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August is for Boneset, Midsummer Plantings and Grass Seed



Boneset- *Eupatorium perfoliatum* L.



Boneset is a native plant that is found in damp soils, often with native Joe-pye weed. Leaves are opposite and clasp the stem. Flowers are white flat-topped clusters at the ends of stems. Bloom starts in August, and the flowers may last until October. This plant attracts many pollinators and butterflies, Shown in the image are two great spangled fritillary butterflies on boneset flowers in the wild.

Boneset

Plant Now for Fall Harvests

A number of herbs and vegetables can be seeded or transplanted into the garden now to fill the voids created when early maturing turnips, radishes leafy greens and the like were harvested. Two things to check out are the days to harvest either from seeding or transplanting and the first frost date. In past years, the first frost in Connecticut has occurred during the first 2 weeks of October. That leaves approximately 60 days starting the beginning of August. Some potential crops to consider planting include baby carrots, bush beans, zucchini, mustard and other greens, beets, chard and broccoli. Look for seeds and transplants at local garden centers.

Midsummer Plantings

Buy Lawn Seed for Early Fall Overseeding and Renovation

Mid-August is the best time to start thinking about overseeding lawns in Connecticut. Not all grass seeds are the same or of the same quality. Learning how to read seed labels will enable gardeners to decide which seed is best suited for their needs. It may not be necessary or practical to use a high-quality seed in *all* situations,

but the information on the label will help make the best choice for your lawn:

[Understanding Grass Seed Labels](#)

Disease Highlight-

Many fungi and bacteria that attack plants love wet weather! Be on the lookout for Leaf spot and root-rot pathogens. Symptoms include wilting, yellowing, and the appearance of necrotic lesions.

Early blight, caused by *Alternaria solani*, is a common leaf spot disease that primarily affects tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, and eggplant. Though leaf spot diseases caused by other fungi and bacteria can look similar, plants afflicted with early blight will have grey to brown lesions, often with concentric rings. These lesions appear after leaves remain wet for several hours. Stems and fruit may sometimes be affected as well. To slow the progression of the disease, remove and discard leaves with leaf spots during dry weather. Do your best to promote airflow and encourage dry leaves. Rotating the area to unrelated plants and spacing plants farther apart can reduce the likelihood of the disease persisting. There are preventive fungicides labeled for control of early blight available, but are most effective when applied before symptoms appear.

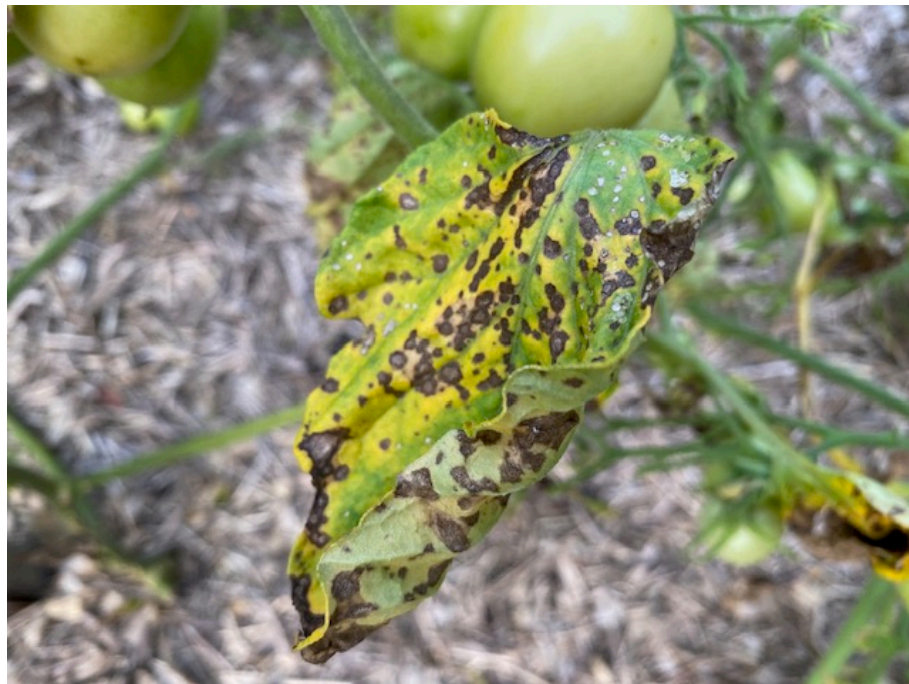


Photo credit: Dawn Pettinelli

Upcoming 2nd Annual UConn IPM Seminar Series

Free to the public, August 18 on campus in the Wilfred B. Young Building from 10:a.m.-2:30 p.m.Registration is required.

Topics:

Dr. Nick Goltz- 'Disease Update and Plant Health Tips

Pamm Cooper- 'Good Bug- Bad Bug'

Marie Woodward- 'Intro to IPM for Home Gardeners'

Cathryn Chapman- 'Right Plant, Right Place: A Look into Turfgrass Selection'

Evan Lentz- Small Fruit IPM in the Home Garden

To register, click here- [IPM Registration/Survey](#)

Wildflower Highlight- Forked Blue Curls



This native wildflower, *Trichostema dichotomum* is generally found in poor to very sandy soils in full sun or on woodland edges. Flowers are purple to blue with long, curled stamens form which its common name comes. It self-seeds in the wild and in cultivation. Bumblebees love the flowers.

