



UConn Plant Science & Landscape Architecture  
Knowledge to Grow On!



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*" It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside."*

- Maud Hart Lovelace, Betsy-Tacy and Tib

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## Establishing New Plantings



*Plants ready to go into the garden. Photo by H. Zidack*

Many gardeners have done a majority of their seasonal work by the start of June. While spring is the best time to plant, you will see trees, shrubs and perennials going into the

ground as projects pop up over the summer. It CAN be done but NEEDS to be done wisely! Here are some tips to keep any new plantings as healthy as possible in the warmer summer months.

- The sooner plants can be put into the ground, the better! Plan to purchase and plant within a short timeframe (over the same weekend, if possible). Plants in containers tend to dry out faster and will almost certainly need daily watering if left in hot temperatures and sunny locations.
  - Pace yourself and break up your projects if you need to!
- Dig a hole the same depth as the pot. Digging wider than the root ball will help it spread but digging too deep can risk burying the crown of the plant which can lead to complications further down the road.
- If the soil and plants are not nutrient deficient, fertilizing is not necessary. We always recommend fertilizing based on a soil test analysis whenever possible.
- Do not divide plants in their first year of establishment.
- Water the soil line with the goal of providing enough water to move beyond the root ball. This will encourage roots to continue to stretch outward.
  - Apply 2-3 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter immediately after planting.
  - Be advised: Watering with sprinklers or drip hoses will only water the first couple inches of soil unless run for long periods of time.
- Check for water regularly.
  - Keep in mind that different plants have different needs and instructions on the tag may provide insight into watering.
    - Plants that are stressed, exposed to extreme weather conditions, or producing flowers/fruit may need closer attention.
  - The best way to know if a plant needs water is to check the soil. Feel the first few inches of the soil to determine if it is wet or dry
  - Many potting media mixes used by nurseries may dry out faster than the soil surrounding the plant in the ground. Check as close to the center of the root ball as possible, being careful not to disturb the roots.

[Read More About Planting Trees & Shrubs](#)

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## Continuing Veggie Garden Success

- Split garden chores up. If you weed for 30 minutes every night after dinner it can be much more enjoyable than having to spend hours of energy on it all in one go.
- Keep an eye on the weather - plants will need more water and even possibly more support on hot or windy days. When tomatoes start to show up - heavy rains may cause them to split so picking them early can help to prevent losses.
- Start scouting now! Look for signs of insects and eggs on the underside of leaves while plants are small and manageable.
- If you have had squash vine borer, cabbage moths, or other types of flying insects - consider using row covers. Keep in mind you may have to hand pollinate if you use this method.



Row covers on garden beds - Photo by Pamm Cooper

- Giving young vegetable gardens supports early can allow the plants to grow into them as opposed to you making them fit when they're a bit too big. Gardeners have used different types of trellising over the years, and each found what works best for them. A few of them include:
  - [Tomato Cages](#)
  - Stakes
  - [The Basket Weave/The Florida Weave](#)
  - String or Twine Guides
  - [Compare Various Staking Techniques](#)

## Planting to Attract Hummingbirds



Gardeners all over North America strive to create a garden space enticing enough for hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators to stop by on their travels.

- Even though we all associate the color red with these little creatures, they actually see many more colors than the human eye can even detect. You can select other colors to make your garden enjoyable for you and your winged friends.
- Flower shape matters! Hummingbirds like tubular or trumpet shaped flowers best.
- Create a hummingbird haven by making sure there is always something in bloom in your garden. Gardeners can achieve this with long blooming annuals, a series of perennials that bloom one after another, or a combination of both.

We've helped to create a brief list of plants that will improve your chances of attracting hummingbirds into your garden spaces!

