Have you seen this?

**Powdery Mildew on Dogwood**

This fungal disease usually produces white powdery blotches on leaves, but on our native flowering dogwoods it may be more subtle. Its muted discoloration blocks light, which leaves need for photosynthesis. Though infection is rarely lethal, leaves can yellow or brown, distort or get purplish fall color and drop, sometimes months ahead of time.

Though dogwoods like part shade, give them adequate sunlight and good air circulation by thinning (pruning) out some of the branches. While fungicides may be needed in extreme cases, the optimum control is to plant one of the new dogwood varieties highly resistant to powdery mildew.

--- Learn more here
--- HG84 - Pruning Ornamental Plants

### August Tips

- **Fall webworm** is a late summer pest. It is a 1-2 inch long hairy caterpillar that creates large tent like nests on the ends of branches of various shade trees and shrubs. It is unsightly, but causes little damage. They can be left alone or knocked out of the tree with a broom, by a hard water spray, or pruning them out and disposing of them in the trash.

- **Late August through mid-October** is the recommended time of year to over-seed or
renovate a lawn in Maryland. Learn more

- **Vegetables:**
  - What to plant in fall vegetable gardens [GE 007 - Vegetable Planting Calendar](#)
  - Resource for [Common Problems](#)
  - [Soil test](#) in the fall and amend soil, as needed.

Prepare to plant *cover crops* when summer’s bounty ebbs

---More seasonal tips

### Featured Video

**It’s the season to establish turf! Fix up your lawn!**

If your lawn needs sprucing up, we're approaching the season that is best for establishing or re-establishing turf. This video covers different ways to prepare a seedbed.

→ [Watch on YouTube](#)
→ [Learn more on lawn renovation on the HGIC website](#)

### Grow It Eat It

**CSI: The case of docile garden plant that runs amok!**

**Or, Much Ado About Barberry**

By Sara Tangren

People that like plants are generous by nature. Generous to a fault, in fact. In discussions with other gardeners, we are introduced to plants that we haven’t heard of before. And, one thing leads to another, and seedlings or divisions are shared. Everyone is happy...or are they?

You see, plant sharing goes beyond the garden fence. A plant species with seemingly docile growth tendencies in one climate and soil type, say on the Eastern...
shore of Maryland, can exhibit uncontrollable growth habits if it is shared with a gardener in an area that is geographically close but has a different type of soil, like in central Maryland. From there, progeny of the well-meaning gift can cross state lines, regional boundaries, and even national borders.

How does this happen, you ask?

Whenever another person gives us new information we evaluate it against our own life experiences. So when someone says Japanese barberry is invasive, we pause to think about our own personal experiences with barberry. These plants are available for purchase throughout the area, right? Surely businesses would not sell potentially invasive plants? Right?! You may have had this plant growing happily for the last 20 years without issue. So, what’s the harm in planting docile seedlings from Salisbury in Silver Spring?

A Master Gardener pulling barberry in Howard County that has escaped into the woods from the landscape

Most plant invasions begin quite modestly, with plants escaping from only a few gardens. With each generation they become a little better able to compete and spread in the wild. Eventually, in scattered areas of the country, isolated pockets of tough, competitive, alien, feral plants start to form. Eventually some of the isolated pockets come within cross-pollination distance of each other. This facilitates even more rapid adaptation and exponential increases in population size and distribution, and a full-scale biological invasion is underway.

Plant invasions are very patchy affairs. As more and more gardeners have first-hand experience, description of these plants will go from weedy to out of control to INVASIVE to THE PLANT ATE MY HOUSE!!!

Until the fall of 2013, when I started working at HGIC, I did most of my gardening and hiking in the Coastal Plain. When I began hiking the Piedmont parks in preparation for our native shade garden classes in 2014, I was shocked by the barberry problem. Nothing anyone had said to me about barberry had prepared me for that personal, first-hand experience. The sense of loss was indescribable. In particular I recall a hike through the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, where as far as I could see in all directions, the forest floor was covered with a mix of barberry and multiflora rose. Every spring ephemeral was gone, every native fern gone.

Through the internet, we can now share our first-hand experiences using maps, photographs, blogs, videos, and especially social media. The map below shows how far Japanese barberry has spread since its introduction in the 1860s. Although 150 years is a very long time for any individual person, it is the mere
The fact is that by the time the invasion is so widespread that we've all seen it; only the most draconian measures could ever undo the damage.

Who remembers Smokey the Bear’s campaign “Only YOU can prevent forest fires”? When it comes to plant invasions, only YOU can prevent widespread plant invasion!

- Remove them in the early patchy stages
- Refrain from sharing or accepting gifts of potentially invasive plants
- Check our new invasive plants webpage for more information including lists, videos, and recommended links
- Educate the public – include invasive plant education in your Extension work
- Learn - Maryland Invasive Species Council
- Organize or participate in invasive plant removal efforts
  - Sierra Club Invasive Plant Removal Outings by Location
  - Maryland Native Plant Society Invasive Species Removal Projects
  - Check Maryland’s State Parks or County Parks for Invasive Removal Projects

Q&A

Sudden Cucumber Wilt!

This year started out great, but seemingly right after the last heavy rain, the plant leaves on our cucumber started wilting and now it appears to be dying. Thoughts on what might have happened and if there is anything I can do at this point to save them, or prevent problems next year?
The weather can be the culprit since similar observations have been made in our area this year. Many cucumber plants have suffered from powdery mildew which is prevalent in rainy seasons. However, your cucumbers appear to have been attacked by cucumber beetles. The first photo shows damage to foliage caused by beetle feeding and the right-hand photo displays the effects of bacterial wilt, which was transmitted by the beetles.

Controlling cucumber beetles early in the season from seedling emergence or transplanting is critical in minimizing the risk of infection. It only takes one cucumber beetle to infect an entire plant. Here are some management techniques:

- Grow 'County Fair', a cucumber cultivar with genetic resistance to bacterial wilt. Select varieties resistant to cucumber beetle feeding (they have lower levels of the attractant compound cucurbitacin) - 'Gemini', 'Little Leaf-19', 'Saladin'.
- Cover seedlings with a floating row cover and only remove it during bloom to allow for insect cross-pollination.
- When the first beetles are observed, spray with a registered insecticide. Neem and pyrethrum are botanical insecticides used by organic gardeners. They are derived from plants.
- Remove weeds and debris around the garden at the end of the season.

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Visit HGIC's Bacterial Wilt information