

master gardener connection

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

March 2025

Building Community Through Gardens and Gardening: Neely-Soames Annual Seed Swap



By Extension Master Gardener Lynda Firey-Oldroyd

The costs associated with planning and maintaining a garden are a barrier to entry for many would-be gardeners. To try and help lower the cost of entry, Extension Master Gardener Rosemary Love started a seed swap at the Neely-Soames Homestead Demonstration Garden to provide free seeds

to the community. This vital annual event that helps make gardening accessible to all is now in its third year and is steadily growing in popularity!

[Read More About the Seed Swap](#)

Extension Master Gardeners Kick Off New Activities at Kenmore Rhododendron Park

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

WSU King County Extension Master Gardeners are embarking on a new project to start the 2025 gardening season. Our Extension Master Gardeners are now providing official Master



Gardener Activities at Kenmore Rhododendron Park! This group of volunteers will be offering continuing education and community workshops through an agreement with the City of Kenmore. The partnership kicked off with a well-attended bypass pruner cleaning and sharpening workshop on February 7.

[Read More About the Workshop](#)



Growing Groceries Corner: Early Season Planting

By Extension Master Gardener
Carol Johnson

The air is crisp, the soil is cool, and there is a quite thrill in coaxing tiny seedlings to life before anyone else does!

Whether you are a seasoned gardener or just dipping your toes into the soil for the first time, early season planting offers a chance to reconnect with the outside world after a winter of cozing up indoors. No need to wait for warmer days when you can savor the joy of growth right now.

[Learn More About Early Planting](#)

Quick Links

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Upcoming Events

[PNW Garden Savvy](#)

[Growing Groceries](#)

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



March Gardening Tasks to Begin a New Season

By Extension Master Gardener Bruce Bennett

Weather-wise, March marks the beginning of spring in our yards. The weather can still be just a tad bit fickle. Until the days become consistently milder, be patient, continue to read your seed and plant catalogs, and use this time to organize your thoughts and sketches about what you want to accomplish in your landscape and vegetable garden this spring. While I do not typically write monthly to-do

lists, March is the exception. There is so much that can be done depending on your amount of free time and energy!

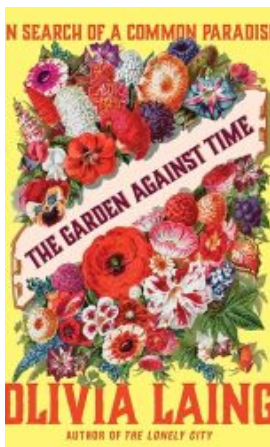
[See the To-Do List](#)



A Note from Bruce

After close to twenty years of penning plant prose, I am hanging up my goose quill pen. This means there are media outlets in King County that will be without consistent research-based gardening information. If you are interested in spreading the word about good gardening practices, our events, and more while earning volunteer hours, this could be the opportunity you've been waiting for!

[Learn More About Penning Plant Prose](#)



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: "The Garden Against Time"

This month's book selection is a delight for multiple reasons. It includes a narrative about reviving a garden, accounts of other gardens and gardeners, and a thread of picking apart the exclusion that can underly gardening.

The subtitle, "In Search of a Common Paradise," refers to the book's underlying theme of unease—do only rich people get to have gardens? Why can't everyone have access to the soul-satisfying pleasure of gardening? Laing argues for a combination of public and private ownership: "We need gardens and the life they support established everywhere, if we are to survive."

[Read the Review](#)

Helpful Links

Browse our gardening tip sheets.

[Garden Tip Sheets](#)

Some tip sheets are available in six languages.

[Translated Tip Sheets](#)

Find our clinic and garden locations

[Program Map](#)

Continuing Education Opportunities

Find more gardening classes!

Visit our [Education](#) page to find more horticulture and home gardening classes available to the public from our Growing Groceries and PNW Garden Savvy series.

Need Master Gardener CE?

Extension Master Gardeners can visit our [Master Gardeners Only](#) page for a full list of approved content eligible for credit toward annual Continuing Education requirements.

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.

All About Brassicas

Presented by EMG Sue Kraemer and Extension Program Manager, SNAP-Ed, Hillary Miller

Wednesday, March 5 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

What's a Garden Without Tomatoes?

Presented by EMG Sharon Peach and 21 Acres Educator Ansley Roberts

Wednesday, March 19 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.

Best but Unusual Companion Plants for Rhododendrons

Presented by Atsuko Gibson, Nursery Manager, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Saturday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

Mastering Mason Bees: Essential Insights for Successful Spring Pollination

Presented by Dave Hunter, Founder and Owner of Crown Bees

Saturday, March 22 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

Bellevue Botanical Garden

Containers that Create Spaces

Presented by David Mattern, Horticulturist

Wednesday, March 12 at 10 a.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Lawn Alternatives

Presented by Sue Goetz

Thursday, March 20 at 10 a.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

King Conservation District

Streamside Restoration

Presented by Dave Hunter, Founder and Owner of Crown Bees

Tuesday, March 11 at 6 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Where the Water Begins

Presenter to be announced

Tuesday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

WSU Master Gardener Online Workshops

These are free weekly online programs presented by WSU Master Gardeners. No need to register, just pop in.

Zoom Link:

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

Meeting ID: 775 605 6320

Password: 12345

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

Spring Planting for Fall Flowers in the PNW

Presented by EMG Jennifer Swanson

Tuesday, March 4 at 12 p.m. | Virtual

Controlling Slugs

Presented by Chip Bubl from Oregon State University Extension

Tuesday, March 11 at 12 p.m. | Virtual

Growing Vegetables, Where to Start!

Presented by EMG Sara Clark

Tuesday, March 25 at 12 p.m. | Virtual

Events & Coming Attractions

MGFKC Board Meeting on Thursday, March 13 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom.

More information: 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

Save the Date: The Bellevue Demonstration Garden Annual Spring Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.! The sale will feature warm-season vegetable and ornamental starts, a garden flea market, a large supply of burlap sacks, an Extension Master Gardener Plant Clinic, and more. Learn more and view the event flyer by [clicking here](#).

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

Master Gardeners: Don't unsubscribe from all mailings!

If you wish to unsubscribe, remember that **all active Master Gardeners in King County** are

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.

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.

Was this newsletter forwarded to you?
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[Email Sign Up](#)

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.



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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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