



# Your Yard CAN Help the CHESAPEAKE BAY!

## HOW?

### BY USING BEST PRACTICES IN THESE 8 CATEGORIES

PLANTING NATIVES. LIMIT CHEMICAL USE. KEEPING STORMWATER ON YOUR PROPERTY.  
MOWING. MULCHING. WATERING. COMPOSTING. SUPPORTING WILDLIFE.

### READY TO HELP THE BAY? TAKE STEPS 1-6 BELOW

1. Read the sample action list on the back of this flyer.
2. Read the Bay-Wise yardstick form at <http://bit.ly/BWyrdstick>.
3. Use the HGIC website—<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic> for questions or call 301-934-5404.
4. Complete the form and e-mail it to [rosemarkham38@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarkham38@gmail.com).
5. Invite us to compare the best practices in your yard with your yardstick.
6. Proudly display your FREE Bay-Wise landscape sign when you receive 36 or more inches on your yardstick

We're the Charles County Master Gardener Bay-Wise Committee. We want your help to restore the Chesapeake Bay's health. Your yard can make a difference in the health of the Bay.



Certifications are done April 1-October 31.

Visit our website to find the Bay-Wise application at <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/charles-county/master-gardener/bay-wise>

Contact [rosemarkham38@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarkham38@gmail.com)

**Charles County Extension**  
9501 Crain Hwy, Bel Alton, MD 20611  
301-934-5404

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The actions below are a sample of over 60 best gardening practices that earn inches toward the 36 inches that are used to certify landscapes. Bay-Wise Certified properties are eligible for a 50 percent credit off your Charles County Stormwater Remediation Fee.

## SAMPLE ACTIONS

### CONTROL STORMWATER RUNOFF

- Direct downspouts & gutters towards lawn, plant beds or a rain garden 1 inch
- Plant groundcovers and/or install rain barrel 1-2 inches

### ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE

- Provide & properly maintain a water source 1 inch
- Incorporate native trees, shrubs & perennials 1-2 inches
- Encourage pollinators & plant larva host plants 1-2 inches

### PROTECT THE WATERFRONT

- Maintain a buffer of native plants along streams to filter/cool water 5 inches
- Keep fertilizer and organic matter out of streams 2 inches

### MOW PROPERLY

- Mow cool season grasses high (3-4 inches) 2 inches
- Maintain lawn equipment 1 inch

### WATER EFFICIENTLY

- Water early in the morning 1 inch
- Direct water at the base of the landscape plant 1 inch
- Design & maintain a native landscape that will survive on natural rainfall 2 inches
- Allow cool season grass to go dormant during summer 2 inches

### FOR LANDSCAPES THAT USE IN-GROUND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

- Give your irrigation system a check-up 1 inch
- Install a rain shut-off device 1 inch

### MANAGE YARD PESTS WITH INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

- Avoid routine applications of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides 1 inch
- Hand-pull weeds frequently where possible 1 inch

### MULCH APPROPRIATELY/ RECYCLE YARD WASTE

- Create self-mulching areas under trees and shrubs 1 inch
- Keep landscape mulch 2-3 inches deep 2 inches
- Create and maintain a compost pile 2 inches

### FERTILIZE WISELY

- Test soil every 3-5 years 2 inches
- Use compost, slow release, or natural organic fertilizers 1 inch
- During the fall, leave finely shredded leaves on lawn 3 inches

### PLANT WISELY

- Incorporate a variety of native plants 1 inch
- Educate yourself about what is invasive...and avoid these plants. 1 inch

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