

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER
Frederick County

Frederick County GARDEN SMART

Our mission is to educate Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities. Most of our services are FREE.



Winter 2026

To subscribe to this publication, e-mail fgardenersnews@gmail.com

PLAN TO ATTEND WINTER SEMINARS & EVENTS

Join us for FREE seminars, suitable for both beginning and advanced gardeners, at the University of Maryland Extension office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. Registration opens 3 weeks before each seminar. Use the links below or call 301-600-1595. See page 2 for preliminary info on seminars and special events planned for the rest of 2026.

JANUARY

Thursday, January 8, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

CACTUS & SUCCULENTS

See p. 2 for info on our new monthly lecture series.

Saturday, January 10, 10 am - noon

MY SOIL HAS WHAT?!

Learn how to read your soil test and how to improve your garden and benefit the environment using compost. We will offer tips and techniques on vermiculture (*using worms to transform your kitchen scraps into nutrition-rich plant fertilizer in a small space inside your home*). ➤ tinyurl.com/MG26Soil

Saturday, January 17, 10 am - noon

WHAT A MESS!

Learn what to prune in the winter and early spring and how to prune to get the most out of your plants. ➤ tinyurl.com/MG26Pruning

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 28, 10 am - noon

CREATING A FLOWER CUTTING GARDEN & FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Learn how to design, plant, and harvest flowers from your own cutting garden. Discover the best sun and shade annuals for cutting and how to maintain the garden for maximum production. We also will demonstrate techniques for creating arrangements.

➤ tinyurl.com/MG26CuttingGarden

Saturday, February 28, 1 - 3 pm

SO YOU THINK YOU WANT A VEGGIE GARDEN?

Wondering how to plan a home vegetable garden? Learn what kind of garden will fit your needs; when to start; what to plant; how much is enough; and tips on finding resources for planning, garden supplies and seeds. ➤ tinyurl.com/MG26VeggieGarden

MARCH

Saturday, March 21, 10 am - noon

CONTAINER GARDENING - NATIVES & ANNUALS

Don't let the limited space of a deck, porch, patio, or balcony keep you from enjoying native plants and annuals! Learn how to select the proper plants for different size containers and how to group plants by their needs.

➤ tinyurl.com/MG26NativeContainerGarden

Saturday, March 21, 1 - 3 pm

WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN THE GARDEN

Curious about ways to garden with children? Come learn how to involve them in ways that engage their natural curiosity.

➤ tinyurl.com/MG26ChildrenInTheGarden

Saturday, March 28, 10 am - noon

WHAT'S THE FUSS ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS?

Find out how native plants help our native birds, butterflies, and other pollinators. Discover native plant alternatives that are beneficial and beautiful.

➤ tinyurl.com/MG26NativePlants

NATIVE PLANTS FOR OUR LOCAL AREA!

<https://umd.app.box.com/s/wor-658gif8nm79jd7gc0i8m89fbpvoiz>

The Maryland Native Plant Guide: Piedmont Region is a 180-page PDF booklet from the University of MD Extension focusing on native plants that thrive in the Piedmont ecoregion, which encompasses most of Frederick County. Learn about native plants and the ecosystem, the value of trees, blooms with benefits, common myths, deer challenges, and much more!

Why are native plants so important? According to the Guide, "Developed landscapes need to be more than beautiful. They have to serve multiple functions, from supporting pollinators and local wildlife to protecting one of the region's most treasured natural resources: the Chesapeake Bay. Because 95% of the land in MD drains into the Bay, we all have the opportunity to contribute to the health of our region...One of the most simple and cost effective ways to help our waterways is to plant an abundance and diversity of native plants."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Amy Rembold, MG Coordinator
call: 301-600-1596 or
email: arembold@umd.edu

Visit us at

bit.ly/FCMG-Home-Gardening
bit.ly/FCMGFacebook
bit.ly/FCMGinstagram

Seminars & Special Events Planned for April through December

NEW MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES: CULTIVATION



Beginning Thursday, Jan. 8, 6:30-7:30 pm, Extension Building at 330 Montevue Lane

