

**NNMG HELP DESKS-MOST ASKED QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION CATEGORIES**

**EROSION  
FRUIT TREES  
GROUND-COVERS  
IDENTIFICATION  
INVASIVE PLANTS  
LAWNS  
NORTHERN NECK SPECIFIC  
ORNAMENTALS  
PESTS  
PRUNING  
RESOURCES  
SEPTIC FIELD  
SOIL  
TREES  
VEGETABLES**

**EROSION**

What can I plant to stop erosion?

[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-722/426-722\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-722/426-722_pdf.pdf)  
Reducing Erosion and Runoff  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-609/426-609\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-609/426-609_pdf.pdf)  
Selecting Landscape Plants: Ground-covers

## FRUIT TREES

What is wrong with this apple tree?

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section03-Home-Fruit-Disease-and-Insects.pdf>  
Apple Diseases pp.3-6 thru 3-10. Apple Insects pp.3-10, 3-13  
Spray Schedule for Apples pp.3-11  
[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant\\_pests/trees/hgic2000.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_pests/trees/hgic2000.html)  
Lack of soil fertility can also be the problem. Recommend a soil test.

What is wrong with this peach tree?

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section03-Home-Fruit-Disease-and-Insects.pdf>  
Peach Diseases pp.3-13 thru 3-15. Spray Schedules pp.3-14  
pp.3-15 and 3-16 Peach Insects  
[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant\\_pests/veg\\_fruit/hgic2209.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_pests/veg_fruit/hgic2209.html)  
Lack of soil fertility can also be the problem. Recommend a soil test.

Do fruit trees need annual pesticide spraying?

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section03-Home-Fruit-Disease-and-Insects.pdf>  
See "Timing" pp.3-4 (under "When and How to Apply")

## GROUND-COVERS

Why are the tips on my Carpet Juniper turning brown?

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant\\_pests/shrubs/hgic2056.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_pests/shrubs/hgic2056.html)  
Juniper Diseases and Insect Pests

## IDENTIFICATION

Can you ID this tree/shrub/plant/weed/insect?

The best answer: "Could you bring us a sample?"  
or, "Could you bring or email us a picture", (e.g. when sample would be too big)

## INVASIVE PLANTS

How do I eradicate invasive plants?

[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420/420-320/420-320\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420/420-320/420-320_pdf.pdf)  
"Invasive Exotic Plant Species Identification and Management"

How do I eradicate invasive plants near the shoreline/water?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/427/427-101/427-101.html>  
"Identification and Control of Common Reed (Phragmites australis) in Virginia"  
<http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>  
See "Permits to Apply Herbicides", 2<sup>nd</sup> column  
Waiting for VT to publish regulations for Virginia

## LAWNS

How do I get rid of weeds in my lawn?

[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-532/430-532\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-532/430-532_pdf.pdf)  
See sections: "Soil Preparation" and "Weeds"  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section\\_5\\_Lawn-2.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section_5_Lawn-2.pdf)  
Weeds pp.5-8 thru 5-13

What type of lawn does well in the NN?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-719/426-719.html>  
Selecting Turf-grass  
<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-533/430-533.html>  
Spring & Summer Lawn Management Recommendations for  
Warm-Season Turfgrasses

How do I renew an existing lawn?

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section05-Lawn.pdf>  
See "Weeds" pp.5-8 through 5-12

How do I prepare the soil for a new lawn?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-718/426-718.html>  
Establishing Lawns

What are these brown spots in my lawn?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-533/430-533.html>  
Scroll down to "Rhizoctonia Incited Diseases"

## NORTHERN NECK SPECIFIC

- What tree/shrub/groundcover does well in the NN? "Gardening in the Northern Neck" pp.24, Trees and Shrubs. pp.35-36, Perennial Plants. pp.45-47 Ground Covers.
- What vegetables grow well in the NN? "Gardening in the Northern Neck" pp.54, Vegetables
- What fruit trees grow well in the NN? <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-840/426-840.html>"Small Fruit in the Home Garden."  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-841/426-841\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-841/426-841_pdf.pdf)  
"Gardening in the Northern Neck" pp.51
- Where can I buy plants that do well in this area? Most local nurseries  
See "Exhibitors List(s)" of Recent NNMG Seminars

