

The University of Maryland Extension is an Equal Opportunity Employer with Equal Access Programs.

Percent Probability of Last Temps Below 32 Degrees F.	Date in Spring or Before Given Date in Fall	Site	10% 1 yr. in 10	Baltimore City April 11	Balt. Airport April 26	Balt. Airline Oct. 17	Baltimore City Oct. 30	Cambidge April 27	Chestertown April 18	College Park May 4	Columbia May 16	Denton April 29	Dealeton Oct. 29	Frederick April 29	Hagerstown May 3	Hancock May 21	La Plata May 10	Oakland June 5	Rockville May 7	Royal Oak Oct. 12	Salisbury April 23	Snow Hill May 4	Snow Hill Oct. 8	Upper Marlboro May 6	Westminster May 4	Westminster Oct. 6
90%	Given Date in Fall	Site	10% 1 yr. in 10	April 11	April 26	Oct. 17	Oct. 30	April 27	April 18	May 4	May 16	April 29	Oct. 29	April 29	May 3	May 21	May 10	June 5	May 7	Oct. 12	April 23	May 4	Oct. 8	Upper Marlboro	May 6	May 29
95%	Given Date in Fall	Site	95% 1 yr. in 10	April 11	April 26	Oct. 17	Oct. 30	April 27	April 18	May 4	May 16	April 29	Oct. 29	April 29	May 3	May 21	May 10	June 5	May 7	Oct. 12	April 23	May 4	Oct. 8	Upper Marlboro	May 6	May 29
99%	Given Date in Fall	Site	99% 1 yr. in 10	April 11	April 26	Oct. 17	Oct. 30	April 27	April 18	May 4	May 16	April 29	Oct. 29	April 29	May 3	May 21	May 10	June 5	May 7	Oct. 12	April 23	May 4	Oct. 8	Upper Marlboro	May 6	May 29
100%	Given Date in Fall	Site	100% 1 yr. in 10	April 11	April 26	Oct. 17	Oct. 30	April 27	April 18	May 4	May 16	April 29	Oct. 29	April 29	May 3	May 21	May 10	June 5	May 7	Oct. 12	April 23	May 4	Oct. 8	Upper Marlboro	May 6	May 29

Find the city nearest you to estimate spring and fall frosts:

freeze-dates-maryland.

Maryland's Plant Hardiness Zones range from 5a to 8a. For the latest, interactive Maryland's Plant Hardiness Zone Map, provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visit [PlantHardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/default.aspx](http://PlantHardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/default.aspx). Maryland's Plant Hardiness Zones range from 5a to 8a. For the latest, interactive Maryland's Plant Hardiness Zone Map, provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visit [PlantHardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/default.aspx](http://PlantHardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/default.aspx). Below are charts showing roughly estimates for the last chance of frost in the spring and the first chance of frost in the fall, as recorded at various Maryland State Department of Agriculture sites. To access a free app that will allow you find more target dates of Agiculture information, visit <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/spring-frost-or-freeze-dates-maryland>.

#### Frost Dates for Spring and Fall in Maryland

Below are charts showing roughly estimates for the last chance of frost in the spring and the first chance of frost in the fall, as recorded at various Maryland State Department of Agriculture sites. To access a free app that will allow you find more target dates of Agiculture information, visit <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/spring-frost-or-freeze-dates-maryland>.

# THE GARDENER'S GUIDE WHAT TO DO & WHEN

Seasonal Garden & Lawn Guide for Maryland Residents & Communities



Prepared by the Master Gardeners of Frederick County, Maryland

Garden Guide to sherrylimassaro@gmail.com.

Christina Renshaw, Frederick County Master Gardener. Please send comments on special thanks to Leanne Gelley, Montgomery County Master Gardener and Garden Guide produced by Sheryl Massaro, Frederick County Master Gardener.

