



# master gardener connection

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

May 2025

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- Our newest demo garden, recently profiled in the Seattle Times!
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- Helpful tips for growing artichokes, sunchokes, and cardoons
- A plea for help in tracking the marmorated stink bug
- New classes at Kenmore Rhododendron Park
- Strengthening our bonds at plant sales
- Our book of the Month: Braiding Sweetgrass
- Plus continuing education, upcoming sales and events, and more!

## Don't Forget to Vote for Foundation Directors!



[www.mgfk.org](http://www.mgfk.org)

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

**Please cast your votes for the Master Gardener Foundation of King County Board of Directors before May 15!** It is important for you to read the ballot sent from Survey Monkey and carefully consider the candidates who

are seeking your vote. Please check your email's spam filter if you have not received a ballot. If you're having difficulty finding your ballot, please reach out to [president@mgfk.org](mailto:president@mgfk.org).

Your votes are critical for us to continue growing the strength and capability of our Foundation Board so that we may further our mission of raising funds to support the activities of the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program. We appreciate you taking a few minutes of time to vote in this important election.

## Demo Garden Snapshot: Protecting Pollinators in Habitats at Home

By Extension Master Gardener Colleen Donahue



Pollinators are in peril, and beneficial insects are in decline. Fortunately, once in a great while, a special opportunity comes along that has the power to make a huge impact. I am excited to share that one of those opportunities has come along in the form of a brand new demonstration garden called Habitats at Home.

[Read More About Habitats at Home](#)

**Plus, this new demonstration garden was profiled in the Seattle Times**

[Click here](#) to read the piece.



## Building Community Through Gardens and Gardening: Save the Butterflies

By Extension Master Gardener Lynda Firey-Oldroyd

One of the most important facets of building community through gardening involves building community with the different species that we coexist with. A recent study concluded that in the 20 years between 2000 and 2020, total butterfly abundance in the US declined 22%. The study concludes that we have an urgent need to protect butterflies from further losses.

[Read More About Supporting Butterflies](#)

## School Pilot Program Shares Gardening Benefits with Students

By Extension Master Gardeners Tujuana Simon and Susan Busch

Last September, WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners who are residents of the Northshore and Issaquah School Districts were notified of an exciting opportunity to help develop a school garden pilot project where Extension Master Gardeners would mentor teachers at public schools with a school garden. Just a few months later, this program is underway and off to an incredibly exciting start.



[Read More About the Pilot](#)



## Growing Groceries Corner: Artichokes, Sunchokes, and Cardoons

By Extension Master Gardener  
Carol Johnson

Looking to add interest to your garden and plate? Cardoons, sunchokes, and artichokes are all quirky vegetables that are as fun to grow as they are to eat! With bold flavors and striking appearances, these under-the-radar gems promise to expand your garden harvest into an adventure of culinary delight as well as add interest in your garden with their unique foliage.

[Learn More About Growing These Gems](#)

### 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](#)



## Help Washington State Track the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

By Extension Master Gardener Lin Provost

Did you know that the Washington Invasive Species Council has listed the brown marmorated stink bug as a species that they want to track? You can help our state keep track of this invasive species and the damage it causes to our environment. The entire reporting process takes place online and is easy to do.



[Read More About Reporting This Bug](#)

## Blossoming Program in Kenmore Teaches About Orchids



By Extension Master Gardener Sharon O'Grady

WSU King County Extension Master Gardeners are well underway in hosting our new official Master Gardener Activities at Kenmore Rhododendron Park. In April, Extension Master Gardener Jim Olson gave a presentation on orchids to a group of twelve Extension Master Gardeners and Kenmore Senior Center members in Kenmore's Senior Center Annex.

[Read More About These Activities](#)

# Master Gardener Plant Sales: A Model for Relationship Building

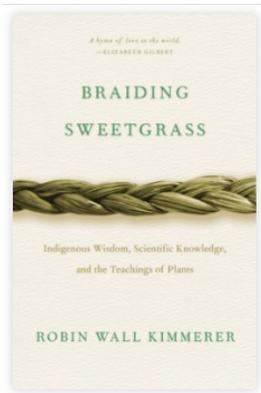
By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

Everything we do as WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners supports our mission to reach our communities and benefit home gardeners. This is our mission, and we love fulfilling it together.