### Annuals

- *Cuphea* spp.
  - Mexican Heather
  - Bat Faced Heather
  - Cigar Plant
  - Firecracker Plant
  - *Lantana*
- *Salvia* spp.
  - Black & Blue
  - Rockin' Series
- *Torena*
- *Verbena*

### Perennials

- *Delphinium*
- *Dianthus*
  - Garden Pinks
- *Dicentra*
  - Bleeding Heart
- *Hosta*
- *Monarda* spp.
  - *Monarda fistulosa* Bergamont
  - *Monarda didyma* Jacob Cline

[Learn More about Attracting Hummingbirds](#)

[View the 2024 Hummingbird Migration Map](#)

## Native Plant Highlight: Mountain Laurel



*Kalmia latifolia* is broadleaf evergreen native to eastern North America and is found in open woods, edges of water or along woodland edges.

Flowers are white and are in bloom from late May to early June. It can form thickets in the woods, and the older specimens have rather picturesque gnarling of trunks and branches. There are multiple cultivars of this plant, some with very colorful flowers.

[Learn More About Mountain Laurel](#)

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## Native Insect: Elderberry Borer



This native long-horned beetle is a spectacular, though uncommon. It can be found in natural areas where there are elderberry plants. It is large, has long serrated antennae, and has elytra that are orange and bright metallic blue. Larvae are borers of elderberry stems and roots but are not a serious pest in the wild where elderberry are numerous.

[Learn More About the Elderberry Borer](#)

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## Wildlife Highlight: Turtles



Our native turtles will be or are already looking for suitable places to lay their eggs. Sometimes they travel a distance from the water source they live in. As they travel,

they are often a victim of motor vehicles as they cross roads at a less than rapid pace. If you decide to help a turtle cross the road, make sure to place it on the side of the road it was trying to get to, as females will only try to get to the side they were originally headed for. Pictured is a spotted turtle on its way somewhere.

[Learn More About Connecticut Turtles](#)

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## Vegetable Gardening Resources

During the growing season, UConn Extension publishes a regular pest alert. Additionally, the New England Vegetable Management Guide offers a lot of information about specific vegetable crops.

While the target audience for these publications is usually commercial growers, home gardeners can learn a lot from these materials including identification and management of common pests in your veggie gardens!

If you ever need confirmation on an ID or have additional questions about what you read in these reports, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at the Home & Garden Education Center! We're happy to help your gardens thrive.

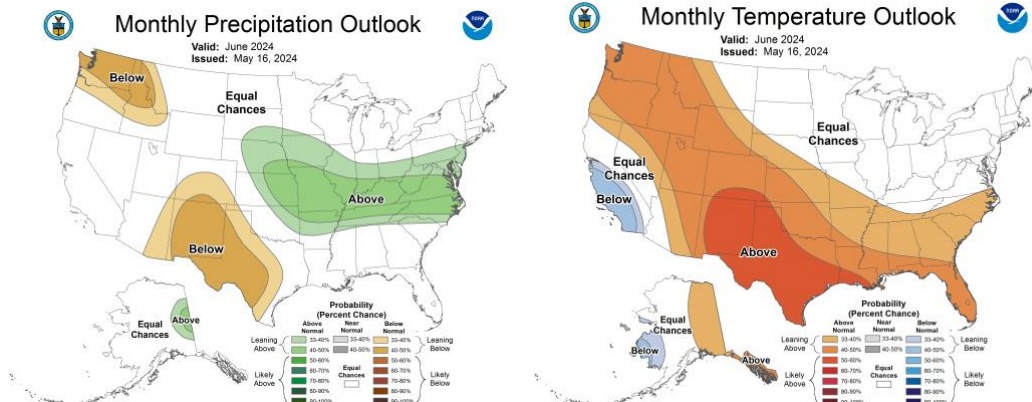
[5/10/2024 Pest Alert](#)

[Read Previous Pest Messages](#)

[New England Vegetable Management Guide 2023-2024](#)

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## June 2024 Weather Outlook



A seasoned gardener always keeps their eye to the sky at any time of year! NOAA's National Weather Service released their discussion about how weather patterns in May will continue to lead us into the growing season!

