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March 2017

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is embarking on a comprehensive visioning process to determine how we can best serve the State and its citizens. This is an all-inclusive process, designed to encompass all three legs of our land grant mission.

As a key member of our community your participation is integral, and we're hoping to hear from you at one of our upcoming Listening Sessions. We are having four statewide Listening Sessions, with one in our area being held at the Patuxent River 4-H Center at 18405 Queen Anne Rd., Upper Marlboro on April 4, 2017. The event will run from 5:30- 8:30 pm and we will be providing light refreshments.

Sessions will be tightly organized by select facilitators. The session will offer you the unique opportunity to share thoughts on many facets of the college. The facilitators will provide feedback at the end of the session about the key themes emerging from the group. All the data collected will be considered as we work to shape the future of our college.

I have attached a [letter](#) from Dean Beyroudy outlining your importance as part of this process. You can register for a Listening Session using this link <https://agmr.umd.edu/vision/listening> to register right now. Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at 410 222-3906 or email at kdyson1@umd.edu

Thank you for your contributions to the college and I look forward to seeing you at the Listening Session.

Best regards,

Karol Westelinck Dyson
Capital Area Extension Director

Mark your calendars!

Interested in composting? The Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners will present composting demonstrations twice a month from May 3rd through November 11. There will also be an Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 22nd.

Learn how to do home composting and get answers to your composting questions.

June 24:
MG Composting Demo

July 4:
Independence Day
Office closed

July 5:
MG Composting Demo

July 12:
4-H Volunteer Training

July 22:
MG Composting Demo

July 30-August 4:
A.A. Co. 4-H Camp

Demonstrations last about an hour. You will also receive a free composting bin and goody bag. Feel free to visit our native plant gardens adjacent to the composting site to view this type of plants that will grow in your garden.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Nutrient Management Tips to Get Your Garden on the Right Track

Emileigh Lucas, Nutrient Management Advisor

Do you ever feel like your plants are not producing as well as you hoped, even though you believe you are applying enough fertilizer, watering properly, and your garden has plenty of sun? One of the first "troubleshooting" options is to test your soil or growing medium. Feel free to contact the Anne Arundel County Extension office for a list of labs that can perform these tests and how to take a sample.

When you get the test results, you will be provided with a wealth of information about what is going on in your garden soil. One of the most important values is the pH. In Maryland, soil pH tends to become more acidic (lower number values) over time. When pH gets too low, typically below 5.5, many plants will not be able to access the nutrients from the soil that they need to produce satisfactory yields, even if nutrients are plentiful in the soil. Fortunately, correcting the pH is easy! Simply purchase agricultural lime and apply at the appropriate rate. Soil testing labs will provide specific liming recommendations if you give them the necessary information and request these recommendations. University of Maryland Extension also has resources to help, whether it be information sheets on specific crops, or the Home and Garden Information center. Be sure to research the needs for your specific crop, because a few crops (e.g. blueberries) thrive at a lower pH.



Your soil test will also provide information on the concentrations of plant nutrients that are already in your soil, including phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, and calcium (plus any others you request). Once you know what is in your soil, and what your plants require, you can fill the necessary gaps without wasting extra money on fertilizers you do not need. Nitrogen, a required plant nutrient, is not typically analyzed on a soil test, but recommendations are based off of researched values. Applying the correct amount of nutrients to your garden not only saves you money, but also protects the Chesapeake Bay. When these desired plant nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, are applied in excess and get into surface water, they can cause algal blooms and dead zones in the Bay and other bodies of water.

For your best garden yet, be sure to equip yourself with knowledge of the pH and nutrient concentrations in your garden soil. Your plants and those benefiting from their produce will thank you!



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

Helping Your Child Become Money Smart

Children, teens, and young adults learn their money management skills from a variety of sources, such as school, media, and peers. But parents have the greatest influence on their children's financial decisions. In fact, 56 percent of young adults say they rely on their parents for financial guidance.

Money management must be learned and practiced. It's important for children to learn about the value of money before they actually have any. Start early in your child's life to instill habits and build on them as your child grows and learns.



Although there are many ways to teach your child wise financial management habits, here are just a few ideas to help you raise a money-smart child. These can easily be included in day-to-day activities and do not need to take much time out of any schedule. See more

Source: extension.umd.edu

Online Applicator Recertification Training

If you would like the opportunity to learn from home, yet still be engaged, then be sure to enroll in the one of our Live On-Line Recertification Trainings.

