Impatiens Downy Mildew
David L. Clement, UME Extension Specialist Plant Pathology

Symptoms can be very subtle, starting as a slight light green mottling or stippling on one or a few leaves. Infected leaves may curl downward. If you look at the undersides of these leaves, the white fuzzy growth of the pathogen is visible. As the disease progresses, infected plants will be stunted, and leaves and flowers will fall off leaving bare, leafless green stems. The leafless stems will eventually turn brown and become soft.

The survival of the disease depends on thick-walled structures called oospores that are formed in the diseased leaves and stems. These oospores can then overwinter in the soil and become a source of the disease next year.

Unfortunately, fungicides do not cure infected plants, so all symptomatic plant material should be bagged and discarded. Don’t compost them in your yard or at your site. We understand that this pathogen has overwintered on infected plants both in Europe and on Long Island, NY. Therefore we are recommending that you should not plant Impatiens next year if you had infected plants this year [2012].

Good substitutes would include cultivars of wax, winged and tuberous begonias, vinca, New Guinea impatiens, coleus, plectranthus, hypoestes, iresine, torenia, lobelia, and nicotiana. You could even try some grass-like alternatives such as cultivars of isolepis (optic grass) which is a sedge, and jun-cus and luzula which are rushes, and stipa which is a feather grass.

Find this article on the HGIC site:
http://extension.umd.edu/learn/impatiens-downy-mildew
Timely Tips from the HGIC

- Avoid the temptation to set out warm season crops until after all danger of late frosts. This would be late May in Western Maryland, May 10-15 in Central Maryland and April 25-May 5 in Southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. Cool night temperatures in April will cause the first tomato fruits to become deformed or “cat faced”. Be prepared to cover tender transplants with paper bags, blankets or other materials if frosts are anticipated.

- “Harden-off” transplants one week prior to transplanting to toughen the plants and ready them for outdoor conditions. This is done by leaving transplants in a protected outdoor location for 4-8 hours each day and returning them indoors before dusk. Plants are further hardened by cutting back on fertilizing and watering.

- Mix in a handful of finely ground lime, either calcitic or hydrated, with the planting soil of each pepper and tomato transplant to prevent blossom-end rot. Be sure that all plants and planted rows are clearly marked with the cultivar name and date planted.

- Thin out the new shoots emerging from blackberry and raspberry crowns so they are spaced at least six inches apart.

- Fruit trees can be pruned through the bloom period. Remove dead, broken and crossing branches. Prune peach trees during the bloom period or immediately after. Peach trees require severe pruning to encourage the development of new wood on which next year’s fruit buds will form. Maintain an open vase shape to encourage good air circulation and fruiting throughout your peach trees. Shorten branches and thin out weak growth.

- Fertilize brambles and strawberry plants with a balanced fertilizer at bloom. Pull the blooms off of newly planted strawberry plants for the first growing season. Blueberry plants should be fertilized with ammonium sulfate at bloom and again when fruits first appear. Carefully apply the fertilizer in a ring 12 inches from the base of each plant.

- If you had a major crabgrass problem last year and you did not apply crabgrass control last month, control with a pre-emergent herbicide may still be successful depending on the weather. Generally the latest that the first application of a crabgrass pre-emergent can be applied is the first week of April for Central Maryland. It’s earlier on the Eastern shore and later in Western Maryland. Divide the recommended amount by two and apply half now, the other half in mid-May.

- Groundcovers - April is an ideal time to plant herbaceous groundcovers. Consider planting groundcovers where grass won’t grow, where you have heavy shade or tree root problems and on steep slopes where it’s not safe to mow grass. Select plants based on the amount of sun they require. Good choices for partial to full shade include periwinkle, liriope, epimedium, sweet woodruff and pachysandra (Japanese and native). Groundcovers are also useful as a border around buildings, garden beds and groupings of trees. However, do not plant rapidly spreading types (i.e. English ivy, pachysandra) near property lines or woodlands where they can become invasive.

