

THE GARDENER'S GUIDE WHAT TO DO & WHEN

Seasonal Garden & Lawn Guide for Maryland Homeowners & Communities



prepared by the
Master Gardeners of Frederick County



Maryland Master Gardeners Helping Homeowners Grow Their Gardens

Masters Gardeners are volunteers trained under the University of Maryland Extension (UME) to help educate residents about practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities. To learn more about the free services provided by your local county Master Gardeners, and how to become one, visit <http://mastergardener.umd.edu/>, then select *Local MG Programs*.



Want to grow fruits and vegetables in your garden or community? Maryland Master Gardeners actively promote food gardening throughout the state. Visit www.growit.umd.edu/ for information.



Bay-Wise Landscape Management

"Better water quality through smarter gardening"
Want a lawn and garden that help clean the Chesapeake Bay? Have a Bay-Wise Team do a house call or find information on your own at www.baywise.umd.edu.



Ask the experts! We answer plant and pest questions and provide a wealth of online and published information. Call us Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. (ET), at 800-342-2507 (outside MD, 1-410-531-1757) or visit www.hgic.umd.edu.

ALSO OF INTEREST:

Fertilizer Act of 2011
To find out how this Maryland legislation affects homeowners, visit www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/FertilizerLaw_Facts_final.pdf.
A Garden Planner and Checklist from the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture can be downloaded at www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/wintergardeningplan.pdf.

Yard Waste Recycling

For guidelines by county, see <http://www.wmde.state.md.us/programs/Land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/StateCountyandCityContactInfo/Pages/default.aspx>.

Garden Guide produced by Sheryl Massaro, Frederick County Master Gardener
Please send comments on the Garden Guide to massarosa@comcast.net.

Percent Probability of 32 Degree F. Temperature Occurring On/Or After Date in Spring

| Site | 10% 1 yr. in 10 |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Balt. Airport | April 26 |
| Baltimore City | April 11 |
| Bel Air | April 30 |
| Cambridge | April 27 |
| Chestertown | April 18 |
| College Park | May 4 |
| Cumberland | May 16 |
| Denton | April 29 |
| Frederick | April 29 |
| Hagerstown | May 3 |
| Hancock | May 21 |
| La Plata | May 10 |
| Oakland | June 5 |
| Rockville* | May 7 |
| Royal Oak | April 12 |
| Salisbury | April 23 |
| Snow Hill | May 4 |
| Upper Marlboro | May 6 |
| Westminster | May 4 |

Percent Probability of Temperature 32 Degrees F. Or Lower, On Or Before Given Date in Fall

| Site | 10% 1 yr. in 10 |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Balt. Airport | Oct. 17 |
| Baltimore City | Oct. 30 |
| Bel Air | Sep. 28 |
| Cambridge | Oct. 13 |
| Chestertown | Oct. 18 |
| College Park | Oct. 7 |
| Cumberland | Sep. 26 |
| Denton | Oct. 7 |
| Frederick | Oct. 7 |
| Hagerstown | Sep. 28 |
| Hancock | Sep. 21 |
| La Plata | Oct. 5 |
| Oakland | Sep. 15 |
| Rockville* | Oct. 3 |
| Royal Oak | Oct. 16 |
| Salisbury | Oct. 10 |
| Snow Hill | Oct. 8 |
| Upper Marlboro | Sep. 29 |
| Westminster | Oct. 6 |

Find the city nearest you to estimate spring and fall frosts:

Below are charts showing rough estimates for the last chance of frost in the spring and the first chance of frost in the fall, as recorded at various Maryland State Department of Agriculture sites. For more complete charts, visit www.hgic.umd.edu/content/SpringFrostDatesInMD.cfm and www.hgic.umd.edu/content/fallfrostdatesinmaryland.cfm.

Frost Dates for Spring and Fall in Maryland

Maryland's Plant Hardiness Zones range from 5a to 8a. For the latest, interactive Plant Hardiness Zone Map, provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, select Maryland at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/Default.aspx>.

Plant Hardiness Zones

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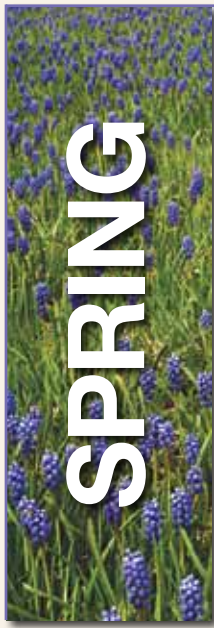
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USDA Plant Hardiness Zones for Maryland — 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 8a

- **2nd best time to seed lawns: late February–April** • Mulch 2-3 inches & keep away from trunks • Earthworms mean healthy soil •
- State Tree: White Oak (*Quercus alba*) • Don't work wet soil—wait until it crumbles in your hand • **Last frost date—see back cover** •



March

- Gently clean up the garden.
- To control crabgrass, apply pre-emergent herbicide to lawn (when forsythia blooms drop).
- Prune non-flowering trees and shrubs before new growth.
- Cut perennials and over-wintering ornamental grasses to 2 inches above ground.
- Plant cool-season crops (potatoes; lettuce; peas; root crops; and cole crops, including spinach, kale).