But another way we engage is internally with each other, to build relationships and community within the Program itself. This year, three Extension Master Gardener plant sales will bring three dedicated groups together to make it all happen, further building our bonds.



[Read More About the 2025 Plant Sales](#)



## Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: "Braiding Sweetgrass"

In this book, Robin Wall Kimmerer unfolds a mesmerizing journey through the convergence of nature, Indigenous wisdom, and personal reflection.

Kimmerer's poetic prose beautifully weaves a tapestry of stories, imparting ecological wisdom that transcends its pages and provides a transformative experience for readers.

[Read the Review](#)

**On a Related Note:** There is also an adaptation of this book for young adults! You can view that version of the book by [clicking here](#).

## 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.

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## 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.

### Grow Cukes, Squash and Melons – Big and Small

Presented by Extension Master Gardeners Sue Kraemer and Jim Olson  
Wednesday, May 14 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

### The Nutritional Powerhouse: Corn and Beans (legumes)

Presented by Extension Master Gardener Maria Gerace  
Wednesday, May 28 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

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## 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.

### Protecting our Unsung Heroes, our Pollinators

Presented by Extension Master Gardener Sue Melgaard  
Saturday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

### Understanding King County Soils for Better Gardening

Presented by Professor Emeritus, University of Nebraska Agronomy-Horticulture Dr. Gary Hergert  
Saturday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

### Rain Gardens

Presented by Extension Master Gardener Gary Fredericks  
Saturday, May 31 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

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## Bellevue Botanical Garden

### Ecological Garden Design

Presented by award-winning ecological designer Jessi Bloom  
Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m. | In-Person

Learn how to turn your space into a thriving, low-maintenance ecosystem! In this interactive two-hour seminar, you'll learn the fundamentals of ecological garden design, including soil health, native plants, water-wise landscaping, and wildlife-friendly features. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## **Don't Be Fooled by a Pretty Face: New Ways to Assess and Cultivate Clematis**

Presented by curator of the Rodgerson Clematis Garden Linda Beutler

Wednesday, May 14 at 6 p.m. | In-Person or Virtual

What makes a clematis garden-worthy beyond having beautiful flowers? Linda will answer all your questions. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## **Savoring What You Sow: Herb Gardening Basics**

Presented by Extension Master Gardener Emilie Castle

Saturday, May 17 at 10 a.m. | In-Person or Virtual

Fresh herbs can be hard to find in stores and are often extremely expensive.

Growing your own can give your cooking extra zip and depth of flavor. Learn about growing a wide variety of herbs. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## **Events & Coming Attractions**

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

More information: [kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/board](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

The **Neely-Soames Homestead Demonstration Garden Plant Sale** will be held on Saturday, May 3 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Neely-Soames Homestead, 5311 S 237th Place in Kent. The sale will feature annual and perennial ornamentals, natives, and edibles, and an Extension Master Gardener Plant Clinic.

The Eastside Fuchsia Society's **Fuchsia and Daylily Plant Sale** will take place on Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bellevue Botanical Garden's Aaron Educational Center at 12001 Main Street in Bellevue. The sale will feature a large selection of fuchsias. Come early for best selection and bring sturdy boxes to take your plants home!

The **Bellevue Demonstration Garden's Spring Plant Sale** will take place on Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Bellevue Demonstration Garden, 15500 SE 16th Street in Bellevue.

The **Tilth Alliance Annual Plant Sale** will take place at Meridian Playground, 4800 Meridian Avenue N in Seattle on Saturday, May 10 and Sunday, May 11 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Eastside Fuchsia Society's **Daylily, Iris, Fuchsia and More Plant Sale** will take place Saturday, May 31 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Highline Seatac Botanical Garden, 13735 24th Ave South in SeaTac.

Save the Date: **Children's Day at the Garden** will take place at Neely-Soames Homestead Demonstration Garden on Saturday, June 28 from 11 a.m - 2 p.m at 5311 S 237th Place in Kent. Children of all ages will be encouraged to explore a magical fairy garden, hunt for pollinators, and uncover the amazing world of worms.

### 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](mailto: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.

**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.



*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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Master Gardener Foundation of King County | c/o WSU Extension King County 560 Naches Avenue SW, Suite 130 | Renton, WA 98057-2219 US

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