



“What’s Growing On...”

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RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ON THE RADIO

For agriculture news and horticultural tips, listen to me, Pam Burton, on the RCE Agricultural Program on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday on SNJ Today 99.9 FM announcing local workshops, seminars, and horticultural tips.

Pam’s Garden Gab

As I write this from my work-from-home office situated on my dining room table, it takes me full circle back to childhood memories when I did my homework at the dining room table. As I recall, there was usually a dog sprawled at my feet back then, as there is now with my golden retriever Tessa by my side. I feel blessed to have her as a source of comfort during these uncertain times.

I’d like to take this chance to say thank you, first & foremost to the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County who stepped up to help with specific tasks that needed to be taken care of so we can keep our volunteers engaged in delivering agriculture and horticulture research based education and information to the public. Through webinars, we have implemented a plan with a focus on social media, with specific concentration on Facebook as a start. Please like and share Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Rutgers-Master-Gardeners-of-Cumberland-County-350963725266009/>

While there is no specific date for the re-opening of our Extension office to the public, please be assured that the Helpline is still open, with volunteers ready to research your garden questions. It’s our anticipation that gardening will be at an all-time high and we are here to help answer questions for the first time gardener as well as the “old hats” gardeners. You can contact us with a message on Facebook, by calling 856-451-2800 Ext 4 or by emailing mastergardener@co.cumberland.nj.us.

My next thanks goes out to the class of 2020 Master Gardener interns, who have adapted as best they can to the online classes and who were amazingly patient with the technological learning curve. The program changed dramatically from the in-house face-to-face classes that they signed up for, and we welcome them back in 2021.

We hope this finds you well and you’re enjoying your garden. Be safe and take care of each other.

And so it goes,

Pam

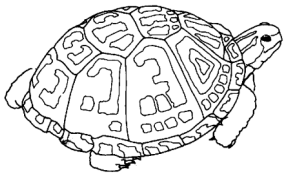
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Rutgers Master Gardeners of
Cumberland County

Creatures and Critters

A client brought in a specimen of False Sunflower, *Heliopsis helianthoides*, which is noted in Rutgers Fact Sheet 1140, *Incorporating Native Plants in Your Residential Landscape*, as a long-blooming native plant. When observed under the microscope, an infestation of aphids was found. Deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs may also be subject to attack by aphids, who will suck the juices from the plant. Rutgers Fact Sheet 077, *Aphids*, describes the injury as stunted and distorted growth of flowers, shrubs, and trees. There may be black sooty mold fungus growing on honeydew produced by aphids. Sometimes a forceful stream of water from a garden hose will temporarily remove aphids from woody ornamentals, trees, and other plants. Another option is insecticidal soap or horticultural oil. If you select the insecticide option, be certain the insecticide label includes the plants you wish to spray. The label is the law.

<https://extension.umd.edu/learn/featured-plants-heliopsis>

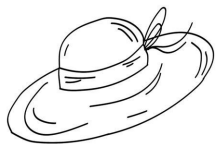
Rutgers Fact Sheet 1095, *Carpenter Bees*, reports that the alarming carpenter bees that dive bomb anyone who gets too close to their tunnel entrances are territorial males who lack a stinger. The females who do have a stinger rarely use it. They are considered beneficial insects and do their fair share of pollinating trees, food crops and flowers. One method of control recommended by the fact sheet is to swat the carpenter bees with a tennis racket.



Be aware that with hot temperatures comes chiggers. Chiggers need ground temperatures of 77 to 86 degrees, and are most often found in low lying moist places. They feed on skin cells of not only mammals, but toads, ground dwelling birds and box turtles. If you think you've been exposed the best course of action is to immediately take a warm bath or shower.

<https://nfs.unl.edu/chiggers-and-trombiculosis>

Rutgers Fact Sheet 287, *Cross-Striped Cabbageworm*, recommends checking your cole crops (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, turnips, collards) for the eggs and larvae of the cross-striped cabbageworm. The larvae eats large oval shaped holes in leaves and terminal buds and may burrow into the developing cabbage heads and may occur as severe damage on consecutive plants. Control measures include hand-picking of egg masses and larvae. It is recommended to plant alyssum in the garden as a nectar source for beneficial insects. After harvesting be sure to destroy or plow under all plant residues related to the cole crops.



A client brought in an insect specimen to the Help line and was distressed because this insect swarmed around her dog while on a walk. It was identified as a deer fly and research shows that deer flies are most active at dawn or dusk and are attracted to carbon dioxide, moving objects and oddly the color blue. They prefer flying around the head and throat area and are an irritating nuisance, especially on a relaxing walk. On my walks with Tessa, I find they leave her alone, and I wear a large garden hat, which helps!

<https://www.psu.edu/dept/nkbiology/naturetrail/speciespages/deerfly.html>

A client brought in a grouping of unusual larvae that had a white covering which seemed to leave a trail of white as the group moved along feeding on the leaves of her tree. These characteristics of a white covering and the grouping of instars helped with the identification of this as the second larval instar of the dogwood sawfly. The last instar looks different yet again with colors of yellow and black. Sawflies are actually wasps, and they have chewing parts that feed on leaves.

