

ALL WORK & NO PLAY? STOP TO SMELL THE ROSES, ER HONEYSUCKLE

Maritta Perry Grau, Frederick County Master Gardener

Seems that nearly all of our Master Gardener columns deal with what/where to plant, when/how to divide, or ways to attack those darn invasives. But now and then, we need to stop and smell the roses, er, native honeysuckle, perhaps with a glass of our favorite beverage in hand.

While you growl at the latest patch of weeds that have sprung up from nowhere, we hope that you also find time in these hot and humid days and evenings to enjoy the birds, butterflies, and bees flitting about your garden and to smell the flowers that are attracting them.

You probably know by now that our Master Gardener seminars and most other activities have been cancelled. However, we are experimenting with virtual Bay-Wise and Pollinator-Friendly certifications. If interested, go to <https://extension.umd.edu/baywise/program-certification> or https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/locations/frederick_county/MG-Pollinator%20Friendly%20Garden%20application%207-6-18%20RevLLS.pdf. You'll find lots of information so you can determine how closely your yard or garden fits the criteria for Bay-Wise or Pollinator-Friendly certifications.

You'll also find lots of suggestions for gardening resources available online in the following:

- [University of Maryland Extension Home & Garden Information Center, *https://extension.umd.edu/hgic*](https://extension.umd.edu/hgic)
- [Frederick County Master Gardeners Publications, *https://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening/publications*](https://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening/publications)
- [Facebook, *http://www.facebook.com/mastergardenersfrederickcountymaryland*](http://www.facebook.com/mastergardenersfrederickcountymaryland)

In addition, our latest (always free) *What Can We Do for You* (WCWDFY) flyer offers you lots of suggestions that not only entertain but also educate children. For instance, there are suggestions for making family portraits with plant materials, as well as URLs for science-related webinars and virtual classroom materials. These may augment your child's virtual learning this fall. If you'd like to receive WCWDFY by e-mail, contact us at fgardenersnews@gmail.com.

Occasionally, we have warned you about pesky invasive plants or insects. This month, our warning concerns packets of seeds being mailed from China to people across the country. Do **NOT** plant them! Instead, report the packet to ppwm.mda@maryland.gov or [call](tel:410-841-5920) 410-841-5920. The seeds may be those of invasive plants, or may carry harmful diseases that could severely damage American crops. Keep the seeds, packaging, and mailing label until a representative from the Maryland Department of Agriculture or USDA Animal and Health Inspection Service contacts you with further instructions. More information is available at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa_by_date/sa-2020/sa-07/seeds-china.

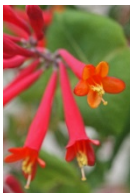
As you are taking that garden stroll or sitting in your lawn chair making up yet another garden to-do list, keep an eye out for caterpillars, to know which ones are dangerous, which are not. Leafrollers,

orange-striped oak worm, green-striped maple worms, oak skeletonizers, and sawflies are feeding on various shade trees. The fall webworm appears in late summer, is hairy and about one- to two inches long. It creates tent-like webbing on the ends of branches of various shade trees and shrubs. Although the webbing is unsightly, it causes little damage, nor do the others mentioned previously, according to the University of Maryland Extension <https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/august-tips-tasks>. Learn to recognize and avoid saddleback caterpillars or other stinging caterpillars.

The extension service also notes that hot and humid weather, such as we have experienced throughout July, encourages “Southern blight, a significant soil-borne disease.” The blight attacks “a wide range of annuals, groundcovers, and perennials, including thyme, coneflower, coreopsis, and black-eyed Susans.” Generally, “the lower stems turn brown or black, foliage wilts, and plants gradually dry up and die.” About the only way to control the blight is to remove the affected plant and all mycelium (fungus) filaments that are clinging to stems, roots, and soil.

Finally, as you are taking a break from all that weeding or planning/planting for a fall harvest (see July’s column, “Planning For The Fall Harvest,” at https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/lifestyle/home_and_garden/master-gardener-planning-for-the-fall-harvest/article_d193ce1c-eb96-5fda-87a9-73360764a571.html; and the National Gardening Association’s website at <https://garden.org/apps/calendar/?q=Dalecarlia+Rsvr%2C+MD> for suggested lists of cool-weather plants), grab your camera or phone. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is seeking photos of birds, insects, wildlife, flora, recreation, scenic landscapes, weather and wonder. With a \$10 entry fee, you may submit up to three photos. Deadline is August 31. Prize-winners will be included in DNR’s 2021 calendar. For full details, see <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/photocontest.aspx>.

For more information about gardening, visit <http://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening>, or call us at 301-600-1596.

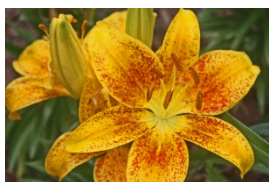


2020-08 Lonicera sempervirens 5526:

Our native honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*, is a favorite of hummingbirds and is not invasive, as is the Japanese honeysuckle.

2020-08 A’s butterfly 144037:

Children can use fresh or pressed plant materials to make pictures of creatures from the wild or even family portraits. Here, the author’s 10-year-old granddaughter has used leaves, berries, flower buds, and grasses to create a butterfly.



2020-08 Daylily 5625:

The daylily, *Hemerocallis*, provides a colorful bloom time from July through August.

2020-08 housefinch in catmint 5845:

A brightly colored male house finch feasts on the catmint in the author’s garden.





2020-05-24 Hawk 5598:

A hawk checks the author's yard for snacks, such as rabbits, squirrels, voles, or chipmunks.



2020-08 Skipper butterfly 5852:

A silver-spotted skipper butterfly feasts in the author's garden.

For more information about the Frederick County Master Gardener/Horticulture Program, visit: <http://extension.umd.edu/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>

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