

THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

Celebrating 42 Years of Helping our
Neighbors Grow!

2025 JCCW MGA BOARD

President
Dave Kleppinger
president@jccwmg.org

President-Elect
Anne Hunt
presidenelect@jccwmg.org

Past President
Vickie Rockwell
pastpresident@jccwmg.org

Secretary
Wayne Koenig
secretary@jccwmg.org

Treasurer
Linda Neilson
treasurer@jccwmg.org

VP Administration
Dot Finnegan
vp-admin@jccwmg.org

VP Projects
Gary Griffith
vp-projects@jccwmg.org

VP Internal Education
Crystal Skeeter-Davis
vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org

VP Communications
Marion Guthrie
vp-communications@jccwmg.org

VMGA Rep
Marilyn Riddle
vmga-rep@jccwmg.org

VCE ANR Agent
Luke Gladden
vceagent@jccwmg.org

PLEASE NOTE: Our Board meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Room B in person at the Williamsburg Regional Library on Scotland Street and via Zoom. All members of the JCCWMGA are welcome to attend.

ZOOM Information for the Board Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87435548954?pwd=iunWkENTgVHUCsxRGKioJUovii0AA1.1>
Meeting ID: 874 3554 8954
Passcode: 23185

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Project Leaders: Marion Guthrie & Wayne Koenig

Newsletter Editor: Marion Guthrie

Blog Director: Elizabeth McCoy

Social Media Manager: Linda Becker

Social Media Reporters:
Crystal Skeeter-Davis, Emily Coyner, Jay Templin, Michele Garrard

Video Producer: Crystal Skeeter-Davis

Webmasters: Dave Banks & Wayne Koenig

Writers: Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, Beverly Davis, Elizabeth McCoy, Michele Garrard, Janet Rochester

The submission deadline for the upcoming June 2025 newsletter is May 19.

Send your submissions to our editor, Marion Guthrie, at vp-communications@jccwmg.org and copy our vice president of projects, Gary Griffith, at vp-projects@jccwmg.org.

The newsletter layout is graciously donated by [Odd Moxie](#).



The James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association is a volunteer-driven non-profit that supports the outreach mission of the Virginia Cooperative Extension by utilizing research-based information to educate the public on the best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship in our communities, which include Williamsburg, James City, Charles City, Upper York, and New Kent counties.



Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its 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, military status, or any other basis protected by law.



President's Message

Pollen, Pollen Everywhere!

DAVE KLEPPINGER '16

I drove through New Kent County the second week in April along a pine tree-lined roadway, and what looked like smog was airborne pollen. Where is all this pollen coming from, and why is there so much?

Some trees are entomophilous, meaning they rely on insects to carry pollen from one tree to the next to reproduce. Entomophilous trees include many distinct and attractive blossoms, such as apple, cherry, dogwood, basswood, catalpa, and tulip tree. These are not the airborne pollen producers.

Most native trees in the forest are anemophilous, meaning they are wind-pollinated. This includes the oaks, pines, beech, ash, maple, walnut, and hickory. Grains of pollen are released into the air by the male anther of a flower, eventually adhering to a tree flower's female stigma. This results in the production of seeds and the perpetuation of the species. Unsuccessful pollen grain landing spots include my eyes, throat, all exterior surfaces of my car, the outside stair rails, and the patio furniture.

Scientific research has identified climate change as being responsible for increased amounts of pollen. Rising temperatures and higher levels of CO2 in the atmosphere extend growing seasons and cause wind-pollinating trees to increase pollen production. A 2021 study authored by a collaboration of university researchers looked at annual pollen data and concluded North American pollen concentrations had increased by 21% since 1990.

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America recently issued its [2025 Allergy Capitals™ - Full Ranking List of 100 U.S. Metro Areas](#). Finishing near the top were Richmond at #8 and Virginia Beach at #11. Williamsburg is too small a city to be included for data collection, but our location between these two cities is... sneeze, cough...unfortunate if you have seasonal allergies...like me.



