

Growing It To Sell At Farmers' Markets

BEL AIR, Md. — All five Harford County farmers' markets are now open and attracting steady crowds throughout the week.

Blueberries, raspberries, asparagus, peas, beans, onions, flowers, spinach and cabbage are expected this month in the markets.

All farmers' markets sell only fresh local produce in season along with jellies, jams, baked goods, and small shrubs and ornamental grasses.

Customers planning to purchase market items are offered these tips:

- The markets are held outdoors, rain or shine, so come dressed accordingly.

- Sturdy shopping bags or baskets will help you carry your purchases back to the car. Market vendors will soon offer bags imprinted with the Harford

County Home Grown logo for your convenience.

- Carry small bills, so making change will be easy.

- The busiest times at the market are usually in the first two hours. Come early for the best selection.

- Feel free to ask questions about how produce is grown and how to cook it.

The Harford County Sunday's farmers' market is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. under the Harford Mall Marquee at Maryland Routes 24 and 1 in Bel Air. Parking is available in the mall's parking lot near the Hecht Company.

For more information on all the Bel Air markets, call Bel Air Rotary Club Representative Ron McCarty at 410-836-6346.

Tuesday's farmers' market is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Thomas Street side of the

Mary Risteau State Office Building in Bel Air. Parking is available at designated covered meters on Thomas Street.

Those customers who prefer to shop on Thursday should give the Edgewood Farmers' Market a try. Conducted in the parking lot at Edgewood Road and the MARC Train Station, the market runs from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Parking is available in the same parking lot. For more information, contact Harford County Ag Coordinator C. John Sullivan III at 4638-3059.

Saturday is farmers' market day in Harford County. The Bel Air Farmers' Market is open from 7 a.m. to noon at Risteau with plenty of parking on the state building parking lot.

Across county, vendors sell produce and other farm-related products from 9 a.m. to noon on Pennington Avenue between

Drought Continues

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Alabama's congressional delegation has asked the Clinton administration for urgent drought aid to help farmers and ranchers cope with crop-withering conditions.

In a letter sent recently to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, the lawmakers said Alabama livestock producers want permission to graze their animals on land set aside for a federal conservation program.

The request is similar to one granted earlier in the week by Glickman for Nebraska ranchers to use grazing land usually off-limits for conservation.

Washington Street and Union Avenue in Havre de Grace. Parking is available on Washington. For more information, contact Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce Representative Ron Kupferman at 410-939-3303.

Recently, government forecasters reported that although drought conditions have eased in parts of the Midwest, farmers in Nebraska, Missouri, Texas and several southeastern states face more above-normal temperatures and below-normal rain through September.

In its three-month seasonal outlook, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said drought conditions were likely to persist from July through September in Midwestern areas already experiencing severe drought. Midwest drought regions include Nebraska, Missouri, southwest Iowa and central Illinois, NOAA said.

Compared to last month's drought forecast, the government's new report showed significantly fewer areas in the Midwest, Southeast and Texas would be hit by this year's drought.

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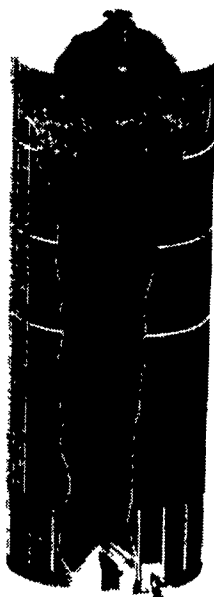
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