



September Is For Bottle Gentians, Stinkhorn Fungi and Shrub Dogwood Fruit



Closed Bottle Gentians



Gentiana andrewsii are native wildflowers that are found along edges of water courses, lakes and ponds and in other moist areas in late summer. The purple-blue to violet flowers bloom late in the season after most other plants are finished flowering and bumblebees are still active. These bees are heavy enough to push through the petals and get to the pollen and nectar inside, as shown in the image below.



Closed Bottle Gentians

Stinkhorn Fungi.



Stinkhorn fungi can appear overnight during hot humid weather, often in mulched garden beds. Eliciting a strong aroma of rotting carrion or other equally offensive odors, they are often smelled before being discovered. The odor usually comes from a slimy spore mass that attracts.

The orange stinky squid fungus resembles small cooked crab legs and has three arms that arise from this mulch in a garden bed in the image above right.

Stinkhorns

Stinky Squid

Shrub Dogwood Fruits



The fruits of all dogwood species are drupes having one or two seeds and are often brightly colored. Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), roughleaf dogwood, gray dogwood, and red osier dogwood *Cornus sericea* have white fruit. Silky dogwood *Cornus amomum* has drupes that begin white but slowly turn to blue.

Shrub Dogwoods

Late Summer Bird Migrations- Nighthawks and Tree Swallows



Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* have one of the longest migration routes of all North American birds. Look for these nightjars flying in the early evening the first week of September on their annual migration. Birds have distinctive long, angular wings with a single white band on the undersides.

Nighthawk Overview



Nighthawk Migration



Tree Swallow Migration

**Welcome Nick Goltz the New UConn Plant
Diagnostic Lab Pathologist**



Nick Goltz was recently hired to direct the UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab. he recently graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Plant Medicine. In addition to the plant health experience gained through his degree, Dr. Goltz prepared for this position by working at the UF Plant Diagnostic Center since 2019, and by working at state and federal regulatory laboratories since 2016, performing research to develop biological control options for the management of fire ants and other arthropod pests. Dr. Goltz has a passion for plant health and integrated pest management and is deeply excited to work with growers and homeowners to find holistic and comprehensive solutions for any plant problem they may be dealing with.

[UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab Submission Form](#)

The UCONN Home and Garden Education Center is now open for drop offs- samples of plants or insects can be brought to our building and either dropped off in the cooler outside our building by the ramp, or call us before coming and then when you arrive caall us and

we will pick up the sample at the back door of the Ratcliffe Hicks Building. campuscontainer- a baggie is fine. Do not drop off samples on Fridays.

Question Mark Butterfly Caterpillar



These caterpillars can be found now on elms. Covered with small bunches of harmless spines from head to tail end, they often feed together in small groups on the undersides of leaves. Butterflies overwinter as adults.

Subscribe to the UMass Landscape Message

UMass Extension's Landscape Message is an educational newsletter intended to inform and guide Massachusetts Green Industry professionals in the management of our collective landscape. Detailed reports from scouts and Extension specialists on growing conditions, pest activity, and cultural practices for the management of woody ornamentals, trees, and turf are regular features.

UMass Landscape Message

Vegetable Pest Alert August 27 2021



Insect Pest Highlight- Fall Webworms



Fall webworms are caterpillars that feed within a shelter made by silk that surrounds the leaves they are currently eating. Typically webworms start on branch tips and work their way back as leaves are consumed. Since they occur late in the season as leaves are finishing up their work, damage is not typically enough to warrant treatment, but nests can be removed if tree or shrub is severely impacted by many of these structures.

Fall Webworm

Insect Pest Highlight: Boxwood Moth.



Image courtesy of Matteo Maspero and Andrea Tantardini

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed the presence of box tree moth *Cydalima perspectalis* in the continental U.S. and is taking action alongside state partners and industry to contain and

eradicate the invasive pest that was imported on nursery plants shipped from Ontario, Canada.

Boxwood Moth

Disease Highlight- Tar Spot on Maple



Image above by Steven Katovich of the USDA Forestry Division shows the typical black lesions on a maple leaf caused by a *Rhytisma spp.* fungal disease. Mostly a cosmetic issue in residential settings, infected leaves can be raked up and destroyed to prevent re-infections of trees the next year.

Tar Spot

Insect Highlight- White margined burrower bug



Sehirus cinctus are insects that resemble tiny stink bugs and which feed on seeds, especially of plants in the mint and nettle families. Above, many nymphs are diving inside to feed on seeds of an obedient plant.

