Your Yard CAN Help the CHESAPEAKE BAY 2 6 2 7 2 8 2 9 2 5

HOW?

BY USING BEST PRACTICES IN THESE 8 CATEGORIES

PLANTING NATIVES, LIMIT CHEMICAL USE, KEEPING STORMWATER ON YOUR PROPERTY. MOWING. MULCHING. WATERING. COMPOSTING. SUPPORTING WILDLIFE.

READY TO HELP THE BAY? TAKE STEPS 1-6 BELOW

- 1. Read the sample action list on the back of this flyer.
- 2. Read the Bay-Wise yardstick form at http://bit.ly/BWyardstick.
- 3. Use the HGIC website—https://extension.umd.edu/hgic for questions or call 301-934-5404.
- 4. Complete the form and e-mail it to rosemarkham38@gmail.com.
- 5. Invite us to compare the best practices in your yard with your yardstick
- 6. Proudly display your FREE Bay-Wise landscape sign when you receive 36 or more inches on your yardstick

We're the Charles County Master Gardener Bay-Wise Committee. We want your help to restore the Chesapeake Bay's health. Your yard can make a difference in the health of the Bay.



ertified

In 2016

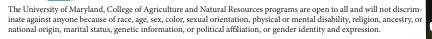
Certifications are done April 1-October 31.

Visit our website to find the Bay-Wise application at https://extension.umd.edu/locations/charles-county/master-gardener/bay-wise

Contact rosemarkham38@gmail.com

Charles County Extension 9501 Crain Hwy,Bel Alton, MD 20611 301-934-5404

MASTER MARYLAND EXTENSION



The actions below are a sample of over 60 best gardening practices that earn inches toward the 36 inches that are used to certify landscapes. Bay-Wise Certified properties are eligible for a 50 percent credit off your Charles County Stormwater Remediation Fee.

SAMPLE ACTIONS

CONTROL STORMWATER RUNOFF	
 Direct downspouts & gutters towards lawn, plant beds or a rain garden Plant groundcovers and/or install rain barrel 	1 inch 1-2 inches
ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE	
Provide & properly maintain a water source	1 inch
 Incorporate native trees, shrubs & perennials 	1-2 inches
Encourage pollinators & plant larva host plants	1-2 inches
PROTECT THE WATERFRONT	
Maintain a buffer of native plants along streams to filter/cool water	5 inches
 Keep fertilizer and organic matter out of streams 	2 inches
MOW PROPERLY	
 Mow cool season grasses high (3-4 inches) 	2 inches
 Maintain lawn equipment 	1 inch
WATER EFFICIENTLY	
► Water early in the morning	1 inch
 Direct water at the base of the landscape plant 	1 inch
Design & maintain a native landscape that will survive on natural rainfall	2 inches
Allow cool season grass to go dormant during summer	2 inches
FOR LANDSCAPES THAT USE IN-GROUND IRRIGATION SYSTEM	IS
 Give your irrigation system a check-up 	1 inch
► Install a rain shut-off device	1 inch
MANAGE YARD PESTS WITH INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMEN	T (IPM)
 Avoid routine applications of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides 	1 inch
Hand-pull weeds frequently where possible	1 inch
MULCH APPROPRIATELY/ RECYCLE YARD WASTE	
 Create self-mulching areas under trees and shrubs 	1 inch
 Keep landscape mulch 2-3 inches deep 	2 inches
 Create and maintain a compost pile 	2 inches
FERTILIZE WISELY	
 Test soil every 3-5 years 	2 inches

- > Use compost, slow release, or natural organic fertilizers 1 inch
- > During the fall, leave finely shredded leaves on lawn 3 inches

PLANT WISELY

>	Incorporate a variety of native plants	1 inch

Educate yourself about what is invasive...and avoid these plants. 1 inch