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2009/8-12/sawfly.html>



A fossilized dragonfly from 250 million years ago was found to have a wingspan of 28 inches! The wingspans have decreased in size considerably since then, and they remain a bit mystical and magical to many. The "dragon" portion of their common name comes from the fierce jaws they use to catch prey, like mosquitoes. The "fly" part of the common name references the fact that they can reach up to 60 miles per hour. <https://ucanr.edu/sites/MarinMG/files/116742.pdf>

Fall Webworms are often confused with tent caterpillars. The nests of the fall webworm caterpillar are at the ends of branches versus the crotch of a tree and the fall webworm nests enclose foliage while tent caterpillar nests do not. Insecticides are not effective against mature larvae, so you may resort to destroying the nests, but be sure to do so while the caterpillars are there, which is usually around early morning and at dusk.

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef424>

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef423>

Garden Spider Orb Weaver are large and can be intimidating, but they are fascinating creatures as well. Their very large webs have a vertical zig zag pattern of dense silk that is oriented downward from the center of the web. Research has shown that when viewed through an ultraviolet light, the web disappears and the zigzag shows like a giant neon sign for insects to explore and become the spider's next meal. <https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/874>



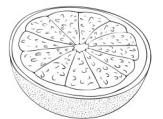
A client sent in an excellent quality photo of insects on his willow tree. It was determined that they were giant willow Aphids, found only on the stems of willow trees. This was a newly planted tree, and a heavy infestation, so the homeowner elected the option of chemical control versus a steady stream of water for removal of the aphids.

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/giant-bark-aphid>

<https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2012/04/20/giant-bark-aphids/>

Rutgers Fact Sheet 005, *About Millipedes*, indicates that millipedes require moisture to develop and survive. They prefer an accumulation of organic matter, shade and dampness and will occasionally migrate in large numbers, although the reason for this migration remains a mystery. Unfortunately if your home or building is in their path, they may find their way inside. There are insecticides that will help eliminate them, but as always, read the label. The label is the law.

Rutgers Fact Sheet 397, *Slugs and Snails in the Vegetable Garden*, provides an interesting tip for non-chemical control of slugs. It states "...Grapefruit skins can be placed in the garden upside down on the soil surface. Slugs are attracted to, and will congregate under them. Turn them over and remove slugs each day..." It makes me wonder how they found that out!



Rutgers Fact Sheet 226, *Hornworms*, states that hornworms are large caterpillars that feed voraciously on the foliage and fruit of mainly tomato and tobacco, but it mentions they will also attack pepper, eggplant, potato, and weeds such as ground-cherry and nightshade. Management controls include hand picking and destroying the larvae. If the larvae are covered with cocoons of parasites, let nature takes its course. If the hornworm makes it to maturity without being gleefully destroyed by a human in retribution for eating the tomato plant, they will burrow in the soil and transform to the pupal stage to overwinter. Since the hard-shelled pupa overwinter in the soil, fall plowing can also be an effective control measure.

<http://putnam.cce.cornell.edu/resources/tomato-hornworm>



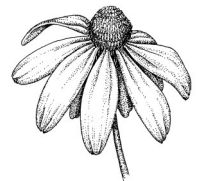
Flower Power

Rutgers Fact Sheet 1158, *Black Spot Of Rose*, describes the Symptoms of Black spot of rose as round black spots with fringed margins on the upper surface of rose leaves. Yellow "halos" may surround the spots which enlarge and coalesce and the leaves turn yellow and may fall. Purplish or black blisters on young canes also indicate infection. This can result in decreased flower production, defoliation and increased sensitivity to winter cold that could lead to the death of the plant. Prevention is critical since there is no cure, but the disease may be controlled using lime-sulfur as a dormant spray or applied every 7 to 14 days during the growing season.



A client came in with lilac branches and she was concerned that her overgrown lilacs were beginning to die. The recommendation was made to implement a three year period of pruning one-third of the stalks each year. In spring of year one cut out the damaged and dead stalks and then identify the oldest and biggest one third stalks and cut them to the ground. Continue this practice in years two and three. Thereafter select the most well placed shoots to keep growing making sure none crossover each other. <https://extension.umd.edu/learn/lilac-pruning>

A client came to the help desk with a leaf of a coneflower which was diagnosed as having rudbeckia leaf spot. There are several kinds of leaf spot, and the control measures of all of them include avoid using sprinkler irrigation. Other control measures include removal of infected leaves and to provide good air circulation, which may include thinning out the volunteer seedlings that love to sprout each year. It is recommended to buy plants with some resistance to leaf spot. <https://extension.psu.edu/rudbeckia-diseases>
https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/ppdl/Pages/POTW_old/9-30-13.html



The growth habit of a plant can help determine if it may need to be staked. Plants that are taller than wide might need staking as well as those that have many stems that are shorter but weaker or floppy like yarrow and baby's breath. Heavy flowers in bloom can benefit from staking like lilies or foxglove. Start while the plant is about 1/3 grown and keep the stakes lower than the mature plant so it won't distract from the bloom.

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/falls-over-annuals-bulbs-groundcovers-perennials-and-vines>

Many people think that once they plant a perennial, no future care will be needed, however that is not the case.

For instance, the Bearded iris or rhizatomous iris benefits from being divided every three years. The best time to do that is from June through July. One indication of needing division is fewer blooms will be produced. Carefully dig them up, separate them and cut the foliage back to about one-third their height and replant them in a sunny site with well-drained soil.

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/dividing-iris>

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/homeowners/000722.html>



Rutgers Fact Sheet 1161, *Cut Flowers For The Market and Home Garden – Zinnia*, mentions that Zinnias can attract a wide variety of beneficial insects to the farm and garden, including butterflies, hummingbirds, and a multitude of pollinators. Flowers can last for one week or more and plants will flourish in the garden until the first fall frost. However, they best suited for the farm and the home garden as a cut flower crop since they do not ship well. Harvest the zinnias in early evening hours, when the bloom centers are just beginning to open, and immediately put them into a container filled with clean, warm water and a floral preservative.



