From time to time MGPW members mention that they are interested in getting involved in MGPW leadership but would like to try a shorter-term role before volunteering for a longer-term opportunity such as being a Board member. MGPW Special Committee Membership offers a way to get that experience. Each special committee stands up once a year to accomplish a specific function—usually requiring attending a few meetings over a period of a few to several weeks. Then, after the function is complete, the committee is disbanded. Following is a brief summary of our MGPW special committees, when they meet, how many members they normally need and their primary function:

**Audit Special Committee:** January—March. Usually consists of two members. It conducts an annual audit/financial review to provide a high level of assurance that the Association’s financial statements are fairly presented and free of misstatements. The committee also reviews internal MGPW financial controls.
Nominations and Elections Special Committee: February—March. Usually consists of two members. It seeks candidates from the voting membership for open Board of Director officer positions, reports the list of candidates to the Board of Directors at the Board meeting immediately prior to the annual meeting and conducts the election at the annual Recertification meeting.

Ed Rishell Master Gardener Scholarship Special Committee: January—April. Usually consists of three members. It selects one MGPW volunteer to receive financial assistance to attend the annual four-day Master Gardener College training event which is conducted by State VCE/Virginia Tech.

Master Gardener Volunteer Training Scholarship Special Committee: June—September. Usually three members. Each fall Virginia Cooperative Extension conducts an annual 12-week Training Class which is an educational requirement for membership in MGPW and a requirement to precede an internship the following spring. This Committee reviews applications for Training Class attendance and selects one or more applicants to receive a financial assistance scholarship.

Master Gardener School/Community Garden Grant Special Committee: February—May. Usually three members. Late each spring MGPW announces the award of one or more School/Community Garden Grants from our Association which are used to build pollinator or other gardens to educate and excite school children on the wonders and science of nature. These grants help to fulfill the MGPW vision of increasing environmental/horticultural stewardship in the Prince William County area. This committee helps prepare announcements for the program, develops award criteria, reviews proposals from schools or other non-profit organizations and selects winners.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these special committees or letting us know of your willingness to participate please contact the help desk at 703-792-7747 or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org. Also, feel free to contact any Board member to get more information. We need your help and leadership.

Recertification: Remember to mark your calendars for our Annual Recertification meeting to be held March 12, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Edward Kelly Leadership Center, 14715 Bristow Rd., Manassas. Please register at master_gardener@pwcgov.org

At RECERT you will get updates on what your Association has done since our last meeting and what we plan to do over the coming year. You will be asked to vote for volunteers to fill the open president and secretary Board of Director positions, approve proposed changes to our Bylaws, provide annual questionnaire and other input that will guide your Association into the future.

Importantly, this is a great opportunity to see old friends, meet new interns, get psyched up for the spring gardening season and have fun.

You will be getting more information on RECERT in Nancy’s emails.

Thanks for all you do.

— Larry Lehhowicz, President, The Master Gardeners of Prince William, Inc. President@MGPW.org

Email any submissions to the Turnip News by the 20th of any month to Jan Doble at starlight1957@gmail.com
Upcoming Events and MGPW Meetings—At A Glance

**February**

**THURSDAY 7**
Piedmont Landscape Assoc. Annual Seminar

**WEDNESDAY 13**
MGPW Board Meeting

**SATURDAY 16**
Basics of Gardening: ‘Digging In’

**SATURDAY 16**
Vegetable Gardening Series: ‘Siting the Garden’

**SATURDAY 23**
Balancing Natives & Ornamentals in Your Garden

**SATURDAY 23**
Vegetable Gardening Series: ‘Planting Calendar’

**SATURDAY 23**
‘Native Plants for Beginners’ Symposium

**March**

**SATURDAY 2**
Vegetable Gardening Series: ‘Managing Pests’

**SATURDAY 9**
Basics of Gardening: ‘Dealing With Problems’

**SATURDAY 9**
Northern Shenendoah Valley MG Gardening Symposium

**WEDNESDAY 13**
MGPW Board Meeting

**FRIDAY 15**
Build Your Own Mason Bee House Workshop

**SATURDAY 23**
Loudoun County MG Gardening Symposium

**MONDAY 25**
VCE-PWC Water Quality KickOff Meeting

**TUESDAY 12**
MGPW Recertification Meeting
### Upcoming Events and MGPW Meetings—At A Glance (cont.)

#### April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Ask a Master Gardner’ Plant Clinics</td>
<td>MGPW Board Meeting</td>
<td>MGPW Clinic Training</td>
<td>Saturday in the Garden</td>
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### Upcoming Classes, Events and Continuing Education Flyers

February 7, 2019 8:00AM

Piedmont Landscape Association
[https://www.piedmontlandscape.org/seminar-2019.html](https://www.piedmontlandscape.org/seminar-2019.html) Click link to learn more

The Piedmont Landscape Association hosts an annual seminar (formerly called the Central Virginia Landscape Management Seminar) every February. This event strives to bring gardening enthusiasts and landscape professionals together in an educational setting. Current Sponsors for this year’s event are: J.W. Townsend Landscapes, Inc; Panorama Paydirt

**SPEAKERS:**

**John Lonsdale Lecture (Morning):** Woodland Treasures. John will discuss a selection of the many rare, unusual and beautiful woodland plants which he grows at Edgewood in Pennsylvania. The presentation will highlight genera including Tritium, Galanthus, Cyclamen, Corydalis, Hepatica, Erythronium, Epiotium and Arisaema, members of which are suitable for a variety of conditions from dry shade to wet, moist, sunlit woodland edges. Teri Dunn Chace. Author and Lecturer. **Lecture (Morning):** Seeing Seeds: A Journey into the World of Seedheads, Pods and Fruit. Teri’s tour finds strangeness and fascination in the seeds of plants as familiar as oaks and dandelions, and as curious as figs and hollies. View the gorgeous photographs by Robert Llewellyn (she will explain his “image-stacking” technique). Kimberly Elberman Lecture (Afternoon): Dealing with Climate Change in Your Landscape. Climate change is here and it is impacting our landscapes – increased flooding, more frequent droughts, more extreme weather events and increasing temperatures. Want to help fight climate change at home? Kimberly will discuss how the plants you choose and the landscape practices you use can help reduce the impacts of climate change and improve the environment around you. Brie Arthur Lecture (Afternoon): The Fooscape Revolution: Foodscaping with Native Plants. Brie taps into her more than a decade worth of experience as a grower and propagator to discuss thoughtful design and the management of landscapes, how they are more important than ever as concerns of climate, water quality and invasive plants increase. The use of native plants as foodscaping will also be discussed. To learn more about the speakers and their lecture topics visit [www.piedmontlandscape.org](http://www.piedmontlandscape.org) for details. Registration is open now through the event date. **“Early Bird” discounts run through 1/11/2019 followed by “Advance” sales between 1/12/19 to 2/1/18. Afterwards, all other dates will be charged full admission rates. For additional information regarding our upcoming seminar and on our speakers please visit:**

[www.piedmontlandscape.org](http://www.piedmontlandscape.org) or email your questions to: Turnerband@gmail.com. Continuing Education Credits Available for: ASLA, VNLA & ISA.
Vegetable Gardening Series 2019

Haymarket-Gainesville Library
14870 Lightner Road, Haymarket

Class provided by
Virginia Cooperative Extension – Prince William

Growing our own food, using nature as a guide and incorporating sustainable practices is good for our bodies and good for the earth. This series of 3 classes cover the essential topics — planning the garden, using organic sustainable techniques to develop healthy productive gardens, and growing good garden soil. These practices are on display at our Teaching Garden in Bristow and showcased in our Saturday in the Garden programs. Taught by the Master Gardener Cook’s Garden Team.

Saturdays, 10:15 am – 1:15 pm

February 16th
Sitting the Garden, Soils, Cover Crops

February 23rd
Planting Calendar, Rotation and Succession, Vegetable Profiles

March 2nd
Managing Pests, Containers and Small Spaces, Compost

March 9th
Snow Date

This is a free program, but please register at 703-792-7747 or master_gardener@pwegov.org

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment opportunities are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by law. The college complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Martha Giachetti, Virginia Cooperative Extension – Prince William, at 703-792-6285/TDD* during business hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

The Basics of Gardening

SAVE THE DATE

This series of three individual classes will allow you to discover the science behind gardening. Topics will focus on research-based knowledge of plant and soil health, right plant, right place, plant profiles, pest management and best practices for sustainable landscapes. Taught by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and Staff. Offered in partnership with Chinn Park Regional Library staff. We greatly appreciate their support.

REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 1ST, 2018

WHEN: Classes are Saturdays, 1:00 – 4:00 pm on January 12, February 16, March 9
Snow date is March 16 and class will be from 10:30 – 1:30 pm, if needed.

WHERE: Class location is the Chinn Park Regional Library 13065 Chinn Park Dr.
Woodbridge, VA 22192

FEE: These classes are FREE, but please register.

HOW TO REGISTER: Please register for each class individually: Space is limited. On or after December 1, go online to www.pwegov.gov/grow and go to Horticulture classes to register. Link will not be available until December 1, 2018.

We appreciate your notification of cancellation so others may have your seat.

Course Description

January 12
1:00 – 4:00 pm
Getting Started – the Basics
Topics include: botany, soils, seed starting, containers, and rain gardens

February 16
1:00 – 4:00 pm
Digging In – Topics include: turf, weeds, ornamentals, trees and shrubs

March 9
1:00 – 4:00 pm
Dealing with Problems – Topics include: native plants, Insects and Integrated Pest Management

March 16
1:00 – 4:00 pm
SNOW DATE

For more information, contact the Extension Master Gardener Horticulture Help Line at 703.792.7747 or email master_gardener@pwegov.org

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Virginia Cooperative Extension at 703-792-0200 during the business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.
Heather Holm is the author of two award-winning books: "Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide" and "Pollinators of Native Plants." As she says, "With the significant amount of habitat loss, we can no longer just garden for ourselves. We have native bees, in particular bumble bees, threatened with extinction or endangered." Come hear her presentation and learn about the importance of pollinators and their interaction with native plants. This event is free and open to the general public. Refreshments will be served. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. with lecture to begin around 4 p.m. Copies of the books will be available for sale and signing after the lecture.
Virginia Cooperative Extension

The Master Gardeners of Prince William
Education Committee
(Chair, Jamie Nick)

Announces a free program:

Balancing Natives and
Ornamentals in YOUR Garden:
25 Specimen Plants

Keith Tomlinson, of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

Saturday, February 23, 2019
1 PM to 3 PM
LOCATION: Old Historic Manassas Courthouse
9248 Lee Avenue
Manassas, VA

Register 703-792-7147 or master_gardeners@pwgov.org

If you are a person with a disability and desire any auxiliary services, or other accommodations to participate, please contact Martha Stickell, Virginia Cooperative Extension – Prince William at 703-792-0921/7110 (business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

*TDD number: (800) 559-6356

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, sexual preference, or any other basis protected by law. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, sexual preference, or any other basis protected by law.

Stop mowing, Start growing!
Native Plants for Beginners

- Create a beautiful yard
- Save time so you can enjoy other activities
- Create habitat for birds & pollinators
- Save money on fertilizer
- Improve water quality
- Reduce erosion

Learn more at our special Native Plant Symposium.
Join us on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at the
McCord County Administrative Building
1 County Complex Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192,
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The $15 fee covers coffee and donuts, lunch, and materials.
Registration begins December 1, 2018.

Let us help you to stop mowing and get going on your dream landscape!
Call 703-792-7070 for more details.

Sponsored by
2019 Gardening in the Valley Symposium
8AM to 4PM
Spring Break at Shenandoah University
1460 University Dr., Winchester, VA 22601
Cost: $65 per person when you register with PayPal at our website | $70 for walk-ins
All proceeds benefit high school scholarship fund
Includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch
SCHEDULED TOPICS & SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
- Greenhouses: Is one in your future?
  TIM OHWILER - Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources - Horticulture
  C. COLESTON BURRELL - Garden Designer, Lecturer, Author and Photographer
- Foraging in Your Own Backyard: Edible Weeds and Ornamental Plants.
  FRANK HYMAN - Writer, Gardener, and Keeper of Backyard Chickens
- GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms): What’s in your garden?
  DEBORAH KOLLER AND BETSY BROWN - Extension Master Gardeners
The event will have several garden vendors for your shopping delight or book sales from the speakers, as well as door prizes and giveaways.
See Facebook.com/NSVMGA or email navmga.info@gmail.com for more information.
Visit NSVMA.com/events/gardening-symposium to register.

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Loudoun County Extension Master Gardeners
10th Annual Gardening Symposium
Saturday, March 23, 2019 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Ida Lee Recreation Center, Social Hall (Downtown) | Leesburg, Virginia
For registration information, please visit www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org

Larry Weaver, Award-winning Landscape Designer
The Self-Perpetuating Landscape: Setting a Process in Motion
Larry’s practice principles and protocols for creating dynamic, ecologically rich landscapes where nature does much of the “planting.” The lecture will include case studies that demonstrate how practical, concrete strategies for assisted plant proliferation can be applied from the most intimate garden to large multi-acre landscapes.

Barbara Pleasant, Award-winning Author and Contributing Editor
Gardening to Feed Body and Soul
To find the deepest form of happiness in your garden, work with plants that have it all – flavor, fragrance, and gorgeous good looks. Barbara’s simple success plan starts with easy edibles, and then adds soothing herbs and fast-growing summer flowers that support beneficial insects. She will spotlight her favorite plants for Virginia gardens, and offer dozens of tips for keeping your garden going from spring to fall.

Dr. Sara Vita, Professor and Climate Extension Specialist, University of MD
Climate Friendly Gardening Strategies
Diverse effects of climate change have significant impacts on gardens and home landscapes. Earlier springs, warmer winters, and increasing night temperatures affect many aspects of plant growth. Learning some strategies for adapting to climate change and adopting climate-friendly gardening strategies will both improve gardening success and act to reduce future climate change.

Nancy Lawson, Author, Columnist, and Landscape Outreach Founder
The Humane Garden: Cultivating Compassion for All Creatures
Nancy will discuss why we call some insects “beneficial” while others are “pests.” Why some plants are considered “desirable” while others are “weeds.” In this myth-busting talk, learn how common growing methods divide the natural world into false dichotomies and perpetuate misperceptions about the wild species living among us.
Turnip News

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University
An MGPW Master Gardener Social Event

Build Your Own Mason Bee House Workshop
and Brown Bag Lunch

Friday, March 15, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.,
Manassas Park Community Center, 99 Adams Street,
Manassas Park, VA 22111
(Pre-registration required, see details below)

Bring a small hammer and join your fellow Master Gardeners and guests for this constructive morning’s social event. Master Gardener Kathy Westcott will teach us about mason bees and give us the hands-on buzz on how to build a cozy home for them to place in your Spring garden. All building materials will be provided. After the workshop, we will enjoy a brown bag lunch. Please bring your favorite sandwich and beverage. We will supply water, chips, fruit, dessert and conversation.

This event is limited to 20 participants. To reserve your space, please send your check for $20.00 made payable to “MGPW” (includes building materials and some refreshments) to Kathy Westcott, 3708 Beaver Ford Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192, no later than Friday, March 8, 2019 with the names of those attending. There is a $50 fee per returned check.

Handicapped guests may bring personal motorized scooters, if needed. There is ample parking at the Manassas Park Community Center.

Questions? Please contact Kathy at kwestcott@gmail.com or call 703-670-6641.
All active master gardeners and interns should plan to attend. Please RSVP to the Helpdesk 703-792-7747 OR master_gardener@pwcgov.org so we have accurate counts for refreshments, handouts and seats.

Check out these websites for updates on 2019 State MG College and 2019 International MG College

*Master Gardener College 2019—Norfolk VA

*International Master Gardener College 2019—Valley Forge,PA
https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/
Upcoming Events and MGPW Meetings

PIEDMONT LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SEMINAR: Thursday, February 7, 2019. 8am—5pm. Location—The Paramount Theatre, Charlottesville, VA. Speakers: John Lonsdale: Woodland Treasures; Terri Dunn Chace: Seeing Seeds; and also a brief overview of Bob Llewellyn's photography technique; Kimberly Eierman: Dealing with Climate Change in the Landscape: Practical Approaches for Our Time; Brie Arther: The Foodscape Revolution- Foodscaping with Natives. Door Prizes! Must be present to win. To register, follow link: http://www.theparamount.net/event/2019-piedmont-landscape-association-annual-seminar/

BASICS OF GARDENING SERIES 2019
Our Basics of Gardening Series 2019 will be held on the following Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm: February 16 and March 9. The snow date is March 16. Chinn Park Regional Library, 13065 Chinn Park Dr. Woodbridge, VA
Topics include: February 16 Digging In: turf, weeds, ornamentals, trees and shrubs March 9 Dealing with Problems: native plants, insects and integrated pest management March 16 SNOW DATE (10:30am - 1:30pm)

VEGETABLE GARDENING SERIES 2019
Our Vegetable Gardening Series 2019 will be held on the following Saturdays from 10:15 am to 1:15 pm: February 16, February 23 and March 2. The snow date is March 23. Haymarket-Gainesville Library, 14870 Lightner Rd, Haymarket, VA 20169
Topics include: February 16 Siting the Garden, Soils, Cover Crops February 23 Planting Calendar, Rotation and Succession, Vegetable Profiles March 2 Managing Pests, Containers and Small Spaces, Compost March 23 Snow Date

ECOSAVVY SYMPOSIUM: 2/16/2019 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Are you an eclectic gardener whose passion for plants takes you in diverse directions? Do environmental concerns make you wonder how a garden can successfully mix sustainable natives with exotic plants from outside our region? Then attend the 15th annual EcoSavvy Symposium at Green Spring Gardens on Saturday, February 16. “The Balanced Garden: How to meld beautiful and sustainable natives with favorites from around the world” is a half-day program from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Symposium speakers include native landscape designer, lecturer, and photographer Colston Burrell and Keith Tomlinson, the manager of NOVA's Meadowlark Botanical Garden in Vienna. Burrell will present insights for balancing natives, cultivars and exotics in the home garden. Tomlinson will demonstrate how this balance is achieved in a public garden. REGISTER by phone at (703) 642-5173 or online at https://fairfax.usedirect.com/FairfaxFCPAWeb/ACTIVITIES/Details.aspx?session_id=60001&back_url=f9BQ1RJVklUSUVTL1NiYXJiaC5hc3B4 PROGRAM CODE: 986.B59A Cost: $58.00 Contact: Park Office 703-642-5173

BEES AND POLLINATORS OF NATIVE PLANTS with Heather Holm, award-winning author. Sunday, February 17, 2019, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Manassas Park Community Center, 99 Adams St. Manassas Park, VA 20111 Heather will share her knowledge of the interactions between native bees and native plants, using resources from her two books, Pollinators of Native Plants and Bees.

BALANCING NATIVES AND ORNAMENTALS IN YOUR GARDEN: 25 SPECIMEN PLANTS with Keith Tomlinson of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens Saturday, February 23,
Upcoming Events and MGPW Meetings

**STOP MOWING, START GROWING! NATIVE PLANTS FOR BEGINNERS**
With J. Christopher Ludwig, VA Dept of Conservation and Recreation  
**Saturday, February 23, 2019, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.** McCoart Building, 1 County Complex Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192  
Call: 703-792-7070  
A $15 fee covers coffee, donuts, lunch and materials. Topics Include: Create a beautiful yard; Save time so you can enjoy other activities - Create habitat for birds & pollinators -Save money on fertilizer -Improve water quality -Reduce erosion  
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pwc-native-plant-symposium-for-beginners-tickets-51959009797

**GARDENING IN THE VALLEY SYMPOSIUM**  
March 9, 2019  8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Shenandoah University—Hester Auditorium, Henkel—1460 University Dr, Winchester, VA 22601  
Scheduled topics and speakers for 2019 include: Greenhouses: Is One in Your Future? with Tim Ohlwiler – Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources – Horticulture.  
GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms): What’s in Your Garden? With Deborah Koller, Extension Master Gardener Coordinator and chair of Virginia Tech’s College of Science Dean’s Roundtable, and and Betsy Brown, Extension Master Gardener.  
All proceeds benefit the NSVMGA Memorial Scholarship Fund. The cost is $65 through PayPal or $70 at the door, and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Parking is free.  
http://nsvmga.org/events/gardening-symposium/

**BUILD YOUR OWN MASON BEE HOUSE**  
Workshop and Brown Bag Lunch.  
**Friday, March 15, 2019 10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.**  
Manassas Park Community Center, 99 Adams St., Manassas Park, VA.20111  
Bring a small hammer and join your fellow Master Gardeners and guests for this constructive morning’s social event. Master Gardener Kathy Westcott will teach us about mason bees and give us the hands-on buzz on how to build a cozy home for them to place in your Spring garden. All building materials will be provided. After the workshop, we will enjoy a brown bag lunch. Please bring your favorite sandwich and beverage. We will supply water, chips, fruit, dessert and conversation.  
*This event is limited to 20 participants. To reserve your space, please send your check for $20.00 made payable to “MGPW” (includes building materials and some refreshments) to Kathy Westcott, 3708 Beaver Ford Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192, no later than Friday, March 8, 2018 with the names of those attending. There is a $50 fee per returned check. Handicapped guests may bring personal motorized scooters, if needed. There is ample parking at the Manassas Park Community Center. Questions? Please contact Kathy at ktwescott@gmail.com or call 703-670-6641.

