



“What’s Growing On...”

Inside this issue:

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Pam’s Garden Gab 1

Creatures and
Critters 2-3

Flower Power 3-4

How Does Your
Garden Grow? 4-5

Indoor Houseplants 6

NJ Fertilizer Law 6

Trees, please 7-8

Earth Day Series 8-9

Asian Jumping
Worms 10

Spotted Lanternfly 11

Cooks Corner 12

NJAES Events
Calendars 13-15

Garden Tips for Sep 16

Garden Tips for Oct 17

Garden Tips for Nov 18

Fall Fact Sheets 19



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 POP 99.9 FM Power of Positivity

Garden Gab Fall 2020

Once again, I’d like to thank the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County and the 2020 interns for their support and patience while we transitioned from in-person meetings and classes to the virtual world of COVID-19. My deepest appreciation goes to my fellow Program Coordinators of other counties who willingly shared content, classes and webinars for the Spring 2020 interns.

As we all sheltered in place, it only seemed natural to plant a garden and the pictures shared by the Master Gardeners and interns were a lovely respite in the midst of the pandemic. I heard time and again how people either started new gardens or expanded their existing gardens, in a year that was not the easiest weather-wise.

While we are physically back in the office, we remain closed to the public, but the Agriculture staff has adapted and we are still serving the public, as well as we can. Farm tag certificates are successfully being completed when possible, helpline questions are being researched, and we have a specimen drop off table at the back entrance. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 856-451-2800 Ext 1 or 4 or email mastergardener@co.cumberland.nj.us

As we enter the Fall of 2020, these are strange and odd times, for sure. With the safety of our volunteers as the number one priority, Rutgers made the difficult decision to extend their position of no one-on-one meetings with volunteers until the end of the fall semester, when they will again, reassess and advise accordingly. Please be sure to check the online calendar for current events at <https://events.rutgers.edu/njaes/>

From a personal perspective, yes, I put in six raised beds, and adopted a kitten, named Lenny. My golden retriever, Tessa is socially distancing from our new family addition!

And so it goes,
Pam

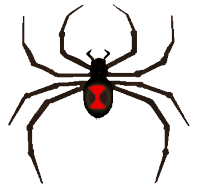


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Creatures and Critters

Black Widow Spiders

Rutgers Fact Sheet 1121, *Spiders of Medical Importance*, states that black widow spiders are generally timid creatures and seldom bite people. Be aware that black widows live under stones, in firewood piles, under decks and in hollow stumps and trees. In the spring the female may produce up to 21 egg sacs, each with a few hundred eggs and after an 8–30 days incubation period, spiderlings emerge from eggs. Do the math and that's a lot of spiders.



Groundhog



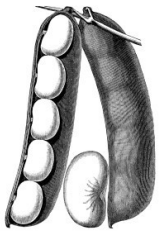
Mention the word groundhog and every Down Jersey person you talk to will groan out loud. Unfortunately, I do not have good news for control of these nuisance pests. Rutgers Bulleting E361, *Ecology and Management of the Groundhog (Marmota monax)* provides one recommendation of exclusion by way of fencing in specific high-value areas such as vegetable gardens. Groundhogs are adept at burrowing under and climbing over standard fencing. Heavy wire fencing needs to be buried 12 inches underground and then another 12 inches bent at an L shape. The fence then extends 3 to 4 feet above the ground, with another 12 inches bent outward at a 45-degree angle.

<https://extension.psu.edu/woodchucks>

Opossum

The Virginia or North American opossum can have a raggedy appearance but don't let that fool you. They are very clean animals and groom themselves regularly, which turns out to have an excellent side benefit. They are ground eaters and forage in the brush, which is prime tick habitat. Add in their compulsiveness to keep clean, they end up consuming as many as 5,000 ticks a year. Given that fact, they are welcome in my yard anytime.

<https://cwhl.vet.cornell.edu/article/weird-wonderful-wildlife-opossum#collapse25>



Spider Mites

Pole limas can be susceptible to spider mites, which can be very upsetting to the gardeners who love their pole limas. Rutgers Fact Sheet 235, *Twospotted Spider Mites*, explains that the mites suck plant juices from the leaves which causes a discoloration of pale-yellowish blotches and then turns brown and drop from the plant. Control measures include regular mowing and sanitation, and the use of pesticidal soaps or specific miticides, making certain to follow the label. The label is the law.

Squash Bees

Most of us know honeybees are important pollinators, but when it comes to pumpkins the squash bees are the most important pumpkin pollinator. Squash bees specialize on cucurbit pollen and have adapted their lifestyles with the flowering period of the pumpkins. They forage in the morning when the flowers are open and the males will often sleep overnight in closed flowers. They are hairier and faster than honeybees and nest mostly in the fields at the base of their host plants.

