



UME Gardening Resources

Jon Traunfeld, Extension Specialist;
jont@umd.edu



The future looks bright

- Gardening is a popular, healthy, and sustainable leisure activity.
- Inter-related social issues and ills have pushed youth gardening to the forefront.
- The University of Maryland is the source for un-biased, gardening and nutrition information and education.
- Many opportunities for grant \$, partnerships, and applied research.



Resources

- Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC)
 - www.hgic.umd.edu
 - 1-800-342-2507
- Grow-It-Eat-It campaign
 - www.growit.umd.edu
- Maryland Master Gardener program
 - www.mastergardener.umd.edu



HGIC located at CMREC/Clarksville

- Answers to any gardening question or pest problem
 - “hotline” and Live Chat (soon!): Mon-Fri, 8am-1pm
 - web site: lots of fact sheets and useful info; e-mail us questions 24/7 (you can attach photos)
- Who answers the ?
 - team of certified professional horticulturists; backed up by...Jon Traunfeld (veg & fruit; soil & compost); Dave Clement (plant diseases); Mary Kay Malinoski (insects)



Grow It Eat It

- Joint project- Home and Garden Information Center and Master Gardener program
- Why now? *Recession; local food movement; connect with nature*
- UME advantages: new knowledge that is research-based; large number of trained volunteers; experience and knowledge of faculty



- Vision:** One million Marylanders growing some of their own food by 2011
- Goals:**
1. Teach people how to start and maintain successful, sustainable food gardens
 2. Create a network of gardeners who learn from UME and each other
- Roles:**
1. MGs teach and promote food gardening and answer questions in their communities
 2. HGIC provides web resources and answers questions via e-mail and phone



2009 GIEI kick-off event at Master Peace Community Garden in Riverdale



Katie O'Malley with Master Gardeners at Government House kitchen garden in Annapolis (partnership with the Maryland Dept. of Ag)



Kent Co. GIEI project at elementary school



We have classes and resources for home and community gardeners



Grow It web site

- Detailed information with photos and video
 - starting a garden
 - container gardening, including Salad Table and Salad Box
- Blog, Twitter, weekly e-mail update (new)
- Lots of new content in 2010; adding GHH and "GIEI for Kids"
- JOIN the network!



Maryland Master Gardener Program

- Programs in 18 counties and Baltimore City
- 2008: 1,250 active MGs
- UME volunteers who serve as environmental horticulture educators
- Trained by UME faculty; continuing education is required



“High touch” program that addresses important issues

- Lots of interaction between faculty/staff and volunteers. Emphasis is hands-on, experiential learning.
- Volunteers directly reach a large number of youth and adults each year with critical educational programs and messages.
- Upbeat, positive work; can see results of our work in our communities.



How can MGs help you?

- MGs support the Extension mission and goals.
- Assist FSNE, EFNEP, 4-H, and Ag and Natural Resources programs.
- Serve as hands-on educators with gardening projects and programs.
- Answer subject matter questions and solve gardening problems (e.g. plant clinics).
- Connected to community resources and support- businesses, agencies, non-profits.



Getting MG support

- Your project must fit with the MG mission.
- Build relationships...
 - Get to know your MG Coordinator and MG programs.
 - Make a brief presentation at a monthly meeting to inform and solicit support.
- Include a role for the MG program in grant proposals and projects.

Master Gardeners are a great asset. They deserve respect and recognition.