Upcoming Events and Classes

Follow the links for more info on the events.

Baltimore City
July 9 | Freezing herbs/greens

Calvert County
Aug 1 | Kitchen Gardens

Carroll County
July 20 | Weed Control

Garrett County
July 14 | Plant Diseases

Harford County
July 18 | A Cutting Garden

Howard County
July 11 | Ask a Master Vegetable Gardener
July 18 | Ask a Master Vegetable Gardener
July 23 | Indoor/Outdoor Herbs

Have you seen this?
Chameleon Plant

*Houttuynia cordata*

Nightmare, Monster, Evil—this plant really brings out the name-calling. And it starts out so cute. Usually sold as a ground cover called ‘Chameleon’ plant because of multi-colored foliage, it reverts to solid green leaves, goes on the rampage, and tales of woe begin. Because of myriad tiny roots it is impossible to dig out or smother. Use a systemic herbicide like Glyphosate. Repeat applications are a must, especially spaced 2 weeks apart in late-summer/early fall.

For more on this plant and other groundcovers, view Publication HG89

July Ornamental Plant Tips

- Perennials, like yarrow and salvia, can be cut back now to encourage re-blooming later this summer.
- Deadhead the spent blooms of annuals like zinnias and marigolds to encourage vigorous and continuous bloom.
- Cut sedums back about half way to prevent them from falling over when in full bloom later this summer.
- Chrysanthemums should be cut back half way to encourage fall blooming. If not trimmed, they will bloom later this month and not in the fall.
Montgomery County
Aug 1 | Grow It Eat It Open House

Featured Video
Mosquito Protection: Bite Them before They Bite You!

Mike Raupp, "The Bug Guy" for the University of Maryland Extension, joins us once more to show how to take a bite out of mosquitoes! By using the right clothing, cleaning out standing water and other techniques, you too can keep your mosquito population down and your house pest-free.

Grow It Eat It

Leaf spot diseases of tomato and pepper

Warm temperatures and leaves that stay wet for hours at a time are environmental factors that contribute to foliar diseases. Here are a few common diseases that can injure plants and reduce harvests. Click links for detailed information:

**Early blight** (*Alternaria solani*)

Irregular brown lesions (often with a yellow halo) that enlarge and show a distinct bull's-eye target pattern.

**Septoria leaf spot** (*Septoria lycopersici*)

Small dark spots enlarge and develop tan centers with dark borders.
It's a fungal disease that often co-occurs with early blight. Manage these diseases by removing badly infected lower leaves, water at the base of each plant, and avoid wetting foliage. Apply a fixed copper fungicide if the problem is persistent and results in greatly reduced plant growth and yield.

**Late blight** (*Phytophthora infestans*)

One of the most devastating diseases of potato and tomato. The last major outbreak in our region occurred in 2009, although isolated cases are often seen in Western MD where summer temperatures are cooler. This fungal disease is quite different in appearance from early blight and Septoria leaf spot.

Follow confirmed reports of late blight in the U.S. on the [usablight website](https://www.usablight.org). HGIC and GIEI websites will alert gardeners immediately if we learn of reports in Maryland.

**Bacterial leaf spot** of peppers has been widely reported and has the potential to reduce plant growth and pepper harvests this summer. Pick off and dispose of badly infected leaves and consider applying a fixed copper liquid fungicide if the symptoms progress.

--- Click here for more from the GIEI blog

### Q&A

**Japanese Beetles and other munching pests!**

My Knock Out roses are being eaten up by some insect. I saw some Japanese beetles on them yesterday. What is the best solution? I do not want to harm pollinators.

From looking at your photo this appears to be **rose slug** damage. For the **Japanese beetles**, brushing them into a container of soapy water in the morning or evening can help to bring down their numbers about as well as spraying for them. Insecticides provide only temporary relief when populations are heavy.

For the rose slugs, apply insecticidal soap or horticultural oil to upper and lower leaf surfaces. Follow all label directions and do not apply during high temperatures or when pollinators are present. In general, roses take a break from blooming during the hottest part of the summer. You may want to do some light pruning now to generate some new growth. As the weather cools they will produce new blooms up until frost.

--- Visit HGIC's Insect Pest information
--- Ask Maryland's Garden Experts your plant and pest questions online
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