<https://ento.psu.edu/publications/pennsylvania-pumpkin-pollination>

<https://extension.psu.edu/pumpkin-pollinators>



Wheel bug

Wheel bugs are important predators in the home garden. Take care and caution, they will bite you if they are handled. They have a dagger-like piercing-sucking beak and are patient hunters that stalk their prey or wait for an insect to come by and then attack their prey. The wheel bug is readily identifiable by the cogwheel on the upper back.

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/predators-assassin-bugs>



https://www.psu.edu/dept/nkbiology/naturetrail/speciespages/assassin_bug.html

Wolf Spider



A client brought in a large spider for identification which was about an inch and a half in length, hairy in appearance and found in the client's basement. It was identified as a Wolf Spider which has the ability to inflict a painful bite but is not poisonous. They may have gotten their common name because they catch their prey by stalking and chasing the prey instead of catching them in a web. The scientific family name for wolf spiders is Lycosidae, and the root word "Lycos" is Greek for wolf.

<http://entoweb.okstate.edu/ddd/insects/wolfspider.htm>

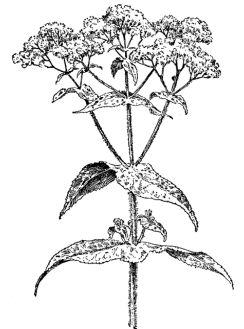
<https://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/spiders/wolf/wolf.htm>

Flower Power

Boneset

Along the lines of what one person considers a weed, others consider a desirable plant, Rutgers Fact Sheet 1140, *Incorporating Native Plants in Your Residential Landscape*, lists Boneset, *Eupatorium perfoliatum*, as a native plant that likes average to moist soil in full sun to partial shade and reaches about 3–6' high. What I like about it are the white flat-topped flower clusters that bloom from spring to fall, and which adapt very easily to floral arrangements. Be careful though, as these are known to self-seed regularly and spread by rhizomes.

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenea1cd.html>



Planting and Forcing Bulbs



Rutgers Fact Sheet 1220, *Spring Flowering Bulbs*, recommends planting spring flowering bulbs in mid-September through October. During this time, the soil temperature falls below 60 degrees giving the bulb time to form a root system before the ground freezes. Bulbs look best planted in masse and to do this, dig and loosen the entire bed to the correct depth, making sure your site gets full sun. Press the bulbs in with the root side down and cover the area with soil. Water them in, but don't over-water or the bulbs will rot. Cover the bed with 2-3 inches of mulch and wait for spring.

For those of us who don't want to wait for spring for flowering bulbs, Rutgers Fact Sheet 1220, *Spring Flowering Bulbs*, tells us how to bring the outdoors inside during these short days and cool temperatures by forcing bulbs to bloom. The easiest bulbs to force include crocus, hyacinth, narcissus, scilla, muscari, iris and tulip. Plant the bulbs now in pots with adequate drainage and a soil mix of loam and peat. Keep them in your basement for about 12 weeks and check for roots and shoots. Move them to a bright but cool room and you will have blooms within 3-4 weeks. Many families share the common tradition of forcing

amaryllis bulbs to bloom through the holiday season.

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1220/>

Dividing Peonies

Autumn is the time to divide herbaceous peonies and it coincides with the beginning of the plant's dormancy. The first step is to carefully dig up the whole plant and wash off the soil. Remove any rotted material while locating the pink to white colored eyes at the top of the crown. Divide the crown into wedges with a sharp knife and make sure there are 3 to 5 buds per wedge along with 1 or 2 main roots. When planting, make sure the buds are not upside down and cover the top buds with only an inch or two of soil.

<https://extension.psu.edu/the-beloved-peony>



Fall Container Gardens

The August 2019 issue of the Greenhouse Grower featured an article by Allan Armitage entitled "Fall is for Pansies – Not Always". He is encouraging people to expand their thinking and consider adding some different plants to their fall containers. He suggests adding some fall-blooming annuals such as the cupflower or try some hostas with great foliage and mix in a few golden creeping jenny plants. Other options for foliage include ajuga and lamiums and a good choice for shrubs might be an abelia.

Mexican Sage Bush

If you are looking for an alternative to chrysanthemums for fall color, Mexican Bush Sage, *Salvia leucantha* is an excellent candidate. The Mexican Bush Sage likes full sun and well-drained soils and has aromatic foliage. The 2-3 foot plants have beautiful purple racemes that arch with 4 – 8 inch flowers that are pollinator friendly.

How Does Your Vegetable Garden Grow?

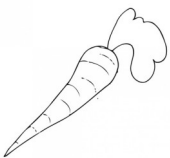
Basil

Rutgers Fact Sheet 1283, *Ultra-Niche Crops Series: Basil Postharvest Handling and Food Safety* is written for commercial growers but has some information that is pertinent to homeowners. When harvesting basil it's important to have cool conditions and dry leaves, and a late afternoon harvest may be the best time. Be mindful that the optimum storage temperature for basil is 55 degrees F, so don't put them in the refrigerator. Temperature management is the most critical aspect of prolonging postharvest quality for basil.