Online Nutrient Applicator Voucher Recertification Training

April 7, 2017
4:00-6:00 PM

Online Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training

April 21, 2017
4:00-6:00 PM



Click [here](#) for more information.

Become a Master Gardener

The Anne Arundel County Master Gardener Program is now accepting applications for the Fall 2017 training program. Applications must be received by August 1, 2017. The 2017 training will be held from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays from September 12-November 2, 2017 at the Anne Arundel County Extension Office. The cost is \$275.



For more information, please contact Mike Ensor, Master Gardener Coordinator on 410-222-3906 or mensor@umd.edu.

Master Gardener Project - Monastery Garden

Master Gardeners teach good gardening practices at the Monastery Garden through demonstration, interacting with garden visitors and answering their questions. All Master Gardeners are welcome to join regular volunteers on Wednesday mornings, early March

through early October, to perform basic gardening chores, including planting, weeding, pruning, and maintaining the garden's Bay-Wise certification.

The garden includes brick paths, a children's garden, an herb garden, shaded seating areas, a secret garden, and religious sculptures. It is located behind St. Mary's Church on Duke of Gloucester Street, the site of the first private Catholic chapel in Maryland, built in 1822 by Charles

Carroll in the quadrangle formed by the church, the rectory and the historic John Carroll House. The garden was established in 1987 as a tribute to the deep faith in Mary of John Carroll, the first Catholic Bishop in the United States. Master Gardeners became involved in maintaining and improving the garden in 2003. [See more](#)



Agriculture & Natural Resources

Interested in agriculture? There are many agriculture resources available on our website.

Agriculture Newsletters

<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/agriculture/agnr-newsletters>

Agriculture Bulletins

<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/agriculture/agriculture-bulletins>

Agriculture Web Modules

<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/agriculture/web-module>



For more information, please contact [Dave Myers](#), Extension Educator, AGNR.



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.

Healthy Eating - Peach Cobbler

Ingredients:

1 (29-ounce) can of sliced peaches, packed in 100% juice

½ cup whole-wheat flour

½ cup enriched all-purpose flour

½ cup oats

¼ cup sugar

2 teaspoons baking powder

1½ Tablespoons vegetable oil

½ cup low-fat or fat-free milk

Cooking oil spray



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Drain liquid from peach slices.
3. Spray an ovenproof 1 ½-quart dish with cooking oil spray. Add peach slices.
4. In a large mixing bowl, combine the flours, oatmeal, sugar, and baking powder. Mix well with a fork.

5. Add oil and low-fat or fat-free milk to dry ingredients and mix until smooth.
6. Drop the dough on top of peach slices by spoonfuls, covering peaches.
7. Bake in oven for about 30 minutes or until fruit bubbles and the topping is slightly brown.
8. Remove from oven. Let cool before serving. Serve warm and garnish with a small scoop of low-fat or fat-free vanilla frozen yogurt, if desired.

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

Did you know...

Corned beef and cabbage, a dish traditionally served on St. Patrick's Day, is not an Irish tradition. The custom was started in the U.S. among the first generation of Irish-Americans as beef brisket was the cheapest cut of meat.



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Solutions in your community

Anne Arundel County Extension

97 Dairy Lane
Gambrills, MD 21054
410-222-3900

<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county>

Area Extension Director

Karl Dyson, AED
kdyson1@umd.edu or 410-222-3900
<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county>

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Dave Myers, Principal Agent
myersrd@umd.edu or 410-222-3906
<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/agriculture-natural-resources>



Nutrient Management

Emileigh Lucas, Nutrient Management Advisor
erosso@umd.edu or 410-222-3906
<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/agriculture/nutrient-management>



Master Gardener Program

Mike Ensor, Master Gardener Coordinator
mentor@umd.edu or 410-222-3906
<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/master-gardener-program>



4-H Youth Development

Amanda Wahle, Agent
awahle@umd.edu or 410-222-3900
<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/4-h-youth-development>



Family & Consumer Science

Vanessa Bright, Agent
vbright@umd.edu or 410-222-3903
<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/family-consumer-sciences>



Food Supplement Nutrient Education Program

LaTasha Coleman, Agent Associate
lcolema4@umd.edu or 410-222-3903
<http://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/food-supplemental-nutrition-education-fsne>