## ORNAMENTALS

- What is wrong with this Japanese Holly? <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-606/450-606.html> "Black Root Rot of Japanese Holly."
- What are these spots on the leaves of this photinia (Red Tip)? [https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-609/450-609\\_pdf.pdf](https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-609/450-609_pdf.pdf)
- What is this white cottony stuff on my camellia leaves? [http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2808/2808-1012/2808-1012\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2808/2808-1012/2808-1012_pdf.pdf)  
"Scale Insects" see "Cottony Camellia Scale"  
[https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-017/Section-4\\_Nursery\\_Crops-4.pdf](https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-017/Section-4_Nursery_Crops-4.pdf)  
"Timing of Scale Insect Treatment" pp.4-30, table 4.3
- Why are the leaves on this gardenia turning yellow? [http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant\\_pests/shrubs/hgic2058.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_pests/shrubs/hgic2058.html)  
"Gardenia Diseases & Other Problems"  
Gardenias are susceptible to winter injury.  
Lack of soil fertility can also be the problem. Recommend soil test.  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section\\_4\\_Home\\_Ornamentals-3.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section_4_Home_Ornamentals-3.pdf)  
pp.4-31 Gardenia Insects

Why are my boxwoods dying?

[https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/PPWS/PPWS-4/Boxwood\\_Blight\\_pdf.pdf](https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/PPWS/PPWS-4/Boxwood_Blight_pdf.pdf)  
Boxwood Blight: A New Disease of Boxwoods Found in the Eastern US  
See specifically: "Tactics to Avoid Introduction of the Disease"  
If lack of soil fertility is suspected, recommend a soil test.  
[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant\\_pests/shrubs/hgic2052.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_pests/shrubs/hgic2052.html)  
Boxwood Diseases & Insect Pests

How do I prepare the soil for planting shrubs and plants?

[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-295/430-295\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-295/430-295_pdf.pdf)  
"Tree and Shrub Planting Guidelines", see "Site Preparation"  
Recommend a soil test

What is the best time to divide/transplant perennials?

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/flowers/hgic1150.html>  
"Dividing Perennials"  
<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-203/426-203.html>  
"Perennials: Culture, Maintenance and Propagation"

What can I do about black root rot?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-606/450-606.html>  
"Black Root Rot of Japanese Holly"  
[http://www.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/plantpathology/ext\\_files/ppfshtml/ppfs-or-w-3.pdf](http://www.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/plantpathology/ext_files/ppfshtml/ppfs-or-w-3.pdf)  
"Black Root Rot of Ornamentals"

How do I get rid of mildew on my ornamental plants?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-603/450-603.html> Powdery Mildew of Ornamentals

## PESTS

What can I do about Fall Webworm and when?

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section04-Home-Ornamentals.pdf>  
pp.4-68,69, table 4.5 Fall Webworm  
<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/fall-webworm>

How do I get rid of moles and voles?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420/420-201/420-201.html>  
Managing Wildlife  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-469/430-469\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-469/430-469_pdf.pdf)  
See paragraph "Animal Pests"  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section\\_8\\_Vertebrates.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section_8_Vertebrates.pdf)  
pp. 8-4, table 8.1 Moles, pp. 8-5, table 8.1 Voles

What can I do about groundnesting wasps/hornets and yellowjackets?

The first question to ask should be: "Are you allergic to bee stings?"  
If the answer is yes, recommend that a professional exterminator be contacted.  
Also, provide client with a copy of "Protecting Honey Bees", see link below  
[https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-016/Section-1\\_Protecting\\_Honeybees.pdf](https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-016/Section-1_Protecting_Honeybees.pdf)  
pp. 1-45 thru 1-48

For treatment see link below:

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section06-Nuisance-Insects-of-the-House-and-Yard.pdf>  
pp. 6-3, table 6.1, Wasps and Hornets, Yellow jackets  
<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section06-Nuisance-Insects-of-the-House-and-Yard.pdf>  
pp. 6-6, table 6.2 Wood-Destroying Insects, Carpenter Bees

What can I do about pine borers?

[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2907/2907-1399/2907-1399\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2907/2907-1399/2907-1399_pdf.pdf) "Pine Sawyers"  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/444/444-215/444-215\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/444/444-215/444-215_pdf.pdf)  
"Longhorned Beetles and Roundheaded Borers"

What can I do about Bagworms?

[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2808/2808-1008/2808-1008\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2808/2808-1008/2808-1008_pdf.pdf)

How do I get mice out of my house?

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section08-Vertebrates.pdf>  
pp. 8-1, see "Vertebrates as Pests"  
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7483.html>  
"House Mouse Management"

How do I get snakes out of my house?

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section08-Vertebrates.pdf>  
pp. 8-1 see "Vertebrates as Pests", and pp. 8-5, Table 8.1 Snakes  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420/420-021/420-021\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420/420-021/420-021_pdf.pdf)  
"Managing Wildlife: Snakes", see "Control Strategies"

What can I do about these unwanted caterpillars in my trees?

