

HELPFUL GARDENING INFO

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As a Master Gardener who regularly does residential site visits, I rely on these tools. Many have been mentioned in previous Sow You Know posts, some however are new, but here they are – all in one place.

- 1) **PictureThis** – a reliable plant identifier app available for iPhone or Android phones. (Free trial period, then monthly or annual payment options.) <https://www.picturethisai.com>
- 2) **Rutgers Deer Resistant Plants database** – <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/deer-resistant-plants/> Before you buy, check here first to see if it's a deer favorite!
- 3) **Native Plants for Virginia's Capital Region** – Native trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses and ferns loved by butterflies and caterpillars with their water/sun requirements.
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e25c41e6f2e17ea4cb7766/t/5ed00bfc208c2251311ebc6/1590692887078/Native+Plants+for+Virginia%27s+Capital+Region+Guide+for+download.pdf>
- 4) The Virginia Native Plant Society's **native plant nursery list**: <https://vnps.org/native-plant-nursery-list/>
- 5) **Sandy's Plants-Advanced Search** – Free plant website landscaping tool
<https://www.sandysplants.com/Plant-Finder>.
- 6) **Smart Lawn form & instructions** (Goochland residents only). \$20 fee for Virginia Tech lab report and recommendations for great-looking lawns.
https://goochland.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/goochland_ext_vt_edu/files/smartlawn/2019%20GP%20SMART%20Lawn%20Enrollment-Brochure.pdf
- 7) **Soil Test forms** and kits for lawns, gardens, fruit trees and ornamentals may be picked up at either Goochland or Powhatan Extension Offices. \$10 fee for Virginia Tech Lab report with results and recommendations. https://www.soiltest.vt.edu/content/dam/soiltest_vt_edu/PDF/urban-sampling.pdf
Information form: https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/452/452-125/SPES-322.pdf
- 8) **Plant Disease Diagnosis** – Form and instructions on how to submit samples to VA Tech Lab for plant diagnosis and treatment recommendations (\$35):
https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/450/450-097/SPES-361.pdf.
- 9) **Pollinator native plant collections for Virginia** curated by Dr. Doug Tallamy, for sale online or shop locally. <https://gardenforwildlife.com/collections/native-plants-for-virginia>
- 10) **Arbor Day Foundation's Best Tree Finder** – Tree Wizard helps select the best tree to plant
<https://www.arborday.org/shopping/trees/treewizard/Intro.cfm>
- 11) **Buy Trees from the VA Dept of Forestry Seedling Store** - <https://buyvatrees.com/virginia-trees/>
- 12) **Water Runoff and Rain Garden Installations** – Schedule a free site visit with VCAP. You can even apply to have a percentage of the installation paid by them! Go to VCAP <https://vaswcd.org/landowner-vcap-landing/> Contact VCAP Coordinator Blair Blanchette at blair.blanchette@vaswcd.org for more details.
- 13) **Virginia Tech Extension's Home Grounds & Animals 2025 Pest Management** resource:
<https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/456-018.html>
- 14) **Native Plants Species and Cultivars (video)**– Master Gardeners of Northern VA discuss Mt. Cuba data on which plant varieties attract the most pollinators. <https://mgnv.org/mg-virtual-classroom/native-plant-species-cultivars-2024> | <https://mtcubacenter.org/research/trial-garden/> (Search Trial Garden results for best performing plants)
- 15) www.chicagobotanic.org (Click on this link then type in Plant Evaluation in the search box. Plant evaluation notes listed at the bottom for top performing plants.
- 16) **National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder** – a list of native plants in your zip code, ranked by the number of butterfly and moth species they support.
- 17) **Virginia Invasive Plant Coalition Plant ID & Control Tool**
<https://airtable.com/appwozPe5WRrJ9Djh/shr8iwTNolTZzLxf0/tblQWzBW2uuV3Z19e>

To request a FREE Master Gardener residential Site Visit for your Goochland or Powhatan home, discuss plant problems or submit photos showing your plant concerns, email gpmastergardener@gmail.com