



Help for Home Gardeners – UConn Home & Garden Education Center

By Pamm Cooper, UConn Home & Garden Education Center

The University of Connecticut Home and Garden Education Center provides help and information on gardening, insect, lawn, and landscaping problems for residential situations. We identify plants, insects, and diseases affecting plants and offer any methods that would be suitable for control, if warranted. Wildlife questions are also welcome. Services are free to the public.

The Center is the Northeast Regional First Responder to Extension ‘Ask the Expert’ questions. We offer a free, electronic, monthly newsletter of timely garden tips and other information, including seasonal plant, insect and animal highlights. Readers who would like to subscribe to the newsletter can contact us by e-mail: ladybug@uconn.edu.

The Center also writes facts sheets covering a wide spectrum of topics including vegetable and flower gardening, pollinators, lawns, houseplant selection, care and problems, IPM, invasive plants, soils and other subjects. We are often asked to do presentations for garden clubs, horticultural associations and we staff a booth at the Hartford Flower and Garden Show each February.

On the bottom of the homepage are links to subscribe to our newsletter, and to visit our Facebook™, Instagram™ and Pinterest™ sites. There are also links that include the UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory, Food Safety, Master Gardener, and the Master Composter Program.

We are also a resource for helping people find contacts to other state agencies for help with issues ranging from water testing, food safety, questions on weeds of ponds and lakes and pasture plants. We respond specifically to home and garden issues, but we can help direct you to either UConn professionals or experts from other reputable or state-run services that are appropriate venues for these and similar questions.

The UConn Plant Diagnostic lab, run by plant pathologist Dr. Nick Goltz, is closely associated with the Center and is a member of the National Plant Diagnostic Network and the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network. Plant samples from commercial growers or homeowners can be mailed to the lab or brought in for diagnosis. There is a twenty-dollar plant diagnostic fee.



Dennis Tsui, our newest HGEC member

This year for Bug Week, the Center's Pamm Cooper will be part of a program at the Haddam Extension Office that will feature outdoor bug hunts and live insect specimens on display with insects found in Connecticut. Date is Wednesday, July 20 from 10:00 - 2 at the Middlesex Extension office in Haddam.

If you have questions on household, garden or landscape plants, lawns, insects disease or cultural concerns, contact us or visit our website:

<http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/FactSheets/index.php>

Contact us toll-free (in-state only) 1-877-486-5271 or by e-mail- ladybug@uconn.edu