



# UConn Master Gardener Calendar 2023

A CAHNR Extension Program





Photo By: Linda Jacobs

Growing your own vegetables is fun, cost-effective, and helps provide your family with a safe and nutritious food supply. UConn Extension has many programs to assist with your vegetable garden, whether you are starting a garden for the first time or returning for another season.

#### Resources:

- Master Gardener Resources: <https://mastergardener.uconn.edu/>
- Vegetable Crops: <https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/vegetables/>
- Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory: <https://soiltesting.cahnr.uconn.edu/>
- Home and Garden Education Center: <https://homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu/>
- Ask us a question at: <https://news.extension.uconn.edu/ask-uconn-extension/>

Start growing with us!





# UConn Extension Master Gardeners

The UConn Extension Master Gardener Program is an Educational Outreach Program that is part of UConn Extension. The program started in 1978 and consists of horticulture training and an outreach component that focus on the community at large. Master Gardeners are enthusiastic, willing to learn and share their knowledge and training with others. What sets them apart from other home gardeners is their special horticultural training. In exchange for this training, Master Gardeners commit time as volunteers working through their local UConn Extension Center and the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford to provide horticultural-related information to the community.

The UConn Extension Master Gardener program is addressing three of the strategic initiatives in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR). We are ensuring sustainable agriculture and food systems by helping people grow their own fruits and vegetables. This, along with our ornamental horticulture outreach education helps foster sustainable landscapes. All gardening efforts also enhance human and environmental health and well-being.

Learn more: [mastergardener.uconn.edu](https://mastergardener.uconn.edu)



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Photo By: Linda Jacobs



# Ways to Give to the UConn Extension Master Gardeners

The Master Gardener Fund is a tremendous asset in helping support the program and the statewide impact it has through equipment, resources for volunteers, classes, and more. You can make a gift online by accessing the UConn Extension Master Gardener program online giving page at [s.uconn.edu/GardenerFund](http://s.uconn.edu/GardenerFund) or you can send a check to the following address made payable to the UConn Foundation, Inc.

Please include a note indicating the donation is designated to the Master Gardener Fund (21902).

