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November is for Woolly Bears, Possumhaw Viburnum and Amaryllis





**Woolly Bear - Caterpillar of the *Isabella*
Tiger Moth**



These familiar, fuzzy caterpillars of the Isabella moth, *Pyrrharctia Isabella*, are often seen in the fall crawling across the ground as they seek overwintering sites. Like many other tiger moths and other caterpillars that overwinter, they produce an antifreeze chemical called a cryoprotectant that prevents damage to living tissue from freezing and thawing. Handle gently, if moving to a safer place, as hairs may cause minor skin irritation to some people. The mass of caterpillars shown above were blown into a small pile during leaf pickup. The caterpillars soon travelled to another location under forest leaves.

[Banded Woolly bear](#)

Possumhaw Viburnum - *Viburnum Nudum*



Image of *V. nudum* 'Brandy wine' by Jim Robbins



V. Nudum 'winterthur' flowers Image: Randy Harter

Another common name for this beautiful shrub is "wild raisin. The fruit starts off green, turns to pink and matures blue. Clusters of fruit will shrivel after a freeze, thus the common name. Birds will eat the fruit and pollinators visit the flowers. Leaves have a glossy sheen that remains into fall, and fall color is red. An excellent plant to consider for 4-season interest. Cultivars include 'Brandy wine' and 'Winterthur'.

Possumhaw Viburnum

Amaryllis



'Red Pearl' UMinn Extension



'Pearl' UMinn Extension

If you're hoping to enjoy blooming amaryllis for the holidays, now is the time to plant the bulbs because it takes six to eight weeks for amaryllis to bloom. The good news is you can purchase bulbs at any nursery, big-box store or department store now. To learn how to plant and care for amaryllis click on link below

[Amaryllis](#)

Fungus Highlight - Mushroom Pores





Not all mushrooms have gills. The mushroom above is a bolete that has pores that disperse spores rather than gills. Caps can feel spongy under the cap. Pores can be angular or round. On the left, the cap is viewed upside down after being cut in half to reveal the row of pores along the edge of the cut. Use a mirror to see if a cap has gills, teeth or pores to avoid snapping the mushroom out of the ground before spores have been released.

Plant Highlight -Tree Dogwood Fruits



Both native (*Cornus florida*) left and non-native (*Cornus kousa*), right, dogwood trees offer birds plenty of fruit to eat in the fall. Year-round resident birds such as bluebirds, robins, cedar waxwings plus migrating birds will benefit from planting these trees. Some Japanese (*C. kousa*) varieties have fruit that some people find taste like strawberries.

[C. kousa](#)

[C. florida](#)

Insect Highlight - Winter Home Invaders



© Pamm Cooper





Non-native insects including the brown marmorated stinkbug, Asian multicolored lady beetles and box elder bugs will often attempt to gain access to warm buildings as temperatures continue to drop in the fall. Sometimes large mass of these insects can be seen on the sunny sides of buildings. Check windows, doors and any other possible entry points and make sure to seal any cracks where these insects might gain entry.

[Cold Weather Home Invading Insects](#)

Animal Highlight - Mice in the Home

When temperatures drop, mice will often seek warm building that offer shelter and food sources. To prevent entry, seal any openings mice can enter. They can fit through small holes and cracks, so check for those. If possible, use an insulating sticky foam around pipes or holes where they are getting in. They will chew through non-sticky foam, but they avoid the sticky one. Poison baits

are not recommended, especially in the home, but snap traps offer a very good control option. Make sure food items are in tightly sealed mouse-proof containers and do not leave pet food out in dishes during the night.

Dealing With Mice in the Home

Disease Highlight - Late Blight



Late blight is caused by *Phytophthora infestans*, a water mold. In the home garden, you may typically see late blight affecting potatoes and tomatoes. This pathogen thrives in cool, damp climates and is able to spread spores through the air over a large distance. The symptoms on plants will appear to be large brown splotches on the leaves that will begin to progress along the petioles and the stems. This is the same pathogen that was the cause of the Irish Potato Famine in the 1800's.

