

THE GARDENER'S GUIDE WHAT TO DO & WHEN

Seasonal Garden & Lawn Guide for Maryland Residents & Communities

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER

Prepared by the Master Gardeners of Frederick County, Maryland

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**Maryland Master Gardeners
Helping Residents Grow Their Gardens**

Masters Gardeners are volunteers trained under the University of Maryland Extension (UME) to help educate residents about practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities. To learn more about the free services provided by your local county Master Gardeners, and how to become one, visit extension.umd.edu/mg, then select Local Programs.

GROW IT • EAT IT

Want to grow fruits and vegetables in your garden or community? Maryland Master Gardeners actively promote food gardening throughout the state. Visit extension.umd.edu/hgic.

BAY-WISE

Bay-Wise Landscape Management

"Better water quality through smarter gardening"
Want a lawn and garden that help clean the Chesapeake Bay? Have a Bay-Wise Team do a house call or find information on your own at extension.umd.edu/baywise.

HOME & GARDEN
INFORMATION CENTER

Find the answers to your plant and pest questions through a wealth of online and published information at extension.umd.edu/hgic. Use the link "Ask Extension" to submit questions by email.

ALSO OF INTEREST

Fertilizer Act of 2011
To find out how this Maryland legislation affects homeowners, visit mda.maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx.

Yard Waste Recycling
For guidelines by county, <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/home-landscape-best-management-practices>.

A GARDEN PLANNER AND CHECKLIST from the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture can be downloaded at mda.maryland.gov/resource/conservation/Documents/wintergardenerplanner.pdf.

Garden Guide produced by Sheryl Massaro, Frederick County Master Gardener. Special thanks to LeAnne Gellert, Montgomery County Master Gardener and Christina Renshaw, Frederick County Master Gardener. Please send comments on the Garden Guide to sherylmassaro@gmail.com.

**Percent Probability of Last
Occurring On/Or After
Date in Spring**

Site	10% 1 yr. in 10
Balt. Airport	April 26
Baltimore City	April 11
Bel Air	April 30
Cambridge	April 27
Chestertown	April 18
College Park	May 4
Cumberland	May 16
Denton	April 29
Frederick	April 29
Hagerstown	May 3
Hancock	May 21
La Plata	May 10
Oakland	June 5
Rockville	May 7
Royal Oak	April 12
Salisbury	April 23
Snow Hill	May 4
Upper Marlboro	May 6
Westminster	May 4

**Percent Probability of
Temperature 32 Degrees F.
Or Lower, On Or Before
Given Date in Fall**

Site	10% 1 yr. in 10
Balt. Airport	Oct. 17
Baltimore City	Oct. 30
Bel Air	Sep. 28
Cambridge	Oct. 13
Chestertown	Oct. 18
College Park	Oct. 7
Cumberland	Sep. 26
Denton	Oct. 7
Frederick	Oct. 7
Hagerstown	Sep. 28
Hancock	Sep. 21
La Plata	Oct. 5
Oakland	Sep. 15
Rockville	Oct. 3
Royal Oak	Oct. 16
Salisbury	Oct. 10
Snow Hill	Oct. 8
Upper Marlboro	Sep. 29
Westminster	Oct. 6

Find the city nearest you to estimate spring and fall frosts:

Below are charts showing rough estimates for the last chance of frost in the spring and the first chance of frost in the fall, as recorded at various Maryland State Department of Agriculture sites. To access a free app that will allow you find more targeted information, visit <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/spring-frost-or-freeze-dates-maryland>.

Frost Dates for Spring and Fall in Maryland

Maryland's Plant Hardiness Zones range from 5a to 8a. For the latest, interactive Maryland's Plant Hardiness Zones range from 5a to 8a. For the latest, interactive Plant Hardiness Zone Map, provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, select Maryland at plants.ars.usda.gov/FHZoneWeb/default.aspx.

Plant Hardiness Zones

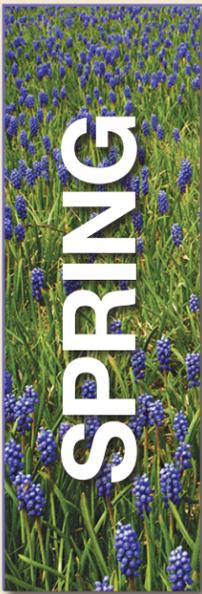
Cover photo by Cristy Stup
Inside photos by Harriet Wise, Frederick County Master Gardener

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THE GARDENER'S GUIDE: WHAT TO DO & WHEN

USDA Plant Hardiness Zones for Maryland — 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 8a

- **2nd best time to seed lawns: late February–April** • Mulch 2-3 inches & keep away from trunks • Earthworms mean healthy soil •
- State Tree: White Oak (*Quercus alba*) • Don't work wet soil—wait until it crumbles in your hand • **Last frost date—see back cover** •



March

- Gently clean up the garden.
- To control crabgrass, apply pre-emergent herbicide to lawn (*when forsythia blooms drop*).
- Prune non-flowering trees and shrubs before new growth.
- Cut perennials and over-wintering ornamental grasses to 2 inches above ground.
- Plant cool-season crops (potatoes; lettuce; peas; root crops; and cole crops, including spinach, kale).

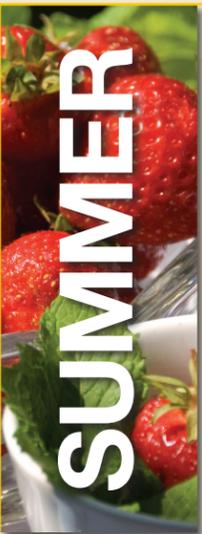
April

- Gently clean up the garden; add 1 inch of compost.
- Plant trees, shrubs, perennials; this is a good time to plant evergreens.
- Ticks are very active now.
- Put up birdhouses.
- Earth Day—April 22
- Arbor Day—last Friday in April
- After spring bulbs bloom, let leaves turn yellow and die before trimming.
- Take an inventory of containers and pots; clean or replenish potted soil.

May

- Directly after blooming, prune flowering shrubs and vines.
- After the last frost date, plant warm-season annuals and tender bulbs (*calla lilies, dahlias, gladiolus*) in the ground and in containers.
- After the last frost date, plant warm-season vegetables (*squash, peppers, tomatoes, corn, beans*).
- New fruit plants—keep watered their first spring, summer and fall.
- Mow tall fescue lawns at 3-4 inches and leave the clippings on the lawn.

- **Want to grow your own fruits and vegetables? See extension.umd.edu/hgic and select Food Gardening** •
- Water the ground under trees at least as far out as branches spread • State Flower: Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) •



June

- Remove spent lilac and rhododendron blossoms.
- Pinch buds of fall-blooming plants (*asters, mums, Joe-Pye weed*).
- Prune azaleas directly after blooming.

July

- Prune foundation shrubs and trees to be no closer than 1 foot from the house.
- Prune and thin shrubs that have already flowered.
- Plant heat-tolerant greens (*Malabar spinach, Swiss chard*).

August

- Cool season lawns go dormant in hot, dry weather—Do Not Water.
- Harvest leaves of herbs used in cooking (*rosemary, basil, sage*) in the early morning, for best flavor.
- At the end of the month, begin planting cool-season vegetables (*turnips, carrots, beets, spinach, Chinese cabbage and kale*).

- **Best times to fertilize/seed bluegrass/fescue lawns: Sept.–Oct.** • Destroy brown marmorated stink bugs in a jar of soapy water •
- Compost kitchen scraps (ONLY vegetable & fruit scraps—NO animal products or chemicals) • **First frost date—see back cover** •



September

- Labor Day weekend—perfect time for seeding the lawn.
- Remove fallen, diseased leaves.
- Mulch or compost healthy leaves.
- Continue planting cool-season vegetables; plant garlic now through the end of October.
- This is a good time to have vegetable garden and landscape soils tested see extension.umd.edu/resource/soil-testing-and-soil-testing-labs.
- Apply fertilizer and lime to turfgrass based on soil tests and UME recommendations see extension.umd.edu/resources/yard-garden/soils-compost-and-fertilizer/soils-compost-and-fertilizer.

October

- Harvest most fruits before frost.
- Continue removing diseased leaves. Put diseased leaves and weeds with seed heads out for recycling rather than the compost pile. Check your local recycling guidelines (*see back cover for web links*).
- Mulch or compost healthy leaves.
- You still can have vegetable garden and landscape soils tested.
- From mid-October through November, plant hardy bulbs for spring flowering.
- For readying amaryllis, Christmas cactus, and poinsettia for holiday blooming, extension.umd.edu/hgic and search "holiday plants."

November

- Continue removing diseased leaves.
- For care of holiday plants and trees, see extension.umd.edu/hgic and search "holiday plants."
- Continue planting hardy, spring-flowering bulbs.
- Trees and shrubs can be planted until ground freezes.
- After blooming, cut mums back to 6 inches above ground.
- Dig hole now if you will be planting a "live" Christmas tree.
- Mid-month, pot amaryllis for winter holiday bloom.
- Clean out pots; store non-frost proof containers in garage or basement.

- **Feed birds throughout winter months** • Remove leaves from lawn before snow • Gently sweep snow/ice off shrubs •
- Pot hyacinth, amaryllis & paperwhite narcissus for indoor bloom • **Never fertilize from Nov. 15 to Mar. 1** •



December

- Moderately prune evergreens, especially hollies, for indoor decorating.
- For care of holiday plants and trees, see extension.umd.edu/hgic and search "holiday plants."

January

- Start to browse seed catalogs and dream.
- Prune damaged branches.
- Hand-pull visible weeds.
- Keep bird feeders clean and filled.
- Sharpen and replace tools as needed.

February

- Start pepper seeds indoors.
- Start lawn seeding.
- Check indoors for termites and winter ants.
- Hardy spring bulbs begin to emerge (*crocus, snowdrops, daffodils, tulips*).