**LOUDOUN COUNTY EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION'S 10TH ANNUAL GARDENING SYMPOSIUM “Let’s Get Growing”**  
This event will kick off the 2019 gardening season in our county. Online registration begins February 1st. You may purchase lunch with your registration or BYO lunch. The symposium features a lineup of nationally known garden speakers: Larry Weaner, Barbara Pleasant, Dr. Sara Via, and Nancy Lawson.  
**Saturday, March 23, 2019, 9:00 am-4:00 pm**  
http://loudouncountymastergardeners.org/events/annual-symposium/
Upcoming Events and MGPW Meetings

VCE PRINCE WILLIAM DRINKING WATER CLINIC - DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR WELL WATER? March 25, 2019 7:00 to 8:30 pm (Kick-Off Meeting)
PWC Board Chamber, McCoart Bldg., 1 County Complex Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192
March 27, 2019, 6:30 to 10:00 am ONLY (Sample drop off)
VCE Office, 8033 Ashton Ave., Suite 105, Manassas, VA 20110
May 6, 2019, 7:00 to 9:00 pm (Results Class)
PWC Board Chamber, McCoart Bldg., 1 County Complex Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192
Test your well water through the Virginia Household Water Quality Program. Cost $55. Pre-payment can be made in person or by mail at the VCE office at 8033 Ashton Avenue, Suite 105, Manassas VA 20109. If mailing payment, please include your phone number and email in case we need to contact you before the kick-off meeting. Do not send pre-payment by mail after 3/16 to ensure we will have received it before kits are distributed. NO CASH PLEASE - CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS ONLY! Make checks out to “Treasurer, Virginia Tech”. Please note there is a $50 returned check fee.

MG CLINIC TRAINING: Clinic training (please register 703-792-7747 or master_gardener@pwcgov.org) Thursday, 4/11/19 Jean McCoy Room Sudley North Government Building (upstairs from the Extension Office) 7987 Ashton Ave. Manassas 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.

SPRING GARDEN CENTER PLANT CLINICS “Ask a Master Gardener” – Locations to be announced. April 6, 13, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 2019

SATURDAY IN THE GARDEN- see all our best practices in action with a class at the Teaching Garden, 9535 Linton Hall Rd, Bristow, 20136 April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 7, October 5, 2019

FARMER’S MARKET CLINICS AT DALE CITY & MANASSAS “Ask a Master Gardener”, April thru October

MGPW PLANT SALE - May 11 and September 7, 2019; Teaching Garden, 9535 Linton Hall Rd, Bristow, 20136

INVASIVE PLANTS CLASS - May 18, 2019, 10a.m. – 12p.m. Silver Lake Park, 15800 Silver Lake Rd., Haymarket, VA. Got Weeds? All weeds are not created equal! Learn what plants to avoid, what to plant and how to manage aggressive, non-native plants in your landscape. This class will include a slow hike, so dress accordingly!

CONTAINER GARDENING – May 30, 2019, 12:30p.m., Bull Run Regional Library, 8051 Ashton Ave., Manassas, VA 20110—Create a container garden that is functional and gorgeous. Vegetables, ornamentals, and irrigation will be covered.

*To register for any of the above activities, please call the Extension Horticulture Help Desk at 703-792-7747 or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org or follow instructions on corresponding flyers published in this issue of the Turnip News.
Teaching Garden Work Days 2019

Please come out and work in the garden, we have fun!

**Tuesday Mornings 9 a.m. to Noon**

March 19 and 26  
April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30  
May 7, 14, 21, and 28  
June 4, 11, 18, and 25  
July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30  
August 6, 13, 20, and 27  
September 3, 10, 17 and 24  
October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29  
November 5 and 12

**Thursday Evenings 6:30 p.m. to Dusk**

April 11, 18, and 25  
May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30  
June 6, 13, 20, and 27  
July 11, 18, and 25  
August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29  
September 5, 12, 19, and 26

**Saturday Mornings 9 a.m. to Noon**

March 23  
April 6 and 27  
May 18  
June 1 and 22  
July 6  
August 3 and 31  
September 28  
October 19

All Saturday in the Gardens are Workdays as well!
With snow on the ground it is hard to believe that the Spring Plant Sale is just around the corner, but it is only three months off! It will be on May 11th this year. Besides requesting that each of you consider donating non-invasive plants from your own gardens, this year I wonder how many of you might start plants, herbs, and vegetables from seed as well? I know I asked this last year but thought I would try again. If this describes you, I am hoping you might consider starting a few extra with the hopes of selling these at our Spring Plant Sale. People always ask about vegetables, but some annuals and perennials would be a great addition to what we sell as well.

If this includes you, please consider planting a few more seeds this year to help support our Teaching Garden. I am willing to let you decide what you want to donate. Rather kind of me, right? The only stipulation is that the plants need to be of good size and healthy. This one time I will allow quart size pots to be donated, as this is what size most starter vegetable and flowers come in. All donations are gratefully received.

Last year, thanks to MaryLynn Abe, we made a good amount of money. Since her donations of gardening items went so well, I’m asking if you have decorative pots, garden tools, garden art, and garden books that you aren’t using, please consider donating them to support our Garden. They must be in good condition and anything that doesn’t sell, especially the books, will be returned to you. Take a look and see what you might have! Starting at the end of April you can bring them out to the Teaching Garden. If you have questions email me at ljp6651@comcast.net. Thank you for supporting our beautiful Garden.
2018 received the dubious distinction of being the wettest year since 1889. This had been a boon for many plants and for the grassy lawns which stayed green and luxuriant late into fall. Unfortunately, all of that moisture proved a boon for mold as well, both indoors and outdoors. In the house, furniture, doors, breadboards, cabinets and dressers sprouted growths that needed to be addressed and, a more serious result, mold attacked people susceptible to its effects. Many people developed cold and allergy symptoms, which could sometimes become an even more dangerous situation for those with asthma.

This situation highlights the need to be careful gardening because, as disagreeable as indoor mold can be, gardeners and farmers face problems from fungus and mold outdoors on a daily basis. Farming, dairy work and working in a greenhouse are among the agricultural activities that increase the likelihood of the effects of exposure.

To avoid confusion, it’s important to understand that there is a difference between mold and fungus, although the words are often used interchangeably. Fungus is the more all-embracing term and can be understood to be a microscopic substance, neither plant nor animal but its own separate type of organism with its own classification. Mold is one type of fungus.

While there are many types of fungus that are present inside and outside, not all of them cause allergies in people. Some of their effects are beneficial. And, if you’re allergic to one sort it doesn’t mean you will be allergic to all of them, but it’s useful to know some of the most common allergy-causing fungi and the dangers they contain.

Alternaria alternata is an indoor risk factor for asthmatics. It also infects certain tomato cultivars and, as such, is called Alternaria stem canker of tomato.

Aspergillus is a saprophytic fungus (an organism which gets its energy from dead and decaying organic matter) that, according to the site Medical Genomics, “helps remove environmental carbon and nitrogen from the earth’s atmosphere. Aspergillus is most commonly found in the soil around us, where it thrives on naturally occurring organic debris.” (As a side note, they assert that some who rely on medical cannabis are at risk of death from aspergillosis if the fungus is present in their marijuana and they inhale the spores).

Aspergillus spores, along with two other species, “Micropolyspora faeni” and “Thermoactinomyces vulgaris”, are also responsible for a serious ailment, popularly called “Farmer’s Lung,” a non-infectious mold disease which affects mainly farmers but also anyone who works in areas where they often come in contact with mold spores. The spores produce an allergic reaction. The Virginia Cooperative Extension describes the disease:

Farmers Lung caused by inhalation of mold spores (Wikipedia)

“Farmers will develop specific symptoms of farmer’s lung based on the amount of dust and spores to which they have been exposed or the intensity of their body’s reaction to dust and spores. Farmers are also likely to develop an increased sensitivity to mold exposure over time and will have more severe reactions with lighter exposures. In all cases, each additional exposure will aggravate the problem.”

The Extension paper describes the disease as
developing in three stages. Acute, subacute and chronic. The symptoms can be treated with medications as they gradually become more serious and debilitating, but there is no cure.

The Cladosporium genus, seen as having an abundance of indoor and outdoor molds, is estimated to have almost 800 plant-pathogenic and saprophytic species. Their danger to humans is rare but seems to be most dangerous to people with asthma or other respiratory diseases. They are also thought to cause infections of skin, toenails, sinuses and lungs. Penicillium is a surprising addition to the list. It is the mold from which Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928.

However, on the other side of the ledger, penicillium mold is quite common indoors where it spoils food, particularly fruits and vegetables, takes residence in things made of leather and, when its blue or green molds are found, is an indicator that there’s excessive dampness inside a building. There are species which also improve various cheeses—Penicillium camemberti and Penicillium roqueforti—for instance. With people allergic to mold it can cause problems; for people who have compromised immune systems, such as patients with AIDS, some species of penicillium can be dangerous.

