You can have a beautiful yard while reducing pollution and saving time, energy and money. This is the message that Wake County WaterWise, sponsored by N.C. Cooperative Extension, delivers. The program is a response to homeowners in North Carolina’s Triangle region who said they wanted timely, science-based gardening information.

Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers reach more than 20,000 residents with this information each year, and thousands of lawn-care providers have received nutrient management training.

WaterWise Landscapes addresses serious problems of pollution and disappearing habitats by enlisting homeowners’ help.

The program provides educational and outreach activities in home and landscape management.

150 Master Gardener Volunteers have received WaterWise training.

The Neuse Education Team, Wake County Parks, Wake County Master Gardeners and Cooperative Extension installed a WaterWise demonstration garden at Lake Crabtree Park in 2001. The garden is viewed by more than 200,000 people each year.

WaterWise encourages homeowners to water efficiently, mulch, recycle, select the least toxic pest control measures, put the right plant in the right spot, fertilize only when necessary, provide food, water and shelter for wildlife, protect rivers, streams and ponds and minimize stormwater runoff.