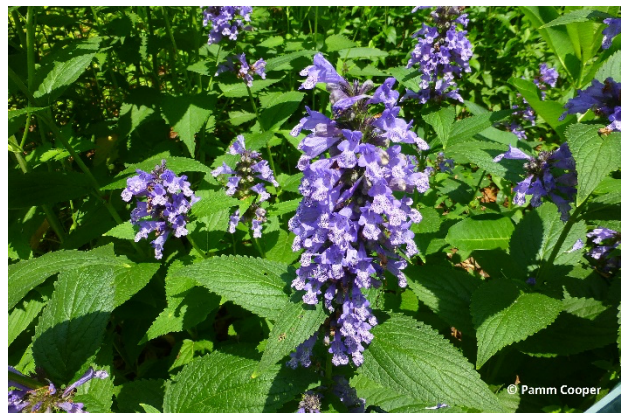




Printable PDF

July is for Gray Treefrogs, Agastache (Hyssop) and Aphids



Gray Tree Frogs- *Hylas versicolor*



Gray tree frog on my windowsill (left)has just finished trilling. Two of a different color were nose to nose on a bush honeysuckle leaf in my garden- Pamm Cooper

Gray tree frogs can have a variety of colors, changing to blend in with their surroundings as a good defense from predators. They do a good job of cleaning up insects, especially at night. At this time of year, males are trilling day and night to attract females. They are found near water sources where females will lay eggs.

Gray Tree Frogs

Agastache- hyssop



Giant Hyssop, an herbaceous perennial is part of the mint family. It's native to North America and areas in the southwest. The flowers are showy, fragrant, and long-blooming and appear as spikes that bloom most of the summer. Colors range from white, orange, blue, yellow and shades of red and purple. They are also heat and drought tolerant. Giant Hyssops are a valuable addition to any pollinator-friendly garden. Plus, they're resistant to browsing deer, rabbits and woodchucks.

Agastache

Aphids



Aphids are piecing-sucking insects that are serious pests of many plants. They often occur in large colonies that may be difficult to control. Many aphids have a strong preference for new growth, while others may feed on stems as well as leaves and flower buds. Signs of damage include wilting plant tips, wrinkled leaves, and aborted flower buds.

Before treating, check for any beneficial predators that may help clean up aphids. Shown above are lady beetle larvae feeding on aphids, and in lower image, lady beetle pupae are on a leaf surrounded by tiny aphids. Adult lady beetles will eat these aphids after emerging from the pupal cases.

[Aphids](#)

Disease Highlight- Azalea gall *Exobasidium vaccinii*



We have received samples and questions from several clients who found unusual, heavy growths around leaves on newer branches of rhododendrons and azaleas. These are galls formed by the fungal pathogen *Exobasidium vaccinii*. These galls can weigh down branch tips and turn white when spores are ready for dispersal. Branches should be pruned off below the gall, preferably before the white layer of spores shows up. Discard, do not compost, galls.

[Azalea Gall *Exobasidium Vaccinii*](#)

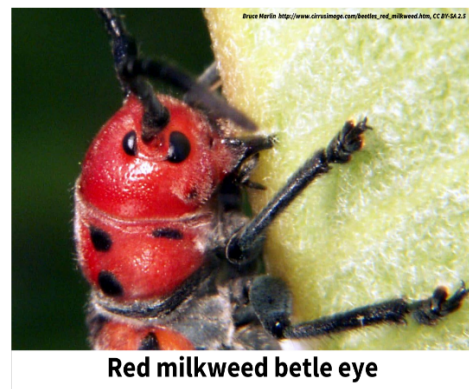
Wildflower Highlight- Virginia Meadow Beauty



This native wildflower is found in late July- August in wetlands, wet meadows, and other places where soils are consistently damp. *Rhexia virginica* can form small colonies and has showy yellow anthers that dangle down. Moths, bees butterflies and other insects are attracted to the flowers.

Virginia Meadow Beauty

Insect Highlight-Milkweed Beetle



These beetles can be found on milkweeds throughout the summer. They chew leaves, but do not cause severe damage to milkweeds. According to University of Illinois Extension: “Red milkweed beetles have interesting eyes. They belong to the genus *Tetraopes*, which comes from the Greek *tetra*, meaning four, and *ops*, meaning

eye. The eyes of these insects have been divided in two by their antennae, making it look like they have four eyes. Additionally, its specific epithet, tetrophthalmus, also means 'four-eyed' “.

