

Frederick County GARDEN SMART

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.



Early Spring 2026

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

PLAN TO ATTEND SPRING SEMINARS & EVENTS

Master Gardeners Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25 8:00 am – 1 pm (or until sold out)

Held indoors, rain or shine

Frederick Fairgrounds, 797 East Patrick St., Frederick, Building 12
FREE admission & parking (Use gate 3 off Monroe Ave.)

Find thousands of locally grown, top-quality plants at great prices, plus flea market bargains! We will have native perennials, heirloom and hybrid vegetables, a wide variety of herbs & annual plants, and beautiful hanging baskets. Also, you can get advice and tips from MGs. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted. *Please bring your own cart or wagon to carry your purchases.*

Held in conjunction with FiberFest. (www.frederickfiberfest.com/spring2026)



IS YOUR LANDSCAPE POLLINATOR FRIENDLY? BIODIVERSE & WATER WISE?

Apply for Certification & Help Educate Your Neighbors!

You may qualify for Pollinator Friendly landscape certification if your yard provides food, water and shelter for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Even if you're in the planning stages, check out the application form. It includes lists of native plants that bloom in spring, summer and fall, as well as guidelines for supporting pollinators year round.

You may earn Bay-Wise certification if you have created a sustainable landscape that protects local waterways through environment-friendly gardening practices that help improve water quality, soil health and habitat. This popular program has been updated to reflect an increased emphasis on biodiversity and climate resilience. In place of the familiar *Bay-Wise Yardstick*, a new application called *Maryland Living Landscapes Metric* describes nearly 100 actions (300 points) that can add up

to big improvements. With a score of at least 27 actions (81 points), you can qualify for a certification visit.

Just complete the necessary forms and we will arrange a visit to your property to discuss your use of best gardening practices and answer any questions you may have. For details and applications, see <https://go.umd.edu/28ys> for Bay-Wise/Living Landscapes and <https://go.umd.edu/2904> for Pollinator Friendly certification. If you are interested in dual certification, please include a note along with your completed forms.

For updates on all of our events, see bit.ly/FCMGFacebook and bit.ly/FCMGinstagram

MG Food Donation 855 pounds!

Last year, the Master Gardeners made donations to the Frederick County Food Bank valued at more than \$6,000! In addition to 855 pounds of organic vegetables and herbs grown in our Demonstration Garden (with a market value of \$4,415), our group gave food and personal care items worth \$1,651.

The Demonstration Gardens are open to the public during daylight hours.

Find more info at:

bit.ly/FCMG-Home-Gardening.

GET ANSWERS TO YOUR
GARDENING QUESTIONS
See <https://extension.umd.edu/ask-extension/>

Seminars & Special Events Planned for March through December

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. Topics for the monthly Cultivation Lecture Series will be posted on our social media.

MARCH

Saturday, March 28, 10 am-noon

WHAT'S THE FUSS ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS?

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

➤ tinyurl.com/MG26NativePlants

APRIL

Saturday, April 4, 10 am - noon

PLANTING THE SPRING VEGETABLE GARDEN

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

➤ tinyurl.com/MG26SpringVegGarden

Thursday, April 9, 6:30-7:30 pm

CULTIVATION LECTURE SERIES NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Saturday, April 11, 10 am - noon

MARYLAND LIVING LANDSCAPE

Every Marylander lives within a watershed and has a role to play in caring for the land, water, air, wildlife, and each other. Every small action we take to improve water quality, soil health, and habitat counts in a big way. Learn what you can do in your own yard.

➤ tinyurl.com/MG26MDLivingLandscape

Saturday, April 25, 8:00 am - 1 pm (or until sold out)

ANNUAL PLANT SALE: SEE PAGE 1

MAY

Saturday, May 2, 9 am - noon

GROWING UP WILD (GUW)

For educators who work with children 3 to 7 years old. Adults only. Pre-regist. required.

GUW prepares educators to teach young children by building on their sense of wonder about nature through a wide range of activities and experiences. See <https://bit.ly/FishWildlifeGrowingWild> for details. Participants will receive a certificate, a guide, and (if needed) approved credits.

➤ tinyurl.com/MG26GrowingUpWild

Saturday, May 2, 1-3 pm

MINDFULNESS IN THE GARDEN

Experience the healing power of the garden and plants. We will discuss the benefits of nature to your wellbeing; take a walk in the meditation garden for mindfulness activities; learn about mala beads; and make a mala bracelet to take home. ➤ tinyurl.com/MG26Mindfulness

Wednesday, May 6, 10-11 am

STORY TIME IN THE GARDEN

For young children accompanied by an adult
Rain date: Wednesday, May 13, 10-11 am

Thursday, May 14, 6:30-7:30 pm

CULTIVATION LECTURE SERIES

No registration required.

Saturday, May 9, 10 am - noon

POLLINATORS LOVE HERBS

Pre-registration required; limited to 24 adults. Find out how herbs support our endangered pollinators. Think parsley, dill and butterflies! We will guide you in planting and decorating your own mini-garden. Materials will be provided but bring your gardening gloves.

➤ tinyurl.com/MG26PollinatorsLoveHerbs

Saturday, May 30, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

ANNUAL EARTHFEST

Family friendly activities and displays by MGs and other groups at the Extension Building

JUNE - DECEMBER

Wednesday, June 3, 10-11 am

STORY TIME IN THE GARDEN

Thursday, June 11, 6:30-7:30 pm

CULTIVATION LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, June 13, 10 am - noon

SUMMER VEGGIE GARDEN

Saturday, June 13, 1-3 pm

MAKE A HYPERTUFA BOWL OR TROUGH

Saturday, June 27, 10 am - noon

GROWING FRUITS & VEGETABLES IN CONTAINERS

Saturday, June 27, 1-3 pm

BUG ME: IMPORTANCE OF INSECTS IN YOUR GARDEN

Wednesday, July 1, 10 - 11 am

STORY TIME IN THE GARDEN

Thursday, July 9, 6:30-7:30 pm

CULTIVATION LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, July 18, 10 am - noon

BUMBLEBEES

Saturday, July 25, 10 am - noon

GROWING HERBS HERE AND THERE

Saturday, August 1, 10 am - noon

GETTING LITTLE FEET WET

Wednesday, August 5, 10-11 am

STORY TIME IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, August 8, 10 am - noon

MAKE & TAKE MINI-GARDEN

Saturday, August 8, 1-3 pm

FALL SEASON VEGETABLE GARDENING

Thursday, August 13, 6:30-7:30 pm

CULTIVATION LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, September 2, 10-11 am

STORY TIME IN THE GARDEN

Thursday, September 10, 6:30-7:30 pm

CULTIVATION LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, September 12, 10 am - noon

PAWPAWS, A LITTLE KNOWN TREASURE

Friday, September 18 - Saturday, September 26

MGs AT THE GREAT FREDERICK FAIR

Wednesday, October 7, 10-11 am

STORY TIME IN THE GARDEN

Thursday, October 8, 6:30-7:30 pm

CULTIVATION LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, October 17, 10 am - noon

THE NATURAL GARDEN

Saturday, October 17, 1 - 3pm

RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE: DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS

Saturday, October 24, 10 am - noon

HOUSEPLANTS AND WELLNESS

Thursday, November 12, 6:30-7:30 pm

CULTIVATION LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, December 5, 10 am - noon

PROPAGATING NATIVE PLANTS

Thursday, December 10, 6:30-7:30 pm

CULTIVATION LECTURE SERIES

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER

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. Accommodations: If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact Kim Krasauskis, Admin. Assist., at 301-600-1595 on or before 2 weeks prior this event.