

master gardener connection

A JOINT MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE MASTER GARDENERS OF KING COUNTY AND THE MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

January 2025

WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program Update



WSU EXTENSION
King County

By Sarah Moore, WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program Coordinator

Happy New Year to all! My goal for 2025 is to highlight the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program as a welcoming program for all. Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) are out in the community. They are friends, neighbors, and home gardeners. They are active. They learn and teach every day of their lives, even when they are not volunteering. When I speak with EMGs, I hear their enthusiasm and curiosity. This year, I would like to find ways for more people in the community get to know and benefit from the amazing work we are doing.

[Read The Full Update](#)

Tip Sheets Translated into Six Languages Thanks to City of Shoreline Grant



By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

We are excited to share that a grant from the City of Shoreline has enabled the Master Gardener Foundation of King County to translate three Puget Sound Gardening Tip Sheets into six languages: Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Amharic, Vietnamese, Korean, and Ukrainian.

The languages chosen were based on 2023 King County concentrations of languages spoken other than English with a particular focus on the Shoreline area, the grant sponsor.

[Read More About the Translated Tip Sheets](#)



Growing Groceries Corner: Classes Begin Again Soon!

By Extension Master Gardener
Sharon O'Grady

The WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program will launch its 2025 Growing Groceries program on January 22.

This year, we are offering a Cool Season and a Warm Season series, each consisting of six classes. These classes are ideal for the beginner to intermediate gardener and are open to all. Registration for the Cool Season Series is open now, and you can register for the series of six classes for just \$40!

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

Quick Links

[MGFKC](#)

[King County MG](#)

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

Record Impacts

[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Volunteer hours must be entered monthly!

Staying Smart

[PNW Garden Savvy](#)

[Education Events for the Public and Master Gardeners](#)

[Growing Groceries](#)

Introducing BDG Workshops' New Name: PNW Garden Savvy!

By Extension Master Gardener Janile Martin

BDG Workshops, our series of Saturday morning gardening classes, has changed its name! Our new name is PNW Garden Savvy.

We'll be offering the same great classes presented by Extension Master Gardeners and other local experts. The new name better reflects how we bring you great gardening information, based on scientifically sound gardening information and best practices. Join us for our 2025 PNW Garden Savvy classes!



[Read More About the Classes](#)

Northwest Flower & Garden Festival to Feature Master Gardener Booth, Abundant Continuing Education Credits

By Extension Master Gardener Gary Scheider



Need some good reasons to visit February's Northwest Flower and Garden Festival? We've got plenty! The festival will feature over 100 free seminars, nearly 50 of which have already been approved for Master Gardener continuing education credit.

We've also made special arrangements with the show for you to grab a discounted ticket. Plus, \$2 from every ticket sale will go to support the

Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State.

[Learn More & Get Your Ticket](#)

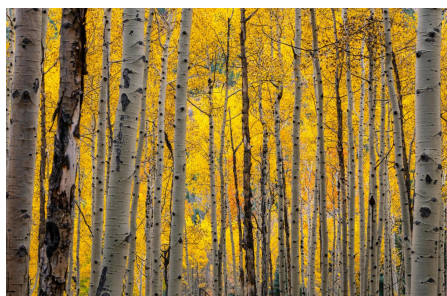
Building Community Through Gardens and Gardening: Little Free Cut Flowers Garden

By Extension Master Gardener Intern Linda Firey-Oldroyd

Strolling around Columbia City, you might come across a beautiful, raised garden on a parking strip on 45th Avenue that features a sign saying, "Free Flowers - You Cut." This is the community garden that WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Intern Audrey Crews built to share beauty and joy with others. Audrey's story is marked by serendipity, perseverance and generosity.



[Read More About the Garden](#)



The Quaking Aspen

By Extension Master Gardener
Bruce Caredio



Plants To Feed The Birds

By Extension Master Gardener
Bruce Bennett

Considered a keystone species, the quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is a common native tree to Washington. It grows along streambanks and in forests across the state from low to high elevation, including subalpine areas.

[Read the Article](#)

Look at providing your wildlife with a smorgasbord of meals and increased landscape interest by adding some seed-producing perennials to your landscape. Feed your birds this winter and they will feed your sense of winter whimsy and eco-accomplishment.

[Read the Article](#)

Renton McLendon Clinic a Shining Example of Strong Community Relationships Leading to Positive Impact



By Extension Master Gardener Marie Kurka-Brown

One of the WSU Master Gardener [Program Priorities](#) is to better educate the public on wildfire preparedness and work together in developing neighborhood plans for fire safety within our community, and the Renton

McLendon Clinic Team has worked hand in hand with staff toward that priority.

This summer, our clinic team noticed that a few local nurseries had added the term “fire resistant” on some of the plant tags at McLendon Hardware and decided to highlight that for clients at our clinic. We later learned that the store had nearly sold out of a fire-resistant plant one weekend in August—a plant the clinic team had showcased during recent clinics. We were pleased to learn of our positive influence on McLendon’s customers and the increased sale of fire-resistant plants.

[Read More About the Clinic](#)

Save the Date: 2025 Foundation Annual Meeting

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

The Master Gardener Foundation of King County will hold an Annual Meeting on **Thursday, January 30 via Zoom at 7 p.m.** Foundation members, please plan to join us for a 2024 year-end review and a look forward to 2025. The meeting will last for approximately 45 minutes. A Zoom link will be sent to all Foundation Members in advance in mid-January. We look forward to sharing with you our accomplishments and future goals.



