

YOUR LAWN & WATER QUALITY

According to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the proper management of fertilizers on turf and landscape areas helps prevent the accumulation of excess nutrients in groundwater and surface water. Accumulation of nutrients in groundwater used as drinking water sources can pose public health risks. Excess nutrients in surface waters upset the natural balance needed for healthy and productive rivers, lakes and streams. Nutrient-enriched waters are prone to algal blooms and depletion of oxygen, resulting in a water body incapable of supporting fish and other aquatic organisms.



A program of Virginia Cooperative Extension

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit us online:

loudouncountymastergardeners.org/programs/healthy-virginia-lawns/

Or contact:

Loudoun County Extension Master Gardeners

Phone: (703) 771-5150

Email: loudounmg@vt.edu

HEALTHY Virginia LAWNS

A program of Virginia Cooperative Extension
in partnership with Virginia DCR

*Helping homeowners learn and implement
best management practices for their lawns.*



How can you as a homeowner help protect water quality? Is it possible to have a healthy and green lawn while still being environmentally responsible? Yes! By working with the Healthy Virginia Lawns program, you will have a scientifically derived nutrient management plan and be able to incorporate best management practices into your regular lawn care routine.



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If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify John Freeborn at 540-231-2714/TDD*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.



HEALTHY VIRGINIA LAWNS

Healthy Virginia Lawns offers personalized lawn care recommendations based on your lawn's specific needs. This program begins with a site visit and soil analysis and ends with a complete management plan. When followed, these recommendations can lead to a "green" lawn - both beautiful and environmentally friendly.



Photo by Natural Resource Conservation Service under CC by 2.0

The Healthy Virginia Lawns program is offered through the Loudoun Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program. The fee is \$30, which covers the cost of lab fees, shipping and tools necessary to take the samples. To request a visit, fill out the form found on our website: loudouncountymastergardeners.org/programs/healthy-virginia-lawns/. And we'll schedule the appointment.

HOW IT WORKS

An Extension Master Gardener volunteer will come to your home to perform a site visit, which includes:



MEASURING
LAWN AREA



COLLECTING SOIL
SAMPLE(S)



COMPLETING A DETAILED
SITE EVALUATION

Cooperative Extension staff then use this information in conjunction with soil laboratory analysis results to make specific recommendations for your lawn. Your lawn care program will incorporate your soil analysis, current lawn condition, and desired outcome into an easy-to-follow plan.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

As a result of participating in the Healthy Virginia Lawns program, not only will the appearance and quality of your lawn improve, you should also gain an increased knowledge of proper and important lawn care practices, such as:

- Applying lime (if recommended) and fertilizer based on soil test results and the square footage of your lawn areas
- Mowing at the proper height for the type of grass you are growing
- Using the 1/3 mowing rule
- Recycling mulched grass clippings and leaves back into the lawn
- Sweeping granular product (fertilizers, weed control, etc.) and grass clippings off hard surfaces such as roads, driveways, and sidewalks and returning them to the lawn
- Watering deeply, infrequently and early in the day (or not at all)
- Identifying weeds and appropriate times for application before attempting control

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VCE OFFICE TODAY TO REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAM.