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**Communications & Information Technology**

believe it.

*Nature's Close-ups*, produced by Communications and Information Technology, a part of the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, costs **\$8.95** plus postage.

- Find answers to these and other questions
- How do I get larger dahlias?
- What causes blossom end rot on tomatoes?
- Are orange daylilies native plants?
- Where can I get my soil tested?
- Why are ants on my peonies?
- When can I start seedlings indoors?
- How many deer are in Connecticut?
- What is *Santolina chamaecyparissus*?

- This wall calendar brings you
- 12 up-close photos of plants
- Daily tips with a regional slant (**all new**)
- 9 1/2" x 12 1/2", 28-page format
- In-depth plant information
- Space for taking notes
- U.S. holidays
- 2006 and 2007 calendar grids
- Moon phases

Detail of August 23rd showing gardening tip and moon phase.



*August, '06*

Early-blooming plants, which are ready to die back, grow in many Connecticut gardens. Many of these plants are perennials and are well-suited for the Connecticut climate. They are also easy to care for and are a great choice for the garden. The calendar provides a list of these plants and their characteristics, along with tips on how to care for them. The calendar is available in both print and digital formats.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30	31				



# Nature's Close-ups

## 2006 Gardening Calendar



University of Connecticut  
 College of Agriculture and Natural Resources



# January '06

Although the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources winter landscape seems peacefully still, much **plant research** is ongoing inside the College's facilities. Eventually, many of these projects will benefit homeowners and gardeners, their environment and the quality of life.

For example, the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Nutrient Management Programs seek ways to reduce ground and surface water contamination by cutting pesticide use and nutrient inputs. Municipal land use planning guidelines and a water quality study of residential subdivision development runoff occupy the Landscape Architecture Program staff.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> Keep poinsettias out of drafts.	<b>2</b> <b>New Year's Day Observed</b> Put the tree outside; redecorate it with bread & suet.	<b>3</b> Rub candle wax on shovels; snow slips off.	<b>4</b> Request seed catalogs.	<b>5</b> Salt-tolerant species: juniper, blue spruce, Norway maple	<b>6</b> Use a soft, damp cloth to dust houseplant leaves.	<b>7</b> Try holding amaryllis for next winter.
<b>8</b> Coffee grounds are a source of nitrogen.	<b>9</b> Gently brush heavy snow from shrubs.	<b>10</b> Visit a greenhouse for a hint of spring.	<b>11</b> Road salt damage mimics drought injury.	<b>12</b> Notice gaps in the winter landscape design.	<b>13</b> Stamping snow around trees discourages rodents.	<b>14</b> If ice freezes on evergreens, let it melt naturally.
<b>15</b> Rhododendron leaves curl in cold weather.	<b>16</b> <b>Martin Luther King Day</b> Car floor mats give traction to spinning tires.	<b>17</b> 'First Kiss Blueberry' is the 1 <sup>st</sup> violet-blue vinca.	<b>18</b> Think spring!	<b>19</b> Potassium improves winter hardiness.	<b>20</b> Normal thaw dates: Jan. 20-25.	<b>21</b> Flower buds can expand after 2+ weeks of mild weather.
<b>22</b> Consider a vegetable garden this year.	<b>23</b> Calcium chloride deicer is safer for plants.	<b>24</b> Sodium chloride deicer is less safe.	<b>25</b> Check stored bulbs for rotting.	<b>26</b> Buy publications at <a href="http://www.store.uconn.edu">www.store.uconn.edu</a> .	<b>27</b> Flowering houseplants need sun.	<b>28</b> Investigate adding a water feature this year.
<b>29</b> 1 cup of snap peas= 45 calories.	<b>30</b> Save March 8 & 9 for UConn Plant Conferences.	<b>31</b> Conference info: <a href="mailto:mark.brand@uconn.edu">mark.brand@uconn.edu</a> .				

