

Ask A Master Gardener Plant Clinic Statewide Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 3, 2019 | 9:30 am - 2:00 pm | AACCCALT | 101 College Pkwy. | Arnold, MD

Training Presentations

Plant Diseases Update

Dave Clement, UME Specialist, Plant Pathology

[Click here for Dave's presentation](#)

Insects Update

Mary Kay Malinoski, UME Regional Specialist, Entomology & IPM

[Click here for Mary Kay's presentation](#)

Vegetable & Fruit Update and HGIC Resources

Jon Traunfeld, UME Vegetable /Fruit Specialist and Director of the Home & Garden Information Center

[Click here for Jon's presentation](#)

Ask a MG Plant Clinic County/City Program Updates

Each county/city program had approximately 3 minutes to share their 2019 Ask A MG Plant Clinic plans, challenges, and activities.

Allegany (Brenda Gross & Ray)

- Working on starting a free library program with their plant clinics
 - They put an article in their local newspaper asking people to donate books
 - They purchased a sign and book exchange box that volunteers pick up and bring with them to plant clinics at Farmer's Markets
- Successful plant sale the first weekend in May selling Master Gardener grown plants
 - They advertise for this sale locally
- Working on programs for their local fair (Superintendents of flowers and also of fruits & vegetables)

Anne Arundel County (Alissa McDonnell Ellison)

- Weekly themes for Farmer's Market plant clinics
- Working on activities for programs at the County Fair
- They are starting to work with the library system for plant clinics, trying one a month at different locations to try to reach new audiences

Baltimore City (Anita Robinson)

- Holding plant clinics at Farmer's Markets, working to provide resource for underserved communities
- They are working to create community gardens in areas that are considered food deserts.
 - They are giving out seeds and hosting social programs in these areas

Baltimore County (Eugenie Nable and Judy Fulton)

- They have 7 plant clinic locations
- They host continuing education events for the public on basic and advanced container gardening
- Judy Fulton helps host the "What's This Plant?" event with Natural History Society of Maryland on the second and fourth Monday of every month from 7pm – 9pm
 - People can bring plants in to get help IDing them
 - Guests will also learn how to ID other plants in the future
 - Event dates, additional information, and registration are available online at <http://marylandnature.org/events/>

Carroll County (Courtney Coddington)

- Found it helpful to use samples or props to use as a conversation starter to encourage people to talk with them. It can also help give volunteers more confidence and make them more comfortable by planning a direction for the conversation
- Mentioned the [UMD tick fact sheet](#) as a helpful resource
- They have 5 main plant clinic locations and they try to offer programming year-round. They begin library programs in January

Cecil County (Thomas McFadden)

- They are working on programming with their County library system
- The library is helping them to promote their events

Charles County (Bill Allen)

- Both their Waldorf and La Plata plant sales were successful
- Held composting workshop and rain barrel workshop recently, both were successful with about 30 participants
- Participating in the upcoming 4H summer camp. Have previously helped students make seed bombs
- At the Melwood pollinator garden, they grow flowers that can be cut and sold. They also built an herb spiral

Dorchester County (Kathy Burtman and Robin Herman)

- Did their first plant clinic last week at their local Farmer's Market
- Their most popular questions are about what is wrong with tomato plants or how to keep deer out of gardens
- Many parents bring children to Farmer's Markets, so they are planning ways to keep children engaged
- They oversee a 50-bed community garden in Cambridge
- There is an art center that hosts a festival in Cambridge in September. They are planning to have a booth there with activities to engage children

Frederick County (Kimberly Leahy)

- A new storm water runoff management system with new and proprietary technology is being installed in the Frederick County extension office. They're incorporating storm water management into their new demo garden

Harford County (Francis Murphy)

- Hosting 2 plant clinics per month, rotating through various locations
- Planning to start a phone clinic similar to the program in Montgomery County

Howard County (Barbara White)

- They've been collecting questions asked during plant clinics and they have put together a document with helpful info and links. They bring tablets to their plant clinics and are able to access the documents and links on site

Montgomery County (Diane Eggensperger and Beth Meyers)

- Using the "What to Do When" calendar from Frederick County. They have translated it into Spanish
- They have also adapted the Gardening for Shade info sheet
- Invasive species and what to plant instead of them has been a popular topic

Prince George's County (Torlanda Archer and Chris Loffredo)

- Bowie Farmer's Market plant clinic once a month
 - Their most popular questions are in regards to insects and IDing insects
 - There are monthly themes for the plant clinics
 - May- June is seed starting. They give away seed starting kits for children to try at home
 - July theme is Weed ID
 - August theme is houseplants
 - September theme is fall gardening and preparing plants for winter
- Cheverly Farmer's Market plant clinics
 - They have pollinator tattoos for children
 - They had a worm hotel that was popular for the children. It was offered for auction following the event
 - They are also receiving lots of questions regarding pollinators
- The Bay-Wise program is gaining popularity

St. Mary's County (Mary Antonelli)

- Plant clinics occur at 3 libraries and 3 Farmer's Markets
- They have been recording and tracking questions so they know what to prepare for and what resources they need to bring
- Volunteers are participating in a mock plant clinic training next week
- Questions for kids gardening are very common, so they are creating activities for kids at their Farmer's Markets
 - Give away seed packets to kids to get them started
- They've been giving clients half-page size info sheets with specific notes and URLs so people can keep them for reference later

Requested Resources

Link to UME's Landscape and Nursery IPM Alerts

Prepared by Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist

<https://extension.umd.edu/ipm/landscape-and-nursery-ipm-alerts>

Bugs, Blooms, and Blights Facebook Page

Updated by Dave Clement and Mary Kay Malinoski

<https://www.facebook.com/horttips/>

Suggested Insect References

Prepared by Mary Kay Malinoski

<https://umd.box.com/v/insect-references>

Plant Clinic FAQs

Prepared by Howard County UME Master Gardeners

<https://umd.app.box.com/v/Plant-Clinic-FAQ-2019>

Answers to Maryland Ask an Expert Questions

HGIC consultants answer questions from the public. Search the answers here for helpful answers to common questions that you likely see at your plant clinics!

https://ask.extension.org/questions?widget_key=aae-qw-e5dafcdd&limit=4&location_id=30