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July is for Wood Lilies, Little Leaf Sage and Oak Apple Gall



Wood Lily



Wood lilies, *Lilium philadelphicum* var. *andinum* have the widest range of north American native true lilies. It is believed that the bright orange-red, open, upright flowers of this plant are ideally suited to pollination by butterflies. Many Connecticut butterflies have strong associations with this flower. Above right- a coral hairstreak butterfly rests on a wood lily.

[Wood Lily](#)

Salvia Microphylla- Little Leaf Sage



Little leaf sage, *Salvia microphylla* is an evergreen shrub in the mint family found in the wild in southeastern Arizona and in Mexico. Here in the Northeast it is planted as an annual and will bloom until frost. This complex species easily hybridizes, and there are many cultivated hybrids including *S. microphylla* 'Hot Lips', shown above, and whose striking red and white flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and pollinators. It prefers sun and needs some room as it eventually takes on a delicate shrub- like form. Leaves are small and the colorful flowers really stand out because of that. Flowers of 'Hot Lips' *Salvia microphylla* are shown above, right.

Little Leaf Sage



For more information on the great variety of salvias, check out this link from Clemson. All image credits- Clemson Cooperative Extension

Salvia

Oak Apple Gall



Oak apple galls are abnormal growths of oak tissue due to the feeding of the larva of the oak apple gall wasp, These galls can get up to 2 inches in diameter, with the larva feeding safely inside where it will also pupate. Adult wasps have a round, red abdomen and chew their way out of the gall, leaving a tell-tale hole. *Amphibolips quercusinanis* gall wasp, above right, just emerged from a gall that was split open to look inside.

Oak Apple Gall

Container Gardening



Plants can be grown in almost any container, such as the metal coal ash bucket, above, as long as they are large enough to hold the right amount of potting soil and allow water to drain out. Small containers can be moved about if sun or shade are issues. Perennials or small trees may or may not survive if kept outdoors in containers during the winter.

Container Gardening

Milkweeds



Milkweeds supply food for all kinds of insects including aphids, caterpillars, moths, beetles, flies, bees, bugs and butterflies. Many butterfly species can be found on native milkweeds, especially common and swamp milkweed and butterfly weed. Above, left, a Baltimore checkerspot, which is a threatened species in Connecticut, is on common milkweed *Asclepias syriaca*. Center- milkweed beetle Right-crescent butterflies on swamp milkweed Below- milkweed bugs feed on milkweed seeds



Milkweeds

Tips on Protecting Yourself from Ticks



Both UMass and the Centers for Disease Control have good tips on protecting your pets and family from ticks. Putting clothes in a hot dryer after being outdoors, pulling up socks over pant legs, and using protective sprays for clothing and skin are some of the ways to help prevent tick bites that will either repel, kill them or make it difficult for them to contact the skin.

[UMass- Clothing and Tick Protection](#)

[CDC Tick Bite Protection](#)

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 plant initiatives, including native plant and seed sources.

[Native Plant Sources in New England](#)

Resources for Vegetable Gardeners

[When to Start Planting Vegetable Garden Crops](#)

[Basics of Vegetable Gardening- UConn Extension](#)

[UConn Vegetable Pest Alert July 2021](#)

Insect Pest Highlight- Earwigs



Earwig hiding in new milkweed leaves, left, and damage to mallow leaf, right

Earwigs are common garden pests that leaves, buds, fruits and flowers of many plants, including vegetables and ornamentals. Look for small, ragged holes chewed in plant tissue. They can be found by day hiding in folded leaves or flowers, under planters, in the mulch under plants they are feeding on and in cracks or other dark places. They feed at night and often eat flower petals. Some plants frequently eaten by earwigs are butterfly bush, salvia, coleus and petunia, but they will eat a wide variety of plants.



If potted plants are damaged by earwigs, they may hide under the container during the day. Raise container to keep an open dry area under the pot. Pull back mulch under damaged plants and look for earwigs hiding there- crush them or spray with insecticidal soap or other appropriate material. Diatomaceous earth sprinkled around the bases of

plants may be somewhat effective but needs to be re-applied after rains or irrigation.

