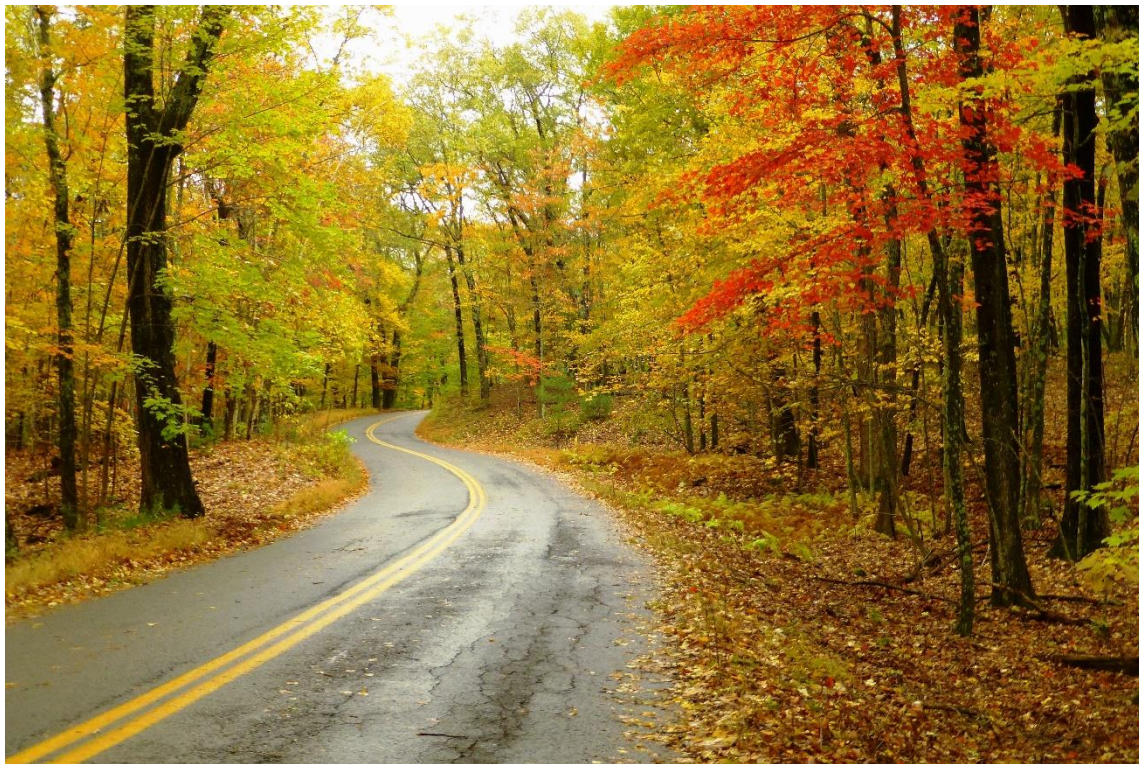




October is for Leaves, Asters and Echinacea





© Pamm Cooper



Pamm Cooper



Leaves and the Lawn

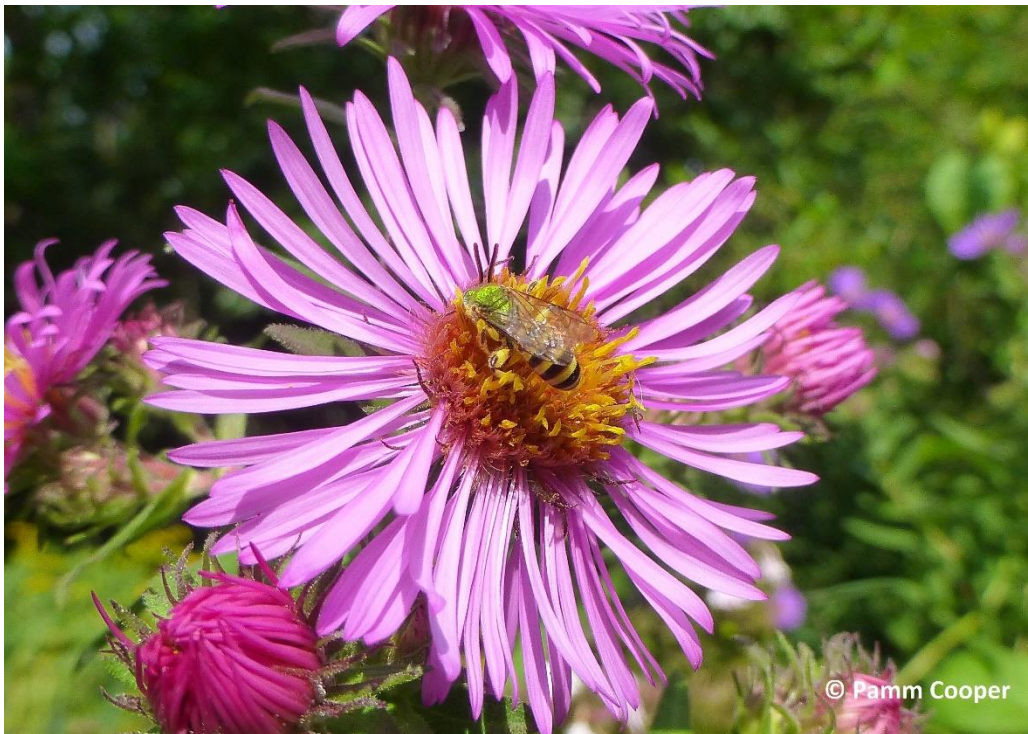


Leaves should be raked off lawns frequently to avoid smothering grass, especially if leaves are wet and in deep layers. Grass needs sunlight in the fall for optimum carbohydrate production and storage for next spring. A certain amount can be mulched into fine pieces when leaves are dry, and then left on the lawn, especially in areas where soil is light (picture below). Do not cover leaf blades. If area has thinned grass, add seed onto bare spots and mulch leaves on top to help keep seed moist.



Mulching leaves

Asters



Asters are native wildflowers that are important late-season pollen and nectar sources for many bees, butterflies and other insects. They can be tall and arching, compact or other growth habits and come in a variety of colors. Many are native woodland species and can be used in shade gardens.

Asters

Echinacea



Coneflowers, *Echinacea sp.*, are long blooming perennials that attract many bee and butterfly species. They come in a variety of colors. Leave seed heads late in the season for birds, and when seeds are gone, cut back stems for the winter.

Echinacea-coneflowers

2020 Drought



Native woodland ferns are crisp after a severe drought. Image was taken at James L. Goodwin State Forest



Completely dry stream bed in Glastonbury, Connecticut

[United States Drought Monitor](#)

Vegetable Pest Alert



Read the latest pest report on vegetables from Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension vegetable specialist.

UConn Vegetable Pest Alert

Plant Highlight



Time To Plant The Garlic

[Garlic Planting Instructions](#)

Insect Highlight - bees



Bumblebees are active into late fall, with only fertilized queens overwintering. Many other bees are also active in the fall including Halictidae and honeybees. Shown below is a tiny female Agapostemon sweat bee on goldenrod. Above- golden northern bumblebee *Bombus fervidus* on an aster flower



Plant Highlights- chocolate Joe-pye



'Chocolate' Joe-Pye weed (*Eupatorium*) blooms in late September-October. A smaller relative of Joe Pye weed, this plant features burgundy leaves all season, terminal white flower clusters that bloom over many weeks in the fall and is suitable for light shade conditions. Valuable butterfly nectar source.





The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) is presenting a virtual Symposium on October 7, 2020. For more information and registration information see link below. Virtual Invasive Plant Symposium, October 7, 2020

[CIPWG Symposium](#)

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.

Cure and Store Winter Squash

Keep Apples Cold for Long Term Storage.

Apple Storage



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.



