Beyond the Garden Gates, May 18-19
This year’s Beyond the Garden Gates Tour is May 18 and 19. See the gardens, get inspired and then come by our booth at the South Frederick Arboretum, from 1:00-5:00pm, to talk about what you want to do in your own garden. See the Grow It Eat It exhibit on Saturday and the Bay-Wise eco-friendly gardening exhibit on Sunday. For information and tickets to the tour: http://www.celebratefrederick.com. Come by even if you are not taking the tour: see https://sites.fcps.org/essl/Arboretum.

Two More Spring Seminars
The last of our FREE Spring Seminars are designed for beginning and advanced gardeners alike. Please register by email to FrederickGrowIt@gmail.com, indicating which program(s) you will attend, so that we can prepare sufficient handouts and other materials. All seminars and workshops are held at the Extension office, 330 Montevue Lane (off Rosemont Avenue), Frederick, MD.

Thursday, May 23, 7-9pm
Herbs in the Garden
How to plant, care for and harvest fragrant, beautiful and delicious herbs in the ground or containers.

Tuesday, May 28, 7-9pm
Tree Care and Identification
Curious about the trees in your yard? This class will help you get to know them better.

Don’t Miss Our Fall Programs!
Email fgardenersnews@gmail.com to join our confidential mailing list and receive this e-newsletter 4-6 times a year.

Kids’ Scavenger Hunt, June 3
Kids, ages 2-6, with a parent or two in tow, are invited to a Scavenger Hunt on June 3, 10:00am, at the FCMG Demonstration Garden, 330 Montevue Lane.

Master Gardeners will be on hand to help you learn about pests, pollinators, compost and native plants, along with herbs, vegetables and other edibles. The event will be held rain or shine.

Plant Clinics at West Frederick Farmer’s Market
Help protect the environment by eating fresh, locally-sourced produce and have your gardening questions answered at the same time. Come by our Plant Clinics at the West Frederick Farmer’s Market on Baughman’s Lane on Saturdays, 10:00am-noon, from now through August. For directions, see www.frederickfarmfresh.com/markets/westFrederick/index.html.

Home & Garden Info Center
Got a gardening question? Ailing plants? Insects? Check out the resources at the University of Maryland Extension’s newly redesigned website at http://extension.umd.edu/hgic or the Landscape Problem Solver at http://plantdiagnostics.umd.edu. You can also call 1-800-342-2507, Mon.-Fri., 8:00am-1:00pm, and talk with a specialist.

You may drop off a plant or insect specimen at our Frederick office between 8:00am and 4:30pm Mon.-Fri. Just complete the form in the basket by the reception office door, to your right as you enter the building, and we will get back to you about it.
Bay-Wise Home Landscape Best Management Practices

Fertilize Wisely
Fertilizers can be harmful to the environment and your yard if not used properly. When applied at the wrong time or over applied, fertilizers can create salt problems in the soil. They can also affect winter hardiness, exaggerate pest problems and make plants grow excessively (which can mean more mowing too)! Excess nitrogen and phosphorus (two components of fertilizers) can leach out of the soil and pollute groundwater. These two nutrients can also wash off landscapes and pollute surface waters and eventually, the Chesapeake Bay.

Water Efficiently
Cool season grasses (fescues, bluegrasses, ryegrasses) naturally go into a semi-dormant state during summer's heat and drought. Many Bay-Wise Marylanders take steps to conserve water and mimic Mother Nature by not watering during summer. Others try to keep their lawns growing during this time by watering. If you choose to irrigate, do so only when your lawn and landscape need water. Efficient watering is an important key to reducing runoff and maintaining a healthy Maryland landscape.

Mow Properly
Cool season grasses grow rapidly during spring and fall. This is when temperatures are cooler and rainfall is more plentiful. Regular mowing at higher heights (2 ¼” to 3 ½”) encourages a deeper, more drought- and pest-tolerant root system. A higher cut also shades out weeds. Remove no more than a third of the grass blade when you mow.

Control Stormwater Runoff
Any rain and irrigation water that runs off carries soil, debris, fertilizer and pesticides from your yard into neighborhood storm drains. These storm drains lead to local streams, rivers, drinking water reservoirs and the Bay. These substances can harm living organisms, habitats and water quality. Reducing runoff from your property minimizes these problems.

Mulch Appropriately
Mulching retains soil moisture, moderates soil temperature and helps prevent erosion and weeds. By using mulch you'll use less water, have healthier plants and fewer weeds. Mulch should be three inches or less in depth. Deeper mulch can rob plant roots of water and encourage shallow rooting, which is harmful to plants during drought. Note: Never use freshly ground organic material, like brush or hardwood bark, as mulch. It robs nitrogen from the soil and can cause plant yellowing. Allow these materials to age for at least 6 months before using.

Recycle Yard Waste
In a Maryland landscape, grass clippings, leaves yard trimmings, and organic kitchen scraps, such as vegetable & fruit peelings, egg shells and tea & coffee grounds, should be recycled rather than thrown away. This recycling of nutrients completes a natural cycle to regenerate and renew soil. Recycling nutrients also reduces the amount of packaged fertilizer you need to maintain your landscape.

Manage Yard Pests with IPM (Integrated Pest Management)
It is unrealistic to strive for an insect and disease-free landscape. Pesticides provide effective treatment of serious pest problems, but they should not be used routinely or indiscriminately. Improper use of pesticides can result in pest resistance and can harm humans, pets, beneficial organisms and the environment. Integrated Pest Management, IPM, is a comprehensive process used to manage pests. It involves an understanding of the life cycle of the pest, other organisms, (like beneficial organisms, our pets and ourselves) and the effects of a pesticide on all of these things. The result is, when confronted with a pest, you should consider all possible ways to control it before doing so.

Steps of IPM include:
1. regular monitoring for signs of plant problems and insect pests (use a hand lens for a closer look and don't forget the leaf undersides),
2. preventing pest problems before they occur,
3. once identified, considering cultural or mechanical means of control and, as a last resort, considering using a pesticide or trying "bio-rational" materials like insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, and Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t.) for caterpillar pests,
4. follow-up monitoring and noting what worked and what didn't.

Plant Wisely
Plants suited to your site will require minimal amounts of water, fertilizer and pesticides; and may provide benefits to your home. A diversity of plants (shade trees, understory trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants) provides an interesting landscape for you, a range of host plants for our native wildlife, and reduces the amount of stormwater running off your property. Native plants require less fertilizer, watering and maintenance plus they encourage our native wildlife. Judicial placement of shade trees and evergreen plantings can help keep our homes cooler during summer and warmer during winter. Avoid planting invasive plants, which can out-compete native plants in natural areas.

Encourage Wildlife
Maryland has a great diversity of wildlife. Provide adequate food, water and shelter to increase the number and variety of species, like birds, butterflies and beneficial insects, which visit your yard.

Protect the Waterfront
Waterfront property owners realize the special contribution our waterways and the Bay make to their quality of life. They should also understand how fragile these natural treasures can be. Waterfront property includes those properties that border even the smallest streams.

For more info and to participate in the program, see: http://extension.umd.edu/baywise.

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.