Carrots

Rutgers Fact Sheet 988, *Picking Vegetables in the Home Garden*, states that carrots will remain fresh in well-drained soil even into December, even after the tops have been killed by frost, provided you cover them with leaves or straw until the soil begins to freeze. Good to know!



Winter Squash

Rutgers fact Sheet 988, *Picking Vegetables in the Home Garden*, recommends harvesting Winter Squash, such as Butternut, Acorn & Spaghetti, after their skins have hardened and before the first frost. A quote from the fact sheet states "...Butternut squash are ripe when the outside skin turns a deep flesh color, Acorn squash are mature when the underside of the fruit turns an orange-yellow color where it had laid on the ground. Spaghetti squash is ripe when the skin turns a golden yellow color and hardens...".



Bell Peppers

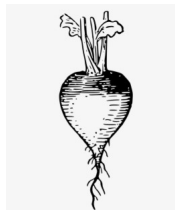
What is the difference between green and red bell peppers? They do both come from the same plant, but the red ones have been left on the plant to ripen, and due to the extra care, time and space of being left on the plant to mature & ripen, you may be paying more for them at the market. Additionally, the red peppers are more nutrient dense and have a sweeter taste than green peppers.

<http://extension.msstate.edu/farm-and-family/audio/2019/bellpeppers-differences-between-color-varieties>



Fall Vegetable Planting

Rutgers fact Sheet 129, *Planning a Vegetable Garden*, recommends planting radishes, spinach, as well as leaf, romaine and bibb lettuces by seed in September. If you are concerned about the shorter days it's good to know that leafy vegetables like lettuce and spinach require only 4 to 5 hours of sunlight per day and the radishes a bit more at 5 to 6 hours of sunlight per day.



Tennessee Dancing Gourd

The Tennessee Dancing Gourd, also known as the Tennessee Spinner is a small green and white heirloom gourd that, when dried, can be spun like a top much to the delight of many a child. Once thought to have been gone for good, the seeds can be found through mail order now. Don't let the tiny size of the gourd fool you. It's a vining plant that loves to sprawl and they would look great up a trellis.

<https://ag.tennessee.edu/news/Pages/POM-2017-07.aspx>

Salad Burnet

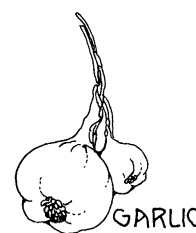
Salad burnet, *Poterium sanguisorba*, is an herb that is often overlooked, but makes a nice addition to the herb garden. It is considered a hardy annual Zone 7, and likes full sun in average garden soil. The tender new leaves are said to taste like cucumber and the plant itself forms an open loose mound with a lovely delicate fern-like look to it.

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/herbs/salad-burnet.cfm>



Garlic

Rutgers Fact Sheet 1233, *Growing Garlic in the Home Garden*, recommends planting garlic in October for a June or July harvest the next year. Don't try planting the garlic you get in the supermarket as they have likely been treated to prevent sprouting. Raised beds to help improve drainage may work best for garlic which needs good soil drainage. After planting mulch them in with grass clippings at about three to four inches deep.



Leaf Composting



Not sure what to do with all the leaves that are falling? If you've ever taken a walk through the woods, you will see that nature does its own leaf composting and the floor of the woods has a dark and crumbly appearance with an earthy odor. Rutgers Fact Sheet 074, *Backyard Leaf Composting*, provides easy-to-follow detailed instructions on the construction and management of leaf piles for homeowners to make their own leaf compost. Your 2021 garden will love you for it!

Indoor Houseplants

Succulents

Don't forget to bring in those tender succulents that will not overwinter in this zone before the first frost! If you are not sure, generally, Sempervivums or Hens and Chicks and Sedums or Stonecrop succulents will be fine in our area, however bring in any aloes, kalanchoes and echevarias. Keep those you move indoors in bright light like a south-facing window, and away from drafts and cold windows. The dry humidity of the house is fine, but do not overwater!



https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-https://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/succulents.htmlgardener/counties/pike/news/2016/copy_of_why_i_garden

Pilea

Pilea species are perennial groundcovers in some areas but are often grown indoors as houseplants. Their common names include Creeping Charlie and Friendship plant, and most of their appeal as a houseplant is the interesting textures and color variations of the foliage. The plant likes a warm humid environment with bright indirect light, but not full sun. Now that fall is coming upon us, the amount of watering can be reduced.

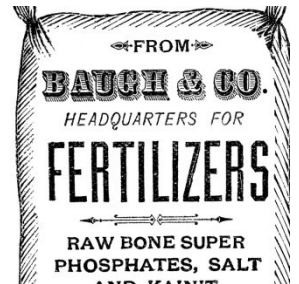
<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/pilea-nummulariifolia/>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/pilea-involucrata/>

NJ Fertilizer Law Restrictions on Home Lawn Applications – What Homeowners Should Know

Rain or melting snow can wash fertilizer that lands on streets and sidewalks into our waterways. New Jersey's Fertilizer Law requires that residents sweep this excess back onto the lawn.