For several years, home gardeners have had to find substitutes for *Impatiens walleriana* because of the disease of impatiens downy mildew. Fungicide is not effective on Impatiens downy mildew and any affected plants need to

be destroyed. Finally some good news along those lines, when PanAmerican seed has announced a series of *I. walleriana* with resistance to Impatiens downy. The name of the new series is called Beacon Impatiens. For more info, visit <https://www.beaconimpatiens.com/HelloBeacon/mildew>
<http://extension.udel.edu/blog/resistance-to-impatiens-downy-mildew/>
<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/impatiens-downy-mildew>

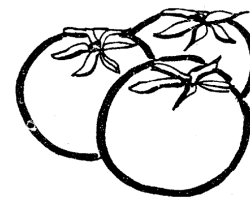
If you want a feel of the tropics on your porch, consider a Mandevilla vine which are available in a variety of color choices. Keep in mind it is a vine, so provide some kind of trellis or arbor to enjoy this fast grower. It likes full sun, and make sure it doesn't dry out completely. The mandevilla is not hardy in our area, so treat it like an annual. You can pinch back the tips for a bushier growth.

<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/mandevilla.html>
<http://extension.msstate.edu/news/southern-gardening/2012/mandevilla-vines-give-gardening-possibilities>

Violets are a great groundcover for a pollinator garden and a host plant for the variegated fritillary butterfly. It's not unusual to find their chrysalis on a nearby plant in the summer time.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Rutgers Fact Sheet 358, *Important Diseases of Tomatoes Grown in High Tunnels and Greenhouses in New Jersey*, states "... On tomato foliage, early blight first appears as circular irregular black or brown spots on the older leaves of the plant. As these lesions enlarge, a series of dark concentric rings develop in the center of the spot creating a distinct target pattern..." The infestation can be severe enough to cause 100 % defoliation of the plant.



Tomatoes, watermelons, sweet potatoes, peppers, sweet corn and eggplant are a few of the vegetables that can be planted in June as per Rutgers Fact Sheet 129, *Planning a Vegetable Garden*. August options for fall harvest include Broccoli, swiss chard, endive, leeks, lettuces and radishes. The fact sheet provides recommendations on direct seeding versus transplants, the spacing in inches between transplants or seeds and spacing between the rows, as well as the average yield per 10 ft. of Row. The fact sheet is free and can be found online at njaes.rutgers.edu/fs129/



The old-fashioned garden plant of ground cherries are in the same genus as tomatillos but there are notable differences between the two. The fruit of the ground cherry is yellow to gold, about the size of a small cherry tomato and is sweet, and can be eaten raw, cooked or dried. The ground cherry plants are shorter than 30 inches, and tend to sprawl rather than grow upright. The fruit is picked when the husks are dry and drop from the plant. It's helpful to have a mulch of clean, weed-free straw to help keep the fruits clean when they drop. They will keep for a week or two in the husk.

<https://extension.umn.edu/vegetables/growing-tomatillos-and-ground-cherries>

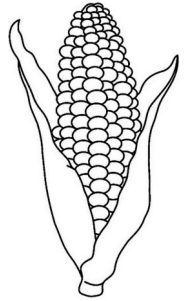
How does your garden grow, continued...

Rutgers Fact Sheet 1233, *Growing Garlic in the Home Garden*, says they are ready to harvest in June or July. How do you know? The leaves will begin to turn yellow or brown, the plants start to fall over, and there is still 50% green leaves on the plant. Harvest them on a sunny, dry day, by loosening the soil around the bulbs. Dig up the

bulbs and shake off the excess soil but keep the wrapper intact for longer storage. Don't wash the bulbs, which may encourage the growth of fungus.



Rutgers Fact Sheet 988, *Picking Vegetables in the Home Garden*, recommends picking Sweet Corn when the silk on the top of the ear turns brown and dies back. You can also squeeze the ear by wrapping a hand around the ear to feel for kernels. Take care if you peel back the leaves of the ear as the ear may be damaged if not mature. Corn is best eaten or frozen the day of harvest, and it is recommended to leave the husk on until it is ready to be cooked to reduce moisture loss. Ears can be cooled down with cold water and refrigerated to maintain freshness.



Verticillium wilt it is a soil borne disease and in strawberry plants will present as larger leaves with a reddish yellow at the margins and between the veins to the progression of leaves that were all brown. Unfortunately, the recommendation is to remove the plants and use utilize crop rotation in the future. <https://extension.psu.edu/strawberry-disease-verticillium-wilt>

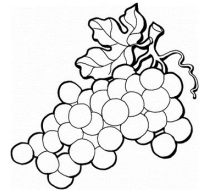


A client sent a picture of grape leaves with small red growths hanging down from the leaves. These were diagnosed as tube galls and are formed by small insects called midges who deposit their eggs into the leaf tissue. While they look a bit "otherworldly" they seldom cause any real problems and generally do not reduce the number of grapes produced.

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/nassauco/2018/06/04/what-are-these-growing-on-my-grape-leaves/>

Practical Pruning

Rutgers Fact Sheet 1221, *Pruning Flowering Shrubs*, reminds us that Spring-flowering shrubs bloom on one-year-old wood that grew the previous summer, and generally bloom before the end of June. Some examples are rhododendrons, azaleas, lilac and viburnums. They should be pruned immediately after flowering and it is too late to prune them now without the possibility of affecting next spring's flowers.