Remove manually if practical.  
For identification of Fall Web-worm, Tent Caterpillars etc. see publication below  
<http://nfs.unl.edu/documents/foresthealth/bagworms.pdf>  
"Tent Caterpillars", Link below  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/444/444-274/444-274\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/444/444-274/444-274_pdf.pdf)  
"Fall Webworm", Link below  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2808/2808-1013/2808-1013\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2808/2808-1013/2808-1013_pdf.pdf)  
Gypsy Moth Management for Home Owners on Small Properties. Link below  
<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2811/2811-1021/2811-1021.html>

How can I treat for squash-bugs on squash and zucchini?

[http://extension.missouri.edu/phelps/documents/Horticulture\\_News/SquashBugs.pdf](http://extension.missouri.edu/phelps/documents/Horticulture_News/SquashBugs.pdf)

How do I get rid of a woodpecker pecking holes in my siding/outside steps?

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06516.pdf>  
"Preventing Woodpecker Damage"  
<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section08-Vertebrates.pdf>  
pp. 8-4 see "Decision Making" and pp. 8-5, Table 8.1 "Woodpeckers"

Should I have an annual termite inspection?

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Urban/termites/index.htm>  
Scroll down to "Annual Contracts"

How do I prevent deer from eating my plants?

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section08-Vertebrates.pdf>  
"Selective Planting Recommendations for Deer Management" pp. 8-6 and 8-7  
[http://watauga.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/95/deer\\_factsheet.pdf](http://watauga.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/95/deer_factsheet.pdf)  
"Managing Deer in the Landscape and Garden"  
"Gardening in the Northern Neck", part III "Garden Care", page 59

## PRUNING

How and when do I prune?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-456/430-456.html>  
"Guide to Successful Pruning, Pruning Deciduous Trees."  
<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-462/430-462.html>  
"Guide to Successful Pruning, Shrub Pruning Calendar."  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-451/430-451\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-451/430-451_pdf.pdf)  
"Pruning Crape-myrtles"

## RESOURCES

Where can I get information on rain-barrels?

Contact Edna Roberts at: [jjeeroberts@verizon.net](mailto:jjeeroberts@verizon.net)

Where can I get a soil test kit?

At any local Extension office  
Lancaster Ext. Office: 804-462-5780  
Northumberland Ext. Office: 804-580-5694  
Westmoreland Ext. Office: 804-493-8924  
Kits are also available at Farmer's Markets

Where can I find information on bee keeping?

<http://www.nbbeekkeepers.com/>

Where can I find a local arborist?

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/faca/findArborist.aspx>

What are the local ordinances regarding Johnson grass?

<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientID=12484&stateID=46&statename=Virginia>  
Click "Code of Ordinances" left column, then click Chapter 26 "Environment", left column.  
See Sections 26-124, 26-131 thru 26-134 and 26-138

What are the frost dates in eastern Virginia?

April 15-21, and the last week of October  
Remember: Frost dates vary from year to year

## SOIL

What can I do about high sodium content in the soil?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-031/430-031.html> See paragraph titled:  
"Reducing Soil Salinity or Soil Salt Damage"

## SEPTIC FIELD

What can I plant near my septic field?

[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-617/426-617\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-617/426-617_pdf.pdf)  
“Planting on your Septic Drain Field”

## TREES

Why are the leaves on this oak/maple turning brown and falling off?

[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-604/450-604\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-604/450-604_pdf.pdf)  
“Anthracnose – A Fungal Disease of Shade Trees”  
Drought, nearby construction and lack of soil fertility can cause same symptoms

Why is there sap oozing from the bark of this oak?

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section04-Home-Ornamentals.pdf>  
See: Bacterial Wetwood/Slime Flux on Dogwood, pp.4-18, table 4.2

Why are the branches on this Leyland Cypress turning brown?

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/Section04-Home-Ornamentals.pdf>  
Leyland Cypress/Cankers pp.4-22, table 4.2  
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/specificplants/note133a/note133a.html>  
“Six diseases of Leyland Cypress in the Landscape”

What is this greyish-green substance growing on my trees?

<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0857/ANR-0857.pdf>  
“Lichens on Woody Shrubs and Trees”

What is this blackish substance on the leaves of these trees?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-618/450-618.html>  
“Sooty Mold of Conifers and Hardwoods”

## VEGETABLES

What are these spots on my tomatoes?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-703/450-703.html>  
“Blossom End Rot of Tomato”, (spots on blossom end of fruit)  
<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-708/450-708.html>  
“Early Blight of Tomatoes”, (spots on stem end of fruit)  
[http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-418/426-418\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-418/426-418_pdf.pdf) See “Common Problems”  
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/3114.html>  
“Anthracnose of Tomatoes”

How do I prepare the soil for a vegetable garden?

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-708/426-708.html>  
Integrated Pest Management for the Vegetable Garden  
See “Soil Preparation”  
Recommend a soil test  
<https://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/mg/vegetable/preparation.html>