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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Prince George's County
2018

November

Your Monthly News & Updates



Greetings, Friends of Prince George's County Extension

On behalf of all of our educators and staff, I would like to wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving and best wishes for the coming holiday season. We hope you find some time to take stock and re-charge for the coming new year, and, if you just happen to need some practical advice on food safety, care of holiday plants, keeping your finances under control or many other holiday issues, give us a call!

Many thanks to all of you who responded to my request for possible members for our Prince George's County Extension Advisory Committee for the coming year. We have had several responses and I am still following up with those who sent a note, so please don't think you are not needed!

If you missed my last message but think you might be interested, please let us know. Individuals and representatives from agencies, faith based groups, community organizations, neighborhood associations, businesses and others are welcome!

Best wishes,



Karol Dyson
Capital Area Extension Director
University of MD Extension



@UMEPGC

Upcoming Events

Winter Wonderland

[Montpelier Farms Christmas Event](#) (Through December 23)
Looking for something the whole family can enjoy this holiday season?

[Holiday Tours at Montpelier Mansion](#) (December 4)
See Montpelier dressed up for the holidays on these self-guided tours. Guided tours available with advance notice. (via Visit Prince George's County)

[Accokeek Foundation: Winter's Eve](#) (December 8)

Winter's Eve is one of the most popular events held at the National Colonial Farm each year. Guests will enjoy a special evening as we deck the farm for the holidays - colonial style!

[Holiday Candlelight Tea at Marietta House](#) (December 8)

Set aside a special time to enjoy the season with our candlelight holiday tea! Tea tiers will include festive desserts. Following the Tea, you are welcome to tour the beautifully decorated and candlelight historic home. (via Visit Prince George's County)

[Holiday Tea at Montpelier Mansion](#) (December 8 & 9)

Enjoy a day of tea and a little shopping with the family

[Soiree at the Snowdens!](#) (December 15)

Enjoy an evening of holiday celebration, music and more!

[Hansel & Gretel Tea Party](#) (December 15)

Visit Darnall's Chance when it is decorated like a gingerbread house.

Listen to the story of Hansel and Gretel, enjoy tea and dessert, and participate in a holiday craft activity. Registration is required (via Visit Prince George's County)

[The Country Carolers at Robin Hill](#) (December 22)

Enjoy an afternoon of music wine and relaxation in time for the holidays

[Linden Hill Christmas Tree Season](#) (Until Sold Out)

Check out this seasons trees!

[Winter Festival of Lights](#) (Through January 1)

Bring a little twinkle to your holidays at this spectacular drive-through event (via Visit Prince George's County)



Classes, Workshops & More

[Computer Basics at Local Library](#) (December 1)

Join us for a class on basic computer skills. Learn to navigate the basic components of the computer as well as the internet. Registration is required. (via Prince George's County)



Memorial Library System)

[Beginner Hands-On Bonsai Class](#) (December 1)

Want to learn more about the Bonsai? Check out this course at Behnke's

[Orchid Diagnostics & Repotting Clinic](#) (December 1 & 2, 15 & 16)

Want to learn more about orchids? Come out to Behnke's and ask your questions!

[ECO City Tamale Workshop](#) (December 8 & 9)

Want to learn how to make Tamales? Check out this workshop!

[ECO City Intensive Urban Agriculture Class](#) (January 9 - March 13)

Looking to learn more about Urban Agriculture? Here's a class for you

[Farmer Training & Certification: Write Your Own Nutrient Management Plan](#) (January)

Want to learn to write your own nutrient management plan? Check out this workshop series.

[Annie's Project: Empowering Women in Agriculture](#) (January, February)

Join other women and learn more about business, agriculture and farm operation.

[Farmer Training & Certification for Intensive Small-Scale Food Production Operations](#) (March)

Questions about Small-Scale Food Production Operations? Check out this workshop series

Looking for more farm and local food events in Prince George's County? If so check out our Fresh. Local. Fun. PGC [events page](#).

Looking for more events in Prince George's County? If so check out [Visit Prince George's County](#), [Prince George's County Government](#), as well as [Prince George's County Library Systems](#).

Find the full list of county farmers markets [here](#). Download and print our [2018 Farmers Market Guide](#). You can also pick one up at your local farmers market or community center.