The pollinator garden at the Extension Center has the native *Hydrangea arborescens* growing at its' edges. Rutgers Fact Sheet 1152, *Hydrangeas In The Garden*, notes that the flowers can be dried and used in flower arrangements. Since it blooms on current growth, it can be pruned in late winter and can be divided in the fall. *Hydrangea arborescens* is a fast growing plant and has a dramatic effect when planted in a mass. The blooms will fade to a wonderful lime green later in the season if there is ample moisture.

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/hyg-1263>



Mark Your Calendar

For a complete listing of events please go to: <https://events.rutgers.edu/njaes/>

Earth Day At Home Webinar Series

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, Rutgers Cooperative Extension announces its webinar series **"Earth Day at Home"**. This series will focus on steps everyone can take to protect the environment. We can all do our part to take actions that make our homes more sustainable, from environmentally friendly lawn care, to composting, to reducing plastic waste. These actions, more than ever, start at home.

Details: Join us on Mondays at 6:30pm to learn from experts at Rutgers Cooperative Extension. These live, interactive sessions will be 1 hour. To join in you need either a computer, tablet, or smartphone with speakers. Every week we will cover small actions that together reduce negative impacts on the environment.

You must register to participate by going to <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/EarthDayatHome2020.html>

All sessions are free and provided via Webex.

Missed a session? Click the "View the recording" link and enter the password "EarthDay2020". You will be

6/1/20- Plant This Not That – Avoiding Invasives in Your Yard. Some popular ornamental plants are actually garden "bullies" invading local ecosystems and destroying natural wildlife habitats. Learn about the importance of using native plants in your yards for supporting local ecology including examples of species you can use to replace invasives. Michele Bakacs, Associate Professor, Rutgers Cooperative Extension- Middlesex/ Union Counties.

6/8/20- Exploring Your Watershed from Home. We all live in a watershed and you can navigate yours from your computer. Learn about free online platforms and mapping websites that provide all kinds of information for you to explore local streams, habitat, water sources, soil types, and the environment right around your home. Sal Mangiafico, Associate Professor, Rutgers Cooperative Extension- Salem/ Cumberland Counties.

6/15/20- Backyard Composting 101. Starting home composting is one of the easiest ways to reduce waste while improving your soil. Learn how to turn your kitchen scraps and yard waste into black gold for your soil with these tips for success. Michele Bakacs, Associate Professor, Rutgers Cooperative Extension- Middlesex/ Union Counties.

6/22/20- Ticks and Lyme Disease. Protect yourself from ticks and Lyme disease by learning about the tick life cycle, tick removal, and differences between a variety of tick species. Learn also how to reduce tick habitat around your home. Amy Rowe, Associate Professor/ County Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Passaic/ Essex Counties.

6/29/20- Understanding the 2019 Harmful Algae Blooms in NJ. Harmful algal blooms (HABs) plagued many aquatic waterways in 2019. This talk will cover what it is, what to look for, health effects, and how you can do your part to prevent them. Mike Haberland, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Associate Professor/County Agent- Burlington/ Camden Counties.

Mark Your Calendar, cont.

R U Ready 2 Garden series

Date: Thursday evenings in June 2020

Time: 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Location: online

Speaker: Prof. Bill Hlubik with Extension Faculty and staff

Description: RU Ready 2 Garden Series

Advice for All Gardeners: Beginners to Advanced – Helping families and communities grow their own food.

Agricultural Agent and Professor Bill Hlubik. Bill has 30 years of experience in the production, research and marketing of specialty crops. Professor Hlubik teaches Sustainable Agriculture and Starting a Small Farm Classes for the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Cost: Free

More Info: <https://tinyurl.com/middlesexcountygrows>

Turf Talk



Rutgers Fact Sheet 102, *Your Lawn and Its Care*, recommends that during summer months, mowing should be done at a height of 2½ to 3½ inches, removing no more than ⅓ of the leaf height in a single mowing. A common misconception is that mowing lower results in less frequency of mowing. As a general rule, a mowing frequency of once a week is adequate for mowing heights between 2½ and 3½ inches, whereas cutting the lawn to a height below 2½ inches will require more frequent mowing.

Rutgers Fact Sheet 555, *Best Management Practices for Watering Lawns*, recommends watering thoroughly but as infrequently as possible. Under most lawn situations in New Jersey, a thorough watering of a lawn more than twice per week is probably excessive. The fact sheet reports that the most efficient time of day to water is late evening through early morning when it's generally less windy, cooler, and more humid at this time, resulting in less evaporation and a more efficient application of water. Also, water pressure is usually better at night resulting in a more uniform application of water through sprinklers.



A Different Perspective

Heal all, *Prunella vulgaris*, is a plant that is considered a weed by some and a desirable pollination herb plant by others. It tends to show up along roadsides or in pastures and hayfields, and likes moist soil. It is in the mint family but does not have an aroma. It's a sprawling plant with lavender flower clusters at the end of spikes above the plant foliage. I had several show up in my yard as volunteers and I think they look great where they landed.

<https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/weeding/683>

https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide/single_weed.php?id=52

Rabbitfoot Clover, *Trifolium arvense*, is an annual that reproduces by seed and the sweet little flower does indeed look like a rabbit foot. It inhabits fields of low fertility and as a clover this plant does fix nitrogen from the air and improves soil quality. It's been described as opportunistic plant that tolerates acid, alkaline, dry sandy and tight soils alike.