☾ Last Quarter

☀ New Moon

☾ First Quarter

☀ Full Moon

**DECEMBER 2005**

S	M	T	W	T	H	F	S
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**FEBRUARY**

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# February '06

Peonies, here the fragrant *Paeonia* 'Festiva Maxima', signal spring's arrival for many and bloom in May and June. Of over 20 species, three are most familiar in the United States. The old-fashioned hybrids are part of *lactiflora*. *Suffruticosa*, a shrub, is the tree peony and often grafted into *lactiflora*. Difficult to grow and not widely available is *tenuifolia*, which has fernlike foliage and deep red flowers.

These plants survive for many years in the garden; the cut flowers last up to a week. Peonies form single, semi-double, double, Japanese or anemone flowers.

Ants are attracted to a sweet secretion on the peony flower buds. This neither harms nor helps the peonies. After cutting peonies, turn the flowers upside down and shake them to rid the bouquets of ants.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Sweep light snow instead of shoveling.	<b>2</b> Sketch plans for new plantings.	<b>3</b> Mealybugs have white, cottony egg sacs.	<b>4</b> Add color indoors with a flowering houseplant.
<b>5</b> Peat moss will lower the soil pH.	<b>6</b> Deer fence should be at least 8' high.	<b>7</b> Keep leaves under shrubs for root insulation.	<b>8</b> Try planting some new vegetables every year.	<b>9</b> When new growth begins, fertilize houseplants.	<b>10</b> Fertilize houseplants every 6-8 weeks.	<b>11</b> Buy a color wheel for garden planning.
☾ First Quarter						
<b>12</b> Americans prefer their roses to be red.	<b>13</b> Red roses symbolize love.	<b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> Buy flowers for your main squeeze.	<b>15</b> Finish garden mail orders.	<b>16</b> Sharpen & clean garden tools.	<b>17</b> Compost piles recycle organic materials.	<b>18</b> Don't add pet waste to the compost pile.
	● New Moon					
<b>19</b> Habanero peppers have 300,000+ Scoville units.	<b>20</b> <b>President's Day</b> Spinach overwinters easily.	<b>21</b> Check out library books about landscape design.	<b>22</b> Rabbits prefer pine tree bark to that of firs & spruces.	<b>23</b> Visit us at the CT Flower & Garden Show.	<b>24</b> Test the soil before starting a new planting.	<b>25</b> Test an established lawn's soil every 3 years.
		☾ Last Quarter				
<b>26</b> Garden Show, Hartford Expo Center, ends today.	<b>27</b> Apple & pear trees may be pruned soon.	<b>28</b> Force branches of forsythia/pussy willow.				
		○ Full Moon				
					<b>JANUARY</b> S M T W TH 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	
					<b>MARCH</b> S M T W TH 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	



# March '06

**FEBRUARY**

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**APRIL**

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With their variety of form and size, **ornamental grasses** add color, texture and drama to the home landscape. These hardy, low maintenance grasses work as screens or as accent plants in perennial gardens and containers. Ornamental grasses provide four seasons of interest in the landscape. Their showy flower heads make dried arrangements more interesting. In addition, they appeal to the senses as they move in the wind and create a rustling sound. Some grasses send out side shoots and may spread rapidly. Others grow as clumps that increase more slowly. Experts say that clump forming ornamental grasses may be the best choice in many landscape situations. Some clumping grasses are: *Deschampsia* (hair grass), *Helictotrichon sempervirens* (blue oat grass), *Miscanthus*, *Molinia caerulea* (moor grass) and *Pennisetum* (fountain grass).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Start seeds 8-10 weeks before transplanting.	<b>2</b> Always use fresh seed.	<b>3</b> Use clean containers & seed starting mix.	<b>4</b> Indoors, add artificial light to sunlight for seeds.
<b>5</b> Seed germination happens fastest at 65-75 degrees.	<b>6</b> Don't forget to water seedlings.  ☾ First Quarter	<b>7</b> Crocuses grow best in a pH of 6.0-7.5..	<b>8</b> Plant Conference, UConn Rome Ballroom	<b>9</b> Plant Conference, UConn Rome Ballroom	<b>10</b> Phosphorus encourages root growth, flowering & fruiting.	<b>11</b> Stay out of soggy garden plots.
<b>12</b> Average CT snowfall: 30"-50".	<b>13</b> Pot tender bulbs for earliest blooms.	<b>14</b> Cannas, caladiums, dahlias are tender.  ● New Moon	<b>15</b> Take 4-6" cuttings of leggy geraniums.	<b>16</b> Order new fruit trees now.	<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> Bare root plants are shipped in early spring.	<b>18</b> 1 tsp. soil can hold 10 million bacteria.
<b>19</b> Hickory, oak & walnut trees give wildlife food & shelter.	<b>20</b> Repot houseplants.  ☽ Vernal Equinox 1:26 PM EST	<b>21</b> Know the difference between warm & cool season vegetables.	<b>22</b> Check landscape plants for winter damage.  ☾ Last Quarter	<b>23</b> Remove heavy, wet snow from plants.	<b>24</b> Plant tomato & eggplant seeds indoors.	<b>25</b> Plant cole crops & hardy annual seeds indoors.
<b>26</b> Bayberry & ground juniper like dry, sunny areas.	<b>27</b> Prune fruit trees & blueberry bushes.	<b>28</b> Follow the weather, not the calendar, when planting.	<b>29</b> Foliage feeds the bulb for next year. Do not cut.  ● Full Moon	<b>30</b> Use rain barrels to collect water for gardens.	<b>31</b> Yellow sticky cards attract greenhouse whiteflies.	



