



In This Issue

[Master Gardener Corner](#)

[Private Pesticide Training](#)

[Winter STEM Camp](#)

[Selecting Christmas
Tree](#)

[Healthy Eating](#)

Upcoming Events

December 19:
Crops Sustainability &
IPM Workshop

December 26:
Christmas Holiday
Office Closed

January 2:
New Year's Holiday
Office Closed

January 10/24:
Private Pesticide
Applicator Cert.
Training/Exam

January 13-16:
4-H Residential Winter
STEM Camp

January 16:
M.L. King's Birthday
Office closed

January 28:
MG Seed Swap

February 18:
MG Workshop
Starting Seeds Indoors

February 20:
Washington B-day
Office closed

March 14:
Field Crops & Pasture

December 2016

As we near the end of 2016, it is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year. Each year, we in UMD Extension set annual goals and expectations based on needs of clientele and the communities that we serve. In the Spring of 2017, we will be sharing with you our 2016 Annual Report which reports on our efforts to offer programs that meet community needs. We would appreciate any feedback and comments as you read about the variety of exciting programs being organized and taught by our educators to help provide "Solutions in your Community".

Best Regards for a wonderful holiday season!

Karol Westelinck Dyson
Capital Area Extension Director

THE MASTER GARDENER COORDINATOR CORNER

Mike Ensor, Master Gardener Coordinator

Am I the only one who cannot believe how quickly this gardening season has come to a close - it becomes all about the leaves? Getting leaves off the grass before the turf is smothered, raking leaves into bags and onto tarps, mixing leaves into the compost, spreading leaves over layers

of newspaper to keep the weeds down, pulling handfuls of leaves out of the gutter before they turn to an earthy crumble - sound familiar? However in spite of the seemingly continuous battle, the glorious days in November makes those weeks of raking worthwhile. The leaves that have turned to gold, orange and red, glinting against a crisp sky, will, for magical hours, thickly flutter through the sunlit canopy to the ground.



It is hard to believe that the 2016 Master Gardener Intern classes ended on November 1. This results in a total of approximately 300 Master Gardeners available to support and educate the residents of Anne Arundel County!

April 7:
Online Nutrient Mgmt
Voucher Recertification

April 14:
Good Friday
Office closed

April 21:
Online Private Pest.
Applicator
Recertification



The Master Gardeners are always there when a job needs to be done. Their many projects are vital in supporting the program mission of "educating Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities" for a better quality of life. Master Gardeners bring visibility to the University of Maryland Extension and educational value to our communities. The connection to the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Forestry gives them the credibility

and expertise that is recognized and respected by the clientele.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener, then please visit the [Anne Arundel County Extension Website](#) website, click on Master Gardener and you will find the volunteer application. Applications are now being accepted for the Fall, 2017 class. You will also find other information about the Master Gardener program and the projects with which they are involved. We welcome your participation!



Mark your calendars!

If you have allowed your Private Pesticide Applicator Certification to expire or are a new applicant, then you are invited to attend the Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training and Examination. It's a two-step process:

Step 1: A Private Applicator Certification Training will be conducted at the Anne Arundel Extension Office from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on January 10, 2017.

Step 2 : A Private Pesticide Applicator Exam will be given at the Anne Arundel Extension Office from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

Register [online](#) or contact the Anne Arundel County Extension office at 410 222-3906 to participate.



Chill Out at 4-H Residential Winter STEM Camp!



**January 13-16, 2017 at
Patuxent River 4-H Center**

[Click here for more information!!](#)



Do you have a plant question? Pests in your house? Not happy with your lawn? The **University of Maryland Home and Garden Information Center** can help. Visit their website: extension.umd.edu/hgic.

Selecting and Caring for the Cut Christmas Tree

If you want your holiday season to be free from the dangers of fire, make certain that the Christmas tree that you are buying is fresh. Freshly cut Christmas trees have needles that are full of water and will resist burning. To make certain that your tree is fresh; you may want to cut your own at one of the many "Choose and Cut" Christmas tree farms. Choosing and cutting your own Christmas tree is a good family activity that is gaining in popularity.



Click [here](#) to learn more.

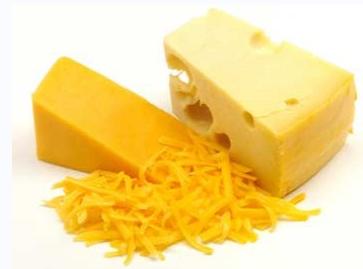
Source: UMD Home and Garden Information Center



Are you between 8 and 18 or know someone who is? If so, have you considered joining **4-H** as either a member or volunteer? Visit our [website](#) or contact Amanda Wahle at the UMD Anne Arundel Extension Office at 410-222-3900 or email awahle@umd.edu.

Healthy Eating - Macaroni & Cheese

2 cups whole wheat pasta
2 cups low-fat cheddar cheese, shredded
4 tablespoons flour
½ teaspoon pepper
2 cups low-fat or nonfat milk
1 (8-ounce) package of frozen, chopped, broccoli



Cook pasta, following the instructions on the package. Drain the cooked pasta and return to the pan. While the pasta is still warm, sprinkle in the flour and stir thoroughly. Over medium heat, slowly add the milk. Add the cheese and the pepper. Stir over medium heat until the milk and cheese thicken into a creamy sauce, 7-10 minutes. Stir in the broccoli, heat thoroughly. Serve immediately. Refrigerate leftovers.

Source: Eat Smart, Be Fit Maryland - eatsmart.umd.edu

Master Gardener Project - Speaker's Bureau

The Speakers Bureau gives educational presentations on a variety of subjects and provides information about sound environmental practices. The engagements with the public are through booths in public venues such as Earth Day, Fall Fest, and open houses as well as through invitations to conduct presentations at garden clubs, civic organizations, etc. Master Gardeners also research and create new presentation material on new topics.

For more information or to request a speaker, please contact Mike Ensor, Master Gardener Coordinator, at mentor@umd.edu.



Did you know...

Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works will collect your live Christmas trees and wreaths after the holidays. They are chipped into mulch, a valuable soil covering. Click [here](#) for more information.

Source: www.aacounty.org