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/weeds/weed.php?rabbitfootclover>

http://oces.okstate.edu/nedistrict/uploaded_files/scotts-documents/Rabbitfoot%20Clover.pdf

<https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/weeding/75>



Register now at :

The Importance of Gardening During the COVID-19 Pandemic

What can gardening do to help with the coronavirus pandemic? Gardening has always been touted as a relaxing recreational activity that can provide great personal rewards. During this time, when many people are working at home and students are learning at home, gardening can be a positive family-inclusive activity to adopt. Children love to play in the soil.

Remote schooling is new for most all students in our community. Hands-on activities like gardening can encourage children to participate in a way that will enhance learning. Gardening can teach young, preschool- and elementary-aged children, to reinforce skills such as measurements, addition, subtraction, counting, sorting into categories and colors. Practicing motor skills and learning work ethic are also life-skills taught through gardening.

From a mental aspect, growing a vegetable garden may be a way for adults and children to cope with boredom and help families gain a sense of security. Historical experiences during trying times have given us examples of how important gardening can be in our society.

With World War I came food shortages. Everyone in the U.S. was encouraged by the federal government to plant a Liberty Garden. The U.S. School Garden Army was formed during this era to teach children to garden and help them feel a sense of contribution towards the war effort. Liberty gardens went away soon after WWI ended in 1918, since a high percentage of the America's workforce was already engaged in farming and other agricultural jobs.

In the 1930s the Great Depression, had millions of people out-of-work and desperately poor people gardened to survive. They grew a limited range of basic foods that were easy to grow, mostly potatoes and beans, that were filling, high in calories and nutritious.

By the early 1940s, World War II emerged and, once again, the public was asked to help the war effort. National Victory Gardens began and everyone who was able-bodied gardened—individual families and community groups. In 1944, 40 percent of the food grown in the U.S. came from National Victory Gardens. In 1945, WWII ended, and farmers who survived the war went back to working the land. Fresh food was once again abundant and predominantly on farms. Food rationing ended, and like post-WWI, gardening lost popularity.

In the 1970s, exorbitant energy costs and high inflation caused the price for food and other necessities to soar. In this era, more people were living in cities than ever before. Many urbanites came from foreign countries and, like the immigrants before them, struggled financially. Besides financial reasons, immigrant populations missed growing foods popular in their homelands. City-dwellers searched for any garden space and reclaimed areas like vacant lots to start community gardens. Suburbanites had it just as tough and gardening once again became important for fulfilling the need for food. This time, the struggling economy was the enemy.

Our country is once again at war. This time the enemy is not another nation or the result of a struggling economy. The enemy cannot be seen nor are the weapons the same. However, once again, Americans can turn to the potential benefits of gardening as a way to help in the war against coronavirus.

For those who were raised in farm families, growing plants may be in your nature. For those not born with a "green thumb," educational programs on the web can help hone your gardening knowledge. When surfing the internet for gardening information, you should choose land-grant university and Cooperative Extension websites that have peer-reviewed, non-biased and science-based information. Private company websites and social gar-

den group blogs may provide anecdotal information that is not "tried and true", or may not apply to our growing region or soil types.

Rutgers University is New Jersey's land-grant university, with Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) delivering public outreach and education programs. Recently, an online educational program called "Rutgers Community Gardening Series" was developed and launched. The series is designed to benefit school, community and home gardeners by teaching new gardeners to successfully grow vegetables.

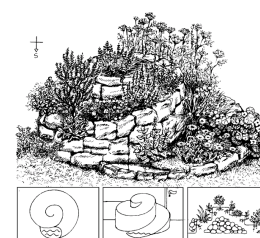
More RCE resources are available for everyone who wants to learn about gardening in the backyard or in community gardens. No matter where you choose to garden, selecting the correct location for a garden is key. The best location possible will encourage plants to grow properly and encourage the gardener to spend more time tending to plants.

This article was written by Michelle Infante-Casella, agricultural agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County.



All About Herbs

An example of permaculture design principles is exemplified by a spiral herbal which maximizes square footage and provides different environmental conditions for a variety of plant needs. For instance, the spiral will utilize the sun's energy and be hotter on the south side and drier at the top, and cooler on north side and moist at the bottom. This helps dictate the choice of planting materials along the spiral.



<https://case.edu/farm/farm-food-program/growing-areas/herb-spiral-garden>

https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/2018-07/permaculture_basics_for_home_gardeners1.pdf

Lovage, *Levisticum officinale*, is a perennial herb which grows 4-6 feet tall and the dark green leaves are similar to the look of celery, but the flavor is much stronger. It likes rich moist soil and does well in light shade. It works well as a background in your perennial border, given it's height and large flat yellow flower heads.

<https://extension.illinois.edu/herbs/lovage.cfm>

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/lovage>

Rutgers Fact Sheet 1280, *Supporting Bees in Your Garden and on Your Farm*, lists the native Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum*, as a good choice to grow in full sun. I have walked by mountain mint when it seemed to be alive with sound and movement from so many bees, and never once have they bothered with me. They are just too happy with the mountain mint to care if I'm around or not. It does have a lovely aroma, though it can be a bit strong for some people, and it is an easy-to-grow plant.

https://www.ceoe.udel.edu/nativeplantgarden/pdf/27_aug_09_mountain%20mint.pdf

Spotted Lanternflies Land in New Jersey

Invasive Pest Identified in Warren County

Some people may think it is a moth but it's really the Asian plant hopper known as the spotted lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma deliculata* (White) and is a member of the order Hemiptera, family Fulgoridae. In the USA, spotted lanternfly is an invasive species that could be very devastating to some New Jersey crops and hardwood trees.

