

### **Recommended Online Resources**

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

## General Resources

### Sustainable Landscaping - General

- Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council. 2013. *Conservation Landscaping Guidelines: The 8 Essential Elements of Conservation Landscaping*.  
[http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/8\\_elements\\_2013.pdf](http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/8_elements_2013.pdf)
- Extension Master Gardener Help Desk. 2022.  
<https://mgnv.org/programs/help-desk/> . [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).
- Landscape for Life. 2022. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the United States Botanic Garden.  
<http://landscapeforlife.org/>
- Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV). 2022. *Making Your Yard Sustainable*.  
<https://mgnv.org/resources/making-your-yard-sustainable/>

### Conservation - Soil

- Goatley, Michael. 2020. 'Leave' Them Alone: Lawn Leaf Management. VCE Pub 430-521:  
[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/430/430-521/SPES-212.pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/430/430-521/SPES-212.pdf)
- Hunnings, Joseph R., Donohue, Stephen J. and Steve Heckendorn. 2019. *Soil Sampling for the Home Gardener*. VCE Publication 452-129.  
<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/452/452-129/452-129.html>
- *Mulching for a Healthy Landscape*. VCE Pub 426-724.  
[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/426/426-724/426-724.pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-724/426-724.pdf)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service Soils. USDA.  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/soils/home/>
- Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. Fairfax County Government.  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd) (great resource for water conservation, too)
- Rishell, Ed. *Backyard Composting*. VCE Publication Hort-49P.  
<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/HORT/HORT-49/HORT-49-PDF.pdf>

- Sherman, Rhonda. 2021. *Vermicomposting*. NC State Extension.  
<https://composting.ces.ncsu.edu/vermicomposting-2/>
- *Soil Sample Information Sheet for Home Lawns, Gardens, Fruits, and Ornamentals*. 2021. VCE Publication 452-125.  
[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/452/452-125/SPES-322.pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/452/452-125/SPES-322.pdf)

### 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*. 2022. UC Master Gardner Program of Sonoma County.  
[http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Drip\\_Irrigation/](http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Drip_Irrigation/)
- Ling, Erin and Brian Benham. 2019. *Greywater Reuse*. VCE Pub BSE-114.  
[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/BSE/BSE-114/BSE-267.pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/BSE/BSE-114/BSE-267.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>.
- *Stormwater at Home*. 2022. Arlington County Virginia.  
<https://environment.arlingtonva.us/stormwaterwise/>
- *Take the Tuna Can Test! Slow the Flow Program*. City of Spokane, Washington.  
<https://static.spokane.org/documents/publicworks/water/tuna-can-test.pdf>
- *Water Wisely: Start in your own backyard*. 2020. 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

- Adkins Arboretum and the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays. 2012. *Green Book of the (Chesapeake Bay Watershed) Buffer*. Maryland Department of Natural Resources.  
[https://dnr.maryland.gov/criticalarea/Documents/GreenBook\\_Buffer.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/criticalarea/Documents/GreenBook_Buffer.pdf)
- *Best Bets: Plants for Particular Uses*. 2022. Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia.  
<https://mgnv.org/plants/best-bets/>
- *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*. 2003. Chesapeake Bay Watershed. United States Fish and Wildlife Service.  
<https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf%20>
- *Tried/True Native Plant Selections for the Mid-Atlantic*. Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia.  
<https://mgnv.org/native-plants/>

### Native Plant Finders

- Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Center. 2016. United States Fish and Wildlife Service.  
<https://www.nativeplantcenter.net/>
- Missouri Botanical Garden:  
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>
- National Wildlife Federation Plant Finder.  
<http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants>
- *Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping*. 2011. Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping Project. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.  
<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/nativeplants>
- Native Plants of North America Plant Database. 2022. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The University of Texas at Austin.  
<https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>

## Rain Gardens

- “Rain Gardens” from *Homeowner Guide to a More Bay Friendly Gardens*. 2013.  
<http://chesapeakestormwater.net/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/11/3.-Section-4.1-Rain-Gardens-w-Appendices.pdf>
- “Seven Myths About Rain Gardens.” Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/rain-garden-myths/>
- *How to Build a Raingarden Webinar*. Northern Virginia Regional Commission.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_o6gkYLDjnl&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o6gkYLDjnl&feature=youtu.be)
- *Rain Garden Design and Construction: A Northern Virginia Homeowner’s Guide*. 2009. 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/Fact-Sheet-and-Guidelines\\_Rain-Garden\\_042120.pdf](https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Fact-Sheet-and-Guidelines_Rain-Garden_042120.pdf)
- *Rain Garden Plants*. VCE Urban Water Quality Management Pub 426-043.  
[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/426/426-043/SPES-57.pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-043/SPES-57.pdf)
- *StormwaterWise Landscapes: Rain Garden Specifications*. 2019. Arlington County, Virginia.  
<https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2016/05/Rain-Garden-Spec-FINAL.pdf>

### Some Plant Suggestions

Wet Spaces	Dry Spaces
<a href="#"><u>Sweet Bay Magnolia (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>White Fringetree (<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Winterberry Holly (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>)</u></a>	Gray Dogwood ( <i>Cornus racemose</i> )
<a href="#"><u>Ostrich Fern (<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>New Jersey Tea (<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Switch Grass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i>)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Little Bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>White Turtle Head (<i>Chelone glabra</i>)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Prickly Pear (<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Blue or Common Verbena (<i>Verbena hastata</i>)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>False Blue Indigo (<i>Baptisia australis</i>)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Swamp Milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Blue-stemmed or Wreath Goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>)</u></a>
Common Blue Violet ( <i>Viola sororia</i> )	<a href="#"><u>Wild, Woodland, or Three-leaved Stonecrop (<i>Sedum ternatum</i>)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Orange or Spotted Jewelweed (<i>Impatiens capensis</i>)</u></a>	
Rain Gardens	
<a href="#"><u>Three-nerved (Coastal Plain) Joe-pye-weed (<i>Eupatorium dubium</i>)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Purple Coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>New York Ironweed (<i>Vernonia novaboracensis</i>)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Threadleaf Coreopsis, Whorled Tickseed (<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Cardinal Flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Butterfly Weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Swamp Milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Indian Grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Virginia or Southern Blue Flag (<i>Iris virginica</i>)</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea (<i>Monarda didyma</i>)</u></a>	

### Community Resources—Stormwater Management

- Stormwater Management. Arlington County Virginia.  
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability-and-Environment/Stormwater>
- Northern Virginia Rain Barrel Workshops. 2022.  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/rain-barrel>
- Virginia Conservation Assistance Program - open to residents of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax. Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.  
<http://vaswcd.org/vcap>

### 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 Tree Planting Programs  
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability-and-Environment/Trees/Plant-Trees/Tree-Planting-Programs>
- Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Native Seedling Sale. orders start in February with pick up in mid-April. For more information and submit orders visit  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/native-seedling-sale>