P.S. CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO OF THE ARBOR DAY OBSERVANCE AT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY MASTER GARDENERS, CRYSTAL SKEETER DAVIS AND MICHELE GARRARD
[YOUTU.BE/XASJ79L3-W4!](https://youtu.be/xASJ79L3-W4)

Master Gardener Meeting Programs

Houseplants, Your Indoor Garden

BETHANY BECK, York County/Poquoson Master Gardener Association

Join James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners in the auditorium at the Williamsburg Regional Library on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., when Master Gardener Bethany Beck will guide us through the essentials of houseplant care. She will help us understand how to choose the right plants for our indoor spaces and will offer tips on how to help our plants thrive in our home environments.

Ms. Beck is an architectural historian and a retired attorney. She is interested in rescuing historic properties for a contemporary use. Whether you're a seasoned outdoor gardener, beginning to green up your place, or new to houseplants, this presentation is sure to inspire and equip you with the knowledge to grow your indoor garden. You can view additional presentations by clicking Educational Videos at jccwmg.org.

Houseplants
Your Indoor Garden
Bethany Beck
York County/Poquoson
Master Gardener Association
Thursday, May 1, 2025
9:00am - 10:00am

Williamsburg Regional Library
515 Scotland Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Save The Date – Pollinator Palooza!

June 20 from 9-11 a.m. at Veterans Park

The 2nd Annual Pollinator Palooza to celebrate National Pollinator Week will be held at Veterans Park on Friday, June 20, from 9-11 am. The event, focused on educating children about the importance of pollinators, is held in conjunction with James City County Parks and Recreation Department's Longest Day at Play. The Palooza will feature a number of craft stations and exhibits. Volunteers are needed

to help both plan and man, the stations. Sign-up Genius will be sent out in May for volunteers wishing to work at a station on the day of the Palooza; however, if you are interested in helping plan, please contact Jen Campbell at jenkcampbell@yahoo.com or Liz George at lizgeorge928@gmail.com.



Brickyard Landing is Blooming

JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS, '15

Blueberries, serviceberries, redbuds, and golden ragwort are all in bloom at Brickyard Landing. The perennial plugs that were placed last December are coming to life, and many of the grass and perennial seeds sown in December are starting to germinate. The vast majority of trees and woody shrubs are leafing out. Spring is an exciting time at the Riparian Buffer Demonstration Garden.

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers. They have mulched garden beds to protect the new plants, made it easier for the people who maintain the park to mow, and have created a narrow path through the native meadow. They also planted marshmallow, witch hazel, sumac, and buttonbush seedlings, as well as pawpaw seeds along the riverbank and forest edge. On April 17, volunteers planted perennials in the meadow purchased with grant funding thanks to the Ford's Colony Garden Club. The quart and gallon size plants will bloom this year, adding color and interest to the meadow.

We will also seed some cosmos, sunflowers, and zinnias throughout the meadow area. Those annuals, while not native, will bloom, add color, and provide food for bees, butterflies, moths, and other nectaring insects while the meadow plants develop this first year. Although the annuals might self-seed a bit, they will gradually die out as the natives grow and develop.

May and June will bring blossoms from many other plants, and our grasses will continue to grow. With the warmer weather, some weeds will challenge us, but our extensive mulching should slow them down. Interpretive signs and benches are on order. Once those arrive, they will be installed. We are waiting for a site plan to be finished to get paths and the dry riverbed installed.

Growing a project out of a field of weeds is challenging. Come take a look at our progress! The Brickyard is located at 990 Brickyard Road, Toano. Questions? Email Judy (kinshawellis@gmail.com) or Donna Benson (mid520@mac.com).

From a Gardener's Diary

PAT ABRAHAM '10

Friday, April 18, was another spectacular day for gardening. Two interns, Pat Lytton and Jack Zimmerman, arrived to assist with our tasks. Jack tackled the Shields' signature chore of building rows and did a great job. Pat dealt with some bolted fall plants and then moved on to a thorough weeding.

We planted beautiful kohlrabi and endive, which our nursery supplied. Lorraine worked on the very weedy old artichoke bed, rebuilt mounds, and planted six new artichokes. This completed the bed for spring, and it's lovely. Tom and Janet both removed bolted fall plants, refreshed hills, and planted seeds. Newly planted are Green Leaf Lutz Beets, turnips, and mustard.