This insect was accidentally introduced into Pennsylvania and was confirmed in the state in September 2014. At first it was only found in Berks County, however, today it has been collected from Lehigh, Northampton, Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester County. Since its discovery in Pennsylvania, a state quarantine encompassing 13 Pennsylvania counties for SLF was issued meaning that live SLF and any material or object that can spread the insect cannot be moved from the quarantine area. Populations are also present in Winchester, Virginia.

In 2018, SLF populations were found in New Jersey and a state quarantine encompassing 3 counties has been established by the NJ Department of Agriculture. People and businesses travelling in and out of Mercer, Hunterdon, and Warren counties should inspect their vehicles for hitchhiking SLF as well as inspect outdoor items such as firewood, paving stones, lawn equipment, etc. for egg masses **Quarantine compliance will reduce the spread of SLF to new areas and counties thereby protecting New Jersey resources including forests and agriculture.** To help survey efforts, please report sightings (with photograph) to slanternfly@njaes.rutgers.edu.



The adults are quite colorful with a black head, grayish black spotted forewings, and reddish black spotted hind wings. Adults are approximately 1" in length and a 1/2" in width and are present from mid-July through the fall. During this time, SLF adults are mating and laying eggs. Egg masses are laid on smooth surfaces and appear like a patch of mud. They spend the winter in this stage and thus are **VERY** likely to be accidentally transported to a new location.

In the spring, around mid-May, young juveniles hatch from the eggs and are black with white spots. On first glance, they may be confused with second instar brown marmorated stink bugs. As they grow, nymphs become red and black with white spots. The presence of the "polka dots" on the nymphs is distinct from most other insect species present in New Jersey.

The spotted lanternfly can feed on more than 70 plant species including cultivated grapes, fruit trees, and hardwood trees. One tree of particular importance is *Ailanthus altissima* (P. Mill) or the Tree of Heaven, which is abundant in New Jersey. Tree of Heaven typically grows in clumps in sunny areas along highways or disturbed habitats such as the edges of crop fields, open spaces, or parks. Other key tree hosts include black walnut; red maple; and agricultural crops such as grapes, hops, apples, and peaches.

Feeding occurs on the trunk and limbs of plants, not on the fruit or leaf tissues. During feeding, SLF excretes significant amounts of honey dew (or sugar water). Honey dew deposits provide a food source for a sooty mold fungus that can grow on plant surfaces and fruit leading to reduced photosynthesis and plant vigor.

In Pennsylvania, adults and nymphs have caused injury to cultivated grapes in commercial vineyards. Economic estimates of injury are unavailable but some Pennsylvania growers report direct yield losses due to sooty mold growth on grapes, reductions in plant health, and canopy coverage. Populations and injury are higher along vineyard edges, especially near Tree of Heaven. Interestingly, SLF tends to aggregate on a few trees or vines. In 2017 large numbers were also observed in an apple orchard just prior to harvest in Pennsylvania. In landscape plants, honey dew production and associated sooty mold development is unwanted and can reduce aesthetics and create a nuisance.

When looking for SLF, survey along the perimeters of fields and on Tree of Heaven, black walnut, red maple, and wild grapevines at the edges of wood lines. Multiple egg masses can also be found on trellis posts within a vineyard. Insecticides are effective but due to the high mobility of this pest, in highly infested areas, vines should be monitored closely for new bugs.

Again, SLF populations in New Jersey are new and we have not had reports of populations in agricultural crops. We need your help! **Quarantine compliance will reduce the spread of SLF to new areas and counties thereby protecting New Jersey resources including forests and agriculture.** To help survey efforts, please report sightings (with photograph) to slanternfly@njaes.rutgers.edu.

Do not apply insecticides for SLF. Please contact slanternfly@njaes.rutgers.edu, the NJ Department of Agriculture, or your local county Cooperative Extension office if you have suspected populations.

— Anne Nielsen (Associate Extension Specialist in Entomology) and George Hamilton (Extension Specialist in Pest Management)

[This vicious, tree-killing insect has been found in New Jersey](#)

Additional information regarding this insect can be found at:

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/>
[New Jersey Department of Agriculture](#)
[The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture](#)
[Penn State Extension](#)



Recipes

Garlic Scape Pesto and Pasta:

Makes 6-8 servings

Ingredients

5-8 garlic scapes (the curly part of the garlic plant, harvested in June)
1/4 cup shelled unsalted pistachios
3-4 Tablespoons olive oil
¼ cup grated parmesan cheese
Sprinkle of salt & pepper

Preparation Steps

Rinse the garlic scapes under cool running water. Cut into 3-inch sections.
Add scapes, pistachios, 3 Tablespoons olive oil, and a sprinkle of salt & pepper in a food processor.
Process until a thick paste (pesto) forms. (If the mixture is too thick add another Tablespoon of olive oil and then process the mixture another minute.)
Taste the pesto and add salt or pepper as needed. Set aside.
Cook 1 pound of your favorite whole grain pasta according to the package directions. Drain.
Add Garlic Scape Pesto and stir gently until well blended. Sprinkle additional parmesan cheese if desired.
Serve.