These orange sun rays on the grass on September 22 were because of the orange sun at sunrise. Because of hazy skies due to wildfire smoke from western wildfires, the sun at dawn and dusk has sometimes been a brilliant orange..



Sun at dawn this September in Connecticut is orange due to the hazy, smoky sky.

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

[Late-Season Bloomers](#)

[Going and Coming in the
September Garden](#)

[End of Summer in the Garden](#)

[Pickled Pink](#)



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

Gardening Tips for October

- Dig and store tender bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tubers in a cool, dark, place.
- Remove plant debris from the flower beds. Bag any diseased plant parts and put it in the trash or take it to a landfill but do not compost.
- Take a scenic drive to observe the changing fall foliage. The CT DEEP has fall foliage driving routes for Connecticut.
- To begin pre-bloom dormancy for amaryllis, stop watering it and place in a cool, dark place.
- Beets, parsnips, and carrots can be covered with a thick layer of straw or leaves and left in the ground for harvest, as needed, during the winter. This may not be an option in areas with heavy vole populations.

- Avoid the spring rush and have your soil tested now by the UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory.

[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](#).

Photo by dmp, UConn

[UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#)

Look for these





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 are just two of these home invaders. 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

Interesting fungi



These tiny, unidentified parasol -like fungi were growing on a decaying tree trunk in the deep woods.

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

[Compost Conference Webinar Series](#)-The CT Compost Conference scheduled for March 2020, which had been postponed has been restructured into a series of 5 free webinars

[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-

On Sept. 2, Susan Brown the Herman M. Cohn Professor of Agriculture and Life Science, and research specialist Kevin Maloney announced the release of NY56, NY73 and NY109 – marketed as Cordera, Pink Luster and Firecracker, respectively.

[3 new varieties of apples from Cornell](#)

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT-

Interesting facts about bats found here in Connecticut from the Ct. DEEP.

[CT DEEP bat facts](#)

WHO KNEW?

Researchers from Penn State have discovered a gene that drives color differences within a species of bumble bees. “Of the roughly 250 species of bumble bees, there are over 400 different color patterns that basically mix and match the same few colors over the different segments of a bee's body.” Heather Hines Penn State entomologist and biologist

[Bumblebee stripes](#)

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.



You matter, so stay safe



[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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