

VCE Sustainable Landscaping – Water Conservation

Recommended Online Resources – July 2020

Compiled by VCE Master Gardeners (Arlington & City of Alexandria)

Sustainable Landscaping - General

Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, *Conservation Landscaping Guidelines: The 8 Essential Elements of Conservation Landscaping*, http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/8_elements_2013.pdf

Landscape for Life: <http://landscapeforlife.org/>

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV): <https://mgnv.org/reading-room/making-your-yard-sustainable/>

VCE Horticulture Help Desk, Weekdays 9am-12pm, mgarlalex@gmail.com

Conservation – Water

City of Alexandria, “Stormwater and Your Water: How Landscaping Affects the Bay”:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/gbrc/default.aspx?id=48292>

Drip Irrigation, UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County: http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Drip_Irrigation/

Greywater Reuse, VCE Pub BSE-114: https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/BSE/BSE-114/BSE-114-pdf.pdf

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District: “Stop Erosion – Solving Drainage and Erosion Problems”: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/drainage-problem-protect-eroding-land>

“Take the Tuna Can Test!” Slow the Flow Program, City of Spokane, Washington:

<https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/publicworks/water/tuna-can-test.pdf>

“Water Wisely,” University of Minnesota Extension: <https://extension.umn.edu/how/water-wisely-start-your-own-backyard>

Watering Trees and Shrubs, The Morton Arboretum: <http://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/horticulture-care/watering-trees-and-shrubs>

Native Plants for the Mid-Atlantic Region

Best Bets: Plants for Particular Uses and Tried/True Native Plant Selections for the Mid-Atlantic, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia: <https://mgnv.org/reading-room/best-bets/> and <https://mgnv.org/plants/>

Guide to Native Plants for Northern Virginia, Plant NOVA Natives Campaign:

<https://www.plantnovanatives.org/quick-start-guide>

Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping – Chesapeake Bay Watershed, USFWS:

<https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf%20>

Green Book of the (Chesapeake Bay Watershed) Buffer, Maryland Department of Natural Resources:

https://dnr.maryland.gov/criticalarea/Documents/GreenBook_Buffer.pdf

Native Plant Finders

Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Center: www.nativeplantcenter.net

Missouri Botanical Garden: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>

Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping Project, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/nativeplants>

Native Plant Information Network (NPIN), Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: <https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>

National Wildlife Federation Plant Finder: <http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants>

Rain Gardens

Rain Garden Design and Construction: A Northern Virginia Homeowner's Guide, Fairfax County: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/sites/soil-water-conservation/files/assets/documents/raingardenbk.pdf>

“Rain Garden Fact Sheet,” Chesapeake Bay Trust: https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Rain-Garden_Fact-Sheet-and-Guidelines.pdf

“Rain Garden Plants,” VCE Urban Water Quality Management Pub 426-043: <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-043/426-043.html>

“Rain Gardens” from *Homeowner Guide to a More Bay Friendly Gardens*: <http://chesapeakestormwater.net/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/11/3.-Section-4.1-Rain-Gardens-w-Appendices.pdf>

“Seven Myths About Rain Gardens,” NVSWCS: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/rain-garden-myths/>

StormwaterWise Landscapes - Rain Garden Specifications, Arlington County, Virginia: <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2016/05/Rain-Garden-Spec-FINAL.pdf>

[Rain Garden for the Homeowner Webinar](#) -- Arlington County, Virginia (website also includes links to other resources for rain garden construction and conservation landscapes)

Community Resources—Stormwater Management

- Arlington StormwaterWise Landscapes – incentive program for homeowners, businesses, and Home Owners Associations based on lottery system. Applications accepted starting early February 1. For more information visit www.arlingtonva.us/stormwaterwise
- Virginia Conservation Assistance Program – open to residents of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax. For more information visit <http://vaswcd.org/vcap>
- Rain Barrel Purchase and Workshops – For details visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/rain-barrel>

Community Resources—Native Plants Program

- Arlington Tree Canopy Program—Free native trees for Arlington residents, For information on applications deadlines visit <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/>
- Arlington Fall Tree Distribution Program – Registration opens September 8, 2020 for pickup in October <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/register-for-your-free-tree/>
- Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Seedling Sale—orders start in February with pick up in late April or early May. For more information and submit orders visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/native-seedling-sale>
- Alexandria Urban Forestry Steering Committee Tree Sales on Earth Day

Some Plant Suggestions

Good for Wet Spaces			
Common Name	Latin Name	Light Requirements	Use
Sweet Bay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Part shade	Understory Tree
Winterberry Holly	<i>Ilex verticillate</i>	Sun, part shade, shade	Shrub
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Sun, part shade	Shrub
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum vergatum</i>	Sun, part shade	Grass
Ostrich Fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Part shade, shade	Fern
White Turtle Head	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnate</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium dubium</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
New Your Ironweed	<i>Vernonia novaboracensis</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
Blue Flag Iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
Scarlet Beebalm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
Striped Violet	<i>Viola striata</i>	Part shade	Ground Cover
Good for Dry Spaces			
Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Sun, part shade, shade	Understory Tree
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemose</i>	Sun, part shade, shade	Shrub
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	Sun, part shade	Shrub
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Sun	Perennial
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Sun	Grass
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	Sun	Perennial
False Blue Indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
Wreath Goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Sun, part shade, shade	Perennial
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
Whorled Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Sun, part shade	Perennial
White Wood Aster	<i>Eurybia divaricatus</i>	Part shade, shade	Ground Cover