Late Blight

Events and Things To Do

New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference
December 13, 14 and 15, 2022 in Manchester, New Hampshire - This conference features a trade show and more than 25 educational

sessions covering vegetable, berry and fruit tree crops, cut flowers, agricultural equipment and other topics.

[NE Vegetable and Fruit Conference](#)

[NEVF Session Schedule and Topics](#)

Connecticut Agricultural Expo 2022

Friday, November 18th from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at Aquaturf, 556 Mulberry Street, Southington, CT. This first of its kind event promises to bring together a wide diversity of farmers and features a session on soil-biodegradable plastic mulch for specialty crop production by UConn's Shuresh Ghimire, PhD, UConn Extension and one by UConn's Mary Concklin on IPM management for fruit growers.

[CT Agricultural Expo](#)

[Essex Steam Train](#) - the hour train only journey begins at the historic 1892 Essex Station for a 12-mile, narrated round-trip along the Connecticut River Valley. Passengers sit in vintage coaches. Polar Express tours for 2022 are sold out.

[Kent Falls State Park](#) - water cascades 250' down on its way to joining the Housatonic River. There is a trail following the falls with railings and scenic overview platforms.

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

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

[Northwest Park](#) - this 473-acre municipal site owned and operated by the Town of Windsor, CT features 2 miles of hiking trails, a functioning Maple Sugar House, a nature center, farm animals and year-round events

[Railroad Museum of New England](#) - this not-for-profit educational and historical organization tells the story of our region's rich railroad heritage. Offers educational exhibits and operation of scenic and historical train rides on the Naugatuck Railroad.

Vegetable Harvesting and Storage and Leaf Management







Leaf clean-up can be easier when leaves are mulched with mowers on lawns until they become too thick to remain there. Any leaves that fall after that can then be removed. Your town may offer leaf pick-up, but some leaves can still be mulched fine on the lawn or used in the garden. Excessive heavy piling of leaves from a lawn into the woods may not be beneficial to trees and other plants.

[Lawn and Garden Fall Cleanup and Other Fall Garden Tips](#)

Vegetable optimum harvesting times, shelf-life, and storage requirements vary depending upon the specific crop. Some root crops can be kept in the ground for winter harvesting.

[Harvesting and Storing Home Garden Vegetables](#)

Leave some of the stem on winter squash to allow for longer storage time. Winter squash should be cured to harden skins and heal any cuts before storing. Do not cure acorn squash, though. Image: Iowa State

[Harvesting and Storing Winter Squash](#)

Gardening Tips for November

1. Cut back perennials that were covered in powdery mildew during the summer. Cut stalks to the ground and dispose of them.
2. Pull annuals and add them to the compost pile if free of disease. For annuals that self-seed, allow some seed-laden stems to remain in place
3. Purchase some paperwhite bulbs and follow the directions for forcing bulbs so that they bloom for the holiday season.
4. Give houseplants as much light as possible as shorter fall days begin.

5. Avoid the spring rush and get your soil tested for next year's garden before the ground freezes. Information can be found at the UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory.
6. Asian lady beetles and Brown marmorated stink bugs may enter the home to overwinter. Use weather stripping or caulking to keep them out.
7. Be persistent in collecting leaves that fall late as it will make cleanup in the spring much easier.
8. Smaller leaves from ash, honey locust, and birch trees may be chopped with a mulching mower when dry and left on your lawn
9. It is not a good idea to leave fuel in the lawn mower or other gas-powered tools over winter. If there is some gasoline left, run the mower until it is used up.
10. Be sure to drain hoses and sprayers before cold weather sets in.
11. Consider providing sunflower hearts instead of whole seeds when feeding birds to eliminate hull waste beneath the feeder. Keep feeders out of garden beds to reduce rodent activity, especially from voles.