Fall is a good time for homeowners to take steps to spruce up their lawns. Visions of lush green lawns in the spring from a late fall fertilizer application may be tempting, but it is not a pretty picture when those nutrients that can't penetrate frozen ground wash into our waterways. New Jersey's 2011 Fertilizer Law limits the time of the year when homeowners can apply fertilizers with nitrogen and phosphorus. The following Q & A will help homeowners know what they can apply to their lawns and when.



When am I prohibited from applying nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer to my lawn in NJ?

Home owners are prohibited from applying nitrogen or phosphorus fertilizer after November 15 and before March 1 in New Jersey. Fertilizers that contain only potassium or other essential nutrients (other than nitrogen and phosphorus) are legal to apply during these "black out" dates.

How do I know if the fertilizer contains nitrogen or phosphorus?

By law, all lawn fertilizers sold in NJ must display a label describing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in the fertilizer – also known as the guaranteed analysis. If the values for nitrogen or phosphorus are greater than 0%, then the fertilizer is prohibited during the "black out" dates.

Can lime be applied to lawns after November 15?

Yes, lime contains calcium carbonate and is not restricted. Only nitrogen and phosphorus are restricted by the fertilizer law.

What do I need to know about the proper application of fertilizer to my lawn?

All lawn fertilizers must have instructions that, when followed, will ensure you apply the fertilizer according to the standards in the NJ fertilizer law.

Always apply fertilizer using these best application practices:

1. Do not apply near water, storm drains or drainage ditches.
2. Do not apply if heavy rain (water runoff) is expected.

Apply fertilizer only to your lawn, and sweep any fertilizer particles that land on the driveway, sidewalk or street back onto your lawn.

Where can I get my soil tested for nutrients and pH?

Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory is accessible to anyone. For a nominal fee, the soil fertility test provides nutrient levels and soil pH along with the recommended fertilizer ratio and limestone application (if necessary). You can find sampling instructions and information to order a test kit online at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/how-to.php>.

Trees, Please

Sourwood Tree

Rutgers Bulletin E271, *Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance*, lists the native Sourwood Tree, *Oxydendrum arboreum*, as a tree which is seldom severely damaged by deer. This native understory tree offers cascading flowers which are great for pollinators and can make the tree look like it is covered in lace. It is in the same family as azaleas and rhododendrons and likes the same site conditions of moist, acidic soil in partial shade. The Sourwood Tree has beautiful crimson red fall foliage and great silvery grey berries, making it a great 3 season choice.

<https://extension.umd.edu/ipm/landscape-management-nursery-production/oxydendrum-arboreum-sourwood-tree>



Sassafras

If you happen to pull up a root of a *Sassafras albidum* sapling you will likely recognize the smell of root beer. Sassafras oil was used at one time in the making of root beer, however it was recently found that the oils have a carcinogenic substance called safrol, which is no longer used. This native tree is fun because it has three different kind of leaves on it, including oval, one lobed and three lobes that look like mittens, which sounds like a fun jeopardy question.

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/sassafras-albidum/>

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/wakullaco/2018/08/10/sassafras-base-root-beer/>

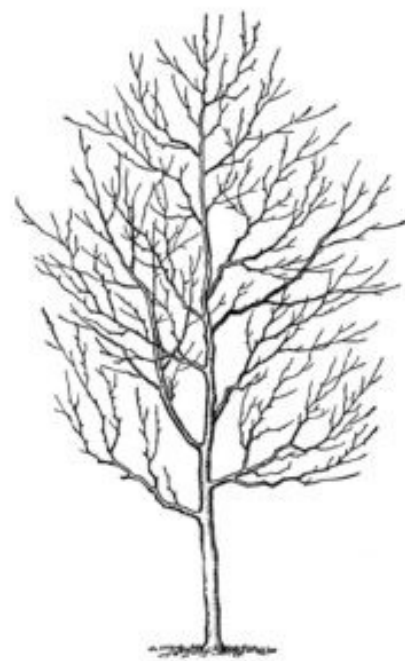
Mulching Transplanted Trees

Rutgers Fact Sheet 376, *Transplanting Trees and Shrubs*, provides recommendations for care after planting which includes keeping the soil moist but not waterlogged. Mulching around the tree with organic matter can help reduce the soil water loss, but take care in keeping the mulch several inches from the trunk. Small critters like to nestle in the mulch and then munch the tree bark, causing damage to the tree.



Winter Injury

Rutgers Bulletin E309, *Landscape and Ornamental Plant Stress: Factors, Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Management*, has a section on winter injury and mentions that it is a result of many diverse environmental factors. Winter damage can include winter desiccation or sunscald. Winter injury can predispose plants to secondary infections by insects and diseases caused by living organisms and unfortunately, symptoms of winter injury are not often evident until the following spring or summer. Management strategies for winter desiccation include installing physical barriers on the exposed sides, and wrapping the trunk of newly planted, thin-barked trees to prevent winter sunscald.