# April '06

## MARCH

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## MAY

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White flowers and a stamen with periwinkle blue filament hairs make the *Tradescantia x Andersoniana 'Osprey'* perennial a stunning standout in the family Commelinaceae. It grows to about 20 inches high and blooms in early summer to early fall. This hybrid spiderwort tolerates sun to partial shade and prefers moist, fertile soils. The plants are about 15 inches wide and sometimes spread into other areas of the garden.

The only spiderworts native to Connecticut are Virginia spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*) and Ohio spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*), according to the Connecticut Botanical Society. Like these, many species of *Tradescantia* have blue or violet flowers.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> Take a garden walk to spot winterkill.
<b>2</b> Average April precipitation: 4"	<b>3</b> Soil testing info: <a href="http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu">www.ladybug.uconn.edu</a>  ☾ First Quarter	<b>4</b> Renovate lawns when the soil dries & is workable.	<b>5</b> Remove winter mulches from perennial beds.	<b>6</b> Remove winter mulches from roses.	<b>7</b> Most cultivated plants need a soil pH of 6.0-7.0.	<b>8</b> Grow what you know.
<b>9</b> Annual weeds emerge in the spring.	<b>10</b> Set cold tolerant pansies in window boxes.	<b>11</b> Fertilize asparagus & rhubarb beds.	<b>12</b> Fertilize all fruits except strawberries.	<b>13</b> Fertilize trees & shrubs mid month.  ● New Moon	<b>14 Good Friday</b> Do not fertilize lawns until after April 15 <sup>th</sup> .	<b>15</b> Nonselective herbicides kill leaves on contact.
<b>16 Easter</b> Soil = ½ solid material+ ½ space between the particles.	<b>17</b> Scout for asparagus beetles & spruce gall adelgids.	<b>18</b> Scout for Eastern tent caterpillar & European pine sawfly.	<b>19</b> Dig up unwanted or misplaced plants.  ☾ Last Quarter	<b>20</b> Clean up dead branches & twigs in the yard.	<b>21</b> Houseplants need micronutrients.	<b>22</b> Prune broken shrub branches.
<b>23</b> Cultural weed control = prevention + sanitation.  Use well-rotted manure, not fresh.	<b>24</b> Control insects when the population is small.	<b>25</b> Apply preemergent herbicides before weeds emerge.	<b>26</b> Pole beans save space & yield more.	<b>27</b> Plant trees at the same depth at which they grew.  ● Full Moon	<b>28 Connecticut Arbor Day</b> Plant a tree.	<b>29</b> The CT State tree is white oak.
<b>30</b>						



# May '06

Cultivars of bachelor's button (*Centaurea cyanus*) are pink, blue, purple/wine or white. Its nectar and numerous seeds act as food sources for insects and birds.

