

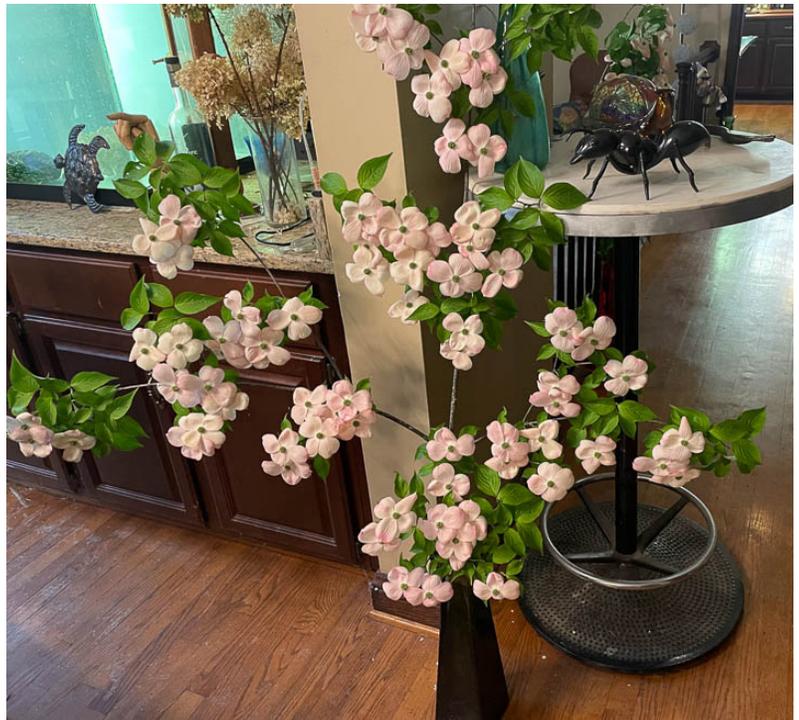
May 7, 2024

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***Cornus kousa* as a Cut Woody Flowering Plant**

By: Stanton Gill

My youngest daughter is getting married on May 18, so we were searching for flowering plants that could be used in flower arrangements. So far, ‘White Knight’ fringe tree flowers look perfect. We have several cultivars of hybrid *Cornus kousa* and *Cornus florida* on the farm. We cut 3 ft branches off one of the cultivars which was in full bract/bloom and put it in a large upright vase. It made a spectacular flat branch display. We cut it on May 3, and as of May 6, it is still looking great. We have 5 different cultivars of *Cornus* hybrids which open their bracts/flowers over the next couple of weeks, so this has potential for a fairly long time to harvest good-looking branches in May. Some of you may have already experimented with cut *Cornus* branches. If so, you are ahead of the game. For the rest, this might be something you want to try out.



We cut pink dogwood and it is holding for over 3 days in a vase. It makes a great floral display.
Photo: Stanton Gill, UME

Fringe Tree

By: Stanton Gill

Four years ago, Alan Jones, Manor View Nursery, gave me a fringe tree. It is called 'White Knight'. It came into bloom this last week and it is spectacular. I cut a couple of stems and tried it out as a woody cut stem. It has held up for the last 4 days in a vase looking great. This is another woody cut stem that fits into the wedding season.



Consider using 'White Knight' fringe tree flowers as a cut woody stem.

Photo: Stanton Gill, UME

Greenhouse Trials for Thrips and Fungus Gnats

By: Stanton Gill

Thrips: Our IPM team (Suzanne Klick, Sheena O'Donnell, Brian Kunkel, and I) is testing out several materials this week at the University of Maryland Greenhouse for western flower thrips control. Brian Kunkel, University of Delaware, and I applied 4 different materials on marigolds this week. We will share the results over the next couple of weeks at the June 5 and 6 Biological Control conference.

Fungus Gnats: We have also done a trial testing materials for control of fungus gnats. We used potato disks as a measuring tool for fungus gnat larvae. Press the disks into the substrate surface. When checking the potatoes, look for a larva with a translucent body with a black head.



A fungus gnat larva has a translucent body and a black head.

Photo: Suzanne Klick, UME



When using potato disks to monitor fungus gnat larvae, you can also grow potato plants while you are at it.

Photo: Stanton Gill, UME

June 20 Tech Day for the Horticulture Industry

By: Stanton Gill

We are working closely with the Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association (MNLGA) in setting up a tech day for the commercial horticulture industry on June 20th. This will be located at Ruppert Nurseries, Laytonsville, MD. When available, details and registration information will be available on the [MNLGA web site](#).

This technology field demonstration day is designed to keep those working in commercial horticulture up-to-date on the latest labor-saving devices available to the industry. Participants will move from station to station seeing live demonstrations of machinery that makes your nursery more efficient and reduces un-rewarding labor actions and improves your labor forces efficiency.

You will learn of the newest aerial drones for monitoring and applying pesticides and beneficial organisms. Aerial drones will demonstrate using AI to locate weeds and treat them. Land drones that deal with weeds will be featured in one of the educational stations. Aerial drones used for inventory in a nursery will be demonstrated by South Carolina State University.

Land drones that use google mapping for automated, google mapping spraying in a nursery from Penn State University Experiment Station. Land drones from Burro company of California will be demonstrated in field production.

Electric nursery equipment that run on lithium batteries will be featured with demonstration on how to most efficiency use these in a nursery to recue labor cost. Learn how to lengthen the life of lithium batteries and how to maintain them for maximum efficiency.

This will be a very exciting and action-packed day. The newest equipment that improves nursery field production efficiency will be featured by companies such as Atrusa, of Pennsylvania.

Moss Company of California will feature several of their innovative machines for improving nursery production efficiency.

See live demos of many sizes, shapes and various brands of aerial and land drones that work well in a nursery operation types of drones.

Use of photons light meters used to measure light quality in greenhouses and overwintering structures will be demonstrated. Tech-heads and machine enthusiasts will have a great time seeing the latest in equipment that helps make you profitable.



Technology including spray drones and land drones will be presented at this field day.

Photos: Stanton Gill, UME

Biological Control Conference

By: Stanton Gill

We organized a two-day conference on how to effectively use biological control in cut flower operations, greenhouses and nurseries set for June 5 and 6th. This will be located at the Carroll Community College in Westminster, Maryland. For details and registration information, go to our [Conferences web page](#).

Conferences

June 4, 2024

MNLGA Program: Social Media and PR Workshop

Location: Ladew Gardens, Monkton, MD

[Registration information](#)

June 5 and 6, 2024

Biological Control Conference for Greenhouses, Nurseries, and Landscapes

Location: Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD

For details and registration information, go to our [Conferences web page](#).

June 20, 2024

UMD Extension and MNLGA Technology Field Day for Nurseries

Location: Ruppert Nurseries, Laytonsville, MD

September 17 and 18, 2024

Cut Flower Program

Location: Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Ellicott City, MD and tour locations in Howard Co.

October 9, 2024

MNLGA Retail Day

Location: Homestead Gardens, Davidsonville, MD

Go to the [IPMnet Conference Page](#) for links and details on these programs.

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