Call Before You Dig

If you are considering doing some fall digging to plant balled and burlapped deciduous trees and shrubs, be aware that some utilities are buried just a few inches below the ground. New Jersey Law requires anyone digging to call at least three full business days prior to beginning work. The New Jersey One Call number is 1-800-272-1000 or by dialing 811 your call will be routed to your local one call center.

Earth Day Every Day Webinar Series

Our 50th anniversary of Earth Day webinar series is back this fall with a new name- Earth Day Every Day! (Formerly "Earth Day at Home".) Open to the public, these sessions 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.

Join Rutgers Cooperative Extension every Monday evening at 6:30pm for this free series starting September 14th. These live, interactive sessions are 1 hour. To join you need either a computer, tablet, or smartphone with speakers. Sessions are provided via Webex.

See next page for the different session topics.



Note you must register individually for each session you want to attend. Register by going to <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/earth-day.html>

9/14/20 - **Winterizing Your Home for Maximum Energy Efficiency**: Winter months are often an energy consumption and budget strain. There are lots of reasons why our energy usage and bills can be higher during the winter season. Join us for this presentation to learn how you can prep your home to maximize your energy efficiency. Kerri Ann Lombardi is the Market Outreach Coordinator with New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™ and will teach NJ homeowners how to winterize their home to save energy, money and the environment.

9/21/20 - **Collecting Native Seeds: Sow Much to Know!**: How do you get started incorporating native plants into your yard? One easy way is to collect native seeds and overwinter them to start your own plants. Join Angela Monaghan, Rutgers Master Gardener Coordinator for Middlesex County to learn the ins and outs of native seed collection and sowing seeds for next year's garden.

9/28/20 - **Fall Lawn Care the Earthwise Way**- Fall is a critical time to reinvigorate your lawn the environmentally friendly way. Fertilizing, overseeding, and top dressing with compost are all best done in the fall when weeds are going dormant. Learn how to reap the benefits of fall lawn care with Bill Hlubik, Professor and Agriculture Agent with Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County.

10/5/20 - **RU Wildlife Wise: Defensive Driving to Avoid Wildlife**- Caution animal crossing! Drivers in New Jersey are all too familiar with the interaction between vehicles and wildlife. Come learn the ecology of wildlife in relation to roads and how to avoid being part of the national and state statistics on wildlife-vehicle collisions with Kathleen Kerwin, Program Associate with the Rutgers Wildlife Conservation and Management Program.

Tuesday, 10/13/20 - **What's An Energy Audit And Do you Need One?** Many homes use more energy than they actually need. The solution is a home energy efficiency assessment (aka audit). An energy efficiency assessment does more than help you save energy—it increases your personal comfort, makes your home healthier/safer and increases the value of your home. Join Kerri Ann Lombardi, the Market Outreach Coordinator with New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™ to learn the what, how and why of a home energy efficiency assessment as well as how to save energy and money.

10/19/20 - **Ten Ways to Adapt to Coastal Flooding**- Government agencies and other organizations are helping coastal communities prepare for sea-level rise and adapt to increased flooding. Learn about these initiatives and 10 steps residents can take to prepare their homes and help increase their communities' resilience to flooding and climate change with Vanessa Dornisch, Coastal Training Program Coordinator at the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve.

10/26/20 - **RU Wildlife Wise: Demystifying Iconic Halloween Animals**- Halloween is known for wildlife that many find scary, such as bats, ravens, snakes, and others. How and why did these animals become associated with Halloween? Join us to learn some tricks on managing issues these animals may cause at home and treat yourself to some cool, fun facts about these misunderstood holiday creatures with Kathleen Kerwin, Program Associate with the Rutgers Wildlife Conservation and Management Program.

11/2/20 - **Basics of Recycling**- Despite what you may have heard about changing global markets and challenges to the recycling industry, recycling remains as one of the easiest ways individuals can make a difference that benefits the environment. While recycling specifics vary depending on where you live, we'll talk about the universal recycling truths; dispelling myths and shining a light on what actually happens when your recyclables leave the curb with Amy Cook-Menzel, the Communications Manager with the Atlantic County Utility Authority.

Asian Jumping Worms

As if there wasn't enough going on in 2020, there have been reports of Asian Jumping Worms and in researching them, the news is grim. Jumping Worm (*Amyntas spp.*)

Have you seen an abundance of worms in your garden? If so, look to see if they resemble the worm in the photo. The clitellum or collar goes all the way around the body and is smooth. The worms are very active and have a sheen to them. Look for worm castings around your garden.

The jumping worms alter the structure and chemistry of the soil dramatically, leaving a distinctive grainy soil full of worm castings, and they can damage lawns, landscapes and even the forest understory habitat.

People unknowingly spread these worms by using them for bait or transport their egg cocoons on shoes and wheels, in mulch, or via transplanted plants.

Jumping worms reproduce easily. They are asexual (parthenogenetic) and mature in just 60 days, so each year they can have two hatches. The best time to see them is late June and early July. From September until the first hard frost, their population will double and may reach damaging levels.