Many thanks to Janet, Lorraine, Tom, Pat, and Jack for their efforts. We're finally over the hump with the weeding and planting chores. The garden took another step forward today, continuing the earlier work by our outstanding Master Gardeners.



New Tree Stewards

PAULINE PRICE '23

As newly minted Tree Stewards, Diane Hart and I wanted to share our project experience in hopes of encouraging other Master Gardeners to continue their education through VCE. Having volunteered at Matthey's Garden and with the students at Matthew Whaley Elementary, we decided to try to benefit both with our project. An approved Tree Steward project that includes a minimum of twenty additional hours is a requirement for graduation from the program.

In consultation with Tiffeni Goesel, Matty's project lead, and her contacts at the school, planting a tree for each second-grade class quickly became the goal. Following the gracious donation of the trees from Colonial Williamsburg, we felt this

could become a reality. To onboard the teachers, we were happy to include a "Life Cycle of a Tree" presentation to each class.

We are genuinely grateful to Charles Gardner and James Geldmacher from CW, who not only procured and delivered the trees but also dug the holes. To all the second-grade teachers and students who so enthusiastically participated in our presentations and plantings. To Wanda Brown and Nina Acosta, who graciously volunteered their time to help us. And especially to Tiffeni, without whom our project would not have been possible. This project experience made our Tree Steward pins worth their weight in gold.

Secret Garden

KATHY LYKINS '08

There's a 'secret' garden in Colonial Williamsburg's Shields Garden where these April flowers grow in the section we call the pathway garden. When you come through this area from the back, you walk through the vegetables and then take a left to go between the buildings. The flower bed there on the left by the first shed is the pathway garden.

Water Wise in Spring

ELVIN AND KAY CLAPP '18

The Water Wise garden continues to flourish with the recent rains. At the last work session on April 15th, we were joined by three MG trainees. It was delightful sharing information with them about the garden and the number of public contacts and education opportunities. We hope they will be interested in joining the team once they become interns.

We are looking for one or two people to become project leaders in 2026. It would be great to have them shadow us during the 2025 work year and then move into the project leader position next year. This is a great opportunity to take over an already established garden that provides a great service to the patrons of the Olde Towne Medical and Dental Center and the JCC Department of Social Services. If you are interested, contact Elvin or Kay Clapp at 602-647-9988 or elvkay@gmail.com. For more information about the garden, visit our website at jccwmg.org/wordpress/waterwise/.



Business Notes

CLOVER MITES

If it's a warm day and you notice tiny red bugs on concrete or brick, they are clover mites (harmless herbivores). If crushed, they will temporarily stain red. While this may give the impression that they are chiggers, they are not. Fun fact about these mites is that they are parthenogenic, meaning they are all female clones and self-reproduce. From April 24, Daily Flash.

HOME FOOD PRODUCTION - TOOLS AND SOIL

If you are starting a vegetable garden in an area that is already tilled, you probably have all the tools you need, and the soil will not need much preparation. If you start from a lawn or an untilled area, you will need some hand tools, and the soil will need attention. Read more: jccwmg.org/wordpress/home-food-production-tools-and-soil-preparation

LANDSCAPE LOVE IS OPEN

Our very popular Landscape Love program is now accepting applications. Landscape Love enables homeowners in the greater James City County Williamsburg area to meet with Master Gardeners to review and discuss their landscape questions right in the homeowner's yard. Common requests are to identify plants, plant problems, discuss solutions, and suggest plants that meet a specific need, such as sun, shade, or deer resistance. These Master Gardeners don't create landscape designs or address property drainage issues. Their visits are plant and soil-focused. To apply for a visit, complete the application on the website. [This link will take you directly there](#). Master Gardeners Interested in joining the LL Team or looking for more information should contact project leaders Barbara Floyd, bmfloyd572@gmail.com, or Susan Zickel, zickelva@gmail.com.

MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 11.

