

# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



## October 2019 ♦ FREE Public Education Programs ♦ Arlington/Alexandria

### October is Urban Agriculture Month!

In October we celebrate the farmers and gardeners who provide the bounty of food we enjoy. Several events are being held in Arlington and Alexandria, including VCE Master Gardener programs on October 26 on Fruit Trees for the Home Garden. See [www.mgnv.org](http://www.mgnv.org) for more information and registration. Other events include Garden Talks at the Arlington Central Library. Topics include *Garlic, its Growing and History* on October 2 and *Growing Microgreens and Sprouts* on October 9. And on Friday, October 18 at 6:30 pm at the Arlington Arts Center, 3553 Wilson Blvd, EcoAction Arlington will hold its 2019 EcoExtravaganza. More information on these and additional events can be found at [www.arlingtonurbanag.org/events](http://www.arlingtonurbanag.org/events). And don't forget to stop by a Farmer's Market!

### Homeowner Associations and Condo Associations: Sustainable Solutions to Landscaping Headaches

Friday, October 4, 9:30am – 1pm, Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Building, The Forum Meeting Room, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale 22003. Is your community association board or property management company wrestling with problems like erosion, flooding, unused lawns and unattractive green spaces? This half-day symposium will focus on how Homeowner Associations (HOAs) and condo associations can develop plans to upgrade the green infrastructure in their communities. Learn about the role of native plants in sustainable landscaping, the resources available for investing in ecologically focused community projects, and how to work with your community bylaws or committees to ensure positive outcomes. Success stories from local communities will be featured and a variety of experts in the field will be on hand to answer questions at a poster session. Event is sponsored by Plant NOVA Natives. For registration: <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/symposiums-for-hoa-and-condo-assoc>. Questions? Telephone 703-244-9174 or email [plantnovanatives@gmail.com](mailto:plantnovanatives@gmail.com).

**Check out our Plant Clinics!** The *Arlington Central Library Plant Clinic* is open from 6:45-8:45 pm every Wednesday through October 23 and is located in the East Lobby of the Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. **NEW! Beatley Library Plant Clinic** now open at 5005 Duke St, Alexandria, 22304 on 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings; October 8 & 22 from 7:00-8:30 pm.

The **Extension Master Gardener Help Desk** operates year-round. We welcome your garden-related questions, including those related to plant and insect identification. We operate from 9 a.m. to noon weekdays at the VCE office, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington 22206. Contact us at **703-228-6414** or [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com), or drop by. It's best to call before you come to make sure we're available.

### Landscaping Techniques & Native Plants for Wet Sites

Monday, October 7, 7pm – 8:30pm, Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Rd., Alexandria 22304. Has the latest storm swept all your well-placed mulch into your neighbor's yard & left you with more bog than garden? Come learn about landscaping techniques, appropriate native plants, & local resources to help you address the effects of soggy conditions in your yard.

### Simpson Gardens Stroll

Tuesday, October 8, 10am – 11am, Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St., Alexandria 22301. Stroll through Simpson Gardens with Extension Master Gardeners as they describe the gardens' variety of demonstration beds that combine sustainable gardening practices with appealing aesthetics.

### Preparing Your Garden for Winter

Tuesday, October 22, 7pm – 8:30 pm, Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street, Arlington 22204. Fall is the ideal time to plant trees, shrubs, perennials, and even vegetables. Come learn easy tips for onsite composting, providing winter habitat and food for wildlife, and end-of-season care of tools and equipment. We'll also help you identify plants that can add interest to your yard in wintertime.

### Fruit Trees for the Home Garden

Saturday, October 26, 10am – 12pm, Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street, Arlington 22206. Are you ready to turn your yard into a mini-forest? Come learn tips and techniques to help you successfully select and care for fruit trees commonly grown in our area such as apples, cherries, peaches, nectarines, figs, pears and other fruits. You'll learn best practices for assessing your site, pruning, watering and fertilizing, integrated pest management, and other techniques to maximize your harvest.

Don't miss the **Wednesday Night Garden Talks through October 9th** at the **Arlington Central Library, 7 pm, 1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington 22201. Free. No registration necessary.** Presented with the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Download the entire schedule at <https://afac.org/plot-against-hunger/pah-events/>.

Also check out the resources on our **website, MGNV.ORG**. You'll find a *Quick Guide for Gardeners in Northern Virginia*, and an extensive compilation of *Tried and True Native Plants for the Mid-Atlantic Area*.

**All Classes are FREE. Pre-registration requested at MGNV.ORG.**

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Octavia Walker, at (703) 519-3325 or TDD: (800) 828-1120 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.