

Maryland Master Gardener Program

Our Vision:

A healthier world through environmental stewardship

Our Mission:

Educate Maryland residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities

The Bay-Wise Master Gardeners are trained to:

- Evaluate properties using the Bay-Wise Maryland Yardstick
- Offer advice on methods for building healthy soil
- Discuss ways to reduce pollution and runoff from lawns and gardens
- Teach proper fertilization methods
- Share methods for creating & maintaining desirable wildlife habitats
- Recommend appropriate plants with emphasis on native plants
- Diagnose plant and pest problems

Bay-Wise Certification

Is available to all community members. To have your garden/yard certified:

1. Call your county's University of Maryland Extension (UME) office;
2. A Bay-Wise Yardstick brochure and instructions will be mailed to you;
3. Complete the Yardstick worksheet and mail or email back to your local UME office;
4. The Yardstick worksheet is reviewed by Master Gardeners. You will be contacted for follow-up and a possible initial site visit;
5. A certification site visit is scheduled and, if qualified, your landscape is certified as Bay-Wise.



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BAY-WISE

A MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



The Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC) has horticultural consultants available. You can email them questions or visit their website. <https://extension.umd.edu/hgic>

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Residential Landscape Management Program

Overview:

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and a vital part of the state of Maryland.

Yet, the Bay is in trouble due to population pressures, from pollution and sediment runoff, which affect its watershed.

Most Maryland residents live within a half-mile of a drainage ditch, storm drain, stream or river. Most of those waterways eventually drain into the

Chesapeake Bay. What we do to maintain our own landscapes can affect the health of our local waterways, the Chesapeake Bay and our environment.

The overuse and misuse of pesticides and fertilizers, soil erosion and poor

plant selection have all damaged Maryland's streams, rivers and the Bay. Environmentally sound gardens and yards combined with sustainable gardening practices can help improve water quality and conserve our natural resources for future generations.

We all need to do our part to take care of our waterways and environment.

By changing a few simple landscape practices, you and your family can help keep Maryland communities healthy.

Bay-Wise Program:

The Bay-Wise Residential Landscape Management program was developed by the University of Maryland as part of the Maryland Master Gardener program. Its purpose is to provide information and guidance to help people create healthier gardens and landscapes using sustainable practices.

Goal:

The goal of the program is to educate individuals who care for their lawns, gardens and /or landscapes and to certify private and public properties as "Bay-Wise."

Benefits to the gardener:

- Saved time and money
- Healthy and sustainable landscape
- Satisfaction of helping protect the bay, your neighborhood, and local waterways

Bay-Wise will help you:

- Fertilize wisely and only when needed
- Control storm water runoff
- Water efficiently
- Mulch appropriately
- Compost indoors and out
- Recycle yard waste
- Manage pests with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices
- Select appropriate plants, with emphasis on native plants
- Encourage wildlife
- Protect the waterfront

To find out how, visit:

extension.umd.edu/baywise



University of Maryland Extension Offices with Bay-Wise Certification Programs

Anne Arundel Co. (410) 222-3906	Howard Co. (410) 313-1913
Baltimore City (410) 856-1850	Prince George's Co. (301) 868-8781
Baltimore Co. (410) 887-8090	Queen Anne's Co. (410) 758-0166
Calvert Co. (410) 535-3662	St. Mary's Co. (301) 475-4120
Carroll Co. (410) 386-2760	Talbot Co. (410) 822-1244
Cecil Co. (410) 996-5280	Washington Co. (301) 791-1604
Charles Co. (301) 934-5403	Somerset, Worcester & Wicomico Co. (410) 749-6141
Dorchester Co. (410) 228-8800	State Master Gardener Office (410) 531-5556
Frederick Co. (301) 600-1596	
Harford Co. (410) 638-3255	

For complete contact information, go to
<https://extension.umd.edu/mg>