[See more November tips](#)

Winterberry 'Berry Heavy'



While most North American gardeners still have some time left to continue fall planting, many of us are already thinking about the winter ahead. If your winter garden could use some bold color, you can't go wrong with the lovely [Berry Heavy® winterberry holly](#). This heavily loaded winterberry produces a much more prolific berry set than conventional varieties. As a deciduous holly, it drops its leaves in the fall for an even more breathtaking show of brilliant red berries throughout the winter. Its branches are perfect for cut arrangements and holiday decor, and its berries are a wonderful treat for birds after they

soften by mid-winter. Did we mention that this North American native is also super hardy (zones 3-9) and can thrive in challenging growing conditions such as shade and wet soil? Winterberries require a male and female plant to produce berries, so be sure to use [Mr. Poppins® winterberry](#) as the pollinator. Photo and text from [www.provenwinners.com](#)

[Sugary poo could be used to lure destructive plant pests to their doom](#)

Spotted lanternflies communicate through their smelly excretions—called honeydew, reports a new study in *Frontiers in Insect Science*. This invasive species has been impacting crops in the northeastern US, but little is known about how these insects locate each other for reproduction or feeding. According to this latest research, the insects' honeydew emits several airborne chemicals that attract other lanternflies. Surprisingly, these effects are sex-specific, which may be the first known case of such signals in insects known as planthoppers.

[As winters warm, nutrient pollution threatens 40 percent of US](#)

Scientists are ringing alarm bells about a significant new threat to U.S. water quality: as winters warm due to climate change, they are unleashing large amounts of nutrient pollution into lakes, rivers, and streams.

[Do I need to refrigerate pumpkin pie? Food safety info for pumpkin season](#)

October is inarguably pumpkin season, which raises questions about food safety for everything from pumpkin pie to pumpkin seeds.

Deer rubbing its antlers has damaged this tree. To avoid damage from rabbits, voles deer and other animals, use a hardware wire plastic coated cage anchored into the soil. Make sure cage does not contact the trunk.



Have Your Soil Tested for Macro & Micro Nutrients

Send your soil sample in for testing now. For details on submitting a sample, go to soiltesting.cahnr.uconn.edu

Be sure to bookmark the new URL



Our standard nutrient analysis including the pre-paid kits (which includes pH) and soil textural analysis is \$15/sample and our soluble salts and pH only tests is \$5. For all soil test pricing, see link below

soiltesting.cahnr.uconn.edu/price/

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON - Read our latest Ladybug blogs



Dan talking to Charlton Garden Club members. Photo by dmp2022.

[In Search of Fringed Gentians](#)



Grey Towers Historic Site in Milford, PA. Photo by Haiying Tao

[A Sunny Day at Grey Towers](#)



Highsmith, C. M., photographer. (2011) Fall in Connecticut. United States Connecticut, 2011. October. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012631623/>
[When Fall Comes to Connecticut](#)

Science Fun Fact: How to calculate the distance of a lightning strike?

The U.S. National Weather Service says you can find out how far you are from a lightning strike by counting the seconds between the flash and the thunder and then dividing that number by five. That is the answer in miles.

The University of Arizona recommends: when you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunder. If this time

is **30 seconds** or less, quickly go inside a substantial building. Wait at least **30 minutes** after seeing the last lightning or hearing the last thunder before going back outside.

Lightning and Thunder



Wishing You A Happy
Thanksgiving !

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WHAT WE DO AT THE UCONN HOME AND GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER

Plant, insect, plant disease identification and control options

Advise clients on plant selection and cultural requirements-
diagnose problems

Receive samples for diagnosis samples either by drop- off or
mail

Give presentations on gardening topics including IPM,
pollinators, lawns, invasive plants and insects, landscaping
and gardening with native plants, gardening to support bees,
birds and wildlife

Staff an information booth at annual CT Flower & Garden

Show- bring your gardening questions and a soil sample for free pH testing

Publish weekly blogs and a monthly newsletter available for subscription

Publish fact sheets, newspaper and magazine articles

Provide media support and publish a monthly e-letter for the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Helpful Links

[Home & Garden Education Center](#)

[UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory](#)

[Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#)

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