- Vines - For a little extra interest and dimension to your landscape, plant annual vines like cardinal climber, hyacinth bean, morning glory, etc. to cover fences, gazebos and trellises. All are easy to grow, have very colorful flowers and are easy to clean up in the fall because they are killed by the cold. You can head start them indoors about three weeks before the last frost date for your area or sow their seeds directly in the soil after the frost date.
Herbal Bytes of Winter

By: Gerri Frazier

The 20th Anniversary Social Symposium of regional units of the Herb Society of America gathered on March 23rd at River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society. I was able to attend as a guest of my sister, a member of the Colonial Triangle Unit. Herb enthusiasts from as far away as North Carolina and New Jersey heard first from Cyndie Rinek, a member of the Potomac Unit and owner of Blooming Hill in Philmont, VA. Cyndie grows over 40 varieties of lavender and her collection has over 600 plants! She spoke of the “Intoxicating folly of growing lavender,” and shared beautiful photographs of her numerous beds of plants in bloom. She admitted it helps that her husband is also a landscape architect.

One of the other secrets she shared was her use of chicken grit, or more often pea gravel, for lavender mulch.

After a lovely lunch, during which some of us braved the chilly outdoors to enjoy the grounds and view, we heard from three former curators of the National Herb Garden at the National Arboretum.

Holly Shimizu was curator during the planning and development of the garden from 1986 to 1988; Janet Walker expanded and improved the gardens and drainage, and Jim Adams oversaw the redevelopment and additional improvements leading to the gardens we see today.

After our program at River Farm we just had to drive to the Arboretum to view the National Herb Garden and lavender collection in person. As an added bonus, we were there in time to purchase some plants at the Native Plant Sale!

Note: River Farm is located in Alexandria, Virginia. More information can be found at http://www.ahs.org/about-river-farm

Weed Workshop

On Saturday April 6, UME-St. Mary’s MG’s and Sotterley Garden Guild members participated in a Weeds Workshop. This workshop was offered by our local Master Gardener office and took place on the grounds of Historic Sotterley Plantation.

The morning started off sunny but chilly. There were about 30 participants and Ben Beale, agricultural Extension Educator, gave a brief talk about identifying and controlling weeds. If you feel you are rusty on this topic, your MG manual has a great chapter about weeds and photos of the more common weeds. Here are some other web sources you may want to look into:

- Weed Science Society of America http://www.wssa.net
- Rutgers Weed Gallery http://www.rec.rutgers.edu/weeds/index.html
- Virginia Tech Weed Photos http://www.ppws.vt.edu/weedindex.htm

After the lecture portion of the workshop, the group headed over to the garden beds. In and around the gardens, MG’s recognized many of the culprits about which they had just been discussing. The group worked together on one large bed clearing it of weeds and being careful around the poppies! After filling buckets with weeds and getting a lot of fresh air, workshop participants enjoyed a great lunch. What a great way to spend a Saturday morning!
Are you Bay-Wise?
By Linda Crandell neilinda@chesapeake.net

Most Maryland residents live within a half-mile of a storm drain, stream or river. Many St. Mary’s County residents live even closer. Our local waterways all eventually drain into the Chesapeake Bay so what we do to maintain our own landscapes can affect the health of our local waterways, the Chesapeake Bay and our environment.

The Maryland Bay-Wise Program is a homeowner education program conducted by UME Master Gardeners throughout Maryland. Our goal is to help Maryland residents improve the quality and quantity of water resources here in Maryland and by doing so enrich the quality of life for everyone living in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Maryland Master Gardeners who have taken the Bay-Wise Advanced Training Course work with local residents to help them understand and implement the best management practices. These landscape practices have been developed based on UME research. When someone contacts our team about Bay-Wise, our first goal is to set up a time to meet with the interested person and visit their yard.

Most site visits start with a review of the Bay-Wise Yardstick and then a walk around the property. During the walk around we always talk about the Bay-Wise Basics; (see the Yardstick!) But, we have also discussed basic landscape design, planting for pollinators, rainwater collection, how to incorporate more edibles in your landscape, and whatever gardening questions come up.

