



UConn Home & Garden Education Center

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✦ *October is for...*



JUMPING WORMS, FALL PLANTING &
GARDEN CLEANUP



LADYBUG@UConn.EDU

Invasive Alert: Asian Jumping Worms

Asian jumping worms are an invasive worm that has been reported in many locations in Connecticut. They are most characteristically identified by a white band around their body and their erratic jumping/wiggling behavior.

Most efforts at this time are about reducing the spread. The eggs of these worms can travel on shoes and gardening tools and plant material, so proper sanitation is key.

- Stomp out and wash your boots after doing landscape work in your yard.



- Clean tools if you plan to use them on another property. Inspect any new plant material that comes onto your property.
- Avoid plant swaps unless you are able to inspect the root ball for eggs and worms.
- Mulching garden beds with leaves can encourage worms to populate in that area of your garden.
- If you do find them in your compost pile, do not use that compost in unaffected areas.

Learn more about them [here](#)

October is still good for Planting!

We have been receiving calls inquiring about whether it is still ok to plant perennials and shrubs at this time of the year. October is still a good time to plant! Plants are not subjected to the stresses of drought and the summer sun. You as gardeners are able to work in cooler, more comfortable weather. Take advantage of plant sales at nurseries and garden centers that are getting ready to reduce their winter stock! Consider both in season and out of season flowering perennials and shrubs for planting – they will be on time when the season starts next year.



Still trying to find that perfect winter interest plant for your landscape? Check out this [Berry Heavy Gold Winterberry holly](#) by Proven Winners. [Red Twig](#) dogwood and [blue hollies](#) are also great shrubs for winter interest. Combine these with your evergreens in the landscape for a complete winter look!

Fall Cleanup Tips for a Healthy Garden

Just as you brush your teeth before bed, remember to practice good garden hygiene before putting your garden to bed for the season! Any plant tissue that you suspect was diseased should be completely removed and thrown away,

buried, or burned. Leaving diseased tissue in the garden makes it much more likely to return next growing season. Here are a few sanitation tips:

- Woody ornamentals with leaf spots can be left in the ground if the leaves are completely raked up and removed.
- If you're pruning away branches with dieback or cankers, be sure to do so when the plants are dry and disinfect your pruners after each cut. Use rubbing alcohol or a similar disinfectant.
- Healthy plants can wait to be pruned until they are fully dormant.
- Be sure to clean up before planting fall perennials or spreading new mulch.
- Don't put sick plant tissue in the compost bin!

Greater Fringed Gentian



The greater fringed gentian, *Gentianopsis crinite*, is a late-blooming native wildflower that can be found in disturbed habitats, meadows and fields. The blue to purple (occasionally white) flower petals are fringed on the edges, and the throat of the flower is white with blue stripes. There is a nice stand of these wildflowers, blooming as of September 26, along a path beside a field at the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Wales, Massachusetts.

[Greater Fringed Gentian](#)

Bird highlight- Yellow-Rumped Warblers



Yellow-Rumped warblers should be migrating south through Connecticut from their northern breeding grounds. Look for them wherever insects are still plentiful- they fly-catch- or where there is an abundance of seeds and fruit. They are often seen feeding on poison ivy berries in the fall. They have yellow patches on the sides of the breast and a yellow rump patch from which they get their common name.

[Yellow-Rumped Warbler](#)

Vegetable Pest Alert

Read the latest Vegetable Pest alert from Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension September 22, 2023

This particular article highlights fall vegetable pests as well as pumpkin and squash harvest and storage tips!

[Vegetable Pest Alert](#)

KNOWLEDGE TO GROW ON

Read our Ladybug
Blogs written
weekly



[The Fall Garden is Still Great for Pollinators](#)

[Mushrooms, Wildflowers and Other Jewels of September](#)

[Warm, Wet Weather Puts Plants at Risk](#)

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

Upcoming Events and Things to Do



The Onrust

[Onrust Cruises](#)- Take a trip from Essex on the Onrust- a replica of Adrien Block's sailing vessel originally built in 1614. Visit the Connecticut River Museum to buy tickets, or buy them online. These cruises on the Connecticut River end in late October.

[Take a Fall Foliage Drive](#)— These self guided, drivable tours of the fall foliage are a great way to take in the local autumn colors. They even recommend stops along the way!

[Visit a Corn Maze!](#) – An autumn tradition in New England! Check out these top 10 corn mazes in CT to find one near you.

[Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary](#)- Free and open to the public. Enjoy native flowers, trees and even a New Jersey pine barren with pitcher plants as you hike along the trails. Located in Wales, Mass. There are unusual plants to see here throughout the growing season.



