

About your water-wise garden

The following steps will help you get started in planning your own water-wise garden:

- **Select a site.** Take into consideration sun exposure, existing structures (house, garage, etc.), overhead power lines, permanent drives and walkways, existing trees and shrubs. Note any drainage problems such as boggy or wet areas.
- **Sketch a plan** on paper (1/4" = 1" will work best.) Make note of existing permanent structures and plant material. Also note sunny vs shady areas. Remember, an eraser will be easier to use now than a shovel later!
- **Take a soil sample.** Pick up a soil sample kit at the Gloucester Cooperative Extension Office and follow the instructions for taking a soil sample. Mail it to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at the address provided. Cost of the soil analysis is \$10.00. A soil analysis with information on how to amend your soil will take approximately two weeks.
- **Amend the soil** based on the information obtained from your soil analysis. Properly amended soil will promote healthier plants and better water conservation.
- **Select plant material** based on their adaptability to you location; sun or shade; moisture requirements; mature height and width; annuals or perennials; and seasonal interest. Look for plants identified for use in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 7b. Consult the Gloucester Master Gardener Horticulture Helpline (804) 693-1267, gardening catalogs or local nurseries for suggestions on plant selection.
- **Use mulch** to conserve moisture and reduce weed production. Mulch every year or two to maintain approximately a 3" to 4" deep layer of organic material around plants.
- **Plan on appropriate maintenance.** If you have followed the steps outlined above and have selected plants that require minimal water and fertilization, then maintenance should not be difficult. A water-wise landscape will require a minimum amount of supplemental water in most years.

About our sponsors

- J. Edwin Treagle Foundation, Inc.

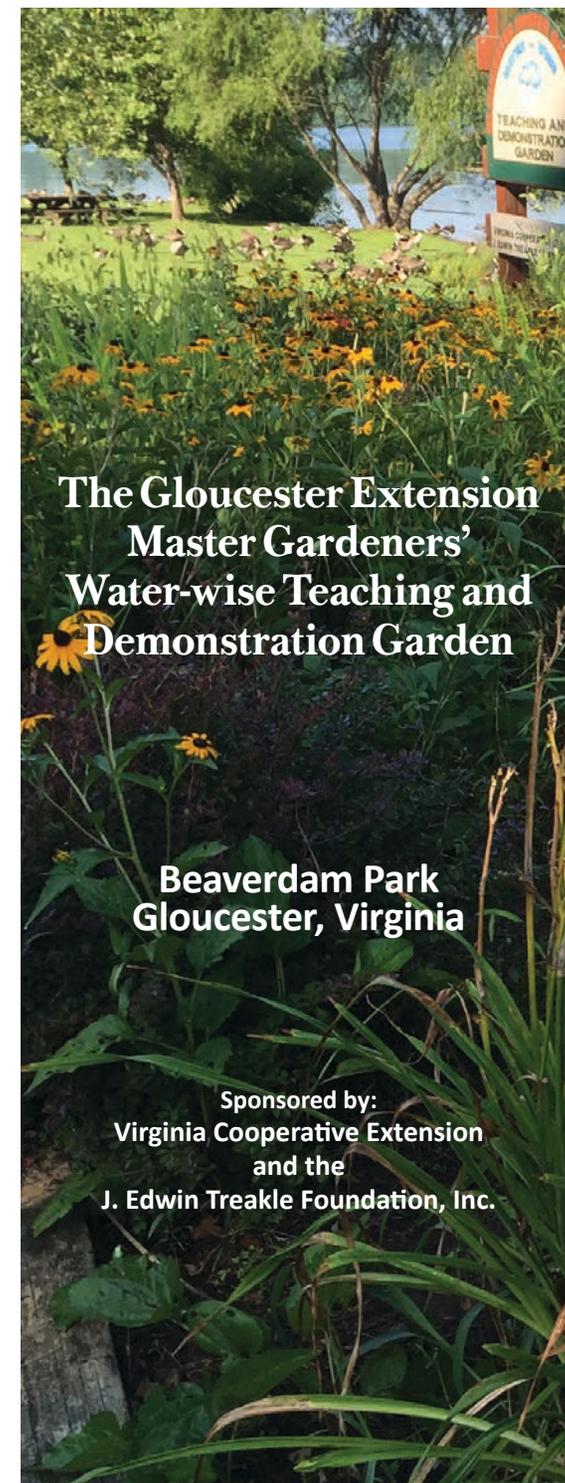
Plants, shrubs and landscaping hardware have been donated and/or discounted by the following:

- Roadview Nurseries, Gloucester, VA
- Sandy's Plants, Mechanicsville, VA
- Southern States, Gloucester, VA
- The Gloucester Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department



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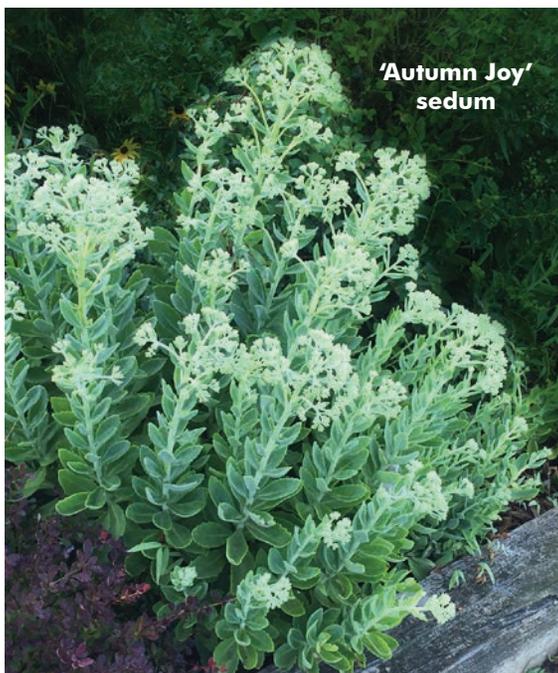
The Gloucester Extension Master Gardeners' Water-wise Teaching and Demonstration Garden

