trees and can fly down to the ground en masse in a similar fashion to the flying monkeys in the ' Wizard of Oz'.

Turkeys

Animal Highlight- Coyotes



A typical coyote resembles a small German shepherd from a distance, but tend to be more slender and have yellow eyes. Ears are pointed, the muzzle is long and tapered and the bushy tail is normally carried low to the ground. A coyote eats mostly mice and voles, woodchucks, squirrels, rabbits, deer, some fruits, carrion, and garbage. They have adapted well to man-made habitats. Active night or day, coyotes rarely harm humans, but may take advantage of small pets left alone outdoors. Do not leave pet foods or uncovered garbage outdoors especially if they contain meat or bones.

Eastern Coyote

Pumpkins



Pumpkins come in a variety of sizes, colors and shapes, and if the stem is left intact, they will usually last longer without rotting. Whether grown for fun, food or decorations, pumpkins are a prominent autumn feature here in New England and elsewhere. Featured above left is a mini batwing pumpkin and on the right is the peanut pumpkin Galeux D'Eysines. **The one below is *Plasticum sedgehairius*...**



A Brief History Of Pumpkins

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

[Autumn's Wave](#)

[Outdoors in Early Fall](#)

[Too Much Summer Rain For You? You're not alone](#)



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Gardening Tips for November



1. Last chance to plant bulbs is normally in the first week of November.
2. Plant trees, shrubs and perennials before the ground freezes

3. Lift and store dahlia and Caladium tubers, gladiolus corms, canna rhizomes and begonia tubers. Shake off soil and cut off foliage and stems and store in a cool, dry place. Some will benefit from a covering of peat.
4. Cut peonies (not the tree variety) down to 3" above the ground, clear away any summer mulch and debris but do not mulch for the winter.
5. Cut back perennials that were covered in powdery mildew during the summer. Cut stalks to the ground and dispose of them.
6. Wait to spread winter mulch until after the ground has frozen or soil temperatures are below 40 degrees. Mulching beforehand can delay dormancy and makes a good home for voles.
7. Use small stakes or markers where you've planted bulbs or any new plants to avoid disturbing them or pulling them up by mistake when you begin spring garden preparation.
8. Cut back most perennials to 3-4 inches. Ornamental grasses can either be left intact to provide winter interest or cut down to about 8 inches from the ground
9. Pull annuals and add them to the compost pile. For annuals that self-seed, allow some seed-laden stems to remain in place.
10. Sharpen and oil garden tools to keep in good condition
11. It is too late for fertilizing your lawn and probably too late for seeding if soil temperatures are below 45 degrees. Installing sod may still be an option.
12. Prune apple and pear trees anytime between now and February. Do not prune plum trees in fall or winter
13. Do not prune evergreen shrubs in the fall
14. Check out seed catalogues early- the past two years many seeds became unavailable due to high demand



[More Information on November Gardening](#)

Recipe Idea



This is a recipe that has received great reviews and is one way to use any butternut squash you may have from your gardens. Butternut squash keep longer if at least 2 inches of the stem is left on

[Chef John's Butternut Bisque](#)

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](#)

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

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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.



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

West Cornwall Covered Bridge- listed on the National Register of Historic Places this covered bridge is picturesque in any season



Food for thought

There's a bit of confusion surrounding bananas. Some people consider this iconic golden fruit a healthy choice while others avoid it. Read this interesting account of bananas from Harvard's School of Public Health



Bananas

Weather

The Fog Collectors: Harvesting Water From Thin Air. Read about the history of and modern techniques of collecting water from fog and condensation

Fog Collecting

Who knew?

The science behind seeing a rainbow- such as the best time to see a rainbow is just after a rainstorm has ended with the sun behind you and the rain in front of you.



The Science of Rainbows

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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