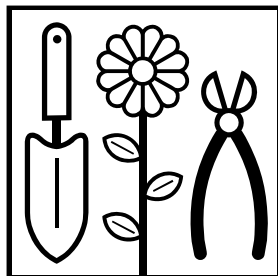


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Piscataquis Gardening

University of Maine Cooperative Extension (UMaine Extension) is the major educational outreach program of the University of Maine, with offices statewide. UMaine Extension provides Maine people with research-based educational programs to help them live fuller, more productive lives.

Goal:

The goal of the Piscataquis Gardening Newsletter is to provide timely information on practical, sustainable, research-based horticultural practices, tools and techniques which will improve home gardening success. Topics on growing and caring for vegetables, fruits, flowers, and landscaping for the home will be included as well as pest management techniques. Information will be based on our U.S.D.A plant hardiness zone. Upcoming events and programs of interest will also be included.

You can receive this newsletter electronically. To sign up for the electronic version go to www.umext.umaine.edu/piscataquis/gardening/newsletter.htm.

If you have a question, feel free to contact me and I can include it in our garden question section.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Donna R. Coffin'.

Donna R. Coffin
dcoffin@umext.maine.edu
Piscataquis County Extension
Educator
165 East Main Street
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
207-564-3301
In Maine 1-800-287-1491

Maine HEARTH VISTA Position Available

Maine HEARTH (Home Energy Aid & Response Team Help) has two positions available in Piscataquis and Somerset Counties working with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The positions will help to connect the generous responses communities have developed to support those trying to stay safe and warm at home. Resources for these VISTA position have been made available through the 2009 American Recover & Reinvestment Act.

Skills needed for this position include: community organization, writing/editing, public speaking, recruitment, training/facilitation, and communications. Detailed project management experience required, bachelor's degree or equivalent preferred. Independent, self-starter with strong people skills required and ability to multi-task a must.

Position starts 09/01/2009 and ends 08/31/2010.

Benefits include: Stipend (\$909/mo), health coverage, and (on completion of year of service) a \$4,725 educational award or \$1,200 cash stipend. Additional benefits available to eligible members: relocation allowance, child care credits, student loan interest payments, term life-insurance. Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) members commit to full-time service for one year and may not hold another job. Go to www.americorps.gov for more information on AmeriCorps* VISTA service.

Contact Donna Coffin at 564-3301 or 1-800-287-1491 or dcoffin@umext.maine.edu for information on how to apply for the position in Piscataquis County.

Maine Forest Service Issues Firewood Warning

The Maine Forest Service warns that invasive insects that could destroy Maine forests can be carried in firewood from one location to another. Campers should buy firewood at their camping destination.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Maine HEARTH VISTA Position
- From the Soil Up
- Maine Forest Service Warning
- Awards and Grant to Encourage Youths and Others to Garden
- Re-Born UMaine Homeowner IPM Web Pages
- May Garden Activities
- Featured Extension Publications
- Calendar

Invasive species can lodge in, on or under firewood bark, or be deep within the wood. The insects often can't be seen in the wood. Infected wood that is transported to "clean" locales, especially if it's left lying around for any length of time, can allow the spread of the bad bugs.

They ask everyone especially campers to remember these four safety tips:

- ☛ Use firewood you obtain locally
- ☛ Don't transport firewood more than 50 miles (e.g., across county lines, especially to second homes, such as summer houses, cottages, cabins and hunting shacks)
- ☛ Don't take firewood home that you got elsewhere
- ☛ If you've already transported firewood, don't leave it or bring it home – burn it!

For more information, contact Maine Forest Service Forest Entomologist Charlene Donahue at 287-3244 or email:

Charlene.Donahue@maine.gov

Source: Donahue, C., *Maine Forest Service Media Advisory*, May 18, 2009.

A Sneak Peek at the Re-born UMaine Homeowner IPM Web Pages

Jim Dill and Charlie Armstrong at the Pest Management Office have revamped the **Homeowner IPM** web pages. Having been offline for a few years—after *Colin Stewart changed careers*—Jim and Charlie have now breathed new life into them and plan to start advertising the site to the general public within the next week or so. It is a work-in-progress, especially the Photo Gallery section, as they continue to take more photos of their own, as well as work with slides that they already have at the PMO. They also plan to add a "Bug Reporter" section, of sorts, very soon, which will provide timely, relevant pest tips and information for homeowners on a regular basis throughout each 'bug' season. Clay Kirby will be helping with that "Reporter" section of the site.