Why not order some Logo Gear for those gardeners in your life? The clothing is embroidered with our JCCWMGA Logo. Check out our online catalog under Logo Gear [here on our website](#). Order [your LOGO GEAR](#) today! Questions? Contact Linda Becker (lindabecker53@gmail.com) or Marion Guthrie (vp-communications@jccwmg.org).

MASTER GARDENER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

If you know of a Master Gardener who is experiencing difficult times or who deserves recognition, please let us know by contacting our secretary, Wayne Koenig, at wkoenig01@gmail.com.

The Marvelous Monarch
and it's
Magical Migration

Karen & Steve McCurdy

Butterfly Society of Virginia

Thursday, June 5, 2025
9:00am - 10:00am



Williamsburg Regional Library
515 Scotland Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Virginia Master Gardener Association, April Meeting

MARILYN RIDDLE '01



The Virginia Master Gardener Association (VMGA) met on Saturday, April 12, at the Blandy Experimental Farm Library, State Arboretum of Virginia (blandy.virginia.edu) in Boyce, Va.

The program was highlighted by a presentation by the Northern Shenandoah President, Carole Belkin, who presented an overview of their youth programs. She

emphasized the strong relationship between two of their public libraries and the fact that many of their lesson plans are housed there for students. This promotes more uniformity and less duplication of effort. Their summer camps are a main focus of the unit, with as many as 6-8 classes every other week.

Of note is that our own Ruth Huber is now the VMGA Financial Chair. She has often been on the audit committee. She was present at this hybrid meeting, where members could attend both in person and via Zoom. The meeting system used by Frank Reilly made the Zoom portion much easier to follow. Although in some instances, the microphone was not working.

The mission of the Virginia Master Gardener Association is to foster communication, education, and fellowship among Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers. For more information and to join this association, go to vmga.net.

President Stacey M Smith reminded us that:

- Jennifer had been asked to be replaced as newsletter editor.
- Ashley Johnson now manages VMGA Logo merchandise. Prices and sources for some of the newest VMGA items are forthcoming.
- Membership said there had been some issues with the synchronization of payment of dues and the application itself. I plan to request that we get an update on membership at least every six months.
- The Fairfax unit donated \$10,000 to the local office.
- Ed Olsen discussed that he might pair units to discuss various issues and possible solutions. Some might be solved more easily and quickly.
- Grace Stern, coordinator, has been focused on the leaf miner problems (<https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/ENTO/ento-589/ento-589.html>).
- Master Gardener College will be held on the Blacksburg campus June 11-15. No further details are currently available.
- The International Master Gardeners College, entitled "There is no Planet B," is slated for August 25-28. The EMGs of Texas have organized this virtual conference. The early bird registration cost is \$185, and the regular cost is \$210.
- The VMGA hosting calendar is almost complete for the next two years.

Arbor Day Celebration!

MICHELE GARRARD '21, CRYSTAL SKEETER-DAVIS '22

James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners and Tree Stewards collaborated with the Colonial Williamsburg Landscape Department and Arboretum on Thursday, April 10th, for the foundation's second Arbor Day celebration. Landscape Director Joanne Chapman provided opening remarks, and Senior Landscape Manager Jonathan Lak read an official Arbor Day proclamation.

It was a very nice event, with a ceremonial planting of a Chinkapin Oak on the grounds of the Chiswell Bucktrout house. Ms. Chapman recognized the Tree Steward volunteers for their significant contribution to the Arbor Day events, providing tours and education to the public, and having a significant impact on the continued success of the Arboretum. Many happy attendees went home with White Oak and Dogwood saplings to enrich their gardens and the inspiration to contribute to our collective ecological footprint.

Arbor Day got its start in 1872, when a man named J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for

tree planting. This holiday, Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than one million trees in Nebraska and is now celebrated all over the world.

Though Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrate environmental awareness, they are distinct holidays with different focuses. Arbor Day is officially on Friday, April 25, and is primarily focused on the importance of trees for the environment, including combating climate change, enhancing biodiversity, and promoting sustainable practices. Earth Day is on Tuesday, April 22, and encompasses a broader range of environmental issues like air and water pollution, deforestation, plastic pollution, waste management, water scarcity, and the impact of climate change.