Beaverdam Park
Gloucester, Virginia

Sponsored by:
Virginia Cooperative Extension
and the
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About the Gloucester Extension Master Gardeners

The Gloucester Extension Master Gardeners is a unique group of volunteers trained by Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) to provide an effective network of gardening programs and activities to enhance their communities. A Master Gardener is a person who acts on behalf of VCE as a volunteer educator within his or her community after receiving specialized training in environmental horticulture through cooperative programming with VCE. The volunteer educator serves as a partner with VCE to promote, inform and work with various sections of their community. They work with residential and commercial groups presenting horticulture programs to protect and enhance environment. Several common topics include turf, landscape, vegetables, trees, shrubs, and pest management. For more information about the Gloucester Extension Master Gardener Program, contact the Gloucester Extension Office at (804) 693-2602.



**'Autumn Joy'
sedum**

About the Garden

The water-wise garden project located at Beaverdam Park is a teaching/demonstration garden sponsored by the Gloucester Master Gardeners in cooperation with Gloucester Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department and partially funded by the J. Edwin Treakle Foundation, Inc. The garden is an example of "xeriscape" gardening. Xeriscape gardening emphasizes:

- Water conservation
- Soil erosion prevention
- Low maintenance

The garden is planted as an integral part of the park setting and is shaped to follow the contour of the shoreline. Landscape timbers help prevent soil erosion.

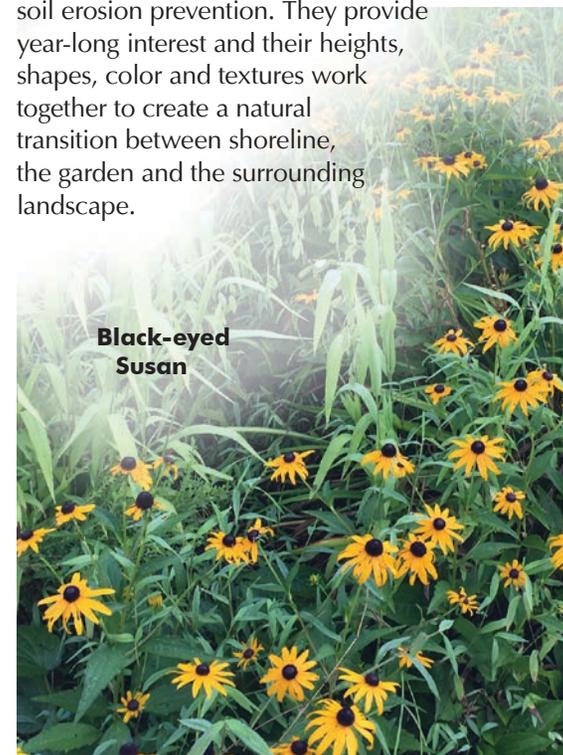


Daylily

Ornamental grasses, Rugosa roses, barberry plants and cotoneaster shrubs form the backbones of the garden. Two types of tall, narrow-leafed grasses – Miscanthus 'Morning Light' and River Oats – add height to the garden while medium-sized 'David Thompson' Rugosa Roses, low-growing 'Crimson Pygmy' Barberries, and dwarf 'Scarlet Leader' Cotoneasters provide shape and form. The prickly branches and crinkled foliage of the rose bushes, the cushion-like mounds of barberry, and the prostrate spreading habit of the cotoneasters contrast against the graceful, arching stems of the grasses for textural interest. The magenta blooms of the roses and the deep red-purple foliage of the barberries complement other burgundy plants used. The light greens and tans of the grasses blend in with neighboring plants to help soften the look of the garden.

Black-eyed Susan, 'Whirling Butterflies' Gaura, 'Fireworks' Goldenrod, 'Autumn Joy' Sedum, and several varieties of daylilies and irises round out the garden. These prolific, flowering perennials vary in height, color, and texture providing additional dimension and visual interest. The long, slender stems of the gaura and the arching leaves of the daylilies echo the forms of the ornamental grasses. The gaura's delicate sprays of flowers are a striking contrast to the larger daisy-like flowers of the Black-eyed Susans, the six-petaled irises, and the trumpet-shaped daylilies. The goldenrods have plumed flower clusters that radiate out from erect stems, resembling a shower of fireworks. Clumps of sedum, a succulent plant with fleshy leaves and domed flower heads complete the display. Different bloom times extend the bright, colorful mix of burgundies, pinks, whites, oranges and yellows from spring until frost.

The plants and shrubs chosen for this garden are low maintenance, water-wise, and/or aid in soil erosion prevention. They provide year-long interest and their heights, shapes, color and textures work together to create a natural transition between shoreline, the garden and the surrounding landscape.



**Black-eyed
Susan**