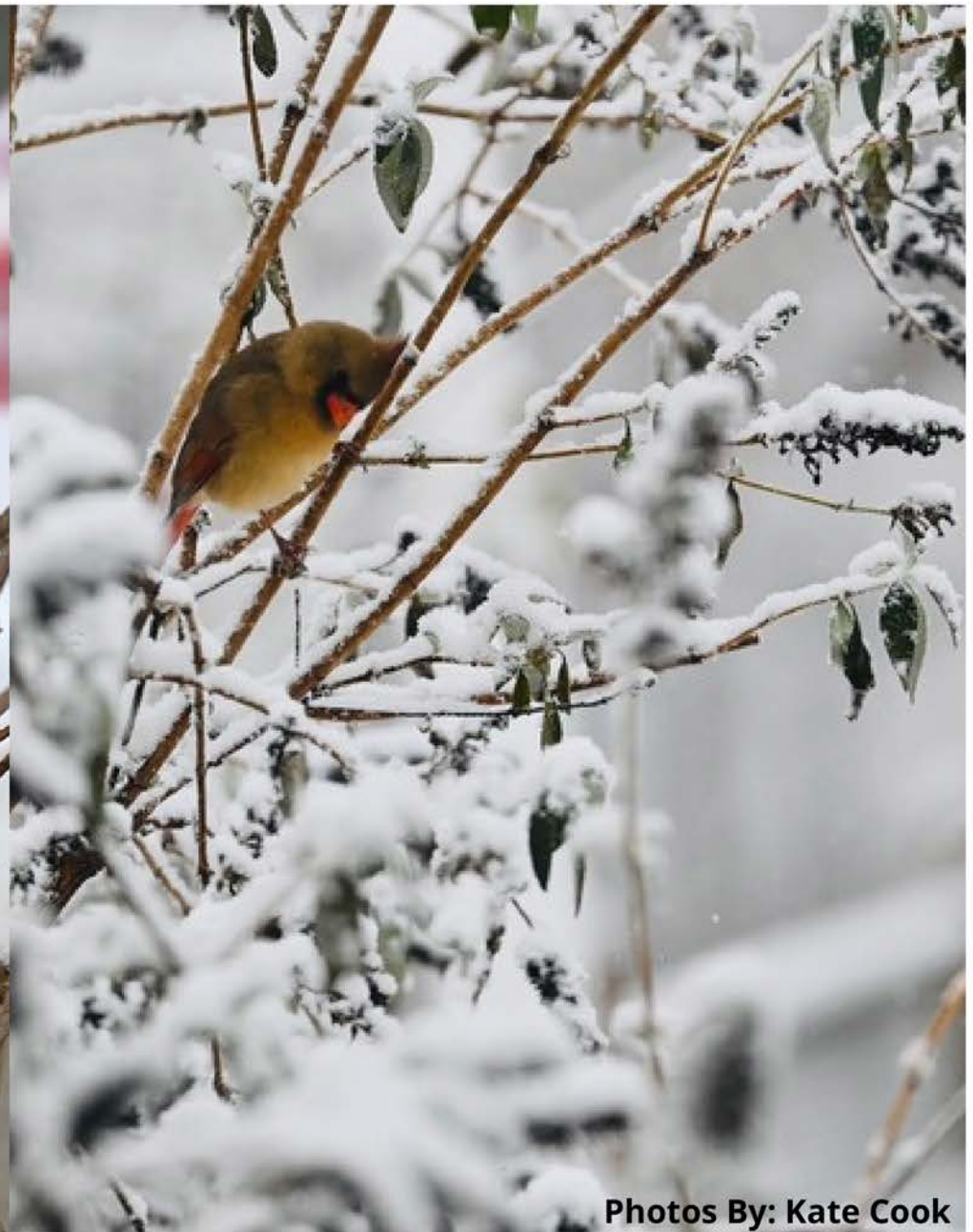
**The UConn Foundation, Inc.**  
**2390 Alumni Drive, Unit 3206**  
**Storrs, CT 06269-3206**

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<b>UConn Storrs Campus</b> extension@uconn.edu web: <a href="http://s.uconn.edu/extension">s.uconn.edu/extension</a> 860-486-9228	<b>Plant Diagnostic Lab</b> web: <a href="http://plant.lab.uconn.edu">plant.lab.uconn.edu</a> 860-486-6271	<b>Middlesex County</b> middlesex@uconn.edu 860-345-4511	<b>Windham County</b> windham@uconn.edu 860-774-9600
<b>UConn State 4-H Offices</b> web: <a href="http://s.uconn.edu/4-H">s.uconn.edu/4-H</a> Toll Free 1-888-FOURHCT	<b>Fairfield County</b> fairfield@uconn.edu 203-207-8440	<b>New Haven County</b> newhaven@uconn.edu 203-407-3161	<b>Connecticut Sea Grant</b> web: <a href="http://seagrants.uconn.edu">seagrants.uconn.edu</a> 860-405-9127
<b>Soil Nutrient Analysis Lab</b> soiltest@uconn.edu web: <a href="http://soiltest.uconn.edu">soiltest.uconn.edu</a> 860-486-4274	<b>Hartford County</b> hartford@uconn.edu 860-409-9050	<b>New London County</b> newlondon@uconn.edu 860-887-1608	<b>4-H Education Center at Auerfarm, Bloomfield, CT</b> web: <a href="http://auerfarm.org">auerfarm.org</a> 860-242-7144
<b>Home &amp; Garden Education Center</b> ladybug@uconn.edu <a href="http://homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu">homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu</a> 1-877-486-6271	<b>Litchfield County</b> litchfield@uconn.edu 860-626-6240	<b>Tolland County</b> tolland@uconn.edu 860-875-3331	<b>Master Gardener Plant Clinic at the Bartlett Arboretum</b> web: <a href="http://bartlettarboretum.org">bartlettarboretum.org</a> 203-322-6971 x18

Ask us your gardening questions! You can submit them online at [mastergardener.uconn.edu](http://mastergardener.uconn.edu) and then visit the "Ask Us A Question" page.