Butterflies, ladybugs, green lacewings and other beneficial insects like the nectar. Sparrows, finches and juncos eat the dried seeds. Gardeners might see songbirds foraging while the plant is still blooming because seed heads mature at different times. Ground-feeding birds get the seeds that drop from the flower...a sort of natural bird feeder.

Plant lots of bachelor's button with other annuals in a sunny spot. If garden space is limited, use containers or window boxes. Do not use pesticides. Leave the spent flowers on the plant. Then, watch what this wildlife haven attracts.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Start a gardening journal with a child.	<b>2</b> Water small seeds (carrot & lettuce) until they germinate.	<b>3</b> Weeding is easier when weeds are small.	<b>4</b> Transplant broccoli, cauliflower & cabbage now to mid-May.	<b>5</b> Wait to set out tender plants like tomatoes.	<b>6</b> Divide summer & fall blooming perennials.
					First Quarter	
<b>7</b> Black vine weevil is a rhododendron pest.	<b>8</b> Set your lawn mower to cut at 2" high.	<b>9</b> Edge, weed & mulch ornamental plantings.	<b>10</b> Find cutworms in the soil below damaged plants.	<b>11</b> Fertilize roses in mid-May, mid-June & mid-July.	<b>12</b> Prune forsythias, weigelas & lilacs after flowers fade.	<b>13</b> Plant gladioli corms at 2-week intervals now until late June.
						Full Moon
<b>14</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> Honor Mom by planting a flowering shrub.	<b>15</b> Plant tender bulbs outside mid-May.	<b>16</b> Fertilize perennials & groundcovers.	<b>17</b> Transplant corn for early harvest.	<b>18</b> Save the sunniest spot for peppers & eggplant.	<b>19</b> Edge, weed & mulch perennial beds.	<b>20</b> Divide asters, mums, sedum & boltonia.
						Last Quarter
<b>21</b> Sunflowers grow quickly & fascinate children.	<b>22</b> Maintain lawns at a pH of about 6.5.	<b>23</b> Apply manure 60 days or more before vegetable harvest.	<b>24</b> Follow all pesticide label instructions.	<b>25</b> Use care with rotary tillers.	<b>26</b> Choose disease-resistant plant varieties.	<b>27</b> Children love to grow zinnias & cosmos.
						New Moon
<b>28</b> Plant Brussels sprouts the 1 <sup>st</sup> week of June.	<b>29</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> Look for early blight resistant tomatoes.	<b>30</b> Harden off transplants before planting.	<b>31</b> Set out tomatoes & annuals after the last frost.	<b>APRIL</b> S M T W TH 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		<b>JUNE</b> S M T W TH 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



# June '06

## MAY

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## JULY

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These **blueberries** (*genus: Vaccinium*) will be ready for picking in July and August. Blueberries are fully ripe three to six days after turning blue. At that time, the fruit attains its peak flavor, sugar content and size. Berries with some red are not ripe yet.

To pick, roll ripe fruit from the cluster into the palm of the hand with the thumb into a container. Avoid excessive handling, which may destroy the fruit's attractive, whitish surface cover (bloom) and increase bruising and spoilage. Wash the berries just before using them. Although they are perishable, blueberries keep better than raspberries or strawberries.

