



master gardener connection

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

August 2025

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Cool Plants and Hot Topics Coming Your Way



By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board
President

Join us on September 14 for Cool Plants, Hot Topics—a long-standing event hosted by the Master Gardener Foundation of King County at Bellevue Botanical Garden! The event will feature three talks on the role of pollinators and the value of native plants, and each talk is approved for Extension Master Gardener continuing education credit. We'll be joined by many local plant vendors offering seasonally-appropriate additions to your garden. Our vendors are small businesses with no store front or online store, so we know you'll find them special, too.

We'll also feature a formal grand opening of the new Habitats at Home Demonstration Garden, hosted by a panel of Extension Master Gardeners who were responsible for the garden's development.

This special event is open to the public and Extension Master Gardeners. It is an important annual fundraiser for the Foundation. Keep an eye out for registration information in the next issue of this newsletter!

Details:

- Date: Sunday, September 14
- Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Location: Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St, Bellevue

Statewide Updates



Reminder: Help Washington #BeatTheBeetle!

The Washington State Department of Agriculture is actively working to eradicate the Japanese beetle (*Popilla japonica*) from Washington.

Beetles are showing up in South King County, so don't forget to keep an eye out in your garden and report any suspected sightings! The WSDA has also created [an interactive map](#) where you can track beetle catches across the state.

[Report a Sighting](#)



New Plants, Including Ivy, Added to WSDA Noxious List

In July, [the Washington State Department of Agriculture added 19 species](#), including English ivy, to its noxious weed, seed, and plant quarantine list.

The WSDA said public support for including English ivy was especially strong. Ivy can shade out tree foliage, cause bark damage and add weight to trees, increasing the risk of wind damage. It can also crowd out native plants.

[Learn More](#)



**Green School:
Two Great Ways
to Dig Deeper
into Gardening**

Quick Links

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

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

If you love gardening, want to develop your skills, and want to give back as a volunteer by sharing your skills and knowledge with others, now is the time to apply for 2026 Extension Master Gardener training!

This year, we have two exciting options for people interested in enrolling. **The first application deadline is August 18, so don't delay!**

[Learn More and Apply](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Upcoming Events

[PNW Garden Savvy](#)

[Growing Groceries](#)

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



There's Still Time to Take PNW Garden Savvy Classes!

By Extension Master Gardener Janile Martin

Happy summer from the PNW Garden Savvy team! Are you missing us while classes are on pause for the summer season? Did you know you can still subscribe to our 2025 Series 1 and 2 and receive all the recordings? These classes are continuing education-approved for Extension Master Gardeners. Now is a great time to catch up on all your favorite topics.



Enjoy the recordings, and we'll see you on Saturday, September 6 when PNW Garden Savvy returns for Series 3!

[Learn More and Subscribe](#)



Q&A: Get to Know your WSU King County Extension Master Gardeners

By Extension Master Gardener Emeritus Nancy Gardner

You've seen your peers around Puget Sound at farmers markets, holding work parties to clean up invasive weeds, at pop-up plant clinics, and at other flora-focused fêtes. But who are some of the many WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers in King County, and why do they do what they do?

I caught up with four Extension Master Gardener colleagues and asked them to share their wisdom and reasons for being in the program.

[Read the Q&A](#)

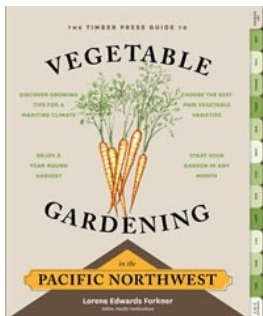
Learn All About Hops at the Annual Kent Hops Festival

By Extension Master Gardener Chris Ensor

On September 6, hop enthusiasts will gather once more to celebrate all things hops! Extension Master Gardeners will join several partner organizations to host the Kent Hops Festival featuring opportunities to pick hops, see how beer is brewed, participate in an adults-only beer tasting, and more. To learn more about the event, or how you can volunteer as an Extension Master Gardener, visit the link below.



[Learn More About the Event](#)



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: The Timber Press Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest

Now is the perfect time to be planning your fall and winter garden, and this book is a great resource for you as you get going!

Manager and Curator of Horticultural Literature Brian Thompson says this book is the opposite of daunting, instead encouraging a steady but gentle approach that works well for experienced and novice gardeners alike.

[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 have wrapped up for the season. Visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page to access recordings and to register for future classes.

PNW Garden Savvy

PNW Garden Savvy classes have paused for the summer and will resume in September. Visit the [PNW Garden Savvy](#) page to access recordings and to register for future classes.

Miscellaneous

A selection of (CE credit-approved!) opportunities coming up in August.

Fall Gardening (Free!)

Presented by EMG Heidi Hubler, Cowlitz County Master Gardeners

Tuesday, August 5 at 12 p.m. | Virtual

No need to register, just pop in at this Zoom link: tinyurl.com/WSUZoomLink

[Learn more here.](#)

Water Savers and Garden Makers (Free!)

Presented by Sue Goetz, Cascade Water Alliance

Friday, August 8 at 11 a.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Growing without Peat: Environmental Innovation in Horticulture with the Royal Horticultural Society

Presented by Nikki Barker, Northwest Horticultural Society

Saturday, August 9 at 10 a.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Stress Re-Leaf: Saving Trees from Climate Burnout (Free!)

Presented by Extension Forester Dan Stark, OSU Master Gardener Program

Tuesday, August 12 at 12 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Saving Seeds (Free!)

Presented by EMG Alice Slusher, Cowlitz County Master Gardeners

Tuesday, August 12 at 12 p.m. | Virtual

No need to register, just pop in at this Zoom link: tinyurl.com/WSUZoomLink

[Learn more here.](#)

Hardy Begonias: Secrets to Success

Presented by Ann Amato, Northwest Horticultural Society

Wednesday, August 20 at 6:30 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Saving Water, Protecting Water and Preparing for Stormwater Events (Free!)

Presenter TBD, Cascade Water Alliance

Thursday, August 21 at 10 a.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Events & Coming Attractