

Meet Your Local Master Gardeners

Loudoun County Master Gardeners are committed to providing you with information on safe, effective and sustainable landscape management practices that build beautiful and healthy gardens and communities.

Drawing on the horticultural research and experience of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, Master Gardeners are able to diagnose plant, soil, insect and disease problems and make recommendations.

Committed to an environmentally sound Loudoun County and its watersheds, we can also help in the safe use of pesticides and fertilizers to protect the county's water quality and ecosystem.

Give us a call, drop us an e-mail or come by the Extension Office. We're your neighbors and we're here to serve you.



Contact Information

Extension Master Gardener
Help Desk
(703) 771-5150

Hours: 9 am-noon,
Monday through Friday
e-mail: loudounmg@vt.edu

Master Gardener Web Site
www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Office Address
30 Catoctin Circle S.E., Suite B
(Wells Fargo Bank Building)
Leesburg, VA 20175



Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu

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Master
Gardeners
Serving
Loudoun County

Grass Roots Program

Get a soil test.
It can make your lawn healthier and
Our watersheds cleaner.



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Maintaining a healthy lawn requires testing its soil intermittently. The test identifies needed “amendments” such as fertilizer, lime, and compost. Providing those amendments in the amounts recommended will make your lawn healthier, plus it assures that you will not over-fertilize and risk having the excess nitrogen or phosphorus in the fertilizer run off your lawn or leach into the ground to pollute the local watershed.

If you haven’t had your lawn’s soil tested within the last three years, the Loudoun County Master Gardeners offers a service you may want. They will come to your house, extract soil samples from around your lawn, send it to Virginia Tech’s Soil Laboratory, and then send you the results in an easily readable report.

Every responsible lawn expert agrees that proper lawn maintenance begins with an analysis of the lawn’s soil. To be healthy, turf must grow in soil that contains the proper amounts of minerals like manganese, calcium, zinc, phosphorus, potassium, etc., and has a favorable pH (acidity) balance. Only a specialized lab can provide that analysis.



The Loudoun County Master Gardeners Grass Roots Program makes getting such an analysis easy, convenient, and inexpensive. Plus, it will provide you with advice on “best practices” to maintain your lawn, how to apply needed amendments, and when best to apply them.

If you like, the Master Gardeners will even send you a quarterly newsletter to remind you about such matters in coming years, as well as offering lots of other horticultural tips.

Get your lawn soil tested. The results will enable you to fertilize correctly and avoid polluting rivers and streams. If you have other yard problems, the Help Desk will be happy to help with those too.

The cost is \$20. To request the service, just call the Master Gardeners Help Desk at: 703 771-5150 or email it at loudounmg@vt.edu.



LCMG Turf plots at Ida Lee Park in Leesburg

*Loudoun County Master Gardeners is a non-profit, volunteer element of the Virginia Extension Service. Its members are fellow Loudoun County citizens who have taken horticultural training provided by the Virginia Extension Service. They use those skills to help sustain and improve Loudoun’s beauty and natural environment. They receive no pay. The \$20 fee involved in the **Grass Roots Program** goes to Virginia Tech for lab fees, for postage to ship the soil samples, and for the tools used to extract the soil samples from your lawn.*