Research is being done on controlling these worms but nothing has come back with favorable results. What you can try to do is contain their spread by recognizing the worms when you are working in your garden.

Don't transplant mulch, soil or plants to uncontaminated areas. Plant bare root stock or seeds when possible. Do not buy *Amyntas* worms for composting, vermicomposting, gardening or bait.

If you already have these worms, remove and dispose of them by solarizing them or soaking them in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Another way is to put them in a bucket of alfalfa pellets and they will dry up very quickly and have no odor. Do not put them in the compost pile or garden.

<http://ccecolumbiagreene.org/natural-resources/invasive-nuisance-species/invasive-pests/jumping-worm-amynthas-spp-1>



Image by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource

Spotted Lanternfly

The Summer "What's Growing On" newsletter featured an article on the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). We have had a few reports of the Spotted Lanternfly here in Cumberland County. So far, it has been up to 6 at a sighting, so they have not been considered an infestation. However, we all know these pests do not know where the county lines are, so be on the lookout.

If you think you've seen or collected a Spotted Lanternfly please report it to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the Department of Entomology at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences by emailing slanternfly@njaes.rutgers.edu. Include the town and county where the specimen was found and attach a photograph.

Adults feed in large congregations from August until October and are easily recognizable. Because they spend at least one month as adults before laying eggs, this could be a critical time for management. Mating and egg laying is delayed and egg laying does not occur until October. 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.

One tree that hosts large numbers of SLF is the Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, 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, river birch, willow, and agricultural crops such as grapes, apples, and peaches.

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. Adults feed in large congregations and are highly noticeable. It is recommended that you destroy the SLF. Although there are no numbers or estimates on the economic impact of the SLF, we are concerned about the impacts to our agricultural and homeowner communities.

More information can be found at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/>



Cooks Corner

FALL-INSPIRED QUESADILLA

Yields two portions



Ingredients:

- 1 small bottle Sriracha sauce
- ¼ peeled and seeded butternut squash
- Kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons oil
- 1 cup kale, stems and ribs removed and hand torn into small pieces
- ½ cup Brussels sprouts, washed, cleaned, halved, and finely shredded
- ¼ cup shredded jack cheese
- ¼ cup goat cheese, crumbled
- 2 garlic cloves roasted until soft and golden brown and mashed into a paste
- 2-to-6-inch flour tortillas

1. Pre-heat the oven to 200°F. Line a large baking sheet with sides with a silicone mat or parchment paper. Pour the Sriracha sauce onto the lined baking sheet and evenly spread the sauce over the entire surface. Place the baking sheet into the oven, leaving the oven open slightly. Continue to bake for approximately four to six hours or until the sauce is well dried. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and allow to cool. When cool enough to handle, peel the Sriracha away from the silicone mat or parchment paper and let it cool and dry completely. When cooled, and working in batches, place the dried Sriracha in a coffee grinder or small food processor and process until it is light and powdery. Alternatively, you can place it into a Ziplock bag and crush it with a rolling pin or meat mallet.

2. Pre-heat the oven to 375°F. Peel and seed the squash. Slice the squash into approximately ¼ inch slices. Place the slices in a medium-sized bowl and toss with 1 teaspoon of the oil, salt, and Sriracha powder, adding as much Sriracha powder as you can comfortably stand when eating. Mix well to coat the slices of squash. Arrange the slices onto a baking sheet, being careful not to overlap any of the slices. Place in the oven and continue to bake until the slices are cooked throughout and slightly golden brown. Remove and allow to cool.

3. Place one of the tortillas on a work surface and gently and carefully spread the roasted garlic over the surface of the tortilla. Next, place a mixture of kale and shredded Brussels sprouts. Arrange the slices of roasted squash over the greens then top with the cheeses. Finish by placing the remaining tortilla shell on top. Press down lightly.

4. Use a medium-sized pan and put over medium heat and add the remaining teaspoon of oil. When the pan is hot enough, carefully place the quesadilla into the pan. Cook until the bottom tortilla is lightly browned and, using a spatula, carefully flip the quesadilla over to cook the other side. Continue to cook until heated throughout, the cheese is melted, and the tortillas are a light golden color. Alternatively, the quesadilla may be cooked on a panini press. Remove the quesadilla from the pan and place it on the cutting board. Cut the quesadilla into pieces and arrange the pieces on a serving plate.

<https://news.northeastern.edu/2015/12/01/fall-recipes-autumn-inspired-quesadilla/>

EVENTS CALENDAR

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is offering a robust schedule of online webinars, and many of them are free. You are required to register and can go to <https://events.rutgers.edu/niaes/> to see the events calendar, and click on the link. It's recommended to VIEW THE CALENDARS often, as events continue to be scheduled.