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fchs/recipes/recipe.php?Garlic-Scape-Pesto-and-Pasta>

Summer Veggie Casserole:

Ingredients

2 potatoes
4 tablespoons olive oil
Sprinkle of your favorite all-purpose seasoning
1 green or red pepper
1 medium onion
1 clove garlic, chopped
1 teaspoon dried blended herbs
2 tomatoes
1 zucchini
Grated parmesan cheese



Preparation Steps

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Scrub and slice potatoes. Lightly coat an 8-inch square pan with 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Arrange the potatoes on the bottom of the baking dish. Sprinkle with your favorite seasoning.
Cut pepper into ½ inch pieces. Cut onion into ¼ inch slices. Place peppers, onion & garlic in bowl and toss with dried herbs. Layer the pepper mixture on potatoes.
Cut tomatoes into ¼ inch slices. Layer on top of the peppers. Cut zucchini in to ¼ inch slices, and place on top of the tomatoes.
Drizzle with remaining the olive oil, and cover with parmesan cheese. Cover the casserole and bake for 40 minutes, then uncover and bake at 425 degrees for an additional 20 minutes.
Serve hot out of the oven as a side dish! Enjoy!

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fchs/recipes/recipe.php?Summer-Veggie-Casserole>

Garden Tips for June:

- Allow the tops of spring-flowering bulbs to completely wither and turn brown. FS1220
- Plant more gladiolus corms for a succession of bloom.
- Stake perennials as needed.
- Pinch established chrysanthemums to develop fuller and stockier plants.
- Apply a labeled fungicide every 7 to 10 days to protect roses from black spot. The label is the law.
- Prune climbing roses after they have bloomed. Remove dead and older canes. FS944
- Fertilize roses during their first bloom.
- Remove spent flower clusters or forming seed pods from azaleas, lilacs and rhododendrons.
- 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.
- Feed houseplants with a good quality slow-release granular indoor plant food
- If needed, re-pot root bound houseplants to a larger pot. Use potting mix when repotting houseplants.
- Hibiscus, Jasmine, Oleander and Mandevilla are just some of the flowering tropical plants you can add to your deck, patio or balcony.
- Protect ripening strawberries from birds with netting or row cover fabric. FS97 & 98
- Make plans to pick locally grown strawberries.
- Thin developing fruit on fruit trees if there seems to be an excessive amount. This will result in larger fruits. FS1180
- Prune fruit trees to eliminate suckers and watersprouts. FS1180
- Follow the Peach and Nectarine Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards FS 113
- Cross striped Cabbageworms can be controlled with Bt. The label is the law. FS287
- Be sure to thin vegetables, particularly root crops, so they'll have room to grow properly.
- Tomatoes that are supported with stakes or cages tend to have cleaner and larger fruits. FS678
- Harvest established asparagus beds through the end of the month. FS221 & NE221
- Plant vegetables in a container and grow them on decks, patios or other small spaces. FS055
- Apply mulches around shrubs, perennials and annuals to maintain soil moisture and an even soil temperature
- Use bark mulch around young trees to protect them from lawn mower damage. FS099
- Raise the mower blades to a height of 2 to 2½" and mow frequently. Remove no more than one third of the total length of the grass blade. FS102
- Lawn areas need a minimum of 1" of water in the form of rain or irrigation each week. FS555
- Fertilize zoysia lawns. FS555



Garden Tips for July:

- Pinch established chrysanthemums to develop fuller and stockier plants early in the month, but stop pinching chrysanthemums by mid July.
- Remove spent flowers from annual flowers to keep them continuously flowering.
- Fertilize heavy bloomer perennials such as ever blooming daylilies & mums
- Divide clumps of crowded rhizomatous iris.
- Perennials that provide interest in the month of July include Daylilies, Rudbeckia, Phlox, Veronica, Ligularia, and Tickseed
- Cutting flowers is best done with sharp shears or a knife which will help avoid injury to the growing plant. A slanting cut will expose a larger absorbing surface to water and will prevent the base of the stem from resting on the bottom of the vase. It is best to carry a bucket of water to the garden for collecting flowers, rather than a cutting basket.
- Apply a labeled fungicide every 7 to 10 days to control black spot on roses. FS 1158
- Fertilize your roses. FS944
- Plant cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli as transplants in the garden for fall harvest. FS 129 & 787
- Plant seeds of ornamental kale, and broccoli in cell packs early in the month for transplanting to the fall garden in mid August. FS129 & 787
- Make another planting by seed of snap beans, beets, carrots, cucumbers and zucchini. FS129
- Train staked tomatoes to one or two vines by removing all other branches as soon as they appear. FS1102
- Sidedress rhubarb with well-rotted manure or humus from the compost pile.
- Harvest vegetables regularly for continued production. FS988
- Control slugs and snails on hosta and other plants with diatomaceous earth
- Start a compost pile. Continue pulling weeds & add them to the compost pile. FS811
- Thoroughly water your newly planted trees and shrubs. FS786
- Apply mulches around trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals to maintain soil moisture and an even soil temperature. Cover the soil 2 inches thick. Keep mulch away from the trunks of trees and shrubs. FS122
- Many plants are easily propagated by layering. Verbenas, euonymus and climbing roses are a few plants that will root if the stems are fastened down and covered with soil.
- Plants and trees that provide color in the month of July include Crape Myrtles, Spireas, Hydrangeas, Summersweet, Hypericum, Butterfly Bush and Golden Rain Tree.
- Do not prune Azaleas and Rhododendrons after the second week of July when they will begin setting their buds for next year's blooms.
- Prop branches of heavily loaded fruit trees.
- Fruit trees should be on a regular spray program.
- Time to control aphids FS 077 & spider mites FS 235
- Continue to mow the lawn at 2½ inches. FS 102
- A thorough watering of a lawn more than twice per week is probably excessive FS555
- Check the soil moisture of container grown vegetables and flowers daily. As the temperature rises, some plants may need water twice a day.
- A brown or grayish cast over a lawn can be caused by a dull or improperly adjusted mower blades that shred grass rather than cut it. FS102
- Control mosquitoes by eliminating all sources of stagnant water