Take a look at the new site. Currently there are no links to the pages from anywhere, so you need to know the actual address, which is <http://pmo.umext.maine.edu/homeowner/>.

Source: Charles Armstrong, *Rebirth of our Homeowner IPM Web Pages*, May 29, 2009 email.

From the Soil Up... A Webinar for Beginning Vegetable Gardeners

is a four-session course on the basics of home vegetable gardening, from garden planning to pest management, harvest and storage that you can take on your computer.

The two sessions of the "Webinar" version of *From the Soil Up* are now available through the web archive. The course comprises four one-hour sessions from noon until 1pm scheduled to coincide with their seasonal topics:

May 1st Planning your garden and starting seeds.

June 5th Transplanting, fertilizing and weed control

July 10th Pest and disease management

Sept 11th Season extension, harvesting and storage

Fee for the program will be \$15 for all four sessions. We will send you the *Smart Gardener Manual* and links other factsheets and to the plug-in and session web address. You will also be invited to join our *From the Soil Up* Facebook and Wordpress groups and share what is happening in your garden, upload pictures of pests or plant problems, and have access to the archived sessions of the webinar.

To register please send a check for \$15 (made out to PCEA) to Piscataquis County Extension Office, 165 East Main St., Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426 or call (207) 564-3301 or email amiles@umext.maine.edu For more information go to <http://tinyurl.com/FromtheSoilUp>

Awards and Grants to Encourage Youth and Others to Garden

Below are a number of grants or awards available to help schools and youth groups encourage youth to garden in 2010 and to acknowledge the gardening programs that are helping all learn more about gardening. You need to start now to apply for grants and/ or awards to help establish or expand you're gardening education project.

National Gardening Association (NGA) 2009 Healthy Sprouts Awards Program (*Deadline: 10/17/09*) www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp

The NGA encourages the growth of health-focused youth garden programs through the Healthy Sprouts Awards sponsored by Gardener's Supply Company. The awards support school and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. To be eligible for the 2009 Healthy Sprouts Awards, a school or organization

must plan to garden in 2010 with at least fifteen children between the ages of 3 and 18. The selection of winners is based on the demonstrated relationship between the garden program and nutrition and hunger issues in the United States.

In 2009, the program will present awards to twenty schools or organizations. Each recipient program will receive gardening supplies and resources, including gift certificates toward the purchase of gardening materials from Gardener's Supply. The top five programs will each receive a certificate valued at \$500; fifteen more programs will each receive a \$200 gift certificate

Gardener's Supply Garden Crusader Awards

(Deadline: 6/15/09) <http://www.gardeners.com/Garden-Crusader-Awards/5549,default.pg.html>

The Garden Crusader Awards were created by Gardener's Supply to honor individuals across the United States who are improving their communities through gardening. Awardees are enthusiastic men and women who are planting trees and flowers, growing food, creating new green spaces, and teaching their friends and neighbors about the rewards of gardening.

Award categories include Education, Feeding the Hungry, Urban Renewal, and Restoration. There are five winners for each category — first, second, and third, plus two honorable mentions and one grand-prize winner, for a total of twenty-one winners overall. The grand-prize winner will receive \$2,500 in cash and a \$2,500 gift certificate from Gardener's Supply. First-place winners will receive a \$1,000 gift certificate, second-place winners will receive a \$750 gift certificate, third-place winners will receive a \$500 gift certificate, and honorable mentions will receive a \$200 gift certificate. All prizes are awarded to the winner's organization in his or her name.

NGA Youth Garden Grants Program (Deadline: 11/2/09) <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp>

The National Gardening Association has announced that the Home Depot is returning as the Youth Garden Grants sponsor for 2010. NGA annually awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs across the United States. Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United

States are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. For the 2010 grant cycle, 100 grants are available. Five programs will each receive gift cards valued at \$1,000 (a \$500 gift card to the Home Depot and a \$500 gift card to the Gardening with Kids catalog and educational materials from NGA). Ninety-five programs will each receive a \$500 gift card to the Home Depot and educational materials from NGA.

