ORDERING THE MANUAL

*The Woods in Your Backyard* is available for purchase through the Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service at [www.nraes.org](http://www.nraes.org), or write to:

Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service (NRAES)
Cooperative Extension
PO Box 4557
Ithaca, New York 14852-4557

Phone: (607) 255-7654
Fax: (607) 254-8770
E-mail: NRAES@cornell.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to talk with *Woods in Your Backyard* trainer in your area, or find out more about the manual and training, contact:

Online information about the Woods in Your Backyard can be found at:
[www.naturalresources.umd.edu](http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu)

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**The Woods in Your Backyard**

Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home

A Manual and Workbook for Owners of 10 Acres or Less in the Mid-Atlantic Region

Maryland Cooperative Extension
Penn State Cooperative Extension
Virginia Cooperative Extension

1-9 copies $18.00
10-49 20% discount $14.40
50-99 30% discount $12.60
100 or more 40% discount $10.80

Additional shipping and handling will be applied.

*The Woods in Your Backyard* was created through the cooperation of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Penn State Cooperative Extension, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Potomac Watershed Partnership.
Would you like to spend less time and money maintaining your lawn? Do you want to provide a sanctuary for wildlife? Would you like to enjoy the beauty of nature in your own backyard? The Woods in Your Backyard will show you how to make these things possible.

The Woods in Your Backyard is a manual and workbook written for owners of 1-10 acres of land. The purpose is to help landowners make informed decisions that impact water, wildlife populations, recreational opportunities, and forest health.

**IMPORTANCE OF SMALL FORESTS**

Did you know that in the US, 42% forestland is owned by private families? In the mid-Atlantic region, at least two-thirds of forest landowners own 10 acres or less. As land is divided into smaller parcels, forests become fragmented and corridors providing safe travel for wildlife are eliminated. Therefore, is it increasingly important that small forestland owners create and follow a land management plan that provides for wildlife without restricting other forms of land use.

**PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

Have you outlined your goals for your property? Are you familiar with your property’s boundaries and possible legal constraints? Part 1 of the manual guides you through the process of exploring the possibilities of what you may do with your land, mapping the property, and identifying legal and physical restrictions that may exist.

**PART 2: GET TO KNOW YOUR PROPERTY**

Natural areas can look very different. Part 2 helps you to divide your land into management units. You will also learn about obtaining aerial photos of your property and how to identify common tree species of the mid-Atlantic region.

**PART 3: ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES**

Are you familiar with forest succession, carrying capacity, and the value of dead trees? Part 3 of the manual describes the fundamental principles of forestry and ecology that you’ll need to understand when creating and altering a natural area.

**PART 4: PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE INTO PRACTICE**

Whether your goals are recreation, aesthetics, environmental, or economic, Part 4 will help you meet your goals and instruct you in techniques for land management, trees planting, and trail design and maintenance.

**APPENDICES**

Don’t know which trees to plant or how to attract certain wildlife species? Tables in the appendices describe the characteristics of mid-Atlantic tree species and their benefit to wildlife. You can also read about the specific needs of common wildlife species and how to provide them on your property.