Can be downloaded at [mda.maryland.gov/resource/\\_conservation/\\_documents/](http://mda.maryland.gov/resource/_conservation/_documents/)

A GARDEN PLANNER AND CHECKLIST from the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture management-practices.

For guidelines by county, <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/home-landscape-best-practices/>

Yard Waste Recycling [maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx](http://maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx)

To find out how this Maryland legislation affects homeowners, visit <https://mda.fertilizerActof2011>

Fertilizer Act of 2011 [maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx](http://maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx)

#### ALSO OF INTEREST

INFORMATION CENTER

Find the answers to your plant and pest questions through a wealth of online and published information at [extension.umd.edu/hgic](http://extension.umd.edu/hgic). Use the link "Ask Extension" to submit questions by email.

"Better water quality through smarter gardening" [extension.umd.edu/baywise](http://extension.umd.edu/baywise)

Want a lawn and garden that help clean the Chesapeake Bay? Have a Bay-Wise Team do a house call or find information on your own at [extension.umd.edu/baywise](http://extension.umd.edu/baywise).

Bay-Wise Landscape Management

Want to grow fruits and vegetables in your garden or community? Maryland

Master Gardeners actively promote food gardening throughout the state.

Visit [extension.umd.edu/hgic](http://extension.umd.edu/hgic), then select Local Programs.

provided by your local County Master Gardeners, and how to become one.

Extenstion, landscapes, and communities to learn more about the free services

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained under the University of Maryland

Extension to help educate residents about practices that build healthy

gardens, landscapes, and communities through programs.

Helping Residents Grow Their Gardens

Maryland Master Gardeners are volunteers trained under the University of Maryland

Extension to help educate residents about practices that build healthy

gardens, landscapes, and communities through programs.

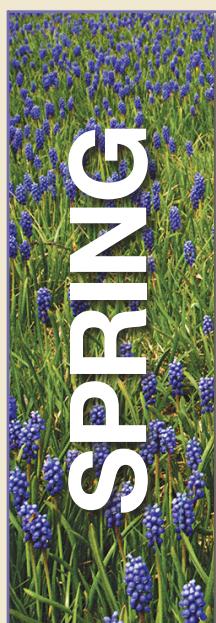
Maryland Master Gardeners

University of Maryland Extension | GARDENER | EXTENSION

# THE GARDENER'S GUIDE: WHAT TO DO & WHEN

USDA Plant Hardiness Zones for Maryland — 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 8a

- **2nd best time to seed lawns: late February-April** • Mulch 2-3 inches & keep away from trunks • Earthworms mean healthy soil •
- State Tree: White Oak (*Quercus alba*) • Don't work wet soil—wait until it crumbles in your hand • **Last frost date—see back cover** •



## March

- Gently clean up the garden.
- To control crabgrass, apply pre-emergent herbicide to lawn (*when forsythia blooms drop*).
- Prune non-flowering trees and shrubs before new growth.
- Cut perennials and over-wintering ornamental grasses to 2 inches above ground.
- Plant cool-season crops (potatoes; lettuce; peas; root crops; and cole crops, including spinach, kale).

## April

- Gently clean up the garden; add 1 inch of compost.
- Plant trees, shrubs, perennials; this is a good time to plant evergreens.
- Ticks are very active now.
- Put up birdhouses.
- Earth Day—April 22
- Arbor Day—last Friday in April
- After spring bulbs bloom, let leaves turn yellow and die before trimming.
- Take an inventory of containers and pots; clean or replenish potted soil.

## May

- Directly after blooming, prune flowering shrubs and vines.
- After the last frost date, plant warm-season annuals and tender bulbs (*calla lilies, dahlias, gladiolus*) in the ground and in containers.
- After the last frost date, plant warm-season vegetables (*squash, peppers, tomatoes, corn, beans*).
- New fruit plants—keep watered their first spring, summer and fall.
- Mow tall fescue lawns at 3-4 inches and leave the clippings on the lawn.

