



BAY-WISE

Most Maryland residents live within a half-mile of a storm drain, stream or river that will drain into the Chesapeake Bay. What we do to maintain our landscapes can affect the health of our local waterways, the Chesapeake Bay, and our environment. By changing a few simple landscape practices, you and your family can help keep Maryland communities healthy. Master Gardeners can help you learn about sustainable landscape practices and conduct one-on-one site visits for the UME Bay-Wise Maryland Yardstick Certifications!



Bay-Wise Maryland Yardstick



How does your landscape measure up?

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and a vital part of the state of Maryland. Yet, the health of the Bay is in trouble due to increased development, resulting in pollution and sediment runoff entering local waterways. Most Maryland residents live within a half-mile of a drainage ditch, storm drain, stream or river. These local 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 misuse of pesticides and fertilizers, lack of soil management, and poor plant selection can all contribute to the degradation of Maryland's streams, rivers, and the Bay. Maintaining environmentally-sound gardens and yards by using sustainable gardening practices improves water quality, conserves natural resources for future generations, and saves you money. Individual efforts may seem small but they all add up to make a big difference improving the health of our environment.

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

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



Client: _____
Date: _____ Score: _____

Want Your Home Landscape Certified as Bay-Wise?

1. Download and complete the UME Bay-Wise Maryland Yardstick at go.umd.edu/aboutbay-wise.
2. Contact your local Master Gardener program to sign up for a site visit to complete your certification at go.umd.edu/mglocalprograms.

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



BAY-WISE

A MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

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