Garden Tips for August:

- Fertilize your roses the first week of the month and then don't fertilize them any more this year. FS944
- Clean up fallen rose and peony leaves. They can harbor disease and insect pests over the winter if allowed to remain on the ground.
- Deadhead annuals to keep them blooming.
- Divide overcrowded spring-flowering perennials.
- Divide and transplant garden lilies and lilies-of-the-valley.
- Sow seeds of California poppy, columbine, delphinium and gloriosa and Shasta daisy.
- Take cuttings of begonias, coleus and impatiens for winter houseplants.
- Colorful plastic golf tees can be stuck in the ground to mark the location of dormant plants such as spring bulbs or perennials.
- Plant ornamental grasses such as Miscanthus, Pennisetum and Hardy Pampas Grass for motion and contrast.
- Control weeds before they flower and produce seeds
- Collards, kale, leaf lettuce, mustard, spinach, radishes and turnips are good crops for your fall garden. FS129
- Pick summer squash and zucchini every day or two to keep the plants producing.
- Remove melon blossoms at the end of the month that won't have time to set fruit. Ripening melons will then be larger.
- Remove old plants which have stopped producing to eliminate a shelter for insects and disease organisms
- Water the garden early in the day so plants can absorb the moisture before the hot sun dries the soil. Early watering also insures that the foliage dries before night. Wet foliage at night increases susceptibility to fungus diseases.
- Check all plants, especially newly planted ones, for water on a regular basis. Water deeply and thoroughly as needed.
- 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.
- Make plans for your fall planting of trees, shrubs and perennials.
- Plants and trees that provide color in the month of August include Crape Myrtles, Pee Gee Hydrangeas, Viburnums, Hypericum and Butterfly Bush. Visit your local nursery and see these beautiful plants in bloom
- Fruit trees should be on a regular spray program, again, check with your county extension office.
- Since container-grown plants have a limited area from which to absorb water, plants in a sunny location may require watering several times a week. Check plants often to avoid water stress.
- Check on water needs of hanging baskets daily in the summer. Wind and sun dry them much more quickly than other containers.
- To reduce the number of pests on your fruit tree for the coming year, pick up and destroy all fallen fruit.
- Apply one inch of water to your lawn and gardens weekly during dry periods.
- Apply broadleaf weed control in cool season turfgrasses in early August if you want to seed in late September or early October. FS385
- The Primary Establishment Period for seeding your lawn in Southern New Jersey (Trenton and south) is August 20th to October 10th. FS584
- Be alert for wasp nests when mowing and gardening. FS1134

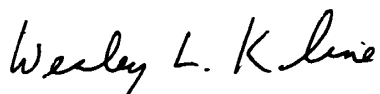
Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets

FS # Fact Sheet Name

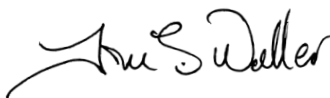
FS011 Blossom End Rot: Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant
 FS020 Weed Control Around the Home Grounds
 FS055 Container Gardening with Vegetables
 FS058 Mulches for the Vegetable Garden
 FS077 Aphids
 FS099 Problems With Over-Mulching Trees and Shrubs
 FS102 Your Lawn and Its Care
 FS106 Blueberry Pest Management for Home Gardens
 FS112 Apple Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
 FS115 Cherry Spray Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
 FS119 Weed Control in Home lawns
 FS122 Tree Problems Caused by People in the Suburban Landscape
 FS129 Planning a Vegetable Garden
 FS221 Asparagus Beetles
 FS235 Spidermites
 FS287 Cross-Striped Cabbageworm
 FS399 Vole Ecology and Management
 FS426 Moss in the lawn
 FS521 Zoysiagrass Lawns in New Jersey
 FS555 Best Management Practices for Watering Lawns
 FS610 Harvesting Melons at Peak Flavor
 FS626 Fertilizing the Home Vegetable Garden
 FS678 Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden
 FS787 Starting Vegetable Seeds Indoors
 FS811 Home Composting
 FS814 Managing Diseases of landscape Turf
 FS871 Understanding the Fertilizer Labels
 FS930 Natural Pest Control-using Beneficial Insects to Control landscape Pests
 FS944 Roses and their Care
 FS988 Picking Vegetables for the Home Garden
 FS1019 Poison Ivy and Brush Control Around the Home Grounds
 FS1102 The Stake and Weave Training System for Tomatoes in the Home Garden

Call 856/451-2800 Ext. 4 When calling to request a fact sheet, refer to the Fact Sheet by FS# or by name. All fact sheets are free unless otherwise noted. Fact Sheets are also available on-line at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/>

Sincerely,



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Pesticide User Responsibility: Use pesticides safely and follow instructions on labels. The user is responsible for the proper use of pesticides, residues on crops, storage and disposal, as well as damages caused by drift.

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<http://Cumberland.njaes.rutgers.edu>

If you have any questions concerning the website, please call our office at
856-451-2800 x1 for agriculture and
856-451-2800 x4 for Home Horticulture and Master Gardeners

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