

Getting Started

All the information you need for the *My Backyard* program can be found at www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org/programs/my-backyard/.

Extensive resources are listed for each of the 10 Yard Actions to help guide residents with the best management practices for lawn and garden.

The specific measures for self-certification are easy to follow, and the scorecard is easy to use to calculate your progress. The guided program is just a click away. Join us to make a difference.

Committed to an environmentally sound Loudoun County and its watersheds, Extension Master Gardeners are here to educate to protect the county's water quality and ecosystem.

My Backyard Program:

www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org/programs/my-backyard/

My Backyard program acknowledges Clemson Cooperative Extension Carolina Yards program.

Extension Master Gardener Contact Information

Help Desk

703.771.5150

Hours: 9 a.m. - noon

Monday through Friday

email: loudounmg@vt.edu

www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org

Virginia Cooperative Extension Office Address

750 Miller Drive, Suite F-3

PO Box 7000

Leesburg, VA 20177-7000



Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu

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My Backyard

A Program offered by
Loudoun County Extension
Master Gardeners

www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org

MY BACKYARD PROGRAM

Natural resource conservation begins in *My Backyard*.

My Backyard is a program designed to assist and guide residents with healthy soil, lawns, trees, shrubs, perennial flowers, and more. The ultimate goal is conservation and preservation of our natural resources.

Based on 10 principles, *My Backyard* details healthy yard actions that earn "inches" toward certification of your yard. By meeting the requirements and achieving 36 inches - a yardstick - you can achieve a certified Loudoun yard!

Program Details:

www.loudouncountymastergardeners/programs/my-backyard/

YARD ACTIONS

1. Maintain Healthy Soil

A soil test can provide information on the proper amount of lime and fertilizer to apply to your lawn, garden and other areas of your landscape.

2. Recycle Yard Waste

Grass clippings, leaves and yard trimmings are recycled rather than thrown away. By recycling yard debris, we gain free mulch and return valuable nutrients to the soil.

3. Be Wise When You Fertilize

Many trees and landscape plants require little or no fertilizer once they are established and mature. In fact, fertilizers can be hazardous to the health of your yard and the environment when they are misused.

4. Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Your landscape is one part of a large system involved with watersheds. Watersheds are large areas that drain into common lakes, rivers or oceans. Nature knows no property lines.

5. Right Plant, Right Place

Good landscape design hinges on one basic concept—the right plant in the right place. Careful planning and site evaluation are the first steps in applying this concept.

YARD ACTIONS

6. Mulch Matters

Mulch keeps moisture in the soil and moderates soil temperature. Mulch also reduces erosion and weeds.

7. Grow Native

Native plants are plants that are natural to a region, and therefore may be better suited for the soils and seasons. They may also provide the best habitats.

8. Remove Invasives

Nonnative plant invasions can be seen in natural areas, croplands, rangelands, pastures, forests, wetlands and waterways, wilderness areas, parks and refuges, and highway rights-of-way.

9. Manage Yard Pests

Striving for a yard free of all insects, diseases, and weeds is both unrealistic and unwise. Many insects are beneficial, helping to keep pests under control naturally.

10. Water Wisely

A truly efficient way to use water in a yard is to design the yard so that it thrives predominantly on rainfall.