



## February is for Pruning Apple Trees, Native Filberts and Gardening in the Shade



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## Pruning apple trees



[Winter apple tree pruning video](#)

[UMass fact sheet- training and pruning apple trees](#)

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## Native filberts



Beaked hazelnut *Corylus cornata* has a long, tubular beak surrounding the edible nut. It is a small suckering shrub that can reach 8 feet in height. Found most often in most soils, its native range includes Connecticut

## Beaked hazelnut



American filbert *Corylus americana* can have as many as five nuts in a cluster. This plant is found in drr soils in shade, part shade or full sun in the wild. Native range includes Connecticut.

## American hazelnut

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## Gardening in the shade



Siberian bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla*) 'Jack Frost' (left) has silvery leaves and small blue flowers that resemble forget-me-nots. Right is a native Jack-in-the-pulpit

Golden groundsel *Packera aurea*, Mayapple and cinnamon ferns in a shade garden. The former two can spread out over time forming groundcovers.

Shade gardening

Deer resistant shade  
perennials

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## Beetles in Firewood



The native elm bark beetle, side view.

Photo by J. R. Baker & S. B. Bambara, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org

There are several beetles that can exit from firewood that is stored inside for several days or more. Cued by warm indoor temperatures, these beetles chew their way out of firewood in the home and often head toward windows to find an exit. They are generally harmless to wood inside the house and can be removed from window sills or floors and disposed of as seen fit. Bark beetles, 1/16- 1/8 in length (shown above-the elm bark beetle) are the most common beetles to emerge from firewood stored indoors during the winter

Beetles in firewood

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## Have a tough spot to find plants for?



Steep slope in full sun planted with fine-leaved fescues mowed once a year

The University of Michigan has an excellent online publication for the best plants suitable for 30 tough sites. Some conditions included are: compacted soil, under black walnuts, long-blooming perennials, trees that produce minimal litter, shade, steep slopes...

[Plants for tough sites](#)

## Upcoming Webinars

Join UMass, Rhode Island, and Connecticut Extensions in a series of webinars for vegetable growers this January and February. Topics will be added to website soon. To register, click button below.

[Southern New England Vegetable Growers Webinar](#)

The Cornell Be Well Farming project is pleased to announce a winter workshop series being held via Zoom for farmers or earth workers of all roles and backgrounds across the Northeast.

**Peaceful Communication on the Farm: Listening Tools to Improve Understanding**

**Balance, Health, and Passion: Strategies by Farmers, for Farmers (2-part session)**

**PennState-**

**Vineyard Pest Management: Conventional and Alternative Vineyard Floor and Weed Management**

**Vineyard floor and weed management**

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**Plant Highlight-**



*Amsonia* (Blue Star) are perennial flowers that attract butterflies, are deer-resistant, and have excellent drought tolerance. Many varieties of *Amsonia* exist. that have very different foliage and flower clusters. Shown above is *Amsonia* 'Blue Ice' which has a more airy, open form and less dense flower heads than many other cultivars. Some species are native to North America occurring in zone 6 or higher.

## Native and cultivars

## Red-bellied woodpecker



Frequent visitors to suet feeders, these large woodpeckers can be very vocal, especially when winter days get longer. Above is a male which has a fuller red cap than the female. They are easily scared away if they detect movement- a good defense against hawks.

## Red-bellied woodpecker

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## Animal highlight - red squirrels



**If you have ever come across piles of pine cones, especially in under Norway spruce, it is the work of a red squirrel. They will remove cones, drop them and then pile them up. They eat the seeds, and sometimes only piles of the pine scales remain afterward.**



**Red squirrels in Connecticut**



## Buildings of Interest in Connecticut



The New London Harbor lighthouse is one of only five of the octagonal early federal lighthouses to still be in use in the present day. These lighthouses were built of sturdy cut stone or sometimes brick .

### Early federal octagons



The Gurleyville gristmill, built in 1830 is located on the Fenton River in Mansfield and closed operations in 1941. It was constructed from local stone including garnet schist and quartzite. It is open to the public from 1-5 pm on Sundays from the third Sunday in May through the second Sunday in October.

### Gurlyville grist mill



The design of this building on Pearl Street in Hartford incorporates the Doric-columned entrance of the 1924 Mechanics Savings Bank building with a modernist blue glass addition.

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## Shop Local Connecticut Farmers and Farm Markets

UConn Extension  
Vegetable Resource  
Page

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.

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## KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our latest Ladybug blogs

[Outdoors in January](#)

[Food of the Gods](#)

[Holiday Plants to Lift Your Spirits](#)

[Plant Evergreens for Holiday Decorating](#)

[December Doings](#)



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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 February

Provide houseplants with increased humidity; mist often or place plants over a tray of moist pebbles.

When buying houseplants in winter, be sure to wrap them well for the trip home and, if possible warm up the car. This prevents the foliage from freezing and protects tropicals from drafts.

Turn the compost pile during any stretches of mild weather.

If you're starting seeds under fluorescent lights, check the light tubes for signs of age. Dark rings on the ends of tubes means they should be replaced. Dispose of properly.

To control bagworm on shrubs and trees, look for the small stick-covered bags (above image) and remove them by hand.

Prune grape vines at the end of the month.

This is the time to prune currants. On a mild day, remove all deadwood and low shoots that are over 3 years old. Prune to an outward-facing bud. Prune apple and pear trees as the weather allows.

When using salt to melt ice on walks and driveways, spread it carefully to avoid damage to lawns.

If you are overwintering plants into your garage or cellar, check the soil to see if it needs water. If the soil is frozen, it may be in too cold of a spot.

Protect broadleaf evergreen shrubs such as mountain laurel and rhododendron with anti-transpirant sprays.

Move garden ornaments such as urns or jars into the garage or basement to prevent damage during the cold winter season. If containers are too large to move, cover them to prevent water collecting in them or turn them upside down during the winter so water will not collect and freeze in them causing breakage.

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

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## 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](https://soilnutrientlab.uconn.edu/).

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](mailto:ReportSLF@ct.gov). Submission of a photograph with any report is encouraged.

## Spotted Lanternfly

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](#)

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## [Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group \(CIPWG\)](#)

## [Invasive Mobile Apps](#)

**Invasive Mobile Apps:**  
Download these Invasive/Early Detection/Reporting Apps on your mobile device!

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## 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.

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## Food for thought

University of Minnesota crop scientists have evaluated hundreds of lesser known and grown field crops.

[Uncommon food crops](#)

## Who knew?

The University of California in Santa Barbara has a plant database that features fascinating flora (dawn redwood, cattails, Bunya Bunya and edible useful medicinal plants (blackberry, dandelion, chickweed and more)

[Fascinating flora](#)

## Conservation

The Smithsonian magazine has a good article on redefining our gardening concepts to focus on plants we use and the insects that need them. This can help feed birds and other wildlife and support native pollinators. Insects are not the villains in the piece, but the key to biodiversity.

[Diversity in the suburban garden](#)

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# 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](mailto: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.



[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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