

## Meet Your Local Master Gardener Tree Stewards

Loudoun County Master Gardener Tree Stewards are volunteers who are committed to provide leadership in tree management, needs assessments and education.

Drawing on the horticultural research and experience of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, Tree Stewards actively promote appreciation of the social, economic, environmental, and mental health benefits provided by trees within the community.

Committed to an environmentally sound Loudoun County and its watersheds, we can also help in the safe use of pesticides and fertilizers to protect the county's water quality and ecosystem.

Give us a call, drop us an e-mail or come by the Extension Office. We're your neighbors and we're here to serve you.



### Contact Information

#### Extension Master Gardener Help Desk

(703) 771-5150

Hours: 9 am-noon,

Monday through Friday

e-mail: loudounmg@vt.edu

#### Master Gardener Web Site

[www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org](http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org)

#### Virginia Cooperative Extension Office Address

30 B Catocin Circle S.E.

(Wells Fargo Bank building)

Leesburg, VA 20175



Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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August 2013



Master  
Gardeners  
Serving  
Loudoun County

## Master Gardener Tree Stewards



(703) 771-5150  
e-mail: [loudounmg@vt.edu](mailto:loudounmg@vt.edu)  
[www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org](http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org)

## Benefits of Trees

### Social Benefits

- Make life more pleasant
- Trees evoke a sense of serenity, tranquility and peacefulness
- Planted as living memorials
- People feel personally connected to trees on their property

### Community Benefits

- Their massive sizes make them part of the community
- Provide privacy, emphasize a view or screen out objectionable views
- Trees reduce glare and reflection
- Can direct traffic
- Shade parks, playgrounds and trails
- Provide an environment to observe wildlife
- Increase property values

### Environmental Benefits

- Produce oxygen
- Clean the air by removing pollutants through their leaves
- Help clean the soil by removing contaminants with their deep roots
- Trees canopies slow water runoff, reducing soil erosion and improving water quality
- Along streams, trees and roots provide bank stability, reduce erosion, filter out sediments, shade and cool the water.
- Provide shade and windbreaks thus reducing utility costs
- Cool the air and reduce hot spots

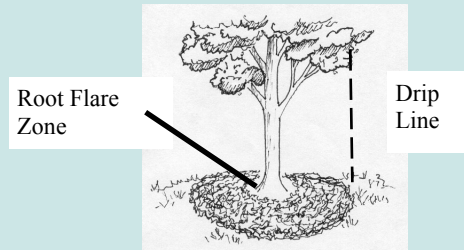
Calculate the economic and ecological benefits of your own trees:

[www.treebenefits.com/calculator/](http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/)

## Basic Tree Care (3 yrs. and older)

### Mulching

- Make sure mulch is at least 3 inches away from base of tree trunk. You should see the flare at the base of the tree.
- Mulch should be 3 inches deep out to the edge of the drip line—do not over-mulch
- Refresh mulch every 2 years as necessary



### Fertilizing

- Usually not necessary!
- Check with Extension office or library for a soil kit to test the soil for needed nutrients before you fertilize

### Pruning

- Remove rubbing branches and ones growing toward the center of the tree
- Prune back to a collar point on the trunk or branch, do not leave stubs
- Never top a tree
- Leave large jobs to the certified arborists

### Other

- Never apply a paint to seal a pruning cut
- Remove any stakes, holding wires after one year

### Helpful website:

[www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/category/trees-shrubs-groundcovers.html](http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/category/trees-shrubs-groundcovers.html)

## Benefits of Tree Diversity

- Diversity plays a major role in long term tree stability
- Monoculture (one species) increases tree vulnerability to pests and diseases
- Eliminates common or overplanted species to benefit the urban environment
- Accentuates a focal point in the community and breaks up monotony in the landscape
- Interesting/unusual species can spur interest in neighboring properties—thus generating more diversity and longer living trees

### Some favorite Native Trees

#### Under 30 feet tall

Serviceberry

White Fringetree

Flowering Dogwood

Eastern Redbud

Witch Hazel

#### 30 to 50 feet tall

Sugar Maple

Sourwood

Carolina Silverbell

American Holly

Eastern Red Cedar

#### Over 50 feet tall

River Birch

American Beech

Sweetgum

White Oak & Northern Red Oak

Honeylocust (thornless)