



Master Gardeners Plan for 2010

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Frederick County Master Gardeners are full of plans for the warm weather we know will arrive before we are ready. Many have plans to grow or enlarge vegetable plots, several to plant more natives. Others are seeking to be more prepared, test their soil, mulch, compost, or add a water feature. To find mine, read to the end.

GROW MORE VEGETABLES

Pamela Brothers

Next year will be a big year for my husband and me. We will be planting a larger vegetable garden and will be attempting to continue to decrease the use of chemicals this next year with the goal of being totally organic gardeners in the very near future. We are also hoping that our grandchildren (2 and 5 years of age) will continue to enjoy 'playing in the dirt' in the veggies as well as the flowers!

Joyce Church

I plan to continue erasing grass from my yard by making more raised beds for vegetables and creating islands of shrubs, flowers, and ground covers.

AnnMarie Creamer

My biggest resolution is to maintain my energy and enthusiasm for garden maintenance longer through the season next year, so that my vegetable garden is as pretty and productive in October as it is in June.

Natalie Gipson

I plan to have a vegetable garden this year!

Joan Kobetz

I'm wiping out more lawn and designing an ornamental vegetable, herb and flower garden. It is inspired by the French "potager" gardens, also called "kitchen gardens".

Marilyn Olson

I'm already planning what to plant in the vegetable garden and in the various pots around the yard so I don't buy plants spontaneously, then they turn out to be wrong for the pot or the spot.

Lois Royer

I will be setting up a light system for starting seeds inside so that I can experiment with the many unusual varieties of vegetables available by mail order.

EQUAL ACCESS PROGRAMS
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE AND NATIVES

Joanne Brown

In 2010, I will remove four non-native invasive plants from my yard, and replace them with six native plants.

Julia Cubit

I am planning to expand my garden further into the lawn to eliminate large patches of grass to mow. Plants added will be natives with winter interest like *Pachysandra procumbens*, Allegheny spurge, or *Eupatorium purpureum*, sweet Joe-Pye weed, and a native grass like *Schizachyrium scoparium*, Little Bluestem". Will also try one new native plant with which I am totally unfamiliar - considering *Mahonia repens*, creeping mahonia).

Sherry Rodeheaver

I plan to put in a small water feature to benefit the wildlife in my yard (with mosquito dunks, of course!)

BE THRIFTY

Elaine Feinberg

Stop spending money!! Every year I say that I am finished buying new things for the garden, especially since I am almost to an age when I might decide to sell and move to a smaller place. But every year when spring comes I can't resist - so we'll see if this year I can control myself.

PUT KNOWLEDGE TO GOOD USE

Patti Grove

As a new intern from 2009, my New Year's resolution is to put as much of the new information I have learned, from my experience during my first year, into practice. I would like to start a garden with nothing but native plants and to continue to recycle and compost. I plan on continuing my vegetable garden and try new varieties. I have thoroughly enjoyed becoming a Master Gardener.

PLAN AHEAD

Marilyn Olson

Plan very carefully what to plant in bare spots next year so the plant is perfect for the location: sun/shade, water/no water (near a water source), height/width next to other plants and most important - native and easy to maintain. I'm trying to be completely ready for spring by getting outside during not-so-cold days, cutting old leaves off plants, and cleaning up dead debris before the spring appears. I'll be further ahead when the nice weather arrives and not so rushed.

USE MORE MULCH AND SOIL TESTS

Marilyn Olson

Use more mulch so I don't spend any unnecessary time weeding. Get a soil test kit for various areas of the yard so I know what the soil in each garden area needs (vegetable garden may need something different than the row of pine trees)

ENJOY

Marilyn Olson

I am making it a goal to spend more time enjoying and sitting - "being" in the garden rather than working in it all the time.

Meryl Benenati

Seems like I spend most of my time working in our garden but we created it so we could also enjoy it. So, next year I want to take time to just sit on the bench in our garden and enjoy the beauty around me.

Lee Royer

I like all of these ideas, but my favorite is the last one, and that is at the top of my long list of plans - enjoy the relaxing side of gardening more next year.

Here is one more idea for 2010: become an official Maryland Master Gardener. Our 2010 spring training class is forming now and for the first time ever, a summer training class will be offered during evening hours.

For more information about horticulture or the Master Gardener Program in Frederick County, call the Frederick County Office of the University of Maryland Extension, (301) 600-1596, or visit <http://www.frederick.umd.edu/>. Our mission is to educate Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities. Equal Opportunity Employer/Equal Access Programs.