### SUNDAY

### MONDAY

### TUESDAY

### WEDNESDAY

### THURSDAY

### FRIDAY

### SATURDAY

				<b>1</b> Leaf mulch is good for the entire vegetable garden.	<b>2</b> Leaf mulch should be 4" thick.	<b>3</b> Move some houseplants outdoors.  ☾ First Quarter
<b>4</b> Hydrangeas develop bluer flowers in acidic soil.	<b>5</b> Watch for wooly adelgids on hemlocks.	<b>6</b> Use annuals for instant color.	<b>7</b> Check lilacs & dogwoods for borers.	<b>8</b> Add compost for healthy vegetable plants.	<b>9</b> Mulch azaleas & rhododendrons to protect surface roots.	<b>10</b> Stake tomatoes to control disease.
<b>11</b> <b>Father's Day</b> Stake tall perennials before they flop over.  ☽ Full Moon	<b>12</b> Strawberries produce best in 6.2 pH, sandy loam soil.	<b>13</b> Slow release fertilizers supply nutrients throughout the summer.	<b>14</b> Do oak trees amid limed lawns have yellow leaves?	<b>15</b> Then, rule out a high pH with a soil test.	<b>16</b> Check evergreen euonymus plants for signs of scale.	<b>17</b> Scale insect adults are white, rod like & immobile.
<b>18</b> Scale larvae are bright orange & can move.  ☾ Last Quarter	<b>19</b> Cucumber beetle arrives in mid-June.	<b>20</b> Preemergent herbicides control weeds for 2-3 months.	<b>21</b> Sucker tomatoes for air flow through the canopy.  Summer Solstice 7:26 AM EST	<b>22</b> Exclude pests with floating row covers.	<b>23</b> Air currents & splashing water disseminate Botrytis.	<b>24</b> Get a child to eat vegetables by growing them with her.
<b>25</b> Mulch to conserve moisture & reduce weeds.  ☽ New Moon	<b>26</b> Dolomitic limestone supplies calcium & magnesium.	<b>27</b> Roses are the world's most popular garden plant.	<b>28</b> 'Pardon Me' Hemerocallis is susceptible to rust.	<b>29</b> Plant potatoes late to avoid potato beetle.	<b>30</b> Potatoes can be planted until the 1 <sup>st</sup> week of July.	



# July '06

**Dahlias** are tender, which means they have fleshy storage structures (tuberous roots) that will be killed if they are left outside in Connecticut winters. Dig them up after the first killing frost has damaged the foliage. Carefully loosen the soil on all sides of the plant before lifting the clump of roots and soil. Remember that damaged areas are susceptible to diseases that cause rotting. Remove excess soil and inspect for pests. Then, cure for a few days in an area away from sun and wind. Label stored dahlias with the cultivar name and other identifying information. Periodically check the stored dahlias. Cut away rotted areas until clean white, fleshy tissue appears.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JUNE</b> S M T W TH 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	<b>AUGUST</b> S M T W TH 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					<b>1</b> Potassium improves disease resistance.
<b>2</b> Bats eat insects. Provide a bat house.	<b>3</b> Regularly water houseplants, inside & outside.   First Quarter	<b>4 Independence Day</b> European corn borer: most damaging Northeast pepper pest.	<b>5</b> European corn borers lay eggs on peppers in July & August.	<b>6</b> Look under leaves for insect eggs.	<b>7</b> Divide iris after they bloom.	<b>8</b> Divide vigorous bearded iris after 3 years.
<b>9</b> Slugs like cool, moist locations.	<b>10</b> Orange daylilies are naturalized in CT but not native.	<b>11</b> Mechanical control includes hand weeding.   Full Moon	<b>12</b> The 3 numbers on a fertilizer bag: nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium.	<b>13</b> Nonspecific systemic herbicides translocate to the roots.	<b>14</b> Potassium improves drought tolerance.	<b>15</b> Gadzukes zucchini cuts into star shapes.
<b>16</b> River rocks on top of container soil may deter chipmunks.	<b>17</b> Do not cut more than 1/3 of the grass height when mowing.   Last Quarter	<b>18</b> Side-dress long season vegetables if plants look pale.	<b>19</b> Powdery mildew looks like white powder on leaves.	<b>20</b> Water before fertilizing houseplants.	<b>21</b> Solarization will not kill weed seeds in CT.	<b>22</b> Start a compost pile..
<b>23</b> Blueberries prefer a soil pH of about 5.0.	<b>24</b> Perennial weeds reproduce vegetatively or by seed.	<b>25</b> Stop fertilizing lawns during very hot weather.	<b>26</b> Have a friend water your houseplants while you are away.	<b>27</b> Hold your hoe with your thumbs pointing up.	<b>28</b> Baby bats begin learning to fly at night.	<b>29</b> Keep vegetables picked for continuous harvest.
<b>30</b> Nitrogen stimulates green leafy growth.	<b>31</b> Seaweed makes good vegetable compost.	 New Moon				





