



Edgar Allen Poe Museum's Enchanted Garden in Richmond, Va. The garden was designed in 1921 and is based on Poe's poem "The Enchanted Garden." It is part of the Richmond Garden Trail, which provides tourists with a look at different types of gardens.

PHOTO: EDGAR ALLEN POE MUSEUM/MCT

# Growing Green Cash

## Richmond Trail Is A Model For 'Garden Tourism'

BY KATHY VAN MULLEKOM

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Richmond is rich in gardens. Some of those gardens in Virginia's state capital are now connected into what is called the Richmond Garden Trail — eight sites that provide different garden experiences — large public garden, sculpture garden, an estate, classic Virginia garden, historic landscape and small gardens tucked in unexpected places. "The trail capitalizes on the growing interest in garden tourism, and features a user-friendly itinerary of garden-related experiences within an easy geographic area," says Beth Monroe, spokeswoman at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and one of the trail's organizers.

"And, there is certainly room for the garden trail to grow to include more sites."

Developed in partnership with Richmond Region Tourism and the historic Jefferson Hotel, the trail features eight initial attractions: the Ginter Garden, Maymont mansion, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Agecroft Hall, Virginia Museum of Architecture and Design, Capitol Square, Valentine Richmond History Center and the Edgar Allen Poe Museum.

Well-known attractions on the trail include the 82-acre Ginter Garden with its 50 acres of plantings and the 100-acre historic Maymont with its national and seven state champion trees.

Some, like the Enchanted Garden at the Edgar Allen Poe Museum, are hidden gems.

"The Edgar Allan Poe Museum's Enchanted Garden was designed in 1921 as Virginia's first monument to a writer, says Jaime Fawcett, executive director at the museum.

"Museum founders constructed the garden's pergola, walls, paths and benches from materials salvaged from a variety of buildings in which the author lived or worked.

"Poe exalted the landscape garden as the highest form of poetry, and the Enchanted Garden brings to life the ideal gardens he celebrated in his poems and short stories."

The Garden Club of Virginia is restoring the Enchanted Garden, Fawcett said. Many of the varieties of plants originally planted in the Enchanted Garden in the 1920s will be highlighted.



PHOTO: DON WILLIAMSON/MCT

The Conservatory and fountain gardens at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Va.

The Enchanted Garden was planted in 1922 to capture the garden essence in Poe's poem "To One in Paradise:"

*"Thou wast that all to me, love,  
For which my soul did pine —  
A green isle in the sea, love,  
A fountain and a shrine,  
All wreathed with fairy fruits and flowers,*

*And all the flowers were mine."*

Some lesser-known and under-used plants good for homes and gardens you will see on the Richmond Garden Trail, according to trail developers, include:

Bromeliads: You may be familiar with bromeliads as houseplants, but consider them in the summer landscape to provide color and interest, suggest horticulturists at the Ginter Botanical Garden [www.lewisginter.org](http://www.lewisginter.org).

This summer, the botanical garden uses a bromeliad called Aechmea blanchetiana to create a focal point in front of its conservatory this summer. This non-hardy tropical bromeliad has a striking vase shape, and should be planted in full sun to achieve a deep orange coloring (when planted in shade, the color is more muted). It has a slow growth rate, achieving a height of 2 to 4 feet and a width of 1 to 2 feet. It is relatively easy to care for and doesn't have any major pest or disease problem. Plant in well-drained soil and water moderately; this plant can succumb to root rot if

planted in saturated soils, so avoid high clay content. Bromeliads are not cold hardy in Virginia's climate, so they need to be brought inside during the winter or treated as an annual.

Pitcher plants: Did you know many Sarracenia, or pitcher plants, are native to Virginia and can be grown outdoors under the right conditions? The Ginter Garden has an extensive collection of Sarracenia plants, which eat insects because they grow in boggy, nutrient-poor soil, so the key is to provide this type of environment. Plant in a well-watered area, but do not put them in standing water, according to Ginter gardeners. A sandy-mix soil is recommended — adding sphagnum moss is also helpful. Sarracenia are generally low maintenance, but they will freely hybridize, so Lewis Ginter cuts the flowers before they go to seed.

