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THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT **EXTENSION** MASTER GARDENER

UVM Extension Master Gardener Program News June 2020

Master Gardening for Resilience

As you've probably noticed, the COVID pandemic has led to a huge resurgence of interest in gardening. Gardening has also been helping people to stay physically and mentally healthy during this difficult time, providing a welcome release from the stresses related to the crisis.

UVM Extension Master Gardener and Composter volunteers are posed as key players in Vermont's growing victory/resilience gardening movement. Our volunteers have the skills to help others increase their gardening knowledge and support their local communities to create a more resilient local food system. Given the current state of the world, this knowledge is even more valuable than ever before.



It's been a challenging spring, but with the weather warming and the season finally kicking off, now is the time for master gardeners to find new and creative ways to use their knowledge to help others learn to a garden.

Be it a neighbor, friend, or someone new, get out there and help others get

If you use social media, please share these hashtags in your posts and share them with us on Facebook.

#mastergardeningforresilience

#vicotrygardeningovirus

~Beret, Cindy, Lisa

June Program Updates

COVID

As of June 1: All in-person outdoor and indoor volunteer activity has been suspended until June 15, and this may extend further depending on University policy. Volunteer hosted classes may not yet resume in-person even if outside. Remote volunteering is allowed and encouraged at this time.

If you must continue to work independently on critical food growing and public space projects, please make sure you are using the appropriate hygiene, wearing masks, and maintaining a six-foot distance from others.

The 2020 volunteer hours requirement has been relaxed. All active 2020 volunteers will remain active in 2021. All 2019 and 2020 interns will be granted 3 years to meet their initial certification requirements.

Project Leader Meetings

Throughout the month of May remote meetings occurred with Master Gardener and Composter project leaders. Volunteers had the opportunity to do a little networking and hear some program updates. If you would like to watch the recorded updates [please click here...](#)

State Conference

The 2020 Conference will be held online on November 6, 2020. This year's theme is The new title 'Gardening for Resilience: Feeding our soil, plants, wildlife, and communities. More information and a list of speakers coming soon.



Volunteering with Youth

The UVM Extension Policy for volunteering with youth has changed. If you plan to work directly supervising youth then you will need to fill out a background check form. [Read more here...](#)

Remote Volunteering

Schedule an online class, teach others how to garden. It could be a presentation or just a Q&A session. People often have lots of questions, invite them to meet you online, and answer a few for them. Advertise your event on the master gardener listserv, online calendar, and in your own community. [Read more here...click on Remote Volunteering Ideas..](#)

Annual Spring Master Gardener Newsletter

Master Gardeners and Composters share their experiences volunteering across the state of Vermont. Produced by Julie Marks. [Read more here....](#)

Advance your Gardening Knowledge at Home this Season



UVM Resources

[Master Gardener Resources Page](#)

Loaded with new information

[Watch this webinar](#) about Food Safety in a Community Garden setting with Omar Oyarzabal, Extension's Food Safety Expert

[Disinfectant Use Guidance During COVID-19](#) - UVM Pesticide Safety Education Program

[Friends in the Garden](#)

[The Profund Health Benefits of Gardening](#)

[The Time is Now for Vermont Victory Gardens](#)

[How to Grow the Best Cucumbers](#)

[Out with the Old in with the New](#)

[Planning Ahead by Looking Back](#)



Partner Resources

[Audobon Native Plant Database](#)

Put in your zip code for plant suggestions

[Growing a Greener Garden](#)

Creating a Meadow Garden with Mike Lizotte, American Meadows

[Designing for Native Plants](#)

Webinar recorded with UVM's Annie White

[Virginia Master Gardener College](#)

Online event. Register by June 19

[Climate and Community Resilience: Lessons from the Soil](#)

Compost Association of Vermont

[Bennington College: Resilience Gardening](#)

Webinar pre-recorded

[GROW It!](#)

Vermont Community Garden Network
Spring Webinar recordings

Question of the Month

Test Yourself

What is the insect in the photo below?



Answer:

Asparagus Beetle!

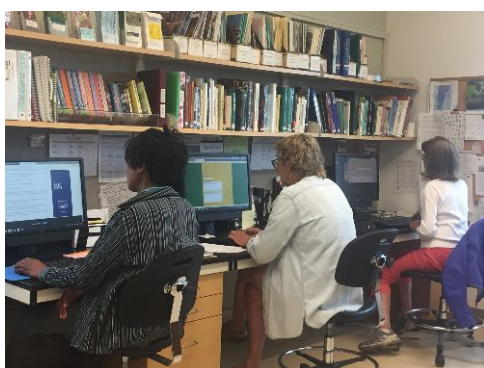
Did you know there are two types?

- The adult common asparagus beetle (*Crioceris asparagi*) is bluish-black with six cream-colored spots on its back.
- Adult spotted asparagus beetles (*Crioceris duodecimpunctata*) are reddish-orange with twelve black spots.

1. Pick beetles early and often
2. Make beetles unwelcome in your garden
3. Beneficial insects help to keep numbers down
4. Consider using a pesticide only if 10% of plants or more are damaged.

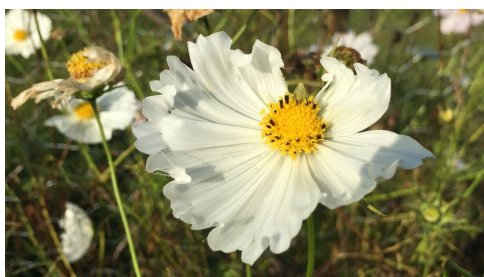
More [info here..](#)

Master Gardener Helpline Happenings



Due to COVID-19 and various building closures at UVM, the Helpline Office is currently closed. However, several Master Gardener volunteers are answering emails from home. If you have questions, [please fill out our online form](#) or if you have limited internet access give us a call and leave a message at @ 802-656-5421, and don't forget to refer others to the helpline.

Support Us!



The UVM Extension Master Gardener Program cultivates gardening communities through volunteer education and demonstration. Our volunteers work throughout the state to promote successful, safe, and environmentally prudent home horticulture practices. As a self-funded Extension program, we need your help to keep growing.

Please make a donation today!

Please visit and like our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/UVMExtensionMasterGardener/>

Contact us:

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