The name, “penicillium”, incidentally, comes from the Latin word for paintbrush. It was noticed that the spore producing structures (conidiophores) resembled that of a paintbrush in their appearance, and the Latin word for paintbrush is penicillus.

The Irish Potato Famine, also called The Great Hunger, was caused by a fungus, Phytophthora infestans, or “late blight,” which is thought to have originated in Mexico. The fungus did not affect the people by causing them to become sick; its fatal effect was caused by the loss of the crop of potatoes, on which they had become dependent for their food and for many, income. In the five years (1846 to 1851) in which potato crops in Ireland were destroyed by this fungus, at least one million people, out of a population of more than eight million people, died of starvation or related causes. The Famine is considered to be one of the most lethal in the modern world, for percentage of population taken.

What is most notable in the Irish potato famine is that, even though the poor tenant farmers and their families died in such numbers, other crops that they raised and commodities that they harvested such as peas, beans, rabbits, fish and honey, which would have saved them, were taken and sold by the landowners intent on making a profit. It can be said that the late blight killed the crops but that human agencies caused the famine.

Finally, even a brief and incomplete account of various toxic fungi and their effects on humans and animals needs to mention the most notorious one: the ergot fungi, specifically Claviceps purpurea, the rye ergot fungus. Rye provided the main part of the diet for many European countries in ancient and medieval times and the rye ergot fungus, attacking rye grain, became part of the bread which these people ate. Ergot fungi are impervious to heat and water so when the infected grain was baked into bread, it was still active in full force. Ergotism was the name of the disease which had serious and many times fatal effects on circulation and neurotransmission of those afflicted, both humans and other animals.

Ergotism manifests itself in two ways: the first by muscle spasms, fever and hallucinations. Sufferers might be unable to speak, suffered from paralysis or tremors and became manic. The second form attacked organs farthest from the trunk of the body, such as fingers and toes, restricting the flow of blood to these areas which
caused extreme pain and sometimes caused gangrene and the loss of limbs. The pain was said to be excruciating and people ran mad in the streets. People on the British Isles avoided this disease because their main source of food came from wheat which was not affected by ergot fungi.

During medieval times an order of monks was established to treat the victims of this disease with ointments and balms which stimulated circulation and tranquilized the sufferer but since the connection between the fungus attacking the rye grasses was not yet understood to be the cause of the disease, terrible outbreaks occurred. One in parts of France in 944 AD caused 40,000 deaths and it wasn’t until the end of the 16th century that someone is recorded as having made the connection between ergot-infected bread and the disease. Still, more than 8,000 people died during an outbreak in Sologne in 1778 and as late as August, 1951, MedicineNet reported that “...one in twenty of the 4000 inhabitants of another village in France called Pont Saint Esprit (Bridge of the Holy Spirit) went mad. They had hallucinations, writhed in agony in their beds, vomited, ran crazily in the streets and suffered terrible burning sensations in their limbs.” They were suffering from ergotism from contaminated rye flour used to make their bread.

As in so many other families, funguses and specifically, molds, have good and bad members. In the spirit of melodrama or a horror movie, we’ve talked mostly about the villains. But let’s not forget the good guys. Without them, we would not enjoy the seductive scent of bread baking, the taste of beer and wine, those delicious mushrooms and the unique flavor of some of our favorite cheeses. I’m getting hungry.

Fungus and Mold Information

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Sciencing
Fungus Vs. Mold
Emily Beach
March 13, 2018

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Questions: Contact Jean Bennett, MGPW, at (540) 219-1440.
Get to Know a Critter
by Kim Zell, MGPW

Syrphid Fly
Family Syrphidae

- Syrphid flies, also called Hover flies or Flower flies are excellent pollinators and enormously beneficial in the garden.
- Larvae of Syrphid flies are voracious predators of aphids and other plant sucking insects. They may also feed on decaying vegetation, wet wood or tiny organisms in shallow puddles of stagnant water.
- Syrphid flies are well known for their amazing mimicry, imitating not only the colorations and markings of bees and wasps but (some) even the buzzing noises!
- Syrphid flies do not bite or sting.

How do I know it's a Syrphid fly?
- Only one pair of wings
- Short, stubby antennae
- Large, compound eyes
- Syrphid flies do not sting! (no stinger)

they are very tiny!

Sources:
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