

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



January 2019 FREE Public Education Programs ♦ Virginia Cooperative Extension

Sustainable Landscaping: Design Basics

Wednesday, January 9, 7pm – 8:30 pm, Columbia Pike Branch Library, Westmont Room, 816 South Walter Reed Drive, Arlington 22204. Sustainable landscape design builds on the unique conditions of your yard to create a healthier and more ecologically friendly outdoor space. Learn both basic design principles and the steps to take to assess your site's conditions, no matter the size of your property. This is the first of four classes offered by Extension Master Gardeners in a series on sustainable landscaping to be held at Columbia Pike Branch Library in January and February.

Urban Agriculture: Selecting and Starting Seeds

Monday, January 14, 6:30pm– 8:30pm, Westover Branch Library, 1644 North McKinley Rd., Arlington 22205, OR
Saturday, January 19, 10:30am – 12:30pm, Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Rd., Alexandria 22304 Jump-start your vegetable garden! Get the scoop on seed selection—hybrid vs. heirloom, which seeds to start indoors and what's required to get them growing. Learn to make your own starter pots and how to bring sunshine inside with simple lighting systems. Germination is complex, but seed starting is reassuringly simple! This is the first class in a series on urban agriculture offered by Extension Master Gardeners to be held at Burke and Westover Branch libraries in Winter/Spring 2019. **Class is offered twice.**

Also check out the resources on our **website, MGNV.ORG**. You'll find a *Quick Guide for Gardeners in Northern Virginia* listing our hardiness zone and frost dates, a list of problem plants and better alternatives, and an extensive compilation of *Tried and True Native Plants for the Mid-Atlantic Area*, which includes great color pictures and descriptions. Our schedule of gardening programs is posted on this website, so be sure to check it often!

Sustainable Landscaping: Building Soil Health

Wednesday, January 23, 7pm – 8:30pm, Columbia Pike Branch Library, Westmont Room, 816 South Walter Reed Drive, Arlington 22204. Healthy soil is your key to success in gardening. Learn how to build soil health by feeding your soil's biome, how to create great compost, and how to prevent or mitigate both erosion and compaction by choosing plants with the right root systems. This is the second of four classes in a series offered by Extension Master Gardeners on sustainable landscaping to be held at Columbia Pike Branch Library in January and February.

Urban Agriculture: How to Build Inexpensive and Effective Grow Lights

Saturday, January 26, 10:30am – 12:00pm, Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Rd., Alexandria 22304; OR Tuesday, January 29, 7pm – 8:30pm, Westover Branch Library, 1644 North McKinley Rd., Arlington 22205 Give your plants a healthy start with grow lights that can ensure your seedlings get great light indoors, even when it's snowing and freezing outside, and even if you don't have a bright south-facing window. You can grow unusual and hard-to-find varieties of vegetables that may never be offered at local garden centers, or farm microgreens indoors that are bursting with nutrition. Learn the pros and cons of different types of lights and some options for creating your own grow light system inexpensively. We'll provide instructions and material lists for a shelf system, a stand design, and grow lights in a storage box. Each of these approaches can jump-start your garden and get you on the way to healthy eating. This is the second class in a series on urban agriculture offered by Extension Master Gardeners to be held at Burke and Westover Branch libraries in Winter/Spring 2019. **Class is offered twice.**

The **Extension Master Gardener Help Desk** operates year-round. We welcome your garden-related questions, including those related to plant and insect identification. We operate from 9 am to noon weekdays at the VCE office, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington 22206. Contact us at **703-228-6414** or mgaralex@gmail.com, or drop by. It's best to call before you come to make sure we're available.

All Classes are FREE.
Pre-registration requested at
MGNV.ORG.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Octavia Walker, at (703) 519-3325 or TDD: (800) 828-1120 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.



Master Gardeners
of Northern Virginia
Arlington • Alexandria
mgnv.org