Putting the Vegetable Garden to Bed for the Winter

Cleaning Up

- Pull dead or declining plants
- Harvest everything above ground in the vegetable garden and under fruit trees. Don't leave fruits and vegetables out all winter to rot, attract animals and set seed.
- Don't forget to clean your tools and containers. It's tempting to wait until spring, but who has time in spring to disinfect or sand?
- Empty, clean, disinfect and bring in containers. You can store the soil elsewhere if you plan to reuse it. An easy way to disinfect containers is by spraying them with a bleach cleaner.
- Clean and store stakes, cages and garden ornaments. They'll last longer if you don't leave them exposed for the winter.
- Clean and sharpen tools before storage. Remove all caked on soil, sharpen edges with a file and give them a protective finish with a light coating of oil. And don't forget to clean and sharpen your pruners.



Compost & Soil

- Test and amend your soil, at least testing it for pH. Amendments can be slow acting so adding them now will make them available in the spring.
- Prepare your planting beds now, adding compost and manure, for planting in early spring. The freezing and thawing will work it into the soil for you.
- Use a garden rack on the soil to expose insects trying to burrow in for the winter. You'll disturb their dormancy and put them in view of the hungry birds.
- Start a compost pile. Compost all disease-free materials you've pulled out of the beds.
- Shred or mulch your leaves. They are free fertilizer so don't send them to the landfill. The resulting leaf mold is the most beautiful soil you've ever seen!
- Consider mulching now for fewer weeds in the spring AND better soil. A layer of mulch in the fall

will suppress weed seed germination in the spring, while it's protecting your plants. Just make sure you weed first.



Plant

- Get flowering bulbs, garlic and rhubarb in the ground before it freezes. If your plants are still looking good, pot some up to bring indoors, including herbs.
- Take advantage of the cool weather and sow seeds of spinach, kale, lettuce, and collards. You may be able to harvest some before a killing frost. If not, they start growing for you in early spring.
- Plant a cover crop. Oats and buckwheat or winter rye can be scattered over the garden, covered with a light layer of soil and water

if needed. The cover crop will die during the first hard frost and stay on your garden to protect it from weeds until you turn it under in the spring.

Cover

- If you are not planting cool weather crops or garlic, cover your raised beds with weed cloth.
- If you have an in ground garden, consider planting a cover crop or scattering leaves over the garden and putting netting on top.

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Did You Know



Did you know... Staying hydrated during the cold of winter is as important as being hydrated when temperatures soar? Why?

Because our body loses water just the same during cold weather, as during warm weather. So strive for eight glasses of water each day!

Dehydration can be severe, so reach for that hot cup of tea and glass of water. For more information, [click here](#).

Did you know... Last month the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Agriculture (USDA) met again to discuss the regulation and labeling of cell cultured meats? According to a recent Congressional Research Service Report, "a number of U.S. cell-cultured meat companies are developing products that some believe could be sold within three years in certain markets and widely available in 10 years." To read and learn more, [click here](#).

Did you know... Two 4-H groups are participating in the 19th Annual Gingerbread House Contest at Darnall Chance House Museum? Show dates are Dec 1-2 and 7-9. Come out and support our 4-H groups and vote for the Viewer's Choice Award. Click [here](#) for more details.



Did you know... It's important to stay active year-round, which includes the winter time? Don't let your motivation for exercise fall along with the temperature. **Put on some music and dance, or do strength exercises at home.** These involve lifting weights, but you don't need barbells. Use items such as water bottles and canned foods as dumbbells. You can also start by using your own body's weight. For example, do curls as if you are lifting dumbbells, but raise your fist. Lie on the floor, and lift your legs. For more indoor activity tips, [click here](#).



Did you know... Our local 4-H club will be having a bake sale and collecting new unwrapped toys for Toys 4 Tots at a breakfast event?

Come out Sunday, Dec. 9 from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the [Patuxent River 4-H Center](#) to have breakfast with Santa. Santa will also be present for photos. The Patuxent Center is also having a community Holiday Craft Workshop on Friday, November 30. Registrations due by Nov. 26th!



Fresh. Local. Fun.

Prince George's County, Maryland

Visit [Fresh. Local. Fun. PGC](#) for more information about farms, food events, and farmers markets in gorgeous Prince George's! Minutes from the Nation's Capitol, Prince George's County offers a variety of [food and farming events](#) every month!



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

This newsletter is brought to you by University of Maryland Extension, Prince George's County. University of Maryland Extension (UME) is a statewide non-formal education system funded by federal, state, and local governments within the University of Maryland - College Park and the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore. Our mission is to support Maryland's agricultural industry; protect its valuable natural resources; enhance the well-being of families and individuals, both young and old; and foster the development of strong, stable communities. The Prince George's County office, partially supported by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, serves the community from two locations including the main Extension office in Clinton and the Center for Educational Partnership in Riverdale.

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