**Photos By: Kate Cook**

**Activity of the month:**

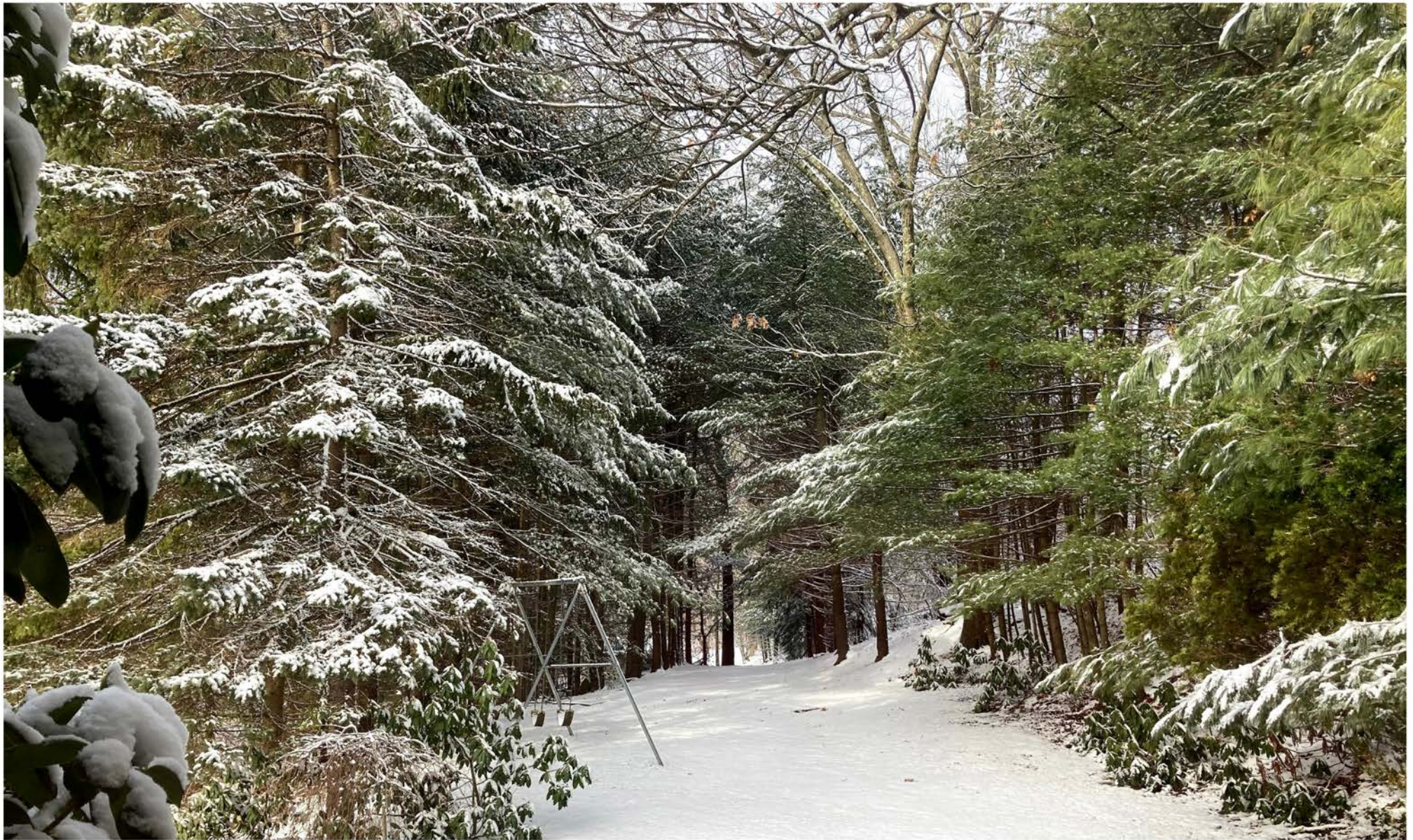
To assist native pollinators, start your wildflower seeds in the winter with simple household ingredients! Many native wildflowers need a cold, moist season to break seed dormancy; planting them in Fall or Winter mimics these conditions. Cut small holes in the bottom of your milk jug for drainage and slice the top off the jug, while leaving a portion by the handle intact. Fill the bottom half of the jug with soil and press seeds into the surface. Top with a small sprinkle of sand (many flowers need light to germinate) and close the new "lid" of the jug – sealing the cut with duct tape. Leave the cap off the jug to allow water in, and put outside in a sunny location until spring.