[Ways to donate to MGFKC](#)



[MG Program Priorities](#)

Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: Mystery-Themed Books

This month's book selections are three thrilling reads perfect for enjoying with a mug of tea under a cozy blanket!

Brian Thompson, Curator of Horticultural Literature at the University of Washington's Elisabeth C. Miller Library,

reviews three mystery-themed books that present the various ways plants have been involved in crimes in both real life and in fiction—perfect for phytophiles looking for a good literary winter escape.



[Read the Review](#)

Of Interest to You

Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening.

[Garden Tip Sheets](#)

Find KCMG clinic and garden locations.

[MGFKC Map](#)

Was this newsletter forwarded to you? Sign up to receive your own monthly copy.

[Email Sign Up](#)

Helpful Links

Learn more about the Program and how to become an EMG, plus find many other resources. For EMG-only content, log into the "KCMGs Only" area.

[Extension Website](#)

Discover how contributions help the Foundation operate gardens, clinics, and low-cost classes. For EMG-only content, log into the "Members" area.

[Foundation Website](#)

Continuing Education Opportunities

What Counts as CE?

Continuing Education classes improve a volunteer's knowledge and skill base for performing work as a horticultural advisor and serving as a resource on issues of sustainable gardening for home gardeners.

Staying Smart!

Check out additional educational offerings on the [MGFKC Education page](#). Find more approved Continuing Education offerings on the [Master Gardeners Only](#) page of the Program website.

Growing Groceries Workshops

Growing Groceries classes take place on select Wednesdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and to register.

Vegetable Gardening in the PNW

Presented by EMG Jim Olson
Wednesday, January 22 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

PNW Garden Savvy (formerly BDG Workshops)

PNW Garden Savvy classes take place on select Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. Visit the [PNW Garden Savvy](#) page for more information and to register.

Tips for New and Experienced Gardeners

Presented by EMG Bruce Bennett
Saturday, January 11 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

Growing Roses in Today's World

Presented by EMG Michele Thomas
Saturday, January 25 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

Washington Native Plant Society

Bringing the Flowers Back: the Story of South Sound Prairie Restoration

Presented by Adam Martin, EcoStudies Institute and Gina Smith, Colorado State University/Joint Base Lewis-McChord
Monday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m. | Virtual and In-Person
[Learn more and register here](#)

Wenatchee Valley: Good Plants for Good Bugs

Presented by Angie Orpet, Xerces Society
Thursday, January 16 at 7 p.m. | Virtual and In-Person
[Learn more and register here](#)

WSU Master Gardener Online Workshops

These free weekly online programs presented by WSU Master Gardeners start up again this month! No need to register, just pop in.

Zoom Link:

<https://wsu.zoom.us/j/7756056320?pwd=RzVxbTI0dXpyUjJjSDdsWnJuTXdydz09>

Meeting ID: 775 605 6320

Password: 12345

Phone Call: +1 253 215 8782, 775 605 6320#

For help, call Gary Fredricks at garyf@wsu.edu or 360-577-3014 Ext. 3.

Caring for Fruit Trees

Presented by EMG Alice Slusher
Tuesday, January 28 at 12 p.m.

WSU Extension Skagit County Country Living and Modern Homesteading Expo

The WSU Extension Skagit County Country Living and Modern Homesteading Expo will take place at Stanwood High School at 7400 272nd St NW in Stanwood on Saturday, January 25 from 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Several of the courses at the Expo have been approved for continuing education credits for EMGs. To see a full list of approved Expo courses, log in to the [Master Gardeners Only](#) page of the program website. Learn more about the Expo by [clicking here](#).

Events & Coming Attractions

MGFKC Board Meeting on Thursday, January 9 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. More information: <https://kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/board/>.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88172076722>

Meeting ID: 881 7207 6722

One tap mobile - +12532158782,,88172076722#

Dial in - +1 253 215 8782 Meeting ID: 881 7207 6722

MGFKC Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 30 at 7 p.m. A Zoom link will be emailed to all Foundation members prior to the meeting.

Save the Date: Attend the **Northwest Flower & Garden Festival** on February 19 - 23 at the Seattle Convention Center, 705 Pike Street, Seattle, Wash. Find more information at gardenshow.com and in the article in this newsletter by EMG Gary Scheider.

Contributing to "Master Gardener Connection"

Do you have content you'd like to submit for this newsletter? For more information about the process, or to submit items for consideration, contact "Master Gardener Connection" Editor Kayah Swanson at kayah.swanson@mgfkc.org. The deadline to submit is the 15th of each month.

Master Gardeners: Don't unsubscribe from all mailings!

If you wish to unsubscribe, remember that **all active Master Gardeners in King County are expected to subscribe to the current year's "KC Master Gardeners" Email List** to continue receiving information about Program activities, updates, and recertification notices, so don't unsubscribe from that! Other email lists are optional.

Land Use Acknowledgement for the King County Master Gardener Program

We acknowledge that we are gathered on the sacred lands of the Coast Salish Peoples who have lived along the shores of the Central Salish Sea since time immemorial. We honor all First Peoples indigenous to the place we now call King County – their ancestors and descendants who have cared for these sacred lands and waters for thousands of years. We acknowledge the sovereignty of Coast Salish Peoples and honor their history, language, knowledge, cultural traditions, and longstanding stewardship of the lands on which we stand and cultivate today. We give thanks to the Duwamish, Muckleshoot, Snoqualmie, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, and Tulalip Tribes for sharing their ancestral lands and watersheds with us, and we embrace our responsibility to help protect and restore them for future generations.



The "Master Gardener Connection" is a joint publication from the King County Master Gardener Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program in King County to provide research-based education about urban horticulture to the residents of King County. WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

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