Milkweed Beetle

Vegetable Highlight- Indeterminate/Determinate Tomatoes



Determinate tomatoes, better known as bush tomatoes, usually grow only three to five feet. They are easy to grow, require minimal pruning, and are the best type for growing in containers. Varieties of determinate tomatoes include Patio, Better Bush, Roma, San Marzano, and Rutgers.

Indeterminate tomatoes can grow to a height of twelve feet and will require staking to support the plant. They will also require pruning to maximize fruit production; otherwise, they will continue growing new branches at the expense of producing fruit. Varieties of indeterminate tomatoes include Black Cherry, Juliet, Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Sungold, Mountain Magic, Pink Berkley Tie Dye, Black Prince, Big Beef, Early Girl and Amish Paste.

Tomatoes-Determinate vs. Indeterminate

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



Squash viner borer moth on left. Squash vine borer caterpillar (right) was inside squash stem

Vegetable Pest Alert

Pest Alert! Dogwood Sawflies

Be on the lookout for dogwood sawflies. They are usually on shrub dogwoods, and people often mistake them for caterpillars. If not controlled, they can severely defoliate plants. Larvae have distinctly different appearances as they molt

Dogwood Sawflies



KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON- Read our Ladybug blogs written weekly



[June Blooms or Pollinators](#)

[Helping Dad With Outdoor Chores](#)

[Moon Garden Blooms in June](#)

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Upcoming Events and Things to Do



UConn Bug Week- this year, July 23-29 is UConn Bug Week. There are programs every day at different locations that feature insects for old and young alike. We have bug hunts, live displays and UConn events are free.

Yale Marsh Botanical Garden self-guided tours- Marsh Botanical Garden offers support for researchers, faculty and students at Yale, as well as an informative and eye-catching experience for visitors. The naturalistic beds and wildflower plantings provide color and attract birds and butterflies. In spring, bulb displays and early flowering shrubs and trees add to the season.

Dennis Farm Preserve- This preserve offers a two-mile trail—a former farm road—through old agricultural land, most of which is now oak forest. The route passes a beaver pond on adjacent 4-H land and returns by way of grassy Old Kings Highway. The forest on the preserve is dominated by red and black oaks, with shrubs including huckleberry, blueberry, mountain laurel and witch hazel. Keep an eye out for great blue and green-backed herons as well as painted turtles in the ponds.

July Gardening Tips

- Cut back mums, tall asters, Montauk daisies and helianthus by about one-quarter for bushy, more floriferous plants.
- Use protective covers for berry crops to keep birds from eating fruit. Secure to ground with pegs or staples as some birds will try to get under netting.
- 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.

- **Cucumbers** are heavy drinkers and feeders. Keep the soil evenly moist during hot spells to avoid bitter fruit and side-dress plants with 1/4 cup of 10-10-10 fertilizer or the equivalent in mid-July.
- Check **brassicas** for cabbageworm, diamond-back moth caterpillars, cross-striped caterpillars, and cabbage loopers. Use **row covers** or ***Bacillus thuringiensis*** to control them.
- Remember to water any trees and shrubs planted earlier this year. Water deeply and less often, not daily. Skip watering if rain occurred that week in an amount sufficient to reach the roots.
- Raise your mowing height to 3- 4 inches during hot weather and mulch clippings if possible.
- Apply deer repellents as needed, especially after fawns are seen. This will help discourage future feeding as mothers bring older fawns around when they forage.
- Do not prune azaleas and rhododendrons after mid-July as they will begin setting their buds for next year's blooms.
- Do not fertilize roses after mid-July

[More July Gardening Tips](#)

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 Nutrient Analysis Laboratory.

[UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#)



Before We Go...

[click on link](#)

[What are the “dog days of summer”?](#)



The term “dog days of summer” refers to a time of hot and humid weather in the Northern Hemisphere, usually in July and early August.

The phrase is not a reference to lazy dogs lying around on hot and humid days. It refers to the stars in the sky.

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.

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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, plant disease identification and control options

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