

## Meet Your Local Master Gardeners

Loudoun County Master Gardeners are committed to providing you with information on safe, effective and sustainable landscape management practices that build beautiful and healthy gardens and communities.

Drawing on the horticultural research and experience of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, Master Gardeners are able to diagnose plant, soil, insect and disease problems and make recommendations.

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](mailto: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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Master  
Gardeners  
Serving  
Loudoun County

## Caring for your New Landscape



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## Tips for Turf



### Watering

- New lawns require frequent watering to become established
- Every 1 to 2 days for the first 3 to 4 weeks, then 1 inch per week (Put tin can in yard to measure time it takes to fill to 1 inch)
- Early in the morning to avoid evaporation
- Established cool season lawns should be allowed to go dormant in the heat of summer

### Mowing

- Never mow more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at any mowing event
- Sharpen mower blades every 10 to 20 uses
- Avoid mowing during drought or when wet
- Return grass clippings to the lawn (don't need to bag)

### Fertilizing

- Do a soil test first. Pick up kit at Extension office or library
- In the fall, September through November
- Consider slow release fertilizers to minimize leaching
- Avoid over-fertilizing
- Keep fertilizer off sidewalks, driveways, streets, etc.

### Helpful websites:

[www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/category/lawns.html](http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/category/lawns.html)

[www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org](http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org), click on Grass Roots link.

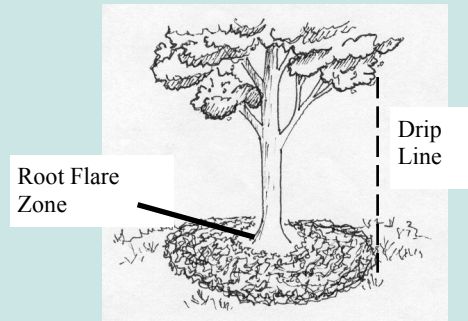
## Tips for Trees

### Watering

- Water heavily once a week during periods of no rain
- Use hose and let water run slowly to soak in. Run for about an hour.

### 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

### Other

- Do not prune newly planted trees for 1 to 2 years unless they have dead, damaged or diseased parts
- Remove any stakes, holding wires after one year

### Helpful websites:

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

## Tips for Shrubs

### Watering

- New shrubs require more frequent watering for the first 3 years to become established
- 1 inch per week (approx. 1 to 3 gallons) per plant depending on size
- Early in the morning to avoid evaporation

### Mulching

- Apply mulch or shredded leaves no more than 3 inches deep
- Keep mulch away from base of plant

### Fertilizing

- Check with Extension office or library for a soil kit to test the soil for needed nutrients before you fertilize



### Other:

- Watch for signs of wilting leaves
- Look for pest/disease damage: holes in leaves, dark spots, etc.
- Look for insects under leaf or along branches
- Prune when needed according to shrub type (mounding, tree-like, cane)

### Helpful Websites:

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

Best Horticultural Practices:  
[www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org/BMP%20MG.pdf](http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org/BMP%20MG.pdf)