

What Can We Do For You?

*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.***

Frederick County Master Gardener (MG) seminars and other activities at the Extension Office are on hold until at least April 4. However, MGs are participating in events in the community. Find online gardening info and advice at: University of MD Extension Home & Garden Information Center, <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/environment-natural-resources/program-areas/home-and-garden-information-center>

Frederick County Master Gardeners Publications, <http://extension.umd.edu/locations/frederick-county/home-gardening>
Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/mastergardenersfrederickcountymaryland>

Master Gardener Plant Sale Returns

Saturday, April 23, 9 am to 2 pm

***** New Location: Frederick Fairgrounds *****

979 East Patrick Street, Frederick

This year's Plant Sale will be held in conjunction with FiberFest, a family oriented event that showcases the area's growing wool industry. Admission to both events, as well as parking, is FREE!

You will find us in Building 13, a short walk from the front gates.

GREAT PRICES ON THOUSANDS OF LOCALLY GROWN, TOP-QUALITY PLANTS

Vegetables (Heirloom & Hybrid) • Herbs • Annuals • Hanging Baskets • Perennials

Hard-to-Find Native Plants • Flea Market

Pay by Check, Cash or Credit Card

ASK MASTER GARDENERS for Gardening Advice and Tips

Held Indoors Rain or Shine

See www.facebook.com/mastergardenersfrederickcountymaryland for updates about this event.

Save These Dates: Frederick County Master Gardeners in the Community

FCMG Environmental Awareness Day on Saturday, June 25, 10 am to 2 pm

Join us at the Pollinator Garden/Community Plots near the Frederick News Post (FNP) on Ballenger Center Drive, Frederick, to find out about gardening to attract and support pollinators.

Learn from Beekeeper David Muns about the care of honeybees and see the hives he maintains. There will be tours, as well as information about setting up a rain barrel and practices to help reduce pollution of our waterways. This FREE event will be outdoors, with no access to the FNP building.

Ask a Master Gardener at These Events

Thurmont Greenfest: *Clean Water for Everyone*

Saturday, April 9, 10 am to 2 pm

Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser St.

www.facebook.com/ThurmontGreenTeam

Middletown Green Expo

Saturday, April 23, 10 am to 2 pm

Memorial Park, 310 S. Church St.

Worman's Mill Earth Day

Saturday, April 23, 1 pm to 4 pm

Mill Island on Old Annapolis Trail

No Mow May: Do More for the Environment by Doing Less Yard Work

Mowing your lawn less creates habitat and can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife, including bees and other pollinators. One way to improve the environment is by participating in No Mow May. According to Bee City USA, a division of the Xerces Society, “When we think of habitat loss, we tend to imagine bulldozers and rutted dirt, but acres of manicured lawn are as much a loss of habitat as any development site.”

The goal of No Mow May is to allow grass to grow unmown for the entire month of May, creating habitat and forage for early-season pollinators. This is particularly important in urban areas where floral resources are often limited.

In addition to benefiting pollinators, reducing mowing frequency will save water, help your lawn become more resilient to drought, and reduce emissions from gas-powered lawn equipment that often lacks the emission reduction equipment found on larger engines. For more information, including advice on how to deal with weed regulations,

see: <https://beecityusa.org/no-mow-may/>

Award-Winning Environmental Books for Children and Young Adults

The Nature Generation will announce this year's winning books on Earth Day, Friday, April 22. These awards are for “children's and young adult literature that best convey the message of environmental stewardship” and “stories about the environmental challenges we all face in a way that resonates with children and young adults.”

2021 winners included:

- *Butterflies Belong Here: A Story of One Idea, Thirty Kids, and a World of Butterflies* by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Meilo So
- *Hello from Renn Lake* by Michele Weber Hurwitz
- *You Can Change the World: The Kids' Guide to a Better Planet* by Lucy Bell
- *Bright Shining World* by Josh Swiller

For more information: <http://www.natgen.org/green-earth-book-awards>

Don't Spring into Garden Cleanup Too Soon!

Here's a very good reason to wait to tidy up your garden: pollinators. Many pollinators, like bees and butterflies, overwinter in dead plant material. They ride out the cold weather there and emerge in spring to do their good work. By removing dead material too early, you risk destroying many of these pollinators.

A good rule of thumb is to wait until temperatures are consistently about 50 degrees F. This will help protect habitat in the spring and ensure you have a robust and healthy pollinator population and overall garden ecosystem.



Want to Become a Master Gardener?

The next Master Gardener Training Program for Frederick County residents will be held in Fall 2022. Enrollment opens in July. Interested or want to learn more? E-mail strice@umd.edu.

Bay-Wise Certification, In-Person or Virtual

If you are using environmentally sound landscape practices that help keep our waterways healthy, we invite you to



apply for FREE Bay-Wise certification of your yard. You may choose an in-person visit from Master Gardeners or a virtual process (described at <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/frederick-county/home-gardening>). Find the required

forms at <https://bit.ly/B-WForms>.

These certifications begin April 1, and you may apply now!

Pollinator Friendly Garden Certification

If you already have created your own pollinator garden, apply for certification from Frederick County Master Gardeners and receive a distinctive yard sign that recognizes your achievement!

Find the application at <https://bit.ly/PollCert>



To receive this publication by email, contact us at fgardenersnews@gmail.com.