BOOKS FOR GARDENERS

Linda Moran, Frederick County Master Gardener

Now that the abundantly long fall appears to be coming to an end, we can turn our attention to the winter days when work in the garden is not all consuming and enjoy the pleasure of reading books related to our favorite aspects of gardening.

**Apples of North America: 192 Exceptional Varieties for Gardeners, Growers, and Cooks** by Tom Burford. A horticulturist, orchardist and nurseryman Tom’s family has been producing apples in Virginia since 1715. This beautiful book, which Peter Hatch calls the definitive work on our national fruit, is filled with portraits of heirloom and modern apples along with their characteristics and uses. A section is devoted to planting, pruning, grafting and other information useful to the orchardist. This champion of heritage apples specializes in the restoration and design of orchards at historic sites. Perhaps you will also have a chance to hear him speak as he travels both here and abroad on a book tour.

**Fine Foliage: Elegant Plant Combinations for Garden and Container** by Karen Chapman and Christina Salwitz. Perfect for the lover of container gardening, this book is all about foliage, textures and shapes. It is filled with beautiful photographs and features a mind boggling variety of color, shape and texture plus 60 examples of plant combinations to try.

**The Four Season Farm Gardener’s Cookbook, From the Garden to the Table in 120 Recipes**. This two books-in-one by renowned organic gardeners Barbara Damrosch and Eliot Coleman is filled with the wisdom and practical knowledge acquired through many years of experimenting and gardening together in Maine. They believe in growing what you eat and eating what you grow. To that end they have worked to push the limits of their growing season and are happy to share what they have learned. For those of you who read Barbara’s columns weekly in the Washington Post you know she is also an avid cook as well as a master gardener. You may just find a recipe here that will use those fall and winter crops you are growing.

**Private Edens, Beautiful Country Gardens** by Jack Staub. This beautiful book features 21 gardens from Connecticut to Virginia including the author’s own, Hortulus Farms in Bucks County, Pa. which is open to the public. The photographs are well done, the writing is informative and each garden’s story is unique. It is the perfect gift for anyone interested in country gardens. Best of all, enjoy the book and then visit Hortulus Farms where you can wander at will through 24 separate gardens. If you are lucky as we were, you may be invited by Mr. Staub for a tour of their 18th century stone house.

Also highly recommended is *The Founding Gardeners* by Andrea Wulf.

*The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.*
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
The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.