Earwig Control

Native Plant Highlights- Virginia Meadow Beauty and Swamp Candles



Both of these native wildflowers may be found in bloom between early July and September, especially in wet areas such as bogs, swamps, along pond or lake edges and damp fields or meadows. Above on left-Virginia meadow beauty on right- swamp candles

Swamp Candles

Virginia Meadow Beauty

Insect Highlight- Long-legged Fly



Long-legged flies are predators and are beneficial to have around for pest control. They feed on a wide variety of other small arthropods, including other flies, thrips, aphids, gnats, mites, leafhoppers, whiteflies, beetle larvae and other arthropods. You may see them hanging around on garden plants during the day and sometimes will see them with prey as well. They are very small and may be gold, orange or green in color.

Long-legged Flies

Upcoming Virtual UConn Bug Month Programs



UConn Extension is hosting the 6th Annual Bug Month virtually in July. Keep checking the website to see what's buzzing! We'll be posting butterfly and moth descriptions as well as fact sheets on problem bugs such as the Emerald Ash Borer and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.

You will even be able to follow the life cycle of beautiful Luna moths!

Bugs are the unsung heroes of our ecosystem. They pollinate our crops and gardens, prey on pest insects, and aerate soils by breaking up decaying material to recycle nutrients.

Lets celebrate bugs this year by taking pictures of them for the photo contest and by improving the environment for them.

UConn Bug Month



Gardening Tips for June

1. Tomato hornworms are large green caterpillars that feed on the leaves of tomatoes and related plants. Hand-pick or control with *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Do not remove caterpillars that are covered in white pupae as they have been parasitized by beneficial wasps.
2. Pinching back herbs to stop flowering will keep the best flavor in the leaves and encourage branching. Herbs can be air dried, dried quickly in the microwave, or frozen.
3. Inspect garden plants regularly for insect and disease problems. Sanitation practices, insecticidal soaps, and insect traps are alternatives to pesticides.
4. Cucumbers are heavy drinkers and feeders. Keep the soil evenly moist during hot spells to avoid bitter fruit and side-dress plants with 1 tablespoon of 10-10-10 fertilizer.
5. Plant cool-season crops such as broccoli, spinach, kale, lettuce, and chard where they will be shaded from the sun.
6. Mulch garden beds to help conserve water.
7. Check brassicas for cabbageworm, diamond-back moth caterpillars, cross-striped caterpillars, and cabbage loopers. Use row covers or *Bacillus thuringiensis* to control them.
8. If your cool season annuals have died off, pull them out and add them to your compost pile. Sometimes a severe shearing, water and fertilizer will bring them back to life.
9. Water early in the morning to reduce the loss of water to evaporation during the hottest days.
10. Container and hanging plants may need additional water later in the day if hot and windy conditions prevail. Check plants again at day's end to see if any additional water is necessary.
11. The hotter and drier it gets, the more likely spider mite may become issues. Spraying a forcible stream of water will provide partial relief of this pest. Or use horticultural oils at a summer rate for appropriate plants,
12. Divide and replant crowded bearded iris and other summer blooming perennials after flowering until August.
13. Raise mowing heights for cool-season lawn grasses to 3-4 inches during hot, dry summer months.
14. Scout gardens regularly to check for water and pest control needs

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

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

[UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#)

[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](#)

Things to do/events

[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

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](#)

Food for thought

Because there is a tremendous enthusiasm around the country for localized food systems and urban agriculture, researchers wanted to determine how much nutrition urban agriculture really can contribute and how much land is required to meet the population's needs

[Urban Agriculture](#)

Weather phenomenon- 22 degree halo

When hexagonal, columnar ice crystals line up in a particular way, the result is a 22 degree halo around the sun, a rainbow that fully encircles the sun. This occurs frequently, and mostly on hazy days



22 Degree Sun Halo

Who knew?

Some interesting fun facts on science from the University of Michigan Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Science Fun Facts

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.

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