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January is for Tree Curiosities, Seed Catalogues and Cranberry Viburnum





Tree Curiosities



During the winter, when out and about, you may come across interesting tree growths or other curiosities. The upper left image shows the beginning of a burl developing on a cherry tree trunk. The Image on the right shows two trees that fused together years ago. Check out our video of tree curiosities that we came across this year on the link below

[Tree Curiosities Video](#)

Seed Catalogues



New for 2022 • Our Top Selections for You
A preview of up- & -coming new favorites

Johnny's Selected Seed catalogue (test farm in Maine shown above right) is just one of many catalogues that are available online or via mail. Winter is a great time to peruse these catalogues and dream of the growing season to come. Order early, if possible. Some of these companies also offer seedlings and will ship when it is safe to plant in your hardiness zone.

[Seed Catalogue Information](#)

Highbush Cranberry - *Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum* L. Aiton



© Pammi Cooper



This native viburnum, formerly known as *V. trilobum*, is normally found in moist low areas such as swamps, bogs and along lakes and ponds. It is deer resistant; flowers attract pollinators and fruits attract birds and small animals. They can also be used near black walnut trees and are used for erosion control. Leaves are maple-like in form.

[American Cranberry Viburnum](#)

Bird Highlight - Winter birdbaths



Although some birds migrate south for winter, many stay through the cold weather. Providing drinkable water is important. However, when temperatures are below freezing, water will freeze in the birdbaths as well as other water sources. Keep water available as much as possible by replacing frozen water with fresh.

Gardening Tips for January

1. Mark your calendars for the CT Flower & Garden Show, February 23 – 26 at the CT Convention Center in Hartford. Bring a ½ cup of soil for free pH testing and test our knowledge with your garden questions.
2. Check out CT Plant Societies: www.ctcactusociety.org, www.cthort.org, www.nutmegorchids.org for their latest educational offerings.
3. Check all house plants closely for insect infestations. Quarantine gift plants until you determine that they are not harboring any pests. Inspect under leaves for infestations of whitefly and spider mites; check between leaves and stems for white, cottony mealybugs, and look under leaves and on stems for scale insects.
4. The cyclamen with its unique blossoms needs to be kept cool and evenly moist. High temperatures, too little water, or too low light may cause leaves to yellow and drop. With proper care the plant should continue to bloom for six to eight weeks.
5. Browse through garden catalogs and get orders submitted for spring gardening.
6. To determine how many seeds to order, map out your garden on graph paper, allowing adequate space between rows and ample room for vining crops such as pumpkins and winter squash.
7. When planning your vegetable garden, remember to rotate crops.
8. Try to stay off lawn areas during winter months as it can damage grass crowns.
9. Birds need water during the winter. Use a heater or solar sipper and try to provide some fresh water each day.
10. Renew anti-desiccant sprays on broad-leaved evergreens.

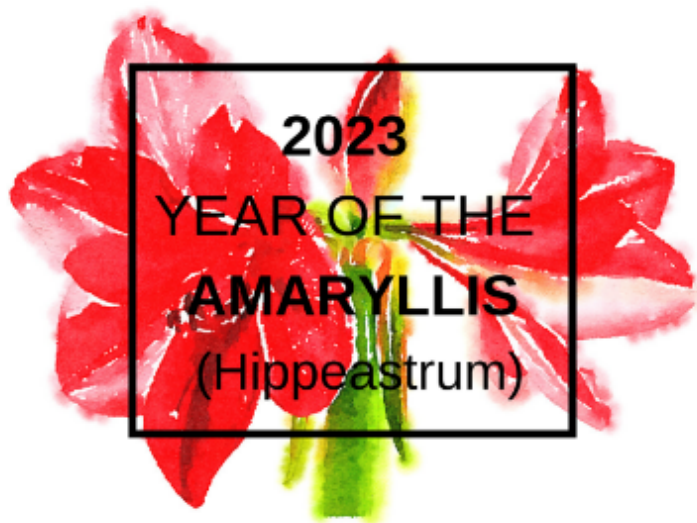
January Garden Tips



This deer is sleeping in a back yard, so browsing landscape plants might be its next activity. Safeguard plants that you know it likes by exclusion netting or wire mesh or by spraying with a suitable repellent.

2023 is the Year of the Amaryllis

The National Garden has declared 2023 as the Year of the Amaryllis. These easy to grow, showy bulbs with amazing colorful, trumpet like blooms are great for brightening up dreary winter days. There are dozens of species and hundreds of cultivars to choose from but whichever one you purchased or received as a gift is bound to bring joy. Learn how easy it is to care for your amaryllis and how to keep it for years more of gorgeous blooms.



AMARYLLIS

Have Your Soil Tested for Macro & Micro Nutrients

Send your soil sample in for testing now. For details on submitting a sample, go to soiltesting.cahn.uconn.edu

Be sure to bookmark the new URL



Our standard nutrient analysis (which includes pH) is \$15/sample. For all soil test pricing, see link below:

soiltesting.cahn.uconn.edu/price/

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON - Read our latest Ladybug blogs

[Considering Conifers 2](#)

[Aw Rats!](#)

[A Sweet \(Potato\) Harvest!](#)

Food For Thought

[Do all American robins migrate?](#)

Think robins migrate south for the winter? Think again. Some do...some don't.

[Fungal terminators](#) - Fungi that parasitize insects are a valuable weapon for biocontrol. Called mycoinsecticides, biological insect control products using these parasitic fungi are being used to reduce plant damage from many insect pests.



WHAT WE DO AT THE UCONN HOME AND GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER

Plant, insect, plant disease identification and control options

Advise clients on plant selection and cultural requirements

Accept samples for diagnosis either by drop-off or mail (Physical sample diagnosis has temporarily ceased until January when the Plant Diagnostic Lab reopens)

Present on gardening topics including IPM, pollinators, lawns, invasive plants and insects, landscaping and gardening with native plants, soils, compost, gardening to support bees, birds and wildlife

Staff a booth every year at the Flower and Garden Show - bring in your gardening questions and soil samples for free pH testing

Publish weekly blogs and a monthly newsletter. Please subscribe!

Publish fact sheets, newspaper, and magazine articles

Provide media support and publish a monthly e-letter for the Department of Plant Science



If you wondered where in the world the end is, we found it....

Helpful Links

[Home & Garden Education Center](#)

[UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory](#)

[Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#)

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UConn Extension 1376 Storrs Road Unit 4134 Storrs, Connecticut 06269 United States (860) 486-9228



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