The linked video of the Arbor Day Observance at Colonial Williamsburg was written and produced by Master Gardeners, Crystal Skeeter Davis and Michele Garrard youtu.be/xaSJ79I3-W4. Enjoy!





Data Gathering from Trails

Friends of Bassett Trace Nature Trail

RICK BROWN '17

I wanted to share the story behind how we use and store our data for projects on Plantsoon (plantsoon.com). This website is the successor to the PlantsMap service, which was instrumental in our creation of the Colonial Williamsburg Arboretum, a Tree Steward project that began in 2018. This technology stores a wealth of information derived from the data gathered by our dedicated volunteers.

A feature recently added to the Bassett Trace Master Naturalist project involves the collaboration of numerous volunteers over the past six years. We now have an active [Friends' webpage](#) that chronicles the natural world encountered during visits to this trail. This all began as a Historic Rivers Chapter's Master Naturalist project in 2019, when our volunteer Trail Stewards started sharing photos of things they discovered along the trail. We know that Master Naturalists have an inclination to take pictures and document what they see; naturally, these 800+ pictures have accumulated into collections that continue to grow over the years.

However, in June 2022, PlantsMap crashed, and we lost access to our photos and data for a while. Subsequently, Plantsoon, another cloud-based web service based in Belgium, acquired the PlantsMap service. We began collaborating with them to recover and migrate our data from their site to a new webpage dedicated solely to Bassett Trace. As a result, we have restored all our original information and added even more features to enhance this educational tool.

The new Plantsoon site is regularly updated to meet the needs of users like us. New features are being explored to expand our footprint. For example, one of our volunteers, Leisa Clark, has taken it upon herself to identify and document the native plants thriving along the trail. As you hike the trail, you will notice her handiwork in the small ground-level cards that identify the plants by their common and Latin names. These signs appear, move, and disappear just like the plants do. Leisa is continuously expanding her inventory. Another upcoming feature is the addition of QR codes on the signs that link back to the

Friends' webpage, providing hikers with additional information through links to educational websites like the Virginia Digital Floral Atlas and Virginia Tech Dendrology. This offers learning opportunities at all levels for interested users.

Additionally, we have over 200 photos of birds, insects, mosses, fungi, ferns, mammals, and trail photos that we are collaborating on with the Plantsoon developers to add to the webpage and expand the Bassett Trace inventory. Storing our data this way enables us to create a dynamic teaching tool for our members and visitors. It is a valuable method for collecting an inventory of living things along the Bassett Trace Trail.

Currently, we have over 30 regular volunteers who monitor and maintain the trail with scheduled weekly walks. Nine Trail Guides lead three public tours per week, starting every Tuesday at 9:30 AM, with two tours each Saturday at 9:30 and 10:30 AM. This fall, Nancy Barnhart will lead monthly bird walks for interested birders. Our project is a bustling place with numerous opportunities for outreach. Stop by to learn more about the trail during one of these tours or check the CW website for times and dates.

Here is a link to explore [our new webpage](#).

You will find descriptive links to the history of Bassett Hall and the surrounding woodlands, maps, videos, our collections, and, of course, many photos. The pictures displayed on our webpage have been contributed over the years by Seig Kopinitz, Nancy Barnhart, Claire White, Judy Jones, Leisa Clark, Jim Webb, Jim Easton, Glenda White, Cheryl Roettger, Shirley Devan, and many others, to whom we are eternally grateful. If you have photos of your discoveries on the trail to share, please send them to me. This is a true collaborative effort by volunteers.

It is entirely possible that the Plantsoon website may also apply to Master Gardener projects, such as demonstration gardens, Tree Steward projects,

learning gardens, and school gardens, among others. The Williamsburg Landing Arboretum uses the website alongside the Williamsburg Botanical Garden at Freedom Park to store and display its collections. I have also included a link to Plantsoon (<https://plantsoon.com/>) and would be glad to discuss how we can make it work for your own project. Remember, it's not enough to take pictures; we need to preserve and share them. Take a hike!