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Home Gardeners School @Home: Home Sweet Home Landscaping (ONLINE COURSE)	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day - State and County Offices Closed	8 Tick Safety	9 Get the Dirt on Your Soil I: "Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt!" (Day 1 of 3)	10 Online Webinar: Freezing the Harvest and Other Foods Black Gold for Your Garden - Composting Simplified	11	12
13	14 Earth Day Every Day webinar series - Winterizing Your Home for Maximum Ener...	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Earth Day Every Day webinar series - Collecting Native Seeds - Sow Much to ...	22 How to Grow Dazzling Dahlias	23	24 Gardening with Ornamental Grasses Get the Dirt on Your Soil II: "Digging Deeper: What's Your Soil Telling you (Day 2 of 3)	25	26
27	28 Earth Day Every Day webinar series - Fall Lawn Care the Earthwise Way	29	30			

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October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Earth Day Every Day webinar series - RU Wildlife Wise: Defen- sive Driving to...	6	7	8 Get the Dirt on Your Soil III: "Root Out Soil Compaction" (Day 3 of 3)	9	10
11	12	13 Earth Day Every Day webinar series - What's an Energy Audit and Do You Need...	14	15	16	17
18	19 Earth Day Every Day webinar series - Ten Ways to Adapt to Coastal Flooding	20 Plants with Winter Interest	21 Introduction to Wetland Identifica- tion	22	23	24
25	26 Earth Day Every Day webinar series - RU Wildlife Wise: Demys- tifying Iconic ...	27	28	29	30	31

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November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Earth Day Every Day webinar series - Basics of Recycling	3	4 Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program - Coastal Stewardship Fall Cours...	5	6	7
8	9	10 The Woody Plants of Summer: Native Plants (ONLINE COURSE)	11 The Woody Plants of Summer: Native Plants (ONLINE COURSE)	12	13 Diseases and Pests of Trees (ONLINE COURSE)	14
15	16 The Woody Plants of Summer: Plants from Abroad (ONLINE COURSE)	17 The Woody Plants of Summer: Plants from Abroad (ONLINE COURSE)	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Gardener's Checklist for September:

- Fertilize most houseplants for the last time until next spring.
- Late summer to early fall is the most appropriate season for renovating your lawn. FS108
- Take a soil sample to determine if your lawn needs fall fertilization. FS633
- Thatch removal of cool-season grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, is best done in September or in the spring before complete green-up occurs. FS740
- Purchase spring-flowering bulbs while the selection is good.
- Spring flowering bulbs should be planted in mid-September through October when the soil temperature falls below 60° FS1220
- Divide herbaceous spring and summer blooming perennials if needed.
- Lift and divide iris rhizomes.
- Make a map of your perennial gardens to record the location of your plants.
- Plant pansies, ornamental cabbages and kales early in the month.
- Bring fibrous begonias, coleus and impatiens indoors for potted houseplants.
- Store surplus flower and vegetable seeds in a cool, dry location.
- Keep geraniums overwinter by the hang and dry or houseplant method. FS1156
- With few exceptions, most deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs can be transplanted in early fall. FS376
- After fall harvest in your vegetable garden, take a soil sample [https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/pdfs/home/Home and Landscape - Soil Test Questionnaire.pdf](https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/pdfs/home/Home%20and%20Landscape%20-%20Soil%20Test%20Questionnaire.pdf) FS797
- Clean off the vegetable garden and annual beds as plants die. FS1124
- Allow winter squashes, pumpkins and gourds to mature completely on the vine. Harvest them before the first frost. FS988
- Wait at least two weeks after the tops die to harvest white potatoes. Dig sweet potatoes before the first frost. FS988
- Plant radishes, spinach and leaf, romaine and bibb lettuces by seed. FS129
- Start a compost pile with fallen leaves and garden debris. FS 074



Gardener's Checklist for October:

- Lime takes time. Get a soil test done in fall for home lawns and gardens. FS797
- Consider dwarf fall asters to brighten the flower garden.
- Plant hardy spring-blooming perennials and biennials in the garden early in the month.
- Remove dead chrysanthemum tops from the garden.
- Wait until the ground freezes to apply mulch around perennials.
- Note where fall color is needed in the landscape and plan to add an appropriate plant next year. Take pictures to remind yourself what you want and where.
- Harvest pears before they are fully ripe. Harvest apples when the stem separates from the branch with a slight pull.
- Make a jack-O'-lantern and roast the seeds for a snack.
- For best results, garlic needs nine months to mature. In New Jersey, it is best planted in October, (three to eight weeks before the first frost) for a June/July harvest the following year. FS1233
- Spread humus (composted organic matter) two inches deep and work it into your garden soil.
- If your garden soil is well drained you can keep carrots in the ground and covered with leaves or straw until the soil begins to freeze usually in mid-December. FS988
- Be sure to harvest your tomatoes, peppers and other tender crops before the first frost. FS988
- Consider planting a cover crop on your vegetable garden. FS849
- Call a certified arborist for a serious tree problem. FS 019
- Early spring and late fall are considered the best times to apply fertilizer for shade trees. FS031
- Keep mulch away from the trunks of trees and shrubs. FS 099
- Provide food and water for the birds. FS 1022
- Repair garden fences, trellises and accessories.
- Start a wish list of plants and tools for next year's gardening season.
- Clean and store lawn furniture.
- Store garden stakes, hoses and tools before winter sets in.