Roses: Museum's Enchanted Garden, [www.poemuseum.org](http://www.poemuseum.org), features a variety of roses with Rosa Pink Fairy most abundant, according to museum spokeswoman Fawcett. Pink Fairy is a miniature rose — miniature roses first came into being in the early 1930s as an accidental result of rose hybridizing. This Polyanthus type produces a cloud of small, lightly fragrant, fully double pink flowers all summer with an especially heavy flush of bloom in fall, according to a museum spokesperson. The bush is compact which makes it effective as a ground cover, a low hedge or

a powerful presence in a mixed border.

Honeysuckle: At Maymont, plants along Marie's Butterfly Trail inspire gardeners who love pollinators, according to spokeswoman Kathie Rosenberg. There you find Lonicera Major Wheeler, a native honeysuckle with clusters of red, trumpet-shaped flowers that specially appeal to hummingbirds. This plant thrives in full sun, is hardy in zones 4-8 and blooms all summer long. It is a moderately growing vine that does well on a 6-foot garden support such as a trellis. Another advantage is the foliage does not develop mildew as with other Lonicera, or honeysuckles. This honeysuckle, however, is different from Japanese honeysuckle (L. japonica), which is very aggressive and should be avoided, advise horticulturists. Learn more at [www.maymont.org](http://www.maymont.org).

Japanese maple: To see truly "living history" visit Capitol Square, a park where the state Capital Building sits — [www.vacapitol.org/square.htm/](http://www.vacapitol.org/square.htm/). Here you can admire Acer rubrum Jamestown, a seedless cultivar of Virginia's native red maple. Jamestown is smaller than the wild type, making it more suited to urban and home landscapes. It was developed by Watkins Nurseries in Midlothian, Va., and named in honor of the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. Capitol Square's Jamestown red maple was planted between the southwest fountain and the old Bell Tower by the Lawyers of Virginia in memory of the late State Supreme Court Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell Sr.

Fennel: Follow your nose to the Fragrance Garden at Agecroft Hall to delight your senses. The plants found there are not only aromatic, many can be used in cooking. An example is Foeniculum vulgare, or what we commonly call fennel. Fennel was highly regarded in Elizabethan and Jacobean England for its aromatic qualities. It was used to provide a pleasant smell in rooms or to mask less pleasant street smells, which London had in great abundance at the time. Now herbs such as fennel are being used more in borders and containers for their visual beauty as well. Built 500 years ago in England, Agecroft — [www.agecrofthall.com](http://www.agecrofthall.com) — was auctioned, dismantled, shipped and reassembled on the banks of the James River in 1925.

## Thompsons' Yard Named August Yard Of Month

Dick and Diana Thompson's garden at 1600 West Street in Yankton has been named the August Yard of the Month by the Yankton Town & Garden Club.

A tropical theme surrounds the house and includes planters with tropical hibiscus as well as manicured trees. There are many whimsical animals such as frogs, angel fish and a huge toad overlooking the patio area. A beautiful patio with a fire unit allows Dick and Diana to enjoy cool evenings. A flower garland with frogs on lily pads surrounds the door. A pond to the side of the door with a dolphin fountain lights up at night. A deck carries on with the tropical theme.

This is definitely a yard to be seen and enjoyed.

## SDSU Garden-Based Education Webinar Scheduled Sept. 10

BROOKINGS — "Clearing up Consumer Confusion: What are Conventional, Organic, and Local Foods?" is the SDSU Extension Garden Educator Webinar September 2014 feature. The webinar is scheduled for Sept. 10 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. (CDT) /3 to 3:30 p.m. (MDT).

School teachers, afterschool and summer garden program leaders and helpers are all encouraged to participate. This is the third season of SDSU Extension's webinar programs targeting teaching garden educators.

The program, presented by Marge Zastrow, SDSU Extension Nutrition Field Specialist, will explain differences between conventional and organic farming as well as discuss how these production methods relate to local foods. Webinars are scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month.

To participate in the Webinar, visit [www.iGrow.org/events](http://www.iGrow.org/events) and click the link within the event posting. Participants are encouraged to log in within 15 minutes of the specified time, especially when participating for the first time.

Save the date for this upcoming session: Oct. 8, 4-4:30 p.m. CDT/3-3:30 MDT: "Fall of Flavors," presented by Marge Zastrow. If you would like to receive more information on trainings and grant opportunities related to youth gardening programs or to exchanging questions and ideas with others involved in similar projects, e-mail Chris Zdorovtsov, SDSU Extension Community Development Field Specialist at [Christina.Zdorovtsov@sdstate.edu](mailto:Christina.Zdorovtsov@sdstate.edu) to be added to the SDSU Youth Gardening LISTSERV.