## Knowledge to Grow On



*Photo by mrl2024*

**Read our Ladybug blogs written weekly:**

[Be Prepared for Ticks](#)

[Soil Prep for Success](#)

[Strawberry-licious!](#)

[How to Tie Climbing and Rambling Roses to Achieve the Best look](#)

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## Upcoming Events and Things to Do

- Visit a [farmers market](#) - Find fresh produce, local goods, and all sorts of special treats all summer long.
- June is Strawberry Season - Check out this list of [Strawberry Festivals around Connecticut](#) or go [pick your own](#) this month.
- Celebrate Father's Day June 16th.
- [Elizabeth Park](#) is open daily for visitors and June is a great time to visit their historic Rose Garden. Join them June 16th for their [Rose Sunday](#) event to celebrate the 120th anniversary of their Rose Garden!

- [Celebrate Pollinator Week](#)- Check out these virtual events happening June 17th - June 21st. Or get out and plant some pollinator friendly plants with your friends!
  - June 8th is [Connecticut Open House Day](#)- Over 200 local tourism attractions are open to the public with free or reduced admission.
  - [Connecticut Historic Gardens Day](#) - June 23rd. Visit one of many of Connecticut's Historic Gardens for tours, garden talks, and other events.
  - Attend a Juneteenth celebration! Juneteenth is observed on June 19th. Many towns and local organizations will host events and activities throughout the month to celebrate freedom, culture, and community. Keep an eye out for what's happening near you!
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## Educational Opportunities and Workshops

- [CT Butterfly Association Spring Meeting](#) June 8th, Madison, CT
  - [How to Identify & Control Weeds](#), June 13th, Stamford, CT
  - [Summer Tree ID for Beginners](#) June 15th, Hampton, CT
  - [Knockout Natives with Sam Hoadley](#) June 20th, Middletown, CT
  - [Forestry Walk & Talk](#), June 27th - Hampton, CT
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## June Gardening Tips

- Cut back early-flowering perennials to tidy up and encourage more blooms.
- Do not mow during times of drought, this can damage your turf.
- Keep on top of weeds during the early summer when they are small and easy to pull. If you keep your garden plants well-watered and fertilized, they will quickly fill in bare spaces and give weeds fewer places to grow.
- If you must overhead water do so early enough in the day to allow the foliage to dry before nightfall to minimize diseases.



- **Four-Lined Plant Bugs** are piercing sucking insects that leave sunken black or tan blotches on leaves. Be on the lookout for them this month!
- *Luna*, *Polyphemus* and other giant silk moths are being seen in the landscape. If found, it is best to let them be. Do not try to feed them or care for them.
- Heavy rains encourage slug problems. Check for slugs during rainy periods and hand pick the pests.
- You can move houseplants outside to the deck or patio and enjoy them outdoors for the summer. It is best to gradually introduce them to more direct sunlight to prevent the leaves from being burned.
- Mosquitoes breed in standing water. To discourage them, change the water in bird baths and outdoor pet dishes every few days.
- June bugs can be annoying as they bounce on your window screens attracted by your house lights. The larvae do eat plant roots and the beetles forage on trees and shrubs although they do not seem to cause the excessive damage associated with Oriental beetles or **Japanese beetles**.



### [More June Gardening Tips](#)

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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](#)

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

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## Something Fun:

Are you looking for a unique annual? *Osteospermum* spp. 'Whirligig' is a fun flower that is like a whirling Pelton wheel. The ray flowers have petals that are a striking pink, white or purple which resemble a wheel spokes whose tips look like tiny spoons.

Flowers close at night. And don't be surprised if it slows down in the heat of the summer. But this little annual will keep going once the Autumn It is available in Connecticut at some local garden centers.



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*This Month's Newsletter Contributors:  
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**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.*

**The UConn Home & Garden Education Center**



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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 free by subscription

Publish fact sheets, newspaper, and magazine articles

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