- **Want to grow your own fruits and vegetables? See [extension.umd.edu/hgic](http://extension.umd.edu/hgic) and select Food Gardening** •
- Water the ground under trees at least as far out as branches spread • State Flower: Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) •



## June

- Remove spent lilac and rhododendron blossoms.
- Pinch buds of fall-blooming plants (*asters, mums, Joe-Pye weed*).
- Prune azaleas directly after blooming.

## July

- Prune foundation shrubs and trees to be no closer than 1 foot from the house.
- Prune and thin shrubs that have already flowered.
- Plant heat-tolerant greens (*Malabar spinach, Swiss chard*).

## August

- Cool season lawns go dormant in hot, dry weather—Do Not Water.
- Harvest leaves of herbs used in cooking (*rosemary, basil, sage*) in the early morning, for best flavor.
- At the end of the month, begin planting cool-season vegetables (*turnips, carrots, beets, spinach, Chinese cabbage and kale*).

- **Best times to fertilize/seed bluegrass/fescue lawns: Sept.-Oct.** • Destroy brown marmorated stink bugs in a jar of soapy water •
- Compost kitchen scraps (ONLY vegetable & fruit scraps—NO animal products or chemicals) • **First frost date—see back cover** •



## September

- Labor Day weekend—perfect time for seeding the lawn.
- Remove fallen, diseased leaves.
- Mulch or compost healthy leaves.
- Continue planting cool-season vegetables; plant garlic now through the end of October.
- This is a good time to have vegetable garden and landscape soils tested see [extension.umd.edu/resource/soil-testing-and-soil-testing-labs](http://extension.umd.edu/resource/soil-testing-and-soil-testing-labs).
- Apply fertilizer and lime to turfgrass based on soil tests and UME recommendations see [extension.umd.edu/resources/yard-garden/soils-compost-and-fertilizer/soils-compost-and-fertilizer](http://extension.umd.edu/resources/yard-garden/soils-compost-and-fertilizer/soils-compost-and-fertilizer).

## October

- Harvest most fruits before frost.
- Continue removing diseased leaves. Put diseased leaves and weeds with seed heads out for recycling rather than the compost pile. Check your local recycling guidelines (*see back cover for web links*).
- Mulch or compost healthy leaves.
- You still can have vegetable garden and landscape soils tested.
- From mid-October through November, plant hardy bulbs for spring flowering.
- For readying amaryllis, Christmas cactus, and poinsettia for holiday blooming, [extension.umd.edu/hgic](http://extension.umd.edu/hgic) and search "holiday plants."

## November

- Continue removing diseased leaves.
- For care of holiday plants and trees, see [extension.umd.edu/hgic](http://extension.umd.edu/hgic) and search "holiday plants."
- Continue planting hardy, spring-flowering bulbs.
- Trees and shrubs can be planted until ground freezes.
- After blooming, cut mums back to 6 inches above ground.
- Dig hole now if you will be planting a "live" Christmas tree.
- Mid-month, pot amaryllis for winter holiday bloom.
- Clean out pots; store non-frost proof containers in garage or basement.



- **Feed birds throughout winter months** • Remove leaves from lawn before snow • Gently sweep snow/ice off shrubs •

- Pot hyacinth, amaryllis & paperwhite narcissus for indoor bloom • **Never fertilize from Nov. 15 to Mar. 1** •

## December

- Moderately prune evergreens, especially hollies, for indoor decorating.
- For care of holiday plants and trees, see [extension.umd.edu/hgic](http://extension.umd.edu/hgic) and search "holiday plants."

## January

- Start to browse seed catalogs and dream.
- Prune damaged branches.
- Hand-pull visible weeds.
- Keep bird feeders clean and filled.
- Sharpen and replace tools as needed.

## February

- Start pepper seeds indoors.
- Start lawn seeding.
- Check indoors for termites and winter ants.
- Hardy spring bulbs begin to emerge (*crocus, snowdrops, daffodils, tulips*).