The Bassett Trace Nature Trail is part of the historic properties owned by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. It is open without charge for the public's enjoyment and is maintained daily by volunteer Trail Stewards from the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists. The trail is located within the original 585-acre woodlands purchased in the 1930s as a private residence by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and his wife Abby. The Bassett woodlands contain many old-growth trees thanks to the preservation efforts of the Rockefellers.



Ecology Corner

Fighting Invasive Species

JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15

When I review the list of invasive plants in Virginia, it's alarming to see how many of them there are, some of which I have regretfully even planted in my yard over the years. The phrase 'When we know better, we do better' certainly applies here, but much damage has been done.

Many plants thrive here due to Virginia's moderate climate and long growing season. However, invasive plants outcompete our native plants and are less valuable to native insects and birds. For this reason, many invasive plants have been sold for decades as landscape plants.

In our shady yards, Japanese Stilt Grass is a common sight. If left unchecked, it spreads quickly and seeds profusely from year to year. It will dominate a wooded area and overshadow anything that grows on the ground. Because it is an annual, it needs to be removed before it goes to seed.

English Ivy has been a popular ground cover for shady areas. Homeowners even let it cover the sides of their houses, but it can escape into the woods and overtake trees. Another troublesome vine is Japanese Honeysuckle, which has a delicate blossom and intoxicating fragrance. When it escapes from the garden, it rapidly overruns large areas.

Multi-flora rose creates natural fences but forms such dense thickets that it can impede wildlife movement. In areas with grazing animals, this can reduce the space available for grazing, and the thorns on this invasive plant can irritate animals as well as the gardener. Privet and autumn olive are widely used for privacy fencing. I can see both from the back of my house and understand their popularity. Both plants also have delicious berries that birds love and spread far and wide.

Trees are also on the invasive species list. Paulownia, or Princess Trees, are fast-growing and feature large lavender blooms in the spring. The Tree of Heaven is another fast-growing species that spreads through seeds and sprouts, forming thickets. Bradford Pear trees are sterile with one another but cross-pollinate with other pear trees. As with many plants, these were initially sold as ornamental trees.

Last year, our state Extension leaders highlighted invasive species removal as a priority, which prompted more people to consider this issue. A new Virginia law will require retail nurseries to label invasive plants. A ban on selling these plants would have been even more effective, but implementing changes takes time. Removing most invasives involves more than simply pulling them up or cutting them down. Many resources are available for the removal of invasive plants. As Master Gardeners, we have a significant opportunity to educate the public about how and why we should remove invasive plants and choose not to plant them.

For a list of the invasive plants that are of most concern in Virginia and how to remove many of them, check out these links:

- <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/document/nh-invasive-plant-list-2023.pdf>
- <https://blueridgeprism.org>