Those of us on the team recognize that when we are working with our Bay-Wise clients we are doing our part to support the Maryland Master Gardener Mission: “To support the University of Maryland Extension mission by educating residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities...”. We would also like to let you know that when you become a MG with a Bay-Wise certified property you are also supporting the mission! Each Bay-Wise sign that goes up raises awareness of the Bay-Wise Program and message. We hope that if you are not Bay-Wise already, you will consider becoming Bay-Wise soon.

Please feel free to contact me with questions.
Recipe Box

**Pasta Primavera from the kitchen of Lynn Rudigier**

**Ingredients:**
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 3 medium garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups chopped fresh tomatoes
- 3/4 cup drained oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, sliced
- 3/4 teaspoon crushed dried red pepper
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut diagonally into 1-1/2 inch pieces
- 12 ounces thin spaghetti (we prefer linguine)
- 8 ounces mascarpone cheese
- 8 ounces crab meat (whatever you want to try)

**To prepare:**

Heat the olive oil in a large heavy skillet over medium high heat. Sauté the garlic in the hot olive oil for 2 minutes. Stir in the fresh tomatoes, sun-dried tomatoes and red pepper. Simmer, covered, for 5 minutes or until the sun-dried tomatoes soften, stirring occasionally. Season with salt and black pepper.

Cook the asparagus in boiling salted water in a saucepan until tender-crisp. Remove the asparagus to the skillet with the tomato sauce, reserving the liquid. Return the reserved liquid to a boil. Add the pasta. Cook just until tender but still firm, stirring occasionally; drain. Bring the tomato sauce to a simmer, stirring occasionally. Stir in the mascarpone cheese. Add the pasta and crab and toss just to warm.

Divide the pasta equally among serving plates. Sprinkle with the basil.

Serves 4 - 6

**Whole-Wheat Spaghetti With Asparagus from the kitchen of Pam Herold**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 bunch asparagus, ends trimmed
- 12 ounces whole-wheat spaghetti
- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup (about 2 ounces) hazelnuts— toasted, skinned, and roughly chopped (or use pine nuts)
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- Parmesan Cheese

**Directions:**

1. With a vegetable peeler, shave the asparagus lengthwise into long ribbons.
2. Cook the spaghetti according to the package directions, adding the asparagus during the last 2 minutes of cooking.
3. Drain the spaghetti and asparagus and return them to the pot.
4. Add the oil and hazelnuts; toss. Add the salt and pepper; toss again.
5. Divide the spaghetti among individual plates. With the peeler, shave the Parmesan over the top.

**Nutritional Information:** Per Serving
Calories 625; Calories From Fat 46%; Sat Fat 3g; Cholesterol 10mg; Sodium 706mg; Carbohydrate 71g; Fiber 4g; Sugar 6g; Protein 22g

**Classifieds**

Ann Richards will offer free cuttings from her Cork Screw Willow and Puss Willow trees. They were snatched up at the quarterly meeting and she was glad to see people take them—they root very quickly this time of year!

Please contact Ann at: jrichards@md.metrocast.net
UPCOMING ADVANCED TRAINING AND MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

APRIL 2013

- **18th**—4:00-5:00 p.m.
  Check presentation from Chaney Beautification Grant—Thomas Stone Nat’l Historic Site, Port Tobacco;

- **20th**—10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
  Ask a MG Plant Clinic—Charlotte Hall Library

- **20th**—1:00-4:00 p.m.
  MG display table and take away activity for kids, Spring Festival, Quarter A, PAX—NAS

- **21st**—12:30-4:30 p.m.
  MG and Bay Wise display, Earth Day on the Square in Leonardtown

- **23rd**—10:00-11:00 p.m.
  MG presenting “Spring Gardening Tips” at the Garvey Senior Ctr., Leonardtown. Invite your 50 year old friends!

