



Solutions in Your Community



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August 24- Sept 4
Maryland State Fair

August 26:
MG Composting Demo

MG Good Gardening Practices class

MG Plant Clinic - 3 locations

September 2:
MG Plant Clinic - 3 locations

September 4:
Labor Day - closed

September 6:
MG Composting Demo

September 9:
MG Beekeeping Demo

MG Plant Clinic - 2 locations

September 10:
MG Beekeeping Demo

September 13-17:
A.A. County Fair

August 2017

Support local agriculture and other community groups by visiting the Anne Arundel County Fair from September 13 - 17 at the AA County Fairgrounds in Crownsville! Do you know that you can:

- BUY LOCAL meat from 4-H members at the Livestock Sale on Saturday, September 16 at 7 pm?
 - Or perhaps a HOMEMADE cake at the 4-H Cake Auction on Sunday, September 17 at 12:45 am?
 - Learn about local wine and beers in the Exhibit hall?
 - Watch teens vie for Champion in the Arundel's Got TEEN Talent Contest?
- and so much more!

Fall is Fair time in Southern Maryland, and each one of the 5 counties is unique! Why not do a Fair Trail this fall visiting one fair every week until the end of September?

Extension faculty are involved in many Fair activities- come see us there. You can learn more about each of the fairs on-line!

Happy Fall!

Karol Westelinck Dyson
Capital Area Extension Director

Mark your calendars!

Seedy Secrets & The Do's and Don'ts of Fall Clean-Up

September 16, 2017, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Crofton Community Library

In this two part workshop, presented by the Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners, participants will learn about gathering & storing Native Seeds throughout the winter. Tips for successful germination will be shared by Dr. Sara Tangren, a UME Agricultural & Natural Resources native plant expert. Next, learn to give insects & pollinators a winter home in your garden while keeping those falling leaves from taking over your property. Know how to help the beneficial bugs AND still have a neat garden bed. Hope to see you there!



Cover Crops in Your Home Garden

Emileigh Lucas, Certified Nutrient Management Advisor

Farmers in this area have been taking advantage of the benefits of "cover crops" for their cropland during the fall and winter for many years; why not get the same benefits on your home garden? Cover crops are plants "used primarily to slow erosion, improve soil health, enhance water availability, smother weeds, help control pests and diseases, increase biodiversity and bring a host of other benefits to your farm" according to USDA-SARE (United States Department of Agriculture-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education).

When summer flowers and vegetables are finished producing for the season, the soil is often left vulnerable to environmental conditions that could reduce the quality of the soil in home gardens. Top soil without vegetative cover may be lost due to wind and intense precipitation during the fall and winter. Cover crops protect the soil from these conditions while providing many additional soil health benefits.



Cover crops add organic matter to the soil, which allows the soil to better hold water during dry times and better absorb water during intense rainfall events. Soils with high organic matter allow roots to spread more easily and encourage a healthy community of soil microbes. Rich, dark, and friable soils typically result from plenty of organic matter.

When your garden is covered with a desired plant in the winter, there is less room for weeds to grow. Leguminous cover crops, such as various clovers, peas, or beans, also provide additional nitrogen (a required plant nutrient) to the soils, reducing fertilizer demands for the next growing season. Legumes have root nodules containing beneficial bacteria, which are able to draw nitrogen from the air for the plant to use, in a symbiotic relationship. When these plants are tilled under or killed with herbicides in the spring to plant vegetables or flowers, the decaying plants act as a slow-release fertilizer. Non-leguminous cover crops also act to retain and cycle nutrients for the following growing season, but provide less nitrogen than legumes. Additionally, certain cover crops can attract beneficial insects or repel pests, potentially reducing the gardener's cost in pesticides and losses from insect damage.

Protecting your soil helps your garden thrive and benefits the environment. Cover crops help prevent excess nitrogen and phosphorus from leaving your garden soil (through erosion of the soil or dissolved in the rain water) and making their way into the Chesapeake Bay, where they would contribute to algal blooms and have other negative impacts on water quality.

For more information about how to plant cover crops and which varieties would work best for your garden, check out the following resources:

University of Maryland Extension, Grow It Eat It- ["Protect and Improve Your Soil with Cover Crops"](#)

MDA, Back yard actions for a cleaner Chesapeake Bay, Fact sheet 6- ["Plant Cover Crops"](#)

The Fair is Coming to Town!

The Anne Arundel County Fair will take place September 13 through September 17, 2017. Come see the 4-H and Open Class exhibits and demonstrations ranging from baking to crafts to photography. 4-H also has many events, including the 4-H Livestock Skill-A-Thon, 4-H Archery Contest, 4-H Livestock Sale and the 4-H Cake Auction. In addition to the 4-H activities, you can watch the Antique Tractor Pull, Pie Eating Contest, Pig Races, Cute Kid Contest and

much more! We hope to see you at the fair!

For more information on the Anne Arundel County fair visit www.aacountyfair.org.



Master Gardener Project - Woodland Garden

In September, 2008, Master Gardener Bonnie Pavlak attended the book signing Open Spaces Sacred Places by Tom Stoner and Carolyn Rapp, held at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. She was inspired by the book to create a peaceful space in Kinder Farm Park as a Master Gardener Project. The purpose of the Woodland Garden in Kinder Farm Park is to create a place of beauty in nature for people to sit, relax, meditate and be refreshed. People walking their dogs can stop and rest. Anyone using the park who wants to have some privacy can sit on one of the woodland benches. [See more...](#)



4-H Foundation Cake Auction

Do you love to bake? The Anne Arundel County 4-H Foundation Cake Auction will take place at the Anne Arundel County Fair on Sunday, September 17, 2017. All proceeds benefit the Anne Arundel County 4-H Foundation.



Click [here](#) for more information.

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.

If you are interested in agriculture for YOUTH, please contact our office and speak with a member of the 4-H staff or email [Christa Stibolt](#). 4-H offers plant and animal science programs for youth ages 8-18. See the [4-H website](#) for more details.

Welcome to Walk MD!

Walk MD is a program that encourages you to increase your physical activity in a fun, community-oriented way with a challenging 500 mile virtual walk around the state of Maryland. You may participate as an individual or as a group with others, such as a classroom or youth

group such as 4-H.

The goals of this program are to help you develop regular physical activity habits, get healthier and more physically fit, and have fun!

Click [here](#) to learn more.



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

Healthy Eating - Watermelon Pops

3 cups watermelon, washed, chopped, seeds removed
Juice of one lime
1-2 Tablespoons sugar
1 cup fresh blueberries, washed
Freezer Pop Molds



Blend watermelon, lime juice and sugar in a blender until smooth. Divide blueberries among freezer pop molds. Pour watermelon mixture in each pop mold. Leave a little room at the top. Insert the sticks and freeze until firm, about 6 hours. Dip the molds briefly in warm water before serving.

Source: eatsmart.umd.edu



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.

Did you know...

The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services partners with Anne Arundel County Public Schools to help more than 4,500 children with the Anne Arundel County Back to School program. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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MARYLAND
EXTENSION
Solutions in your community

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