Growing Vegetables

JANET ROCHESTER '24

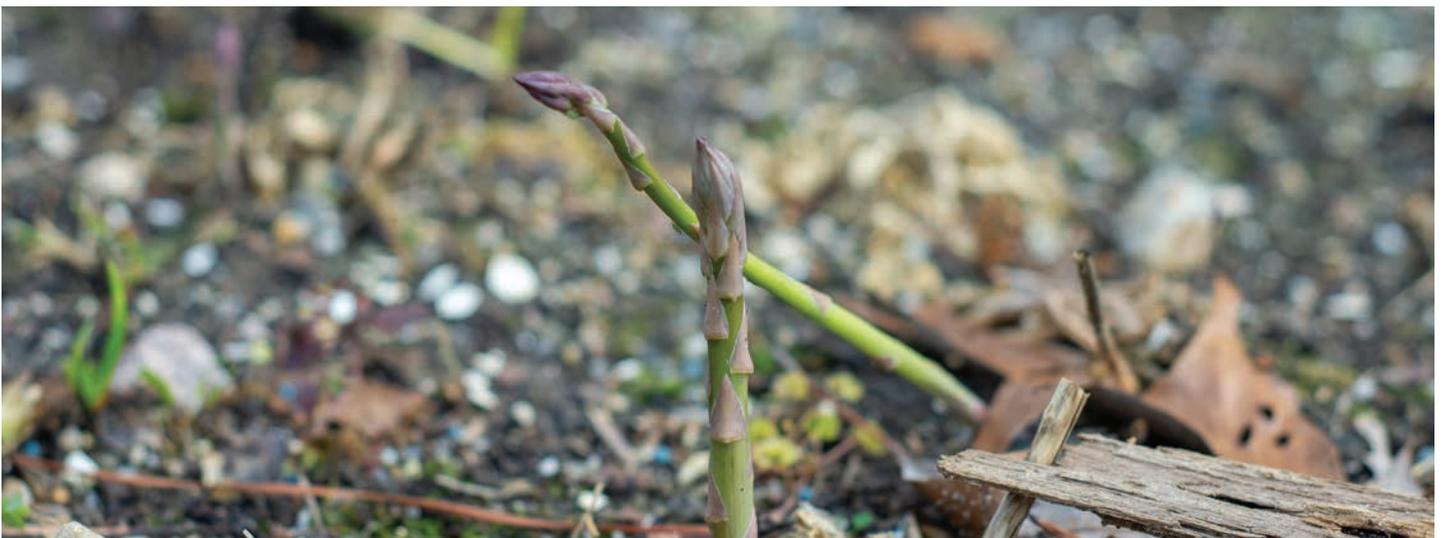
You will need to consider two things when you start a vegetable garden. First, what do you and your family want to eat? Something may be easy and fun to grow, but if no one in your family likes to eat it, you will have some disappointed family members. Think about what you like to eat and what may or may not be readily available in your local stores or farmers' markets.

Do you want to grow a variety of vegetables so that your family can experience different tastes and cuisines? Do you want to keep growing a family heirloom vegetable? Are there some special vegetables that you like that are not easy to find in this area? Do you want something quick and easy to grow to get started and prove that you can do it? These are some questions you should consider before you buy seeds or plants.

Consider what the plants you plan to grow require to be productive. All vegetable plants need sunlight, fertile soil, water, and space to grow successfully. Most vegetables thrive when they have six hours of direct sun each day. Many leafy vegetables will be fine with less sun, but for warm-weather vegetables such as beans, tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants, you need to maximize the sunlight.

An ideal fertile soil has sufficient macro- and micro-nutrients in a loamy mixture of 45% soil particles, 50% open pores, and 3-5% organic matter. A soil test will analyze your soil and indicate what, if any, changes or additions you may need to make. It will also indicate the pH, which for most vegetables should be slightly acidic.

Plants need about an inch of water per week for healthy growth, more at times of rapid growth and setting of fruit. We cannot always rely on rainfall, so a source of water close to your plants is good for them and the gardener. Vegetables will not thrive and be productive if they are overcrowded, so if you have very little space, you should consider growing fewer or smaller plants. Salad greens and other small plants can be grown in small spaces, such as a flower bed or in window boxes. Why not save yourself a trip to the farmer's market and grow your own veggies this season?



Plant Sale May 10, 2025

Watch your email for instructions from Gary Streb, project leader, on your plant delivery to the WBG, which is 9:00 a.m. to noon on Friday, May 9.





James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Annual

PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 10
9:00 a.m. - Noon

Annuals, Perennials, Herbs
Veggies, Trees, Shrubbery

Garden Treasures at the Green Thumb Sale:
Garden art, unique Mother's Day gifts,
and more!

Williamsburg Botanical Garden inside Freedom Park
5537 Centerville Rd.

Rain or Shine



Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, ethnicity or national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or military status, or any other basis protected by law. The JCCWMG Association partners with the VCE to educate the public in our communities on best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship. If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact 757-564-2170 to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.





Comprised of over 200 master gardeners, the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association serves the gardening public in Williamsburg, New Kent, Charles City, Upper York, and James City Counties.

Office: 3127 Forge Rd., Toano, VA 23168
Mailing: P.O. Box 1951, Williamsburg, VA 23187
jccwmg1@gmail.com | (757) 564-2175