- **23rd**—11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
  Ask a MG Plant Clinic-Leonardtown Library

- **23rd**—2:00-4:30 p.m.
  Possible workday at Freedom Garden—Look for emails

- **26th**—8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
  Ridge Elementary Planting—Email Jennifer for questions

- **26th**—10:00—11:00 a.m.
  MG presenting “Herbs”—Garvey Senior Ctr., Leonardtown

- **26th**—2:00—4:30 p.m.
  Possible workday at Freedom Garden—Look for emails

- **27th**—9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
  Sotterley Plant Sale

- **28th**—12:00—3:00 p.m.
  Sotterley Plant Sale

- **30th**—10:00—11:00 a.m.
  MG’s presenting “Container Gardening” at Garvey Senior Ctr., Leonardtown

MAY 2013

- **3rd**—1:00-5:00 p.m.
  Tentative prep for Freedom Garden install

- **4th**—10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
  Tentative Freedom Garden install

- **5th**—1:00-5:00 p.m.
  Finish Freedom Garden install
Master Gardener Annual Training Day

**Wednesday, May 22, 2013**
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Adele H. Stamp Student Union Building University of Maryland, College Park

Use this website to learn all about MG Annual Training Day and Master Naturalist Training Day. To register for it and to order MG Merchandise. See links below.

ON-LINE REGISTRATION is open— https://webtools.moo.umd.edu/mgatd/

PRINTABLE/TYPABLE REGISTRATION FORM—
http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/master-gardeners/StateMG/MGATDRegform2013type.pdf

Master Gardener Annual Training Day is open to all Master Gardeners and Master Gardener interns and trainees and to Master Naturalists (who have designated classes).

ANNUAL TRAINING DAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Keynote Speaker - Rick Darke
- 40 Workshops to choose from
- Continental Breakfast
- Delicious Box Lunch
- Free Parking
- Tradeshow/Exhibits

800+ MG’s from across the state
- 100 Master Naturalists
- All MG classes (except labs, in same building)

If you need assistance to participate in the Annual Training Day Program, contact Robin Hessey at least two weeks prior to the program -410-531-1754 (tel.); 410-531-5567 (fax); rmhessey@umd.edu

From Ben’s Desk...

The Beginning Farmer Success program is an initiative that partners University of Maryland Extension, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), and Future Harvest – Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture (CASA). The program aims to increase the number of successful beginning farmers and acreage farmed by them in Maryland, with an emphasis on practical training for new farmers, including underserved, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, minority and ethnic as well as explorer farmers. These partners bring together an online arsenal of resources through www.extension.umd.edu/newfarmer.

The website was launched on April 2nd and will offer new farmers an online portal to agricultural information in a wide array of enterprises. New farmers can also find information about business plans, certifications, and setting up a farmstead. For more information please visit our site at www.extension.umd.edu/newfarmer or contact the program coordinator, Andrea Rice, at amrice@umd.edu.
Our Vision: The Maryland Master Gardener vision is a healthier world through environmental stewardship.

Our Mission: to support the University of Maryland Extension mission by educating residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

Clivia Care By Suzanne Patterson

While it is possible to kill a clivia (pronounced CLY-vee-uh), it isn't easy. Clivias live in a variety of temperatures, tolerate shady windowsills, like to be potbound, and are immune to most insect pests.

What they do not do is bloom on command. To bloom, a clivia needs to be on an annual cycle of warm and cool temperatures. A rest period of 8 to 10 weeks in a cool room (where temperatures are 40 to 50 degrees F at night and only 10 degrees warmer in the daytime). I put mine in the garage near a window, with a reduced water supply, and no fertilizer is necessary to produce flowering. Flower stalks that never fully elongate are a sign that the cooling period was not long enough, not cool enough, or both.

Thank you to Suzanne Patterson for passing along this information. She had trouble getting her plant to bloom and she found this helpful paragraph in, 1000 Gardening Questions & Answers from the New York Times. This picture, with the clivia in the window, was taken March 10th.