

45<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety & Pesticide Recertification Seminar  
February 10, 2026  
Howard Community College, Columbia, MD

AGENDA

7:30-8:00 AM	Registration
8:00-8:50 AM	<b>Cultivating Health: The Role of Soil Management in Mitigating Tree Diseases</b> – Glynn Percival, Senior Arboricultural Research Manager, Bartlett Tree Experts <i>Urban landscapes impose environmental stresses, such as soil compaction, waterlogging, and drought, which are detrimental to tree growth. Trees experiencing such stresses are more vulnerable to pathogenic fungi, including <i>Armillaria</i> and <i>Phytophthora</i>. Mitigating urban tree stress is commonly achieved through soil management techniques, including mulching, de-compaction, and fertilization.</i>
8:50-8:55 AM	Sponsor Update
8:55-9:45 AM	<b>Utility Talk</b> – Nick Valentine, BGE; Ron Muir, First Energy; and Cody Hesseltine, PEPCO <i>Contractor assist, what's on the pole, high voltage, AET</i>
9:45-10:00 AM	BREAK
10:00-10:50 AM	<b>Exploring the New Maryland Native Plant Guide: A Deep Dive into the Piedmont Region</b> – Lisa Kuder, Native Plants & Landscapes Specialist, University of Maryland Extension <i>This presentation will introduce the latest tools and resources included in the new guide, designed to help enthusiasts and professionals alike identify and understand native plant species. Attendees will gain valuable knowledge on how these plants contribute to local ecosystems and how to effectively utilize the guide for conservation and landscaping purposes.</i>
10:50-10:55 AM	Sponsor Update
10:55-11:45 AM	<b>Common and Important Diseases: What We've Seen and What's Coming</b> , David Clement, Principal Agent, Home & Garden Information Center, University of Maryland Extension <i>Weather played an important role in the diseases that we saw this past year's growing season. This talk will discuss past disease problems for Maryland landscapes and what we might expect in 2025.</i>
11:45-12:30 PM	LUNCH

12:30-1:20 PM	<b>Managing Invasive Trees and Deadly Vines</b> – Judith P. Fulton, Founder, EcoPlant Consulting: Native and Invasive Plants & President, Maryland Native Plant Society  <i>Invasive trees cause major damage to natural habitats and cultivated landscapes. If anything, invasive vines are worse because they kill and topple trees, and also smother the understory. Judy Fulton will provide an overview of invasives plant species and the harm they cause, followed by control approaches you can employ to save valuable trees. Additionally, her presentation will cover example invasive tree and vine species, along with resources for researching invasives.</i>
1:20-1:25 PM	Sponsor Update
1:25-2:15 PM	<b>Advanced Climbing Techniques</b> - Corey Shepard and Jason Pauley, Davey Tree Experts  <i>Look forward to an engaging discussion where presenters will walk through the benefits and drawbacks of advancing climbing systems. Speakers will illustrate hitch based and mechanical systems in both SRS and MRS modes. Attendees will learn about the presenter's perspective, as climbing arborists with over 30 years experience, on the Rope Wrench, Rope Runner Vertec, Akimbo, Zigzag and Ronin Powered Ascender, climbing devices.</i>
2:15-2:30 PM	BREAK
2:30-3:20 PM	<b>Updates on Invasive Landscape Pests: Preparing for 2026</b> – Laura Nixon, Agent, University of Maryland Extension  <i>This presentation will cover identification of invasive insects and their symptoms, including crepe myrtle bark scale, box tree moth, and spotted lanternfly, as well as a brief update on emerald ash borer. Management tactics and regulatory steps will also be discussed.</i>
3:20-4:10 PM	Recertification Updates – MDA, DC DOEE, MD DNR
4:10-4:30 PM	Wrap-up, CEUs