# January 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6 	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 FULL MOON	14 
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 LAST QUARTER 
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 NEW MOON 
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 FIRST QUARTER



**Activity of the month:**

While pruning flowering woody shrubs in late winter, bring a few stems with heavy buds inside to force them to bloom. Strip all buds on the part of the stem that will be underwater and arrange how you like. Keep in darkness for one day, and then bring out to a well-lit room. In about 2 weeks the blooms should open. Great flowers to try this with are: quince, forsythia, pussywillow, early blooming cherries, and apricots.

**Photo By: Gloria Shusdock**



# February 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11





**Photo By: Michael Demers**

**Activity of the month:**

Composting is a great way to turn food scraps and garden waste into an amazing amendment for your soil. Fancy bins, drums, and turning units are available but not essential. Compost piles do not need to be contained but piles look neater and animals are kept out. Build them on any flat site that allows for a 4 cubic foot pile. Cinder blocks, pallets, or fencing can be used to enclose the pile. Visit the site below for detailed instructions!  
<https://news.extension.uconn.edu/2014/09/08/>



# March 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	





Photo By: Kathy Beaty



Photo By: Diane Lemelin

### **Activity of the month:**

It is time to start seeding indoors! In our zone, sow tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and basil. Use a sterile seed starting blend and clean seed trays. Provide gentle heat to stimulate germination in these heat loving crops and plenty of light to prevent legginess. Pot up after two sets of leaves emerge to encourage healthy growth.



# April 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6 	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 	14 	15
16	17	18	19	20 	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30	1	2	3	4 	5	6





**Activity of the month:**

**Plant out cold hardy varieties first. Time to direct sow lettuce, carrots, beans, squash, corn, and onion sets. As a general guideline, the width of the seed determines the depth you should plant it. Follow seed packets for the best results and pay attention to spacing!**

**Photo By: Alexandra Arraiz**



# MAY 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10





**Activity of the month:**

Mulch is an incredible amendment that can help your trees, shrubs, and annuals withstand the summer heat. It helps by retaining water, inhibiting weeds and can provide a buffer when mowing or strimming . Use 1-2 inches of mulch around the plants. Be sure to leave space around stems or trunks. Wood chips, salt hay, straw, cedar chips, pine nuggets, chopped leaves, buckwheat hulls, cardboard, and even plastic sheeting makes appropriate mulch.

**Photo By: Gloria Shusdock**



# June 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 FULL MOON 
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 LAST QUARTER
18 	19	20	21	22	23	24
NEW MOON	26 	27	28 SUMMER SOLSTICE	29	30	1
25	3 FIRST QUARTER	4	5	6	7	8
2	3	4	5	6	7	8





Photos By: Katherine Dugas



### ABOVE

Beneficial insects such as Preying Mantis, *Mantis religiosa*, carpenter bees, *Xylocopa sp.*, and milkweed bugs *Oncopeltus fasciatus* may visit your garden through the year. They should be left to carry out their life cycle and help keep your garden healthy! Delaying Fall cleanup or bundling dead debris and setting it aside may help beneficial insects overwinter for next year.

