

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Extension Master Gardeners 2026 Training Class

HEATHSVILLE, Virginia, July 11, 2025 –

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners' 2026 Extension Master Gardener (EMG) training class will be held Tuesday and Thursday mornings, February 10 – April 09, 2026 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Heathsville.

An educational program of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), Extension Master Gardeners provide VCE with an additional avenue for public outreach and education. EMG trainees learn about basic botany, propagation, entomology, soils, trees and shrubs, pesticide use and safety, pruning, lawns, vegetable gardening, and other horticulture related topics. The title of Extension Master Gardener is granted after completing the classroom instruction and then completing a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service conducting horticultural education programs.

If interested in the Extension Master Gardener training class, contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension Northumberland County Office at (804) 580-5694. The cost of the class is \$200. Required reading is the training manual "Virginia Cooperative Extension Gardener Handbook". A hard copy of the manual is available for purchase on Amazon for \$32.00. There is a free download of the manual available on Virginia Tech/Virginia Cooperative Extension website (<https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/items/0f4b661d-c1d8-4f96-8a53-b4a3207a4401>).

The deadline for registration and payment is October 3, 2025. The class is open to residents of Northumberland, Lancaster, Westmoreland, Richmond and Essex Counties. Class size is limited to 25 trainees. Once the 2026 class is full, interested individuals may choose to be added to the 2028 class list.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodation to participate in this activity, please contact Trent Jones at 804-580-5694/TDD\* during business hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. \*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Founded in 1989, the Northern Neck Master Gardener Association is a not-for-profit organization. Its purpose is to promote and serve the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Master Gardener Program in cooperation with the Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, and Essex County Extension Offices in fulfilling the educational mission of VCE.

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Northern Neck Master Gardeners – [www.nnmg.org](http://www.nnmg.org)

Virginia Cooperative Extension - <https://northumberland.ext.vt.edu>

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