April

- Gently clean up the garden; add 1 inch of compost.
- Plant trees, shrubs, perennials; this is a good time to plant evergreens.
- Ticks are very active now.
- Put up birdhouses.
- Earth Day—April 22
- Arbor Day—last Friday in April
- After spring bulbs bloom, let leaves turn yellow and die before trimming.
- Take an inventory of pots and containers; clean or replenish potted soil.

May

- Directly after blooming, prune flowering shrubs and vines.
- After the last frost date, plant warm-season annuals and tender bulbs (calla lilies, dahlias, gladiolus) in the ground and in containers.
- After the last frost date, plant warm-season vegetables (squash, peppers, tomatoes, corn, beans).
- New fruit plants—keep watered their first spring, summer and fall.
- Mow grass at 3 inches and leave the clippings on the lawn.

- **Want to grow your own fruits and vegetables? See www.growit.umd.edu** •
- Water the ground under trees at least as far out as branches spread • State Flower: Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) •



June

- Remove spent lilac and rhododendron blossoms.
- Pinch buds of fall-blooming plants (asters, mums, Joe-Pye weed).
- Prune azaleas directly after blooming.

July

- Prune foundation shrubs and trees to be no closer than 1 foot from the house.
- Prune and thin shrubs that have already flowered.
- Plant heat-tolerant vegetables (Malabar spinach, Swiss chard).

August

- Cool season lawns go dormant in hot, dry weather—Do Not Water.
- Harvest leaves of herbs used in cooking (rosemary, basil, sage) in the early morning, for best flavor.
- At the end of the month, begin planting cool-season vegetables (turnips, carrots, beets, spinach, Chinese cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts).

- **Best times to fertilize/seed bluegrass/fescue lawns: Sept.–Oct.** • Destroy brown marmorated stink bugs in a jar of soapy water •
- Compost kitchen scraps (ONLY vegetable & fruit scraps—NO animal products or chemicals) • **First frost date—see back cover** •



September

- Labor Day weekend—perfect time for seeding the lawn.
- Remove fallen, diseased leaves.
- Mulch or compost healthy leaves.
- Continue planting cool-season vegetables; plant garlic now through the end of October.
- This is a good time to have vegetable garden and landscape soils tested (see <http://hgic.umd.edu/content/soil.cfm>).
- Apply fertilizer and lime to turfgrass based on soil tests and UME recommendations (see http://hgic.umd.edu/_media/documents/hg103_002.pdf).

October

- Harvest most fruits before frost.
- Continue removing diseased leaves. Put diseased leaves, pesticide-laden grass clippings and weed seeds out for recycling rather than the compost pile. Check your local recycling guidelines (see back cover for web links).
- Mulch or compost healthy leaves.
- You still can have vegetable garden and landscape soils tested.
- From mid-October through November, plant hardy bulbs for spring flowering.
- For readying Christmas cactus and poinsettia for holiday blooming, see <http://www.hgic.umd.edu/faq/popularQuestions.cfm?questionid=21988> and http://hgic.umd.edu/_media/documents/hg30.pdf.

November

- Continue removing diseased leaves.
- Mulch or compost healthy leaves.
- Continue planting hardy, spring-flowering bulbs.
- Trees and shrubs can be planted until ground freezes.
- After blooming, cut mums back to 6 inches above ground.
- Dig hole now if you will be planting a “live” Christmas tree.
- Mid-month, pot amaryllis for winter holiday bloom.
- Clean out pots; store non-frost proof containers in garage or basement.

- **Feed birds throughout winter months** • Remove leaves from lawn before snow • Gently sweep snow/ice off shrubs •
- Pot hyacinth, amaryllis & paperwhite narcissus for indoor bloom • **Never fertilize from Nov. 15 to Mar. 1** •



December

- Moderately prune evergreens, especially hollies, for indoor decorating.
- For care of holiday plants and trees, see <http://hgic.umd.edu/content/onlinepublications.cfm>; select “Seasonal and Indoor Plants.”

January

- Start to browse seed catalogs and dream.
- Prune damaged branches.
- Hand-pull visible weeds.
- Keep bird feeders clean and filled.
- Sharpen and replace tools as needed.

February

- Start pepper seeds indoors.
- Start lawn seeding.
- Check indoors for termites and winter ants.
- Hardy spring bulbs begin to emerge (crocus, snowdrops, daffodils, tulips).