NGA 2009 Hooked on Hydroponics Education Grants (Deadline: 9/18/09) <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/HOH.asp>

The Grow Store and ProgressiveGardening.org have joined with the National Gardening Association to offer hydroponic equipment to expand indoor gardening opportunities for elementary and middle and high school students. The program will provide thirty-six schools with equipment and learning materials for hydroponics projects that involve at least fifteen children between the ages of 6 and 18 during the 2010 school year. Applicants must verify that their facility can accommodate the equipment in the award packages available for their age group.

June Garden Activities:

- ☼ Cage or stake tomatoes if you have not done so. If you are not going to suspend your tomatoes by cage or stake then consider mulching to reduce fruit rot that comes into contact with the bare soil.
- ☼ Mulch garden beds to preserve soil moisture. Wood chips, compost, or other mulches is excellent for perennial beds. Vegetable gardens may be mulched with herbicide-free grass clippings, compost, straw or other easily-degradable mulch materials. Caution with grass clippings or straw, they may harbor plenty of weed or grass seed!
- ☼ Be careful when doing yard work not to wound trees with lawn mowers and trimmers. Use mulch around trees and shrubs for weed control instead.
- ☼ Root crops like carrots, radishes, beets, turnips, and parsnip should be thinned to approximately 2 inches between plants within the row.
- ☼ Watch for disease or insect attacks on your plants. If you don't know what it is you can give us a call at the Extension Office at 564-3301 or in Maine 1-800-287-1491 or you can email Hannah Todd, Extension Home Horticulture Aide at htodd@umext.maine.edu.

Featured Extension Publications:

The following Gardening Extension Publications are

Piscataquis County Extension Office
165 East Main Street
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
564-3301 or 1-800-287-1491 (In Maine)
Piscataquis Gardening June 2009



In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University System shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status or gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran's status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University System. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

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available at the Extension office nearest you. Many publications are also available online for free download at <http://extensionpubs.umext.maine.edu/>. For sale publications can be ordered directly from our publications store at the same web site.

- ☛ **Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens** Item #2234
Publisher: Storey Publishing. Gail Damerow.
Described by Ron Macher of Small Farm Today magazine as "the best single book on chicken raising I have seen," this comprehensive guide covers choosing, housing, feeding, and managing a flock of meat birds or layers, as well as collecting and storing eggs, incubation and hatching, chick care, health care, and preparing chickens for show. Damerow is editor of Rural Heritage magazine and a contributor to Backyard Poultry magazine, and has raised chickens since 1970. 352 pages, 1995. **\$18.95**
- ☛ **Ball Blue Book Guide to Preserving: 100th Anniversary Edition** Item #4024 Publisher: Jarden Home Brands. The first Ball Blue Book guides were published in 1909. This elegant new version of America's classic food preservation guide is printed in glossy magazine format with plenty of full-page color spreads, and contains more than 500 recipes. Covers general canning principles, high-acid foods, soft spreads, pickled foods, low-acid foods (including meats), condiments, and salsas. Includes sections on freezing and dehydrating, a trouble-shooting chart, a glossary, and an index. 128 pages, 2009. **\$7.95**
- ☛ **Growing Strawberries** Item #2067 Publisher:

UMaine Extension. Explains site selection, preparation, planting, insect control; illustrations show proper plant spacing. For home gardeners and commercial farmers, 6 pages. 2003. Download it for free or buy a color copy for **\$1.00**

Calendar:

July 10th, 2009 **From the Soil Up...** a webinar for beginning vegetable gardeners. May 1st, June 5th, July 10th, and September 11th Noon to 1 pm at your computer. Archived versions available for classes that have already aired. \$15 fee for all four sessions includes manual. For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/FromtheSoilUp>.

July 18, 2009, **Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society Garden Tour** beginning at 9 am and going until 4 pm. It is a self guided tour. When you buy your ticket you receive a brochure, map and admittance ticket. The price is \$10.00 in advance \$12.00 day of tour, and \$8.00 for senior citizens. There are 11 gardens, vegetable, flower and combination of both. Tickets go on sale May 1, 2009 and are available at Mr. Paperback, Rumbling Falls Gift Store, Riverside Florist, Stutzman's Farms and Carmen's Greenhouse, and the Observer Museum Building. Any questions please call Carmen Smith at 564-2178.

July 23rd, 2009 **Rain Garden Workshop** from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Piscataquis Count Extension Office, Dover-Foxcroft. Laura Wilson, Extension Water Quality