

Heart of Virginia Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau 2025

Members of the Heart of Virginia Master Gardeners are available to speak for community organizations about a wide variety of horticultural subjects, as listed below. Please contact the Prince Edward Extension Office at 434.392.0300 or Prince Edward Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent Erin Small at erins96@vt.edu to request a specific topic, and provide information on the date, time, location, and approximate number of attendees. Ms. Small will contact the presenter on your behalf and the presenter will contact you (the requestor) to coordinate the presentation. While there is no charge for the speaker's time, donations to the HOVMGA are appreciated.

Gardening Topic	Presenter	Length of Presentation	Notes
Seed Saving Learn how to collect, label and preserve seeds for next season's planting!	Emily Beck	30 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Seed Starting Save money by starting your plants from seeds and learn the basics of starting seeds and caring for seedlings.	Emily Beck	30 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Planting Containers for Fun and Food Explore possibilities of container gardening – choosing an appropriate container, the right location, planting medium and plants most likely to succeed.	Jackie Fairbarns	30 Minutes	Daytime Presenter Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Surviving the Dog Days Keeping one's sanity through planning for heat, drought, too much rain, bugs and other pests, sunburn and abundant weeds – all while getting a jump start on Fall gardening.	Jackie Fairbarns	30 Minutes	Daytime Presenter Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Light Up Spring with Fall planted Bulbs What is a 'bulb' anyway? How to choose the best bulb, select a good site, plant properly, add companions, and then sit back and wait all winter for your show to develop. The presentation will contain a brief consideration of forcing bulbs in pots.	Jackie Fairbarns	30 Minutes	Daytime Presenter Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Houseplant How Tos What is a "house" plant and why do we have them? An exploration of different types of flowering and foliage plants, identify your micro-climate and selecting the best plants to grow.	Jackie Fairbarns	30 Minutes	Daytime Presenter Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Holiday Plants – Gifts that Keep on Giving From Amaryllis to Zygocactus – A survey of the most popular holiday plants with emphasis on new introductions. Tips on how to keep them alive for a repeat performance.	Jackie Fairbarns	30 Minutes	Daytime Presenter Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection

Garden Shadows – Black Leaves and Flowers Black orchids are the stuff of legend, but there are black leaves and flowers that you can use in your garden to create a hint of the exotic and a touch of mystery. An exploration of some of those readily available to add to your home, garden, greenhouse or flower arrangement.	Jackie Fairbarns	30 Minutes	Daytime Presenter Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
The Durable Dahlia – Late Summer Garden Stars From small pompoms to dinner plate size, the colorful forms of this Mexican native lighten up the late summer to frost garden in all colors of the rainbow except blue. Learn how your grandmother’s favorite is flourishing in today’s gardens.	Jackie Fairbarns	30 Minutes	Daytime Presenter Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Bayscaping - Tour a landscape that uses native plants to reduce water, fertilizer and maintenance needs.	Deanna Fehrer	30-45 Minutes	The Bayscaping site is located at the Prince Edward Natural Resource and Agricultural Building
Rain Gardens - Landscape to manage erosion and water runoff - learn what, how and why	Deanna Fehrer	30 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Hypertufa Containers - construction of rough textured planters which resemble English stone troughs	Deanna Fehrer	Workshop	There is a cost for materials
Promoting Events Using Social Media: Want to promote attendance at your educational and fun events? See examples of how Facebook and your organization’s website can spread the word.	Dianne Fore	30 Minutes	Small table, projector, screen or blank wall
African Violets: Learn how to grow beautiful, blooming African violets in your home.	Jill Fischer	30 Minutes	Daytime Presenter Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Herbs: Learn about the many easy to grow herbs and how they can be used.	Sue Irving	30 Minutes	Small Table Presentation during the spring/summer season only (May-September)

Native Plants in Our Gardens: Probably no gardener has escaped the increasing attention to environmental issues that are part of our current discourse - especially the focus on our native plants. Learn how and where to plant them, where to find them and to what extent you may want to include them, but mostly we will talk about specific species native to this part of Virginia that can add stunning beauty to your garden.	Pat Lust	30 -50 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants: Currently there are no laws in Virginia to prevent nurseries from selling plants that are classified by the VA DCR as invasive plants. The responsibility is ours and the gardening consumers to avoid buying invasive plants and to encourage our favorite nurseries to provide native plants instead.	Pat Lust	30 -50 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Why Should I Care about Invasive Plants: Invasive plants have been intentionally or accidentally introduced by humans, have escaped into the wild, and are causing harm to the natural habitat. In 21 st century horticulture the word <i>invasive</i> is not just a descriptive word, it is a red-flag word identifying harmful plants in the wild. We must learn to identify them and remove them before they crowd out and destroy our native flora.	Pat Lust	30 -50 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
What is Habitat Gardening? Where do I start? - Do you have property you'd like to devote to supporting pollinators and other wildlife? Or, would you like to have less lawn to mow? Or, are you an environmentally friendly gardener who is eager to find ways to cultivate greater harmony with Mother Nature? Think about rain gardens, meadows, border gardens, and many other possibilities.	Pat Lust	30 -50 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Propagating Virginia Native Plants. While native plants have become very popular with gardeners, it is often quite difficult to find a good variety of native plants at our favorite nurseries. If you know someone who has the plant you are seeking, maybe you can get together and make more of that plant. This talk will cover the standard forms of plant propagation that are appropriate for native plants – no hybrids here.	Pat Lust	30 -50 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
Growing Native Plants from Seed. Perhaps the most exciting part of plant propagation is watching a tiny seed germinate and grow into a full-grown plant and then produce more seed. Some seeds require different considerations, but Mother Nature has the answers to all our questions and participating in the process can be very gratifying. We'll talk about acquiring good seeds and about the various ways we can work with nature to enjoy their rewards.	Pat Lust	30 -50 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection

<p>Saving and Starting Seeds: Do you save seeds from your own garden to use in the next season? How do you choose the plants from which to select your seeds? How do you know the right time to harvest the seeds? After you've harvested your seeds, how do you prepare and preserve them for the next season?</p>	Pat Lust	30 -50 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
<p>Getting more plants without seeds or a trip to the nursery – workshop – requires plant materials</p> <p>Plant propagation has many facets, and this workshop will focus on the ones that don't involve seeds – in other words, asexual plant propagation. We'll look at various types of stem and leaf cuttings and root divisions along with several examples from the geophyte category.</p>	Pat Lust	TBD	WORKSHOP
<p>Geophytes - What are they?</p> <p>When you pick up a "bulb" in the nursery, do you really know if it is a bulb or something else? Maybe it's a corm, a rhizome or other tuberous plant? How do you know which is which? What are their similarities and differences, and why does it matter?</p>	Pat Lust	30 -50 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
<p>Fun Facts: Fruit and their flowers</p> <p>Did you know that blackberries are not really berries? Or, that apples and strawberries are not true fruit? The culinary world and the botanists don't always see eye-to-eye on the delicious morsels we enjoy in our fruit salads.</p>	Pat Lust	30 -50 Minutes	Small table and a blank wall or screen for projection
<p>Growing Cut Flowers from Seed</p> <p>Learn the basics of growing cut flowers from seed – perfect for beginner flower farmers or home gardeners looking to expand their blooms. Learn to select the right varieties, starting seeds indoors, transplanting, spacing and harvest tips.</p>	Liana McCreary	30 Minutes	Small table, blank wall or screen for projection.
<p>Color – The Most Compelling Element of Design</p> <p>This is a design program for garden clubs. The program will cover the principles of design and color as they relate to flower arrangements. A demonstration of a simple line arrangement and mass arrangement will be presented.</p>	Helen Smith	30-40 Minutes	GARDEN CLUBS ONLY Table or flat surface for demonstration