We are excited to introduce a new monthly free lecture series held on the 2nd Thursday of each month, from 6:30-7:30 pm. Join us for engaging talks on a variety of horticultural topics. The Jan. 8 lecture will be on Cactus and Succulents. Future talks will focus on houseplants, invasive species and other timely gardening issues. Watch for more details in future issues of Garden Smart and on our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

APRIL

Saturday, April 4, 10 am - noon

PLANTING THE SPRING VEGETABLE GARDEN

Saturday, April 11, 10 am - noon

MARYLAND LIVING LANDSCAPE

Saturday, April 25, 9 am - 1 pm: or until sold out
ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Thousands of plants at the Frederick Fairgrounds

MAY

Saturday, May 2, 9 am - noon

GROWING UP WILD

For educators who work with children 3-7 years old. Adults only.

Saturday, May 2, 1 pm - 3 pm

MINDFULNESS IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, May 9, 10 am - noon

POLLINATORS LOVE HERBS

Saturday, May 30, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

ANNUAL EARTHVEST

Family friendly activities and displays by Master Gardeners and other groups at the Extension Building

JUNE

Saturday, June 13, 10 am - noon

SUMMER VEGGIE GARDEN

Saturday, June 13, 1 pm - 3 pm

MAKE A HYPERTUFA BOWL OR TROUGH

Saturday, June 27, 10 am - noon

GROWING FRUITS & VEGETABLES IN CONTAINERS

Saturday, June 27, 1 pm - 3 pm

BUG ME: THE IMPORTANCE OF INSECTS IN YOUR GARDEN

JULY

Saturday, July 18, 10 am - noon

BUMBLEBEES

Saturday, July 25, 10 am - noon

GROWING HERBS HERE AND THERE

AUGUST

Saturday, August 1, 10 am - noon

GETTING LITTLE FEET WET

For educators who work with children 3 to 7 years old. Adults only.

Saturday, August 8, 10 am - noon

MAKE & TAKE MINI-GARDEN

For 1st-12th graders accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, August 8, 10 am - 3 pm

FALL SEASON VEGETABLE GARDENING

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 12, 10 am - noon

PAWPAWS, A LITTLE KNOWN TREASURE

Friday, September 18, 4 pm - 8 pm

Saturday, September 19 - Saturday,

September 26, 9:30 am - 8 pm

MASTER GARDENERS AT THE GREAT FREDERICK FAIR

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 17, 10 am - noon

THE NATURAL GARDEN

Saturday, October 24, 10 am - noon

HOUSEPLANTS AND WELLNESS

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 7, 10 am - noon

RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE: DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 5, 10 am - noon

PROPAGATING NATIVE PLANTS



The popular Story Time in the Garden series for young children accompanied by an adult will be offered in 2026 from May-October. Programs are held once a month on a Wednesday morning from 10 am to 11 am in our Children's Garden. A short story and age-appropriate activity will be led by Master Gardeners. Please check our Facebook and Instagram in early spring for specific dates.

GET ANSWERS TO YOUR GARDENING QUESTIONS

See <https://extension.umd.edu/ask-extension/>

For updates on all of our events, see bit.ly/FCMGFacebook and bit.ly/FCMGInstagram

GARDENING CULTIVATES GRATITUDE

"Gardeners are a grateful lot. Why? We toss a handful of seeds in the soil and up come all manner of flowers and food. The sticks we plant turn into roses. Acorns become oak trees. It's all quite miraculous. Granted, in between there's a bit of work..." You can find the rest of this reflection on gratitude and gardening by Washington County MG Coordinator Annette Cormany at <https://marylandgrows.umd.edu/2025/11/18/gardeners-give-thanks-for-a-gardens-gifts/>.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION



University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class. Accommodations: If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact Kim Krasauskis, Admin. Assist., at 301-600-1595 on or before 2 weeks prior to this event.