[Forked Blue Curls](#)

Insect Highlight- Snowberry Clearwing



Hemaris diffinis is one of two sphinx clearwing moths that hover like hummingbirds as they sip nectar from flowers. The caterpillar of this moth is found on honeysuckles and has a horn on the rear of its abdomen which is typically found on most sphinx caterpillars. This is not a pest, as there are only one or two of the caterpillars on wild or cultivated honeysuckles.

[Snowberry Clearwing](#)

Vegetable Pest Alert



Powdery mildew on squash



Squash beetle

Read the latest Vegetable Pest alert from Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension

From water-logged soils to disease and insect pests, this is an important resource for home and commercial vegetable growers.

Vegetable Pest Alert

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our Ladybug blogs written weekly



[A “Rosy” Surprise On The Eric Canal](#)
[Summer Destinations for Gardeners](#)
[Fertilizer Fun or Is it?](#)

[Sign up to receive our blogs by e-mail](#)

Upcoming Events and Things to Do



Old Newgate Prison

[Old New-Gate Prison in East Granby](#)- open Thursday- Monday, Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine is nationally recognized as the first chartered copper mine and first state prison in early America.

[Railroad Museum of New England](#) – Located in Thomaston, Ct. At the Thomaston Station, there are educational exhibits and trains and other equipment to explore, plus take a train ride to a chocolate factory.

[James L. Goodwin State Forest](#)-Covering more than three square miles the James L. Goodwin State Forest offers recreation for every season of the year. Check website for upcoming events.

[CTAgFairs-Events & Dates](#) It's Fair Season! Enjoy what Connecticut Agricultural Fairs have to offer. Check out upcoming fairs for August:

<https://www.ctagfairs.org/events/filters/iso=1>

August Gardening Tips

- August is the month to order peony roots for September planting. Peonies should be in the ground about a month before the average first frost date.
- Check the water needs of hanging baskets once or twice daily. Wind and sun dry them out quicker than other containers.
- Pick summer squash and zucchini every day or two to keep the plants producing.
- Keep an eye out for insect, slug, and snail damage throughout the garden.
- Even though [tomatoes](#) continue to ripen after picking, fruits develop greatest flavor when allowed to ripen on plants. The exception is cherry tomatoes since many varieties are prone to splitting. Pick any almost ripe ones before a heavy rain.
- Control mosquitoes by eliminating all sources of stagnant water. Clean bird baths and pet's outdoor dishes often.
- Scout often for disease symptoms. When the plants are dry, remove and discard any tissue that is discolored, wilting (despite watering), or dead (e.g., leaf spots and cankers).
- Do not add weeds with mature seed heads to the compost pile. Many weed seeds can remain viable and germinate next year when the compost is used.
- Do not add diseased plant tissue to the compost pile. Many pathogens can survive in compost and infect new plants next year.
- Reseeding lawns in late August gives the new grass two growing periods (fall and spring) before the heat of summer. Be sure to keep the seed moist until germination.
- Stop pruning evergreen trees and shrubs to avoid promoting new growth that may not harden off before first frost.
- Fruiting plants such as winterberry, holly, and firethorn need regular watering during dry spells to ensure that berries mature and don't drop off.
- Remove old vegetable plants that have stopped producing to eliminate a shelter for insects and disease organisms. Replant sites with chard, quick maturing beans or cucumbers, leafy greens etc.

[More August Gardening Tips](#)

Have Your Soil Tested for Macro- & Micro Nutrients: Send your soil sample in or drop it off for testing now. For details on submitting a sample, go to [UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#).

[UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#)



Evaluate plant tissue for presence of diseases: Mail your plant tissue sample in or drop it off for testing. For details on submitting a sample, go to [UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory](#).

[UConn Plant Diagnostic Laboratory](#)



Before We Go...

[click on link](#)

[August Has Two Supermoons in 2023!](#)



Credit: NASA

A supermoon results when the moon appears slightly larger than normal because it's at or near perigee, the closest point in its orbit to the earth. A supermoon appears 14% larger and 30% brighter compared to the moon at its furthest point from earth (apogee).

Aug.1, 2023, will be the first supermoon. On August 31, the moon will be about 222,043 miles from Earth. A closer full moon will not occur until November 2025.

For Gardening Questions Visit our Website:

[UConn Home and Garden Education Center](#)

UConn Extension Home & Garden Education Center: We are on a collaborative journey working together with farmers, families, communities and businesses to educate and solve problems concerning food, health and sustainability.

Join us.

**UConn | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
EXTENSION

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WHAT WE DO AT THE UCONN HOME AND GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER

Plant, insect and plant disease identification and control options

Advise clients on plant selection and cultural requirements

Receive samples for diagnosis either by drop-off or mail

Give presentations on gardening topics including IPM, pollinators, lawns, invasive plants and

insects, landscaping and gardening with native plants, gardening to support bees, birds and wildlife

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

Publish weekly blogs and a monthly newsletter available for subscription

Publish fact sheets, newspaper, and magazine articles