### BELOW

Pest species such as Saddleback Caterpillar, *Acharia stimulea*, Eastern Tent Caterpillar, *Malacosoma americanum*, and the Four-lined Plant Bug, *Poecilocapsus lineatus*, can cause more harm than good and can be removed or destroyed. While the below are pests, they are also native to Eastern North America, so they may not need to be controlled if they are not causing damage.



Photos By: Katherine Dugas



**Activity of the month:**

July can be a rough month for the garden with the potential for drought. Keep in mind that most plants require about one inch of water a week to thrive. It is best to water deeply, infrequently, and at soil height if possible. If overhead watering, water in the early morning so that water droplets dry quickly with the sun and don't promote disease. To prepare for dry weather remember to mulch, set up irrigation with soaker hoses, plant natives that are more resilient to drought and set up a rain barrel, so you always have water on hand.

**Photo By: Pam Roman**



# July 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5





Photo By: Kate Cook

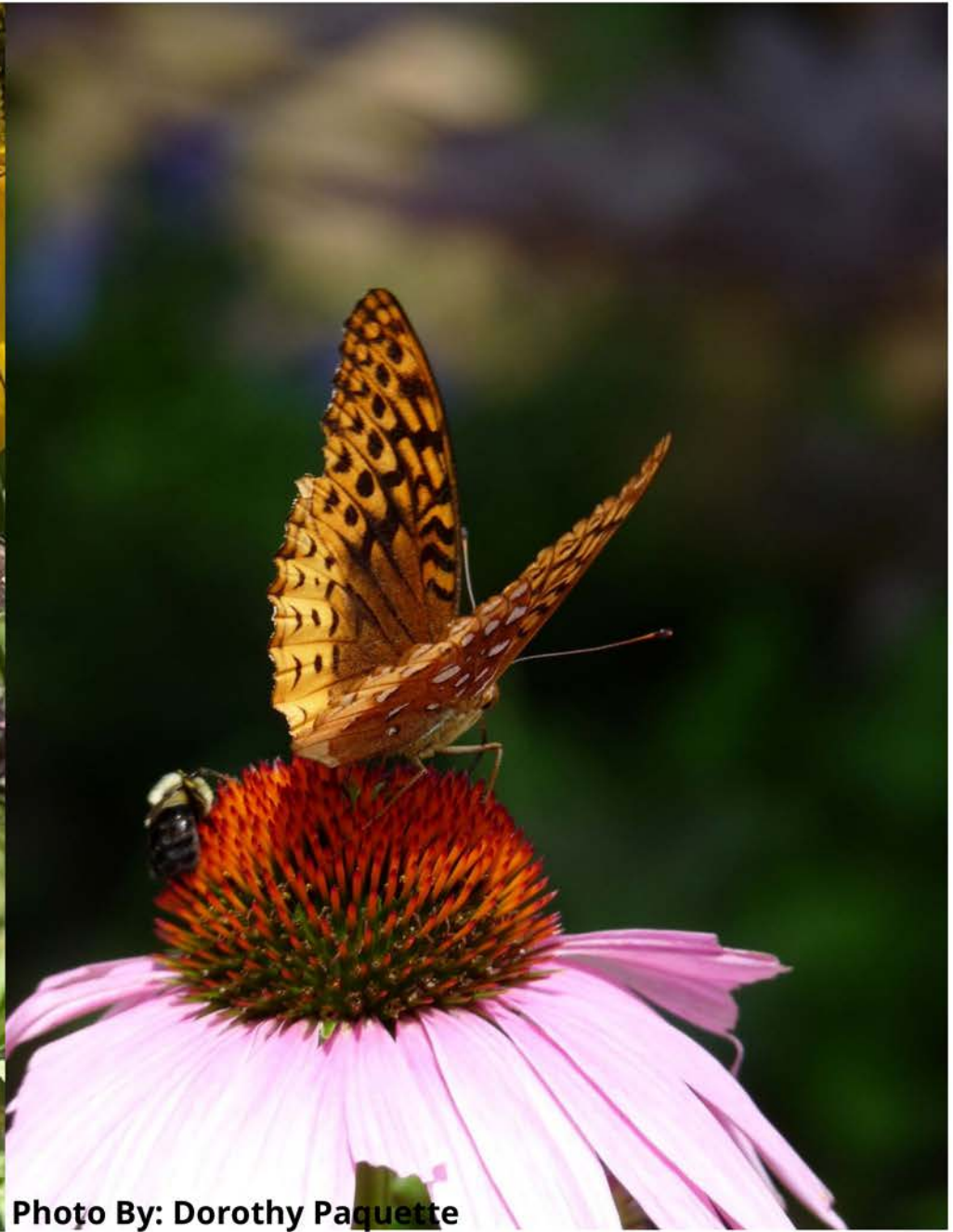


Photo By: Dorothy Paquette

**Activity of the month:**

Butterflies are an indicator of a healthy environment and August is one of the best times of year to see them. Create a list of the species you see flying in your garden! You may see them around coneflowers, black eyed susans, golden rod, asters, bee balm, and milkweed.

**Extra Activity:** Look for and collect pinecones – they can be used for wreath making in December.



# August 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1 	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 FULL MOON 	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 LAST QUARTER	16 	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 NEW MOON	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 FIRST QUARTER 	1	2
3	4	5	6 FULL MOON	7	8	9





### **Activity of the month:**





In September apple orchards are open for business. Apples are delicious fresh, but they can also easily be processed into homemade apple sauce! First wash, peel, and core the apples. Add a small amount of water to a pot, add your apples, and cook them down on low heat until they resemble mush. This should take about 20-30 minutes depending on the variety and amount you are using. Add ground cinnamon and cloves and a bit of sweetener if desired.

**Photo By: Dorothy Paquette**



# September 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6 	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 LAST QUARTER	14 NEW MOON 	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 	23 AUTUMNAL EQUINOX
24	25	26	27	28	29 FULL MOON 	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7





**Activity of the month:**

If pumpkin carving is a part of your Fall traditions, make roasted pumpkin seeds to eat as a snack while you decorate. Preheat your oven to 275 degrees. Clean the pumpkin seeds with water until they are no longer slimy. Toss them with salt and other seasoning of your choice and put them in the oven for thirty minutes or until brown and crunchy, stirring every 10-15 minutes.

Photo By: Lorraine Ballato



# October 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 LAST QUARTER	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 NEW MOON
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 FIRST QUARTER
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 FULL MOON
5	6	7	8	9	10	11





**Activity of the month:**

Support the birds in your area by making natural pinecone birdfeeders. Spread peanut butter on pinecones and roll them in birdseed. Make sure peanut butter, seeds and nuts you use are raw and unsalted – using premixed birdseed is best. Putting out water is also important throughout the year. Once your feeder is out, make sure to watch which species are visiting your home! Are there any you have not seen before?

**Photo By: Melanie Licwinko**



# November 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
LAST QUARTER						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	NEW MOON					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	FIRST QUARTER					
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
	FULL MOON					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9





**Activity of the month:**





Use fresh branches from shrubs and trees to make winter wreaths. Collect grapevines or invasive bittersweet vines to make the frame; be sure to leave any berries where you find them and not use them for decoration as they easily spread. Use wire or florist pins to attach greens in a spiral pattern around the wreath. Pinecones gathered from the summer can be a fantastic addition as well and are best tacked on with hot glue.

**Photo By: Kim Boulay**



# December 2023

**UConn** | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
EXTENSION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5 	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



# Connecticut and Rhode Island





EXTENSION

2023

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



# UConn Master Gardener Calendar 2023



JANUARY



MAY



SEPTEMBER



FEBRUARY



JUNE



OCTOBER



MARCH



JULY



NOVEMBER



APRIL



AUGUST



DECEMBER