## Extension Hosts Pressure Canner Testing Across SD

BROOKINGS — Dial gauges on pressure canners should be checked for accuracy and overall condition every year prior to the beginning of canning season. If you use your dial gauge canner throughout the year, check it at the same time every year. If you own a pressure canner with a weighted gauge, this does not have to be checked.

To reach the people of South Dakota, SDSU Extension has collaborated with several businesses that have agreed to provide pressure canner testing.

Call ahead to confirm the hours the site is open for business.

New partners are continually trained to provide testing, so the list from across the state will continue to grow.

For more information or to become a testing site, contact Lavonne Meyer, SDSU Extension Food Safety Field Specialist, [Lavonne.Meyer@sdstate.edu](mailto:Lavonne.Meyer@sdstate.edu).

# Homeowner Fined For Replacing Grass With Drought-Tolerant Plants

BY DENIS CUFF

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SAN RAMON, Calif. — Fran Paxson figured to get a little credit and admiration when she replaced the old lawn around her suburban San Ramon home with drought-resistant plants.

Her public water supplier is even rewarding her with a rebate.

But her homeowners association — drought and a new state law be darned — is punishing her with a fine.

Paxson's plight is turning up the heat in the conflict between the aesthetics and the thirst of water-hungry green lawns as California struggles through a third year of drought.

The Twin Creeks South Estate Homes Association in San Ramon informed Paxson three weeks ago that it is fining her \$50 a month until she puts lawn back in 25 percent of her recently landscaped front yard. "It would look better," the association wrote.

Paxson said the association board members said her lawn-free front yard would lower

neighborhood property values.

"I think it's ridiculous for a homeowners association to threaten a fine to force someone to put in lawn in a drought," said Paxson, a retired elementary schoolteacher. "It's just wrong on so many levels."

She said she hired a contractor to overhaul her front yard with California native plants on drip irrigation to save money and water and provide a sustainable landscaping. The homeowners association told her she should keep grass in 25 percent of the area, but Paxson went ahead with the new landscaping anyway.

"I didn't just cover my front yard with volcanic rock," she said.

A spokesman for the homeowners group did not respond to email and phone messages seeking comment. But in a July 31 letter to Paxson, the board wrote that it "feels that your front yard appearance would look better with the percentage of turf that was approved by the architectural committee."

A board member of the East Bay Municipal Utility District —

the public water supplier to San Ramon — said the board is out of line and setting a bad example for managing water in a drought.

"I am amazed by this," said John Coleman, an EBMUD director from Walnut Creek, Calif. "The homeowners association is completely out of touch."

Coleman said the board's action appears to clash with the spirit of a new state law barring homeowners associations from fining homeowners for letting their lawns turn brown during droughts, and another in the works that prohibits fines for removing grass.

The language of a new law authored by Assemblywoman Nora Campos, D-San Jose, and signed by Gov. Jerry Brown on July 22 "protects homeowners from being penalized for doing the right thing by conserving during the drought." That bill took effect immediately.

A second bill headed to the governor's desk prohibits homeowners associations from fining residents who replace lawns with drought resistant landscaping. The bill will take effect Jan. 1 if the governor signs it.

"It is time for people to wake up and realize we need water in California to put food on the table rather than to grow lush lawns," said bill author Lorena Gonzalez, a Democratic assemblywoman from San Diego.

Gonzalez said of Paxson: "She is a hero."

Meanwhile, Coleman has asked EBMUD's managers and lawyers to determine if the water district has authority to get the homeowners group to back down.

Paxson submitted her landscaping plans this summer to both the water district and her homeowners association. EBMUD said her plans met guidelines to qualify her for a district rebate to convert lawns to low-water use landscaping — a program offered by many Bay Area water districts. Her homeowners board and a board architectural committee endorsed most of her plan but told her to keep 25 percent in grass.

While waiting to hear the final decision, Paxson went ahead with the lawn removal, installing a mint-like ground cover in the disputed area.

She said she thought she would win her appeal because a few other homes in her development lack lawns, or have brown or dead-looking grass.

Danville real estate salesman Bernard Gibbons supported Paxson's appeal in a letter.

"A front lawn does not have the appeal it once did," Gibbons

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WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

**Friday, August 29**  
7:40 am United Way Week (Lauren Hanson)  
8:20 am Master Gardeners (Allen Sinclair)  
8:45 am Community Quiz Bowl (Sheri Duke)  
Scott Kooistra