Gardener's Checklist for November:

- Plant bare-root plants when they're dormant and the air temperature is cool.
- Dig up and store tender bulbs, corms or tubers.
- Have you planted your spring-flowering bulbs? If not, do this before the ground freezes. FS1220
- Dig cannas after a hard frost for overwintering FS 1155
- The late fall fertilization of the lawn should be done after the grass stops growing. FS 633
- Stake newly planted trees to protect them from winter winds. FS376
- Prevent winter sunscald in newly planted, thin-barked trees (such as ash, crabapple, maple, and tuliptree) by wrapping the trunk with burlap or other tree wrapping materials to minimize wind exposure, winter injury, and sunscald. E309
- Place hardware cloth or plastic guards around fruit trees.
- Turn over or rough till your vegetable garden if soil erosion is not a problem. A cover crop of winter rye still can be planted if it's done as early in the month as possible.
- Place all weeds, leaves and dead, annual and perennial foliage in the compost pile. FS 811 & FS 074
- Turn and water the compost pile to keep it working. FS 074
- Pot paperwhite narcissus for forcing indoors. FS1220
- Don't over water your houseplants.
- Turn your houseplants regularly for even growth.
- Have your lawn mower and other power equipment serviced.
- Clean and repair garden tools. Consider painting the handles a bright color so they will not get lost in the garden!
- Drain and bring in all of your garden hoses.



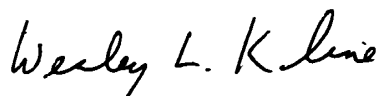
Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets

FS #	Fact Sheet Name
Fact Sheet 002	Brown Marmorated Stink Bug - A Non-native Insect in New Jersey
Fact Sheet 025	Mole Management in Turf and Gardens
Fact Sheet 019	How to Hire a Tree Care Professional
Fact Sheet 031	How to Fertilize Shade Trees
Fact Sheet 074	Backyard Leaf Composting
Fact Sheet 075	The Boxelder Bug and Its Control
Fact Sheet 099	Problems With Over-Mulching Trees and Shrubs
Fact Sheet 102	Your Lawn and Its Care
Fact Sheet 108	Renovating Your Lawn
Fact Sheet 117	Using Leaf Compost
Fact Sheet 122	Tree Problems Caused by People in the Suburban Landscape
Fact Sheet 129	Planning a Vegetable Garden
Bulletin E271	Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance
Fact Sheet 285	Fall Armyworm
Fact Sheet 293	White Grubs
Bulletin E309	Landscape and Ornamental Plant Stress: Factors, Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Management
Bulletin E310	Diagnosing and Managing Important Cucurbit Diseases in the Home Garden
Bulletin E361	Ecology and Management of the Groundhog (<i>Marmota monax</i>)
Fact Sheet 376	Transplanting Trees and Shrubs
Fact Sheet 389	Minimizing Waste Disposal: Grass Clippings
Fact Sheet 555	Best Management Practices for Watering Lawns
Fact Sheet 561	Growing Cole Crops in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 633	Fertilizing the Home Lawn
Fact Sheet 684	Turfgrass Seed Selection for Home Lawns
Fact Sheet 740	Thatch Management in Turf
Fact Sheet 797	Soil Testing for Home Lawns and Gardens
Fact Sheet 811	Home Composting
Fact Sheet 829	How to Protect Water Quality & Have a Beautiful Lawn: Ten Steps to Proper Fertilization
Fact Sheet 839	How to Calculate the amount of Fertilizer Needed for your Lawn
Fact Sheet 849	Cover Crops and Green Manure Crops: Benefits, Selection and Use
Fact Sheet 904	Liming New Jersey Soils for Vegetable Crops
Fact Sheet 905	Agricultural Liming Materials
Fact Sheet 988	Picking Vegetables in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 1022	Backyard Birdfeeders
Fact Sheet 1113	Bok Choy (Chinese Cabbages)
Fact Sheet 1121	Spiders of Medical Importance
Fact Sheet 1124	Vegetable Disease Recommendations for Home Gardens
Fact Sheet 1134	Bees and Wasps
Fact Sheet 1140	Incorporating Native Plants in Your Residential Landscape
Fact Sheet 1151	Hollies for New Jersey
Fact Sheet 1155	Cannas
Fact Sheet 1156	Keeping Geraniums Over Winter
Fact Sheet 1169	Slime Mold in Landscapes - "Dog Vomit Fungus"
Fact Sheet 1202	An Overview of White-Tailed Deer Status and Management in New Jersey
Fact Sheet 1207	The Facts About Bats in New Jersey
Fact Sheet 1220	Spring Flowering Bulbs
Fact Sheet 1233	Growing Garlic 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.

Sincerely,



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Prepared by Pam Burton

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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For important announcements concerning the Cumberland County Extension Center visit:
<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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