

Managing Landscape and Water Conservation During a Drought

Issue (Who cares and why?)

New Castle County, Delaware is a rapidly urbanizing community that is losing open space and vegetative growth to housing and pavement. How can residents best manage landscaping areas, as well as promote water quality and conservation, especially during a drought? Record drought conditions were in effect in 2002 throughout the state, triggering watering bans for most outdoor landscape uses.

What has been done?

A series of 27 New Castle County Master Gardener Workshops sponsored by Cooperative Extension at the University of Delaware were held in 2002 for persons who manage home lawns, gardens and landscapes. Some of the drought-related topics included integrated pest management practices, select and site plant materials for maximum pest and drought resistance, mulch and fertilizer use, recycling organic wastes, and using efficient irrigation techniques.

Impact

These workshops featured 433 participants who indicated they would be practicing the water quality and conservation lessons taught by the Master Gardener volunteer educators.

Funding

County Extension
User fees

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