

MASTER GARDENERS' ANNUAL PLANT SALE FEATURING 100+ VARIETIES

Get Ready for This Year's Gardening Adventures

By Frederick County Master Gardeners, April 2023

It's not too early to plan for this spring and summer gardening adventures, so start gathering your landscape plans, shovels, trowels, and gardening gloves—and join us at the Frederick Master Gardeners' Plant Sale on Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Frederick Fairgrounds, along with the *Frederick News-Post's* Fiberfest.

Master Gardeners will showcase old favorites and new varieties of annuals, perennials, vegetables, and herbs, all well suited to Frederick's growing conditions, with Master Gardeners ready to assist you in making the best selections for your situation.

Annuals

An important component in any garden, whether in drifts, in containers, or as a focal plant, annuals provide long-blooming color and interesting foliage from spring through frost. They thrive in various growing conditions, resist rabbits and deer, and provide nutrients for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. You can



- Add magnificent colors for sunny gardens with geraniums, lantana, and marigolds. For those shadier areas, choose impatiens, torenia, begonias, calibrachoa, and lobelias.
- Choose among verbena, portulaca, and salvia for a profusion of colors and long-blooming time lasting throughout the seasons.
- Create dazzling combinations for containers with spikes, fillers, and drapes. For a sunny spot, try a mix of spikey dracaena, colorful snapdragon-like angelonia, and draping portulaca with profuse, rose-like flowers.

Perennials



Looking for an easy-to-care-for garden that will benefit the environment? Think perennials! Perennials return to the garden year after year. We expect to have more than 40 species of perennial plants at this year's sale. Some "must-haves" include

- Penstemon, which forms three-foot-tall spikes of white or lavender bell-shaped flowers in late spring; loves the sun; and, once established, tolerates dry conditions and occasional flooding.
- Mountain mint, a must for a pollinator garden, has tiny pink flowers that attract a wide variety of insects. The foliage, which reaches a height of about three feet at maturity, appears to have been dusted with powdered sugar and has a minty fragrance.

- Summer-blooming, daisy-like coneflowers attract bees and butterflies, and in the fall, goldfinches.
- “Fireworks” goldenrod, often referred to as autumn forsythia, has sprays of small golden flowers that line the stems.

Most of the perennial plants at the sale are native to our area, require little supplemental watering or fertilization, are more disease-resistant than nonnatives, and are attractive to pollinating insects. Over time, many form large clumps that crowd out weeds and improve the soil.

Herbs

This year’s plant sale features more than 50 varieties of herbs, both traditional favorites and new and exciting species. Some of the all-time favorites to be featured at the plant sale include basil, oregano, lavender, thyme, rosemary, and sage. Characteristics that make herbs easy to grow:

- Many are small seed-bearing plants
- Leaves typically used for culinary, medicinal, aromatic, and sometimes for spiritual purposes
- Easy-to-grow
- Whether in containers or garden plots, they add beauty and fragrance to any location.



In our region, many herbs are annuals, surviving only one season. A few herbs, such as bay, rosemary, thyme, lavender, and sage, are hardy enough to survive our winters if sheltered or potted and moved indoors. For more information about growing, preserving, and enjoying the health benefits of herbs, visit <https://extension.umd.edu/resources>.

Vegetables

We will have an assortment of both spring and summer crop seedlings in various sizes, including six-packs, four-inch pots, and one-gallon pots. Please note that several of the heirloom and patio varieties of tomatoes and peppers sold out in the first 90 minutes last year, so it’s good to be an early bird. Look for these varieties:



- Spring plants—lettuce, kale, and cabbage
- Summer seedlings—tomatoes, peppers, and melons
- Vines—cucumber, squash, and zucchini.

Flea Market

Who doesn’t love finding a good bargain at a yard sale? You’ll discover an array of flower pots, planters, and containers for your plants at our garden-themed flea market. Shop for gardening books, tools, trellises, bird feeders, and decorative items for your home, patio, garden, and yard. What will you spot—a



butterfly pin, honeybee pillow, etched glass vase, or even a pull wagon? Come see what treasures we have for you!

Upcoming seminars, gardening information, and more

Check our website or Facebook for upcoming free seminars, Master Gardener certification classes, gardening information, advice, and publications, as well as other announcements, at the following URLs, or call us at 301-600-1596:

- Frederick County Master Gardeners, <http://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening>;
- Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/mastergardenersfrederickcountymaryland>;
- University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center, <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/environmentnatural-resources/program-areas/home-and-garden-information-center>;
- Frederick County Master Gardeners publications, <http://extension.umd.edu/locations/frederick-county/home-gardening>.

For more information about the Frederick County Extension Master Gardener/Horticulture Program, gardening information and advice visit: <http://extension.umd.edu/locations/frederick-county/home-gardening> or call Susan Trice at the University of Maryland Extension Frederick County office, 301-600-1596. Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/mastergardenersfrederickcountymaryland> . UME Home & Garden Information Center, <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/environmentnatural-resources/program-areas/home-and-garden-information-center> .

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