EXTENSION’S COMMITMENT TO YOU HAS NOT CHANGED

For over 100 years, University of Maryland Extension has fulfilled its mission of delivering science-based education to Maryland communities. We will not waiver on that promise during this challenging time. Our services continue. We are, however, adjusting our delivery of programs and services in order to protect the health of extension personnel and the public.
In accordance with Governor Hogan's mandate, here's how we are restricted:
• Extension office spaces have closed in all 24 counties, and Baltimore City
• Face-to-face events have been canceled through May 31.
• Educators are limiting in-person contact.

This is how we are flexing to safely deliver the science-based information you need:

• **Consults by phone and online.**
  Even though our Extension Office is closed, our Educators and staff are still working Monday-Friday between 8 am-4:30 pm. You may reach them by email or by calling 301-334-6960. If you have questions, we have experts to answer your questions.

• **Expanding online resources.**
  The website features a wealth of educational content—that can be accessed in a variety of formats anytime, anywhere. Through these resources, you can connect with experts on specific topic areas as well as authors of the content. Our educators and faculty members are quickly intensifying online learning opportunities, such as webinars, to offset limitations on face-to-face learning.

We are still here. We are ready to serve you.

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**STAYING CONNECTED**

Over the last few weeks, our staff have been working hard to stay connected to our clients. We have hosted a number of online trainings using Zoom and other video conferencing platforms. Check out some of the new and creative ways we are reaching out, during this difficult time.

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**MASTER GARDENER ASHLEY BACHTEL-BODKINS**

Our Horticulture Educator and Master Gardener Coordinator is offering an enormous amount of online support and education.

For example, she creates Facebook challenges like this...
"Over the weekend, while cleaning out the weeds from my asparagus patch, I found these two things attached to old grass blades from last season? (see photo).

**Today's Challenge- What is this?**

A hardened, straw colored, foam-like egg mass called an ootheca, attached to small stems and twigs containing dozens to hundreds of eggs which overwinter within its protective walls and hatch in spring. These egg masses came from a praying mantis. For more information visit: [https://extension.umd.edu/.../topics/predators-praying-mantid...](https://extension.umd.edu/.../topics/predators-praying-mantid...)

Be on the lookout as you begin cleaning up your perennial garden areas!
Another example is this video where Ashley demonstrates the difference between the cotyledons and the true leaves on a broccoli seedling.

4-H YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Michelle Harman, Program Assistant, shares some "Tips & Tricks" to help ourselves and our youth manage stress in these uncertain times. Check out her video below.
Karen Wood and the Garrett County 4-H In-School Programming team have been conducting an experiment at Crellin, Swan Meadow and Route 40 schools. Ten classes across the county have been participating in a comparative study of growth rate in paperwhite bulbs using Geoponic (soil) versus Hydroponic (water) systems.

In response to the University of Maryland, Garrett County Government and Governor Larry Hogan's actions taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the University of Maryland Extension- Garrett County Office is implementing policies to limit in-person transactions and safeguard the health of its employees, stakeholders and the general public. University of Maryland Extension is currently functioning. Our employees are teleworking until May 22, so appointments will be held via email and/or conference call between 8 am and 4:30 pm.
pm. During this time, our staff will continue to be available by phone and email. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you need anything.
Even though our office is closed, we are still working and available by phone or email. If you have questions, please contact us.

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The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or natural origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.