Upcoming Events and Classes

Follow the links for more info on the events.

Charles County
May 9 | Spring Plant Sale and Plant Clinic

Frederick County
May 14 | Basic vegetable gardening and seed and transplants planting

Garrett County
May 12 | Edible Weeds
May 16 | Starting a Vegetable Garden
My 21 | Making Seed Bombs - Children

Harford County
May 12 | Propagation
May 21 | Backyard Foraging

Howard County
May 5 | Container Gardening
May 14, 15, 21 | Ask a Master Vegetable Gardener

Kent County
May 14 | Farmer’s Market
May 28 | Chestertown Tea Party Festival

Have you seen this?

Rose Slugs

Holes in rose leaves? Patches of brown lacy etching? Huge leaf chunks missing without a culprit in sight? Many a rose mystery traces back to rose slugs. Camouflaged in shades of green and mostly hiding under rather than on top of leaves, rose slugs have big appetites. "Slugs" is misleading. These are larvae of sawflies, tiny waspish-looking insects. Three types of rose slugs chomp on roses: curled rose slugs (pictured), bristly rose slugs, and the rose skeletonizer. Young rose slugs skeletonize leaves, taking larger and larger bites as they grow. Hand-pick small infestations. Because rose slugs are not caterpillars but sawfly larvae, the insecticide Bt will not control them. Use insecticidal oil for small ones and an insecticide, such as spinosad, on bigger ones. But first you have to find them!

Read more on rose slugs

May Tips

- Keep your mower blades sharp to prevent turf damage. Dry white or tan colored grass blade tips are an indication that the mower blade is dull. Dull mower blades tear turf grass and can lead to disease problems.
- Mining bees are active now. They are solitary bees that nest in underground burrows, fly low over the ground and make ¼ inch holes in loose soil. They are not aggressive and the males have no stinger. (HG 104)
- Earthworms are a sign of healthy soil. Contrary to popular belief, heavy rains don’t drown earthworms (they have no lungs) or drive them out of the ground. They come to the surface during wet periods to mate more freely.
- Snakes, turtles, and toads are all very active now. These are all beneficial creatures. They are very
Weeds Everywhere? Kill 'em All or Pick and Choose Your Battles?

Weeds are popping up all over right now, but do you need to do something about all of them, or pick and choose your battles?

**Is this actually a weed?** Your first step is to identify your mystery plant. You can browse the HGIC weed galleries and find photos, info, and control suggestions for a large collection of weeds common in Maryland. If you are still stumped, send a picture of it in to our Ask the Experts consultants and we'll check it out.

**Herbicides are the nuclear option.** Plenty of weeds can be taken care of by picking, pulling, hoeing, and mowing. It's not the end of the world to have a few weeds hanging around. Herbicides should be used as a last resort and as sparingly as possible in order to minimize collateral friendly plant damage, and negative effects on our local environment. View our information on herbicides and weed control.

**Definitely do something about invasive species.** Invasive plants cause damage by their displacement of more desirable plants. They show up in overwhelming quantities in our lawns, gardens, natural areas, pastures, woodland areas, and agricultural fields. If you let them do their thing too long, you'll have an uphill battle next season. Video series - Invasive Plants of Maryland.

--- Read more on weeds
Need help deciding on a flowering houseplant?

Dave Clement, UMD Plant Pathologist and Carrie Engel of Valley View Farms Garden and Nursery in Cockeysville, MD review many different foliage houseplant options good for low, mid, and high-sunlight areas and general care instructions for those plants.

--- Watch on Youtube
--- Read more on caring for houseplants on HGIC

--- Q&A 

I wish to buy organic vegetable transplants. Where could I find some, and how will I know that they are grown organically? Also, what vegetable cultivars do you recommend?

Check at your local farmers market to see if they are selling transplants. Other sources would be organic grocery stores or even a garden center. Ask how they have been grown and if the plants were started from untreated seeds. Also ask if the plants were treated with any insecticides or fungicides. Consider growing your own transplants in the future if you cannot find sources. For recommended vegetable cultivars see publication HG 70 Recommended Vegetable Cultivars for MD Home Gardens.

--- Read more on vegetable transplants
--- GE 007 - Vegetable Planting Calendar

Have a plant or pest question? University of Maryland Extension’s experts have answers! Send in your questions and photos here.

--- University of Maryland

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