White-lined Burrower Bugs

Plant Highlight- *Caryopteris clandonensis*



This late summer bloomer is a favorite of pollinators and butterflies. Bluebeard blooms around the same time as spotted

joe-pye weed, boneset and early asters. Cut back in spring, if needed, to keep in bounds as some varieties get quite large. *Caryopteris x clandonensis* 'First Choice' is among the smaller, more compact varieties.

Caryopteris x clandonensis

Plant Highlight- Pokeweed



American Pokeweed *Phytolacca americana* is a native herbaceous perennial that is considered a weed in garden settings, but it is not altogether unattractive. Light green leaves are offset by red stems, and its white flowers are followed in the fall by deep purple berries that are attractive to birds. It can get tall- up to 10 feet- and is easiest to pull out when the plant is small. If not considered an uninvited guest in some landscape or garden settings, let a few plants stay so birds can feast on the berries.

American Pokeweed

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[We Are Gardeners](#)

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Gardening Tips for September

- Mid to late September is a great time to add accent plants, like vivid mums and stary asters, that will provide autumn colors in the landscape. Use them along with cool-colored ornamental cabbages and kales to replace bedraggled annuals in containers as well.
- Lawns can be renovated or repaired between late August and mid- September for best results. New grass should started well before fall leaf drop.
- Watch for frost warnings and cover tender plants.
- Examine houseplants carefully for insect pests before bringing them back inside. Give them a good grooming if necessary. You may want to spray plants with insecticidal soap after hosing off the foliage. Let the plants dry before applying the soap.
- Remove and compost spent annuals and fallen leaves.

- Weed and mulch perennial beds using a loose organic material such as bark chips or leaves to keep down weeds, preserve moisture, and give roots a longer time to grow before the soil freezes.
- Outwit hungry squirrels and chipmunks by planting hardy bulbs in established groundcovers.
- Lift and store tender bulbs, such as cannas, dahlias and gladiolus, after first frost.
- Perennials like daylilies and bearded irises can still be dug up and divided.
- Visit a local nursery or garden center and select spring flowering bulbs to add to your gardens. Plant the bulbs among perennials, under trees and shrubs, or in larger groups for a splendid spring show. Choose colors that complement other spring flowering plants as well as nearby plantings. Work a little Bulb Booster or 5-10-10 into the bottom of the planting holes.

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

vegetable



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](#)

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Things to do/events



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



[Walkway Over the Hudson State Historical Park](#)- The Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge was built in the late 19th century to link New York and New England to an extensive, nationwide railway network. The park provides access to the Hudson River's breathtaking landscape for pedestrians, hikers, joggers, bicyclists, and people with disabilities. The bridge deck stands 212 feet above the river's surface and is 6,768 feet (1.28 miles) long, making it the longest, elevated pedestrian bridge in the world.

[Fort Trumbull State Park](#)- The first Fort Trumbull was built to protect the New London Harbor from British attack. Get an interactive history lesson at the visitor's center, or just walk the Fort and ramparts for a view of the Thames River, a visit to Fort Trumbull has something for everyone including a boardwalk and fishing pier.

[Connecticut River Museum](#)- Visit annual exhibits like the Christmas holiday train layout and permanent exhibits like the first American submarine dubbed "the turtle".

[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



Connecticut map showing Fairfield County, Connecticut as of August 2021 with regulated areas (e.g., towns) based on detections of established populations of SLF in 2020 and 2021. All of Connecticut is under state quarantine for SLF as of July 1, 2021. Regulated areas are defined as areas with established populations of SLF. Homeowners should use a checklist available on the CAES website if moving out of a regulated area.

Regulated areas in Connecticut with established populations of spotted lanternfly (SLF) in Fairfield and New Haven County as of 24 August 2021

- Greenwich
- Stamford
- New Canaan
- Norwalk
- Westport
- Fairfield
- Orange
- Milford



 Towns with established populations of 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.

Food for thought

“CROSS BETWEEN CORN AND A WILD RELATIVE YIELDS A PERENNIAL CROP.” An Argentine-American collaboration led to a discovery of a perennial corn they discovered when crossing normal corn with a distant wild relative, teosinte.

Annual to Perennial Corn

Weather

Lake Maracaibo is the most lightning struck place on earth and this lightning was once used as a beacon for sailors. Image below: H.P. Diaz



Lightning and Lake Maracaibo

Who knew?

Owls have eyes shaped like tubes, not eyeballs, which are held held rigidly in place by bones called sclerotic rings. It is a good thing they can move their head 270 degrees from side to side

Owl Vision

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.

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