# September '06

**Zonal geraniums** (genus: *Pelargonium*), sold as bedding plants, are the most common geraniums. Some of them have variegated leaf colors and fancy leaf shapes. Other types of geraniums are available, as well. Ideal for hanging baskets and window boxes, ivy-leaved geraniums have a trailing habit. They prefer moderate temperatures and can withstand shade. The Martha Washington geranium does not perform well outdoors, partly because high temperatures inhibit flower bud formation. Scented-leaved geraniums can be rose, lemon, nutmeg, apple or peppermint scented. Use them as houseplants and along paths where they emit scents when the leaves are brushed or crushed. The "mosquito" is a scented geranium with a citronella grass gene. Its mosquito repelling ability is not proven.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>AUGUST</b> S M T W TH 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	<b>OCTOBER</b> S M T W TH 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				<b>1</b> Inspect the leaf blower.	<b>2</b> Pot up small herbs to bring indoors for winter harvest.
<b>3</b> Bone meal contains phosphorus.	<b>4</b> <b>Labor Day</b> Plant spring-flowering bulbs.	<b>5</b> Potatoes need calcium for abundant harvests.	<b>6</b> Take cuttings of begonias & coleus to overwinter indoors.	<b>7</b> Overseed, renovate or start lawns.   Full Moon	<b>8</b> Apply ground limestone, as necessary.	<b>9</b> Keep newly planted trees & shrubs well watered.
<b>10</b> September ranks 2 <sup>nd</sup> in clear days (8.6).	<b>11</b> Take precautions against ticks when you are outside.	<b>12</b> Check pets for ticks.	<b>13</b> Bring in tuberous begonias before frost strikes.	<b>14</b> Return summering houseplants to the house.   Last Quarter	<b>15</b> Check houseplants for pests.	<b>16</b> When frost threatens, cover plants with old sheets.
<b>17</b> Early color changes of leaves may signal that your trees are in trouble.	<b>18</b> Reseed bare areas in lawns now.	<b>19</b> Peonies, lilies & evergreens can be transplanted.	<b>20</b> Pot up some bulbs to force over the winter.	<b>21</b> Check your local garden centers for fall sales.	<b>22</b> Skateboards help move heavy potted plants.  <i>Autumnal Equinox</i> 11:03 PM EST  New Moon	<b>23</b> Buy a lemon or mint scented geranium for inside.
<b>24</b> Go to <a href="http://dep.state.ct.us/updates/foliage/index.htm">http://dep.state.ct.us/updates/foliage/index.htm</a>	<b>25</b> Locate your rake before the leaves fall.	<b>26</b> For early blooms, put bulbs on a house's south side.	<b>27</b> Dry onions & garlic out of the sun.	<b>28</b> Continue mowing until the grass stops growing.	<b>29</b> There is still time to plant trees, shrubs & perennials.	<b>30</b> Fall is a great time to test your soil.   First Quarter

# October '06

**Calendula officinalis**, commonly called pot marigold, is the birthday flower for October.

This ancient flower may have gotten its name from the belief that it bloomed on calends, the first day of the month in the ancient Roman calendar. Shakespeare highlighted its popularity in his time by writing about calendula, calling it Mary-buds. In the Victorian language of flowers, calendula means "grief" because the flower may have grown on soil disturbed by war.

