April Tips

Fruits

Blueberries. Photo from extension.org

This is a good time to plant small fruits like blueberry, strawberry, blackberry, and raspberry. And if you are especially fond of blueberries and have been growing Northern highbush cultivars such as ‘Bluecrop’ and ‘Blueray,’ you may want to try some Southern highbush cultivars (except for far Western and Northern parts of the state). ‘Ozarkblue,’ ‘Reveille,’ ’O’Neal,’ and ‘Cape Fear,’ are some recommended Southern highbush cultivars. These plants tend to be larger and produce more fruit than their Northern highbush cousins.
Wildlife

Eastern box turtles and various species of snakes are coming out of hibernation and may visit your yard. Box turtles are becoming scarce through much of Maryland because of road mortality and habitat destruction. Observe it but don’t collect it as a pet.

→ Read More Seasonal Tips

Grow100 2015 begins!

And we’re back for another year of 100 square-foot gardens!

Enter the 2015 Grow It Eat It challenge and show us “What Can YOU Grow in 100 Square Feet?”

Participation has been simplified with only one final submission stage, no categories, easier image uploading, and this year it is just a ‘challenge’ not a competition with a winner. It’s just for fun!

→ Read Full Blog Post for all of the details and to sign up.

Hot news

HGIC, Grow It Eat It, and Master Gardener website design improvements

We have been hard at work for several months improving many navigation features and adding new content to our three websites and are proud to flip the switch and make the improvements available to our users!
We thought a lot about why users come to our websites and the fastest and simplest way to present our content for that type of use. All three sites have new homepages with big, graphical content categories and sub-content quick links below, making it easy to find your information quickly.

On the HGIC website, some content has been reorganized, plus we are excited to add a whole new Earth-Friendly section of the website that raises awareness of important topics, will help prevent plant problems, and improve gardens and landscapes.

Please check out the new looks and features of our sites (still at the same web addresses):

---> [Home and Garden Information Center](https://www.hgiforum.org/) | [Grow It Eat It](https://www.gieѝ.org/) | [Master Gardener](https://www.maryland.gov/)

**Featured Video 👇**

**Salad Table Gardening**

Jon Traunfeld talks about how to get started using a University of Maryland Salad Table. Learn how simple and easy it is to grow your own food, like lettuce and herbs.

---> [Watch Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=example_video_id)

---> [More information on Salad Tables on GIEI](https://www.gieѝ.org/)

Ask Maryland's Garden Experts your plant and pest questions online [here](https://www.umd.edu/). We have had our property line landscaped with "deer resistant" shrubs. We sprayed Deer-B-Gone, and they are still eating. Is coyote urine a possible solution, and if so, where can we find it to buy? Do you have any other recommendations?

**Upcoming Events and Classes**

- ** Allegany County GIEI**
  - April 13 | 12 Steps to Starting a Vegetable Garden | Western MD Health System auditorium

- ** Baltimore City GIEI**
  - April 15 | Seed starting techniques | Enoch Pratt library

- ** Calvert GIEI**
  - April 18 | Butterflies | Prince Frederick Library

- ** Frederick GIEI**
  - April 25 | MG Plant Sale
  - April 11 | Beginning Veg Gardening and IPM

- ** Garret GIEI**
  - April 9 | Hot Beds, Season Extension
  - April 23 | Soils/Soil Testing
  - April 30 | Native Plants

- ** Harford GIEI**
  - April 11 | Herbs in Gardens & Containers (pre-reg)
White-Tailed deer

Deer will sample anything that is new in the garden and will eat anything, including poisonous plants if they are hungry enough. Nothing deters all of the deer all of the time. Garden centers sell coyote urine and it is available online. It is a good idea to vary repellents, but nothing will really deter a really hungry deer. Some people sprinkle human hair or hang small soap bars in their trees or sprinkle the ground with Milorganite (processed sewer sludge). Surrounding the shrubs with bird netting or a fence will probably work better than repellents.

View Information Library regarding Wildlife

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