Pitcher Plant – Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary

[CT Garlic & Harvest Festival](#) – October 7-8 at Bethlehem Fairgrounds. Visit for garlic cooking demonstrations, stay for a live band performance, and learn how to grow garlic at informative lectures. Many garlic dips, spreads, cheeses, and oils will be available for purchase from diverse garlic specialty food vendors – most offering FREE samples to try before you buy!

[Visit a Local Farmers' Market!](#) – Farmers' Markets are still going strong at this time in the year. Check out this calendar from CTGrown to find one near you!

Educational Opportunities & Workshops



Fall 2023 Ornamental and Turf Short Course

Wednesdays 5:30-7 pm, from October 4 - December 13, 2023

Registration now open!

This Short Course is an in-depth review of the information necessary to study for and pass the Ornamental and Turf/Golf Course Superintendents State of CT Supervisory Pesticide Applicator Certification exam. A student that completes all the modules, works through the quizzes, and studies the resource materials independently should be able to pass both the written and oral state exam successfully. Class runs **Wednesdays 5:30-7 pm, from October 4 - December 13, 2023 (No class Nov. 22).**

Information and Registration at <https://s.uconn.edu/ornamental-turf>



UConn | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
EXTENSION

NATIVE PLANTS & POLLINATORS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 | 8:45 AM - 3:30 PM

**UConn Student Union Ballroom, Room 330
2100 Hillside Road, Storrs, CT**

Information and Registration at s.uconn.edu/nppc2023info

From the Rockfall Foundation, Middletown CT:

The Elements: The Seeds of Vandana Shiva

October 16 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm @ Wesleyan University's Center for Film Studies – Goldsmith Family Cinema - How did the willful daughter of a Himalayan forest conservator become the world's most powerful opponent of Monsanto? [Full Details Here.](#)

Living with Black Bears In Connecticut

October 24 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm @ the deKoven House - Join us for a free presentation at the deKoven House by Master Wildlife Conservationist volunteer Gail Cameron. [Full Details Here.](#)

October Gardening Tips

1. Bring tropical plants and houseplants that have been on your patio indoors once the night temperatures drop below 50° F. Always check for insects when bringing plants inside. Rinse foliage, remove the top layer of the soil surface, and wipe down containers
2. Harvest gourds on a cool, clear day. Leave a few inches of stem attached. Wash fruits with mild soapy warm water, rinse and dry.

3. Sketch out where you planted various vegetables in your garden back in the spring. This will come in handy next spring so when you plant, you can rotate your crops and help prevent disease.
4. Dig and store tender bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tubers in a cool, dark, place until next spring.
5. Plant garlic from October 1st to November 15th. Place each clove pointed-side up at a depth of 2-4" about 6" apart.
6. Avoid the spring rush and have your soil tested now by the [UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#).
7. Beets, parsnips, and carrots can be covered with a thick layer of straw or leaves and left in the ground for harvest, as needed, during the winter. This may not be an option in areas with heavy vole populations.
8. Cut down stems and foliage of herbaceous perennials after two or three hard frosts or when leaves begin to brown.
9. Drain Garden hoses and store in a shed, garage, or basement for the winter. Turn off all outside faucets.
10. Pot up spring hyacinths, tulips, and other pre-cooled bulbs and store in a cool, dark place until ready to force. Read about creating your own bulb lasagna [here](#).

[More October Gardening Tips](#)



Notice something going on in your garden? The UCONN Plant Diagnostic Laboratory diagnoses plant problems including diseases, insect pests and abiotic causes. Submitting a sample is easy! For details, visit the [UCONN Plant Diagnostic Laboratory](#)

Have Your Soil Tested for Macro- & Micro Nutrients:
Send your soil sample in for testing now to avoid the spring rush. For details on submitting a sample, go to the [UCONN Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory](#)



Photo Op: Fascinating Sights in the Garden



European Hornets feeding on birch sap – photo by Donna Eldridge

See something cool in your garden? Send your pictures to us at ladybug@uconn.edu with subject line “Newsletter Photo” and a brief caption to be considered for next month’s highlight!

Before We Go...

Did you know...

Sunflower heads actually consist of 1,000 to 2,000 individual flowers! Read more about one of our fall favorites [here](#).



Essex steam train leaving us behind. Have a great fall season!

*This Month's Newsletter Contributors:
Pamm Cooper, Dr. Nick Goltz, Dawn Pettinelli, Heather Zidack*

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.



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 free by subscription**
- ◇ **Publish fact sheets, newspaper, and magazine articles**

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