

Frederick County GARDEN SMART



EARLY SPRING 2024

Our mission is to educate Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities. Most of our services are FREE.

Master Gardener Plant Sale Is Saturday, April 27

9 am to 1 pm — or until sold out

Building 12, Frederick Fairgrounds (797 East Patrick Street, Frederick)

You may enter through the Monroe Avenue Gate and park behind the building.

GREAT PRICES ON THOUSANDS OF LOCALLY GROWN, TOP-QUALITY PLANTS

Vegetables (Heirloom & Hybrid) • Herbs • Annuals • Hanging Baskets

Hard-to-Find Native Perennials • Flea Market

ASK MASTER GARDENERS for Gardening Advice and Tips

Visit both the Plant Sale and FiberFest, a family-oriented event showcasing the area's growing wool industry.

Admission to both events, as well as parking, is FREE!

*** NEW THIS YEAR: The check-out system has been improved. ***

Please bring a wagon or cart to carry your purchases, as there will not be a holding area.

See www.facebook.com/mastergardenersfrederickcountymaryland for more details and updates about this event.

EarthFest! Saturday, June 22, 9:30 am –1:30 pm

It's our third annual EarthFest, featuring earth-friendly info and activities for the entire family. Learn about pollinator gardening, native plants, and creating a landscape that protects local waterways and the Chesapeake. Tour our Demo Gardens, which showcase innovative home-gardening practices and unusual crops. For the children, there will be crafts, a scavenger hunt, and Storytime in the Garden.

The Master Gardeners will be joined by a number of other groups. Last year, participants included the 4-H, Frederick County Beekeepers, Master Naturalists, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, Frederick Bird Club, and Audubon Habitat Advisors. Check our Facebook page for final 2024 plans. Save the date, and plan to join us!

**To subscribe to this publication, e-mail
fgardenersnews@gmail.com.**

Earn Both Bay-Wise and Pollinator Friendly Landscape Certifications at the Same Time

Does your yard provide food, water and shelter for bees, butterflies and other pollinators? You likely qualify for Pollinator Friendly Garden certification. Have you created a sustainable landscape that protects local waterways—using smart gardening practices that include minimizing use of chemicals, controlling storm water runoff, and growing some native plants? Chances are you qualify for Bay-Wise certification, as well. Apply for both! It's free (although there is a charge for the Pollinator Friendly sign).

Complete the necessary forms and we will arrange a visit to your property to discuss best gardening practices and answer questions. Find details at <http://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening>. Under *Programs*, click on *Be Bay-Wise* and on *Create a Pollinator-Friendly Garden*. Please include a note with your application forms requesting dual certification.

2024 Is the Year of the Heirloom Tomato

Tomatoes are native to the Americas and one of our most popular garden crops.

Heirlooms offer superior flavor, aroma and colors—and they are open-pollinated so fruit grown from saved seeds will be a near-100% match with the originals. You can find information on growing tomatoes, sources for heirloom seeds and more at <https://go.umd.edu/3TgLbuM>.

Story Time in the Garden: Bring the Youngsters

Wednesdays, 10-11 am

May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2
(Rain dates one week later)

Join us in our Children's Garden, at the far end of our Demo Garden behind the Extension Building. Master Gardeners will read a short story and offer activities appropriate for young children. Pack a snack and enjoy some time in nature. It's free and no reservations are required.

For more information: Susan Trice, MG Coordinator, 301-600-1596, strice@umd.edu, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702. Also visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/mastergardenersfrederickcountymaryland> and <http://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening>

Plan to Attend Upcoming Master Gardener Seminars & Special Events

Join us for FREE seminars, suitable for both beginning and advanced gardeners, at the University of Maryland Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. Registration opens 3 weeks before each seminar. Use the links below or call 301-600-1595. Registration is not needed for special events. Check our Facebook page for final details prior to each seminar.

Seminars focused on growing vegetables and other edibles are marked GIEI (Grow It, Eat It).

Saturday, March 23, 10 am – noon

Creating a Flower Cutting Garden and Flower Arrangements

Learn how to design, plant, and harvest flowers from your own cutting garden. Discover the best sun and shade annuals for cutting and how to maintain the garden for maximum production. We also will demonstrate some techniques for creating arrangements.

▶ bit.ly/FCMG2024CuttingGardens

Saturday, April 13, 10 am – noon

Keystone Plants in a Pollinator Garden

Find out what native plants help native birds, butterflies and other pollinators. Discover native alternatives that are beneficial and beautiful.

▶ bit.ly/FCMG2024KeystoneNativePlants

Saturday, April 13, 10 am – 2 pm

Master Gardeners at Thurmont Greenfest

(Thurmont Regional Library)

Saturday, April 20, 10 am – noon (GIEI)

Planting the Spring Vegetable Garden

Growing potatoes, broccoli, onions, and peas requires early planning. Learn what to plant and when to start planning spring vegetables, as well as what techniques work best in small or limited spaces. Find out how using row covers and mulching can increase your success.

▶ bit.ly/FCMG2024SpringVegGarden

Saturday, April 27, 9 am – 1 pm (or until sold out)

Annual Plant Sale (See page 1.)

Saturday, May 4, 10 am – noon

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Manage pests with ecosystem-based methods to minimize the use of pesticides. Learn to identify, prevent, and manage plant problems using biological control, habitat changes, and cultural habits.

▶ bit.ly/FCMG2024IPM

Saturday, May 25, 10 am – noon (GIEI)

Growing Herbs Here and There

Learn about the variety of annual and perennial herbs you can grow in containers and/or in-ground. See how you can plant an herb garden, or merge herb plantings into your flower and vegetable beds. See how herbs are grown throughout our Demo Garden, including in our clever herb spiral.

▶ bit.ly/FCMG2024Herbs

Saturday, June 8, 10 am – noon (GIEI)

Summer Veggie Gardening

Join us in the Demonstration Garden for a hands-on experience. Learn about seeds and transplants, planting techniques, planting for pollinators, and basic IPM (integrated pest management).

▶ bit.ly/FCMG2024SummerVegGarden

Saturday, June 15, 10 am – noon

Pollinators Love ♥ Herbs

Find out how herbs support endangered pollinators. Think parsley, dill & butterflies! Some herbs host the caterpillar stage of certain butterflies. Flowers of some herbs supply pollen & nectar to bees, butterflies & other pollinators. We will guide you in planting & decorating your own mini-garden. Materials will be provided but bring your gardening gloves. Pre-registration is required; limited to 24 adults.

▶ bit.ly/FCMG2024PollinatorHerbs



Look for details about Summer & Fall seminars/events in future issues of this publication, on the FCMG website and on our Facebook page.

Saturday, June 22, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Annual EarthFest *(See page 1.)*

Saturday, July 13, 10 am – noon

A Walk in the Garden: Pollinator Gardening Basics

Saturday, July 20, 10 am – noon (GIEI)

Container Gardening

Saturday, August 3, 10 am – noon

Growing Up Wild *(For adults who work with children 3-7)*

Saturday, August 10, 10 am – noon

Make & Take Mini-Garden *(For 1st to 12th graders)*

Saturday, August 10, 1 pm – 3 pm (GIEI)

Fall Season Vegetable Gardening

Saturday, September 7, 10 am – noon (GIEI)

Seed Saving for a Sustainable Kitchen Garden

Saturday, September 14 – Saturday, September 21

Master Gardeners at the Great Frederick Fair

Saturday, September 28, 10 am – noon

Pawpaws, a Little Known Treasure

Saturday, October 5, 10 am – noon

Mindfulness in the Garden

Saturday, October 12, 10 am – noon

Propagating Native Plants *(Limited to 15 participants)*

Saturday, November 2, 10 am – noon

Right Plant, Right Place: Design Fundamentals

Saturday, November 9, 10 am – noon

Honey, I Shrunk the Lawn

Get Answers to Your Gardening Questions at <https://extension.umd.edu/ask-extension>

University of Maryland Extension's team of Certified Professional Horticulturists, Extension faculty, and Master Gardeners will answer Marylanders' yard and garden questions. They strive to respond to questions within 48 hours, Monday-Friday.

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.