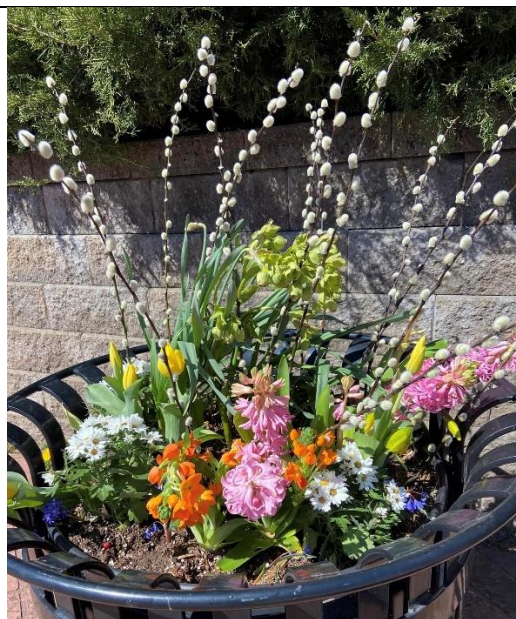




**Come Grow with Us
as a new member of the
Colchester Garden Club
in 2024**



One of the 14 town planters Colchester Garden Club members plant and maintain through the seasons.

The Colchester Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community organization focused on horticultural education, hands-on learning, beautifying the community and offering our members many other benefits. A personalized welcome package is provided to each new member with information related to their gardening interests. Monthly meetings (4th Monday of month at 6:00 p.m. at the Cragin Memorial Library) most of the year include educational presentations. Community service projects benefit Colchester and provide an opportunity to learn from more experienced gardeners and certified Master Gardener members. Additional activities, garden Learn and Do sessions, garden tours and more are offered.

Individual Membership \$25.00/year
Couples Membership \$40.00/year

To request information About the Colchester Garden Club, membership materials, or gift membership, please email colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com

Upcoming Programs and Activities

- Tuesday, May 7th at 4:30 pm - Fairy Garden Opening at Cragin Memorial Library (Rain date May 14th)
- May 11, 2024 – 10:30 a.m. *Success with Hydrangeas* presented by Lorraine Ballato, Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave. **Advance Registration is required.** Please call 860-537-5752 or stop by the Library's Adult Circulation desk to register. Co-sponsored by the Colchester Garden Club and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library
- Saturday, May 11th - Mother's Day Story Walk Activity at Cohen Woodlands. More details to follow
- Saturday, May 18th - Children's Planting Morning at Cragin Memorial Library
- Look for information on our upcoming Pollinator Month Coloring Contest in June
- May 20, 2024 - 6:00 p.m. Colchester Garden Club Monthly Meeting, Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave – Norton Room A.

Helpful Resources

May Gardening Tips from UConn Home and Garden Center

- Annuals and Perennials
- Houseplants
- Vegetable Gardening
- Fruits
- Insects
- Lawns
- Trees and Shrubs
- Wildlife
- Yard Accessories and Miscellaneous

<https://homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu/monthly-gardening-tips-for-connecticut/gardening-tips-may/>

Have gardening or indoor plant problems or questions?

Contact the UConn Extension Master Gardener Office by email or telephone
New London County Extension Center

562 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT, 06360-6599

newlondon@uconn.edu

(860) 887-1608

Spring Bulbs

Daffodils and Tulips provide glorious Spring color in a landscape, garden, or containers. *Now that they are starting to go by, what is to be done?* If you decide you want a tidier garden, dead head the spent flowers by cutting the stem off at the base. Leave the foliage to allow photosynthesis to continue to feed the bulb to store energy for next year's bloom. When the leaves start to brown at edges, you can trim. When all of leaves turn brown, remove.

For more information on caring for Spring Bulbs, go to:

<https://www.thespruce.com/planting-and-growing-daffodils-1402136> and
<https://www.thespruce.com/tulips-planting-and-growing-tulips-1402137>



Spring blooms at the Butterfly Pollinator Garden at Cohen Woodlands
Photos by Melissa Deacon

Hummingbirds are Back...Are You Ready to Support Them?

According to the 2024 Hummingbird Migration map on Hummingbirdcentral.com, there were close to 50 separate Ruby-Throated Hummingbird sightings across all of Connecticut (April 16 - April 21, 2024). New London County and Haddam have had a few sightings.



Photo: Jennifer Benner

Native Plants to Support Hummingbirds:

ANNUALS

Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*)

SHRUBS

Golden Currant (*Ribes odoratum*)

New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

TREES

Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*)

Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*)

VINES

Cross Vine (*Bignonia capreolata*)

Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*)

Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Yellow Honeysuckle (*Lonicera flava*)

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Bee Balm (*Monarda bradburiana*)

Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

Blue Sage (*Salvia azurea*)

Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Copper Iris (*Iris fulva*)

Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*)

Foxglove Beard Tongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)

Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*)

Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

Marsh Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Meadow Phlox (*Phlox maculata*)

Missouri Primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*)

Prairie Beard Tongue (*Penstemon tubaeformis*)

Prairie Coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*)

Purple Beard Tongue (*Penstemon cobaea*)

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)

Royal Catchfly (*Silene regia*)

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Wild Sweet William (*Phlox divaricata*)

Yellow Coneflower (*Echinacea paradoxa*)

Source: <https://grownative.org/learn/native-for-wildlife/nectar-rich-natives-for-hummingbirds/>

Tips for Planting for Hummingbirds:

1. **Look for Tubular Flowers:** Select plants with tubular-shaped flowers, as they are a favorite of hummingbirds. The long, slender beaks of these birds are perfectly suited for accessing the nectar inside tubular flowers.

2. **Choose Brightly Colored Flowers:** Hummingbirds are attracted to vibrant and brightly colored flowers, especially shades of red, orange, and pink.
3. **Opt for Long-Blooming Plants:** Look for plants that have long blooming periods to ensure a continuous source of nectar for hummingbirds. This way, they'll have a reliable food supply throughout their migration or breeding season.
4. **Plant in Masses:** Not only does planting an abundance of hummingbird-friendly plants create a visually stunning display highly attractive to hummingbirds, but it also increases the chances of them visiting and feeding in your garden. Mass plantings provide a concentrated and abundant source of nectar, making it easier for hummingbirds to locate and access the flowers, resulting in more frequent and prolonged visits.
5. **Create Diversity:** Aim for a variety of plants with staggered bloom times. This will ensure a consistent and diverse nectar supply throughout the hummingbird season. Including a mix of shrubs, perennials, and annuals will provide a range of options for these tiny visitors.

Source: <https://www.monrovia.com/be-inspired/best-plants-for-hummingbirds.html>

Hummingbird feeders are a supplemental source of nectar and can help them through times when there are not as many blooming flowers nearby. For more information about using Hummingbird feeders, go to the International Hummingbird Society web site (Sedona AZ) at <https://www.hummingbirdsociety.org/feeding-hummingbirds>

Follow-up from recent CGC Invasive Jumping Worm Program

In April 2024, the Colchester Garden Club sponsored a public educational program on the invasive Jumping Worm. The program was delivered by Gail Ridge, an expert on insect behavior and ecology at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. If you missed the program, go here for important information about the Invasive Jumping Worm https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/jumping_worms/



Invasive
JUMPING WORMS

IDENTIFICATION:

- 1.5" - 8" Long
- Aggressive, quick-moving
- White/grey clitellum that encircles the whole body
- coffee ground looking castings

ECOLOGICAL THREAT:

- 1 worm can produce up to 120 eggs at a time. Eggs can overwinter and hatch in the spring
- They consume more organic matter than European Earthworms
- Their castings are left at the soil surface and provide very little nutritional value to the ecosystem

DISTRIBUTION:

- Mulch, soil, compost, & yard waste transfer
- Landscaping tools, vehicles, tires, & fishing equipment
- Plants/plant pots



Plant Swaps & Jumping Worms CAN Co-Exist

Look for Cocoons among roots!!

Photo: Marie Johnston, University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum

Sharing Plants? Accepting Plants?

- Don't donate to plant swaps if you have confirmed jumping worms on your property!
- Provide educational resources to make your clientele aware of the risks
- Rinse and inspect the roots of any plants you may be sharing. Repot into soilless potting media to keep healthy until sale.
- Accept material from trusted gardeners that have looked for jumping worms
- Inspect for evidence of coffee-ground textured soil, or cocoons in roots of plants where possible.
- Rinse plant roots on a driveway or concrete and inspect before planting.

UConn Home & Garden Education Center

Photos of Colchester Garden Club's Community Service and recent programs

CGC Town Planter Stewards



Colchester Garden Club Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels Spring craft with Colchester Garden Club members occurred on March 25, 2024. Members made small packages of pansies, Tete e Tete Daffodils (mini) with a tiny bunny and card. These were received by the Colchester Senior Center for delivery by other volunteers to Meals on Wheels clients with their meals.



Colchester Garden Club Youth Activities



Colchester Garden Club Youth Activities



Colchester Garden Club



Melissa Deacon

Top Contributor · April 9 at 1:32 PM · 🌐

Check out some of the amazing fairy houses the kids made at the library this morning! We will be adding them to one of the gardens outside the library in May. Keep your eyes peeled for details about the Fairy Village Opening!



Fairy Garden Opening

Fairy Garden Opening
Tuesday, May 7, 4:30 pm
All Ages

Join us as we officially open our new fairy garden!
Refreshments will be served. Thank you to The Colchester
Garden Club and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library for
sponsoring this garden. **Rain Date: May 14, 4:30 pm.**