As early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century, fresh and dried calendula petals were used in herbal remedies and grooming products. Cooks have used calendula as a flavoring for soups and stews (possibly the origin of the term "pot" marigold).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Pests can overwinter in plant debris.	<b>2</b> Remove spent vegetable plants from the garden.	<b>3</b> Sow cover crops in vegetable garden vacant areas.	<b>4</b> Rake leaves when they are dry & lightweight.	<b>5</b> Start a compost pile with raked leaves.	<b>6</b> Cut down raspberry canes that have finished producing.	<b>7</b> Fertilize trees or shrubs before October 15 <sup>th</sup> .  ● Full Moon
<b>8</b> Take leaves home from a walk & do leaf rubbings.	<b>9</b> <b>Columbus Day</b> Weed perennial gardens one last time.	<b>10</b> Cut mums back to 4" after they finish blooming.	<b>11</b> Let mum leaves collect around the base of the plant.	<b>12</b> Average date for peak fall color to begin.	<b>13</b> Consider planting ornamental kale & cabbage.	<b>14</b> Stop fertilizing lawns after October 15 <sup>th</sup> .  ● Last Quarter
<b>15</b> Oct. has more clear days than any other month (9.1).	<b>16</b> Clean & store spray equipment.	<b>17</b> Cut asparagus stalks after they are killed by frost.	<b>18</b> Dig up tender bulbs when the tops die.	<b>19</b> Use real grapevines & pinecones as decorations.	<b>20</b> Store fertilizers & pesticides in a dark, dry place.	<b>21</b> Visit a farm & get a pumpkin to carve.
<b>22</b> Plant a windowsill herb garden.  ● New Moon	<b>23</b> Clean & store spray equipment.	<b>24</b> Prune tree branches that touch the house.	<b>25</b> Start amaryllis 6 - 8 weeks before giving it.	<b>26</b> Remove dead stems & leaves from perennials.	<b>27</b> Clean & store stakes & tomato cages.	<b>28</b> Gently rake leaves out of groundcovers.
<b>29</b> Feed the birds.  ● First Quarter	<b>30</b> Pick your own apples at a local orchard.	<b>31</b> <b>Halloween</b> Buy some cider, too.				

**SEPTEMBER**

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**NOVEMBER**

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# November '06

Gray santolina (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*) or lavender cotton seems to do about everything except leap tall buildings in a single bound. This aromatic herb is seen in container and knot gardens and as an edging and hedge plant. Because of the way santolina's foliage reflects light, it is planted in moonlit or white gardens. This plant graces historical gardens, such as one at the Noah Webster House, and spells out "Elizabeth Park" in Hartford.

It is being investigated by historical museums as an old-time integrated pest management measure for their collections. Santolina is still used as an ingredient in modern moth repellents and potpourris. It is drought tolerant, deer resistant and may keep ants outside the house, as well.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Rake leaves before snow falls to avoid gray snow mold.	<b>2</b> Mulch late plantings of spring bulbs.	<b>3</b> Buy a snow shovel early in the season.	<b>4</b> If fall was dry, give woody ornamentals a deep watering.
<b>5</b> Try blue Hubbard squash for pies.  ● Full Moon	<b>6</b> Put winter protection on roses when the ground freezes.	<b>7</b> Cut mums back to 4" after they finish blooming.	<b>8</b> Store lawn furniture & statuary that is not weatherproof.	<b>9</b> Start paper whites 6 weeks before gift giving.	<b>10</b> <b>Veteran's Day Observed</b> Plant garlic just before the ground freezes.	<b>11</b> <b>Veteran's Day</b> Store extra seeds in a cool, dry place.
<b>12</b> On average, the first snowfall comes today.  ◐ Last Quarter	<b>13</b> Turn off outdoor faucets.	<b>14</b> Winterize mowers.	<b>15</b> Fencing: the most effective year round rabbit control.	<b>16</b> Delay fertilizing most houseplants until spring.	<b>17</b> Keep Christmas cacti away from light at night.	<b>18</b> Put feeders near vegetative cover for birds.
<b>19</b> A pH of 7 is neutral.  ● New Moon	<b>20</b> A pH below 7 is acidic.	<b>21</b> A pH above 7 is alkaline.	<b>22</b> Store long handled tools in an old garbage can.	<b>23</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> Black oil sunflower appeals to many birds.	<b>24</b> Order the 2007 gardening calendar. (860) 486-3336	<b>25</b> Buy an evergreen wreath for your front door.
<b>26</b> Zippered plastic bags keep ice out of shed padlocks.	<b>27</b> Repair bent edges on metal snow shovels.	<b>28</b> Petroleum jelly prevents rust on metal garden tools.  ◐ First Quarter	<b>29</b> Rub wooden handles with boiled linseed oil.	<b>30</b> Gift ideas: rain gauge, gardening books.	<b>OCTOBER</b> S M T W T H 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	<b>DECEMBER</b> S M T W T H 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



# December '06

## NOVEMBER

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## JANUARY 2007

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This *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* hybrid, commonly called Chinese hibiscus, is tropical and are not well suited to Connecticut's hardiness zones. However, with the right conditions, it will grow well in a greenhouse or a sunny garden room. These plants like bright light and warmth, lots of water, high humidity and rich media.

The blooms will not be as profuse or constant as those seen in Malaysia where hibiscus is the national flower. *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* comes in white, yellow, orange, apricot, red and pink or combinations of those colors with double or single flowers and ruffled or fringed petal edges.

Potential pests include aphids, whitefly, spider mites, whitefly, mealybug and scale. Yellowing leaves and bud drop may be a problem, as well.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> Take hazardous chemical leftovers to a collection site.	<b>2</b> Dig the hole for a live tree before the ground freezes.
<b>3</b> Start a weather journal with a child.	<b>4</b> Put rodent guards around fruit trees.	<b>5</b> Antidesiccants help stop moisture loss on rhododendrons.	<b>6</b> Consider cutting your own CT-grown Christmas tree.	<b>7</b> Cut 1" from the tree so it can absorb water.	<b>8</b> Water the Christmas tree with a turkey baster.	<b>9</b> Decorate trees with cranberry & popcorn strings.
		☉ Full Moon				
<b>10</b> Finches prefer thistle seed.	<b>11</b> Buy a newer variety of poinsettia.	<b>12</b> Keep poinsettias at 60°.	<b>13</b> Most yams are grown outside the country.	<b>14</b> Cook with sweet potatoes in place of yams.	<b>15</b> CT state flower: mountain laurel	<b>16</b> Extended snow cover promotes gray snow mold.
		☾ Last Quarter				
<b>17</b> Twelve towns in CT qualified for Tree City USA.	<b>18</b> Water when houseplant soil is dry at a 1" depth.	<b>19</b> Store firewood outdoors to keep insects at bay.	<b>20</b> Soil testing kits make good stocking stuffers.	<b>21</b> A brush pile will provide cover for birds.	<b>22</b> Keep the root ball of live trees moist.	<b>23</b> Gift ideas: bird house/feeder, pruners, colorful wellies
			● New Moon	<i>Winter Solstice</i> 7:22 PM EST		
<b>24</b> Male goldfinches molt from olive drab to yellow in spring.	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> Live trees should not stay indoors more than 10 days.	<b>26</b> Use dilute liquid fertilizer every 2 weeks on poinsettias & amaryllis.	<b>27</b> A cool, bright spot prolongs holiday cactus bloom.	<b>28</b> CT has about 75,000 white-tailed deer.	<b>29</b> Combat low humidity by grouping houseplants together.	<b>30</b> Woodpeckers like suet.
			☾ First Quarter			
<b>31</b> A complete fertilizer has nitrogen, phosphorus & potassium						

Communications and Information Technology (CIT), part of the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, produces the *Nature's Close-ups* calendar and uses the proceeds to further its mission. CIT works with and for the College in the areas of network solutions, innovative graphic design, editorial support and publication distribution.

The College offers baccalaureate and graduate degrees in various majors and an associate degree program. For example, students can obtain plant science degrees in agronomy, horticulture and landscape architecture.

In these disciplines, as well as others, the College conducts basic and applied research and provides outreach education to benefit Connecticut's citizens, their environment and their quality of life.

# College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

There are five ways to purchase additional calendars. They are **\$8.95** plus shipping.

1. Call (860) 486-3336.
2. Fax (860) 486-0100.
3. Mail the order to  
University of Connecticut  
Communications and Information Technology  
Publications Resource Center  
1376 Storrs Road, Unit 4035  
Storrs, CT 06269-4035.
4. Go to **www.store.uconn.edu** and order online.
5. Visit the W.B. Young Building, Room 2 on the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus.  
**Business hours are 8 AM to 12 noon and 1 PM to 4:30 PM.**

Checks should be made payable to University of Connecticut. The Store accepts Visa and MasterCard, as well.



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## 2006

### JANUARY 2006

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### SEPTEMBER 2006

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### NOVEMBER 2006

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## 2007

### JANUARY 2007

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