
**Printable PDF**

## June is for *Baptisia*, Mountain Laurel and Tulip Tree

## *Baptisia*



***Baptisia spp.*** **are native wildflowers in the Northeastern United States and are members of the pea family.** ***Baptisia australis*** **has blue flowers and is known as blue indigo, and** ***Baptisia tinctoria*** **has yellow flowers and is known as wild indigo. In garden centers, many cultivars of** ***B. australis*** **are available including 'Cherries Jubilee' which has yellow and pink bicolored flowers and 'Carolina Moonlight' which has soft yellow flowers.** ***Baptisia*** **can get 3-5 feet tall and does best in full sun to partial shade.**

**Above right-** ***B. australis*** **'Cherries Jubilee'**

**Baptisia**

# Mountain Laurel


**Mountain laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*, the state flower of Connecticut, is native throughout eastern North America and occurs in the understory of a variety of habitat types and plant communities. In Connecticut it can commonly be found in mixed hardwood forests and in communities of white pines. There are many cultivars for landscape use including 'Bull's Eye', shown above.**



**'Sarah' (left) has red flower buds that open to bright pink flowers. Right- an unknown cultivar of pink mountain laurel.**

**Mountain Laurel**

# Tulip Tree


***Liriodendron tulipifera,*** **or yellow poplar, is one of North America's tallest native deciduous tree. It's common name refers to its large, upright tulip-like flowers that bloom in spring. Flowers are yellow and have an orange band at the base of each petal, and they appear after leaves are fully open. Leaves are 4-lobed, large and somewhat flattened at the top. It is native in Connecticut appearing in localized areas in the wild. It was chosen as the 2018 Urban Tree of the Year for its grand and stately stature by the Society of Municipal Arborists. Above, right, this *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Aureomarginatum' is a variegated tulip tree, is located in Manchester, Connecticut.**

**Tulip Tree**

# New England Native Plants Initiatives

**Emphasizing ecological and environmental impacts, the New England Plant Initiative has a database with information related to New England native plants**



**Native Plant Sources in New England**

**initi**

# Growing Backyard Vegetables


**Check out these resources for planting tips, selections, pests and problems and other resources for vegetable gardening for homeowners.**

## When to Start Planting Vegetable Garden Crops

## Basics of Vegetable Gardening- UConn Extension

Image above: Cornell University

**A complete guide to selection, planting, maintenance, special considerations, insect and disease problems and tomatoes varieties and**

**their characteristics is on the fact sheet from Cornell University on link below**

**Tomato Grower's Guide**

## Connecticut Historic Gardens


**CT's Historic Gardens Day is on Sunday, June 27, 2021 12:00 - 4:00 pm. Visit gardens and grounds throughout Connecticut on Sunday, June 27. Details of specific historic gardens and grounds and any programs offered on this day can be seen on link below. Above- Harkness Memorial State Park cutting garden.**

**Ct Historic Gardens Day**

## Leaf Gall On Maple Leaf


**Looking like paint gun splashes on maple leaves, these galls on a maple leaf shown above left are caused by tiny *Eriophid* mites feeding inside the leaf tissue. They are not overall harmful to the tree as most leaves are not affected. On the right is one of two kinds of oak apple galls containing the larva of a gall wasp (Family Cynipidae) feeding inside.**

## Common Galls On Trees


**If you notice sooty mold and sticky leaves on holly, *Euonymus,* yews or Hydrangeas, check for the presence of cottony camellia scale on leaves and twigs. Remove any cottony egg masses and hand- pick scales if infestations are light. Prune off heavily infested branches and leaves, if practical. Crawlers are easiest to control and start to hatch in June.**

## Cottony Camellia Scale

# Insect Pest Highlight- Asparagus Beetles


**Two asparagus beetles are pests that can have more than one generation a year. Both can cause deformed spears to develop, but the common asparagus beetle(above left) adults and larvae also feed on the foliage as well as the spears which affects long-term health of the plants. The feeding by the spotted asparagus beetle (on right) does not affect long-term health of the plant.**



**Above, left- eggs are laid upright anywhere on the plant . Above, right- emerging spears are deformed by the feeding of both species of asparagus beetles.**

**Asparagus Beetles**

## Plant Highlight- Black-eyed Susan vine


**This annual vine is fast-growing and comes in a variety of colors, and it climbs by twining. The older variety that is dark orange with brown centers is the one visited the most by hummingbirds. The yellow variety shown above,left, has completely covered a large trellis and is trailing along the ground.**

**Middle image is a variety called - 'Tangerine Slice' and right is - 'Arizona Terra Cotta'**

**Black-eyed Susan vine**

## Animal Highlight- Painted Turtle

**Painted turtles are found in lakes and ponds throughout Connecticut and are named for colorful orange and yellow markings. Female painted and other turtle species travel away from water to lay eggs, shown, left, in a lawn in Chaplin. Turtles seen crossing roads can be helped across. Put them on the side of the road where they were headed or they will cross the road again.**


**Painted Turtles**

## Insect Highlight- Brown Belted Bumblebee



**Brown belted bumblebees *Bombus griseocollis* form small colonies on the ground where it is typically dry. Bees visit different flowers, e.g. queens visit legumes like red clover and vetch, workers visit red and sweet clover and males visit goldenrods, *Rudbeckia* and yellow daisies. All bees visit milkweeds and other flowers.**

**Brown Belted Bumblebee**

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

[Growing Figs in New England]
[Noticing Natives and One Non-native]
[May Butterflies and Wildflowers]

**Sign up to receive our blogs by e-mail**

**Composter & Rain Barrel Sale- Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCD)- area residents can order discounted rain barrels, composters, and accessories at the spring 2021 sale.**
https://nvcogct.gov/project/composter-rain-barrel-sale/

# CLEAR 2021 Webinar Series UCONN

**Center for Land Use Education & Research (CLEAR) Webinar series covers many free land use education webinars from April- June 2021**

## Gardening Tips for June

- Scout for lace bugs and aphids. Spray with water or use a low-toxicity insecticide to control them.
- Check container plants daily during hot weather, they will need water often.
- Cut back early-flowering perennials to tidy up and encourage more blooms.
- All plants, especially newly planted ones, need 1" of water per week. Water deeply and thoroughly as needed.

- Keep on top of weeds during the early summer when they are small and easy to pull. If you keep your garden plants well-watered and fertilized, they will quickly fill in bare spaces and give weeds fewer places to grow.
- To move spring-blooming bulbs to another spot, wait until the foliage has turned yellow, carefully dig them up and let them dry in a shady spot for a few days. Store the bulbs in a cool, dry place until it's time to plant them in fall.
- Clematis usually blooms only in spring but once it's finished blooming you can prune it to 12” and it may produce a second flush of growth and flowers. Or just lightly prune just to shape and to remove damaged and wayward stems. Leave the decorative seed heads.
- Sow seeds of fast-growing annuals like marigolds, zinnias, and cosmos directly in the garden.
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs such as cannas, gladiolas and dahlias.
- Plant caladium and tuberous begonias in shady spots.
- Lightly cultivate soil after a heavy rain to avoid compaction. A layer of mulch reduces the soil crusting and compaction caused by raindrops.
- By the end of June, do not fertilize lawns again with nitrogen until late August or early September to avoid stressing grass during hotter weather in July and August.
- Scout for cinch bugs if lawn areas were damaged by them the previous year.

**For a more extensive list of tips visit Gardening Tips for June**

## 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:

UConn Extension

UConn Food Safety

UConn Home & Garden Education Center

UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory

UConn Master Gardener Program

UConn Garden Master Classes - All open to the public

UConn Science of GMOs

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## Things to Do

**Connecticut River Museum-** **Visit annual exhibits like the Christmas holiday train layout and permanent exhibits like the first American submarine dubbed "the turtle".**

**Yale Marsh Botanical Garden-** **Visitors who are not from Yale are welcome to visit for self-guided walking tours of this extensive collection of plants including naturalistic beds and wildflower plantings**

**Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge-** **ten units across 70 miles of the Ct. coastline provide opportunities for viewing birds, wildlife and several historic buildings including the Falkner Island lighthouse**

**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**

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## 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.


## Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)

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

**Invasive Mobile Apps**

FREE INVASIVE PLANT TALK, WALK and CUT. on Saturday June 26 10am-12oon. Rain Date June 27 2pm-4pm Where: Maurice and Rita Edwards Preserve, Hampton, CT. Contact Rose Hiskes at rose.hiskes@ct.gov to register and get directions.

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## Food for thought

**Does fast food make us impatient? Maybe it does, according to research results recently published in *Psychological Science*.**

**Fast Food Influences Product Choices**

## Who knew?

**Plants sometimes have special abilities to adapt to varied and unique circumstances. For some insights into the unique ways some plants like epiphytes, heterotrophs, saprophytes and others obtain nutrients, read this fascinating article on 'The Unique Adaptations of Plants' from the Montana Science Partnership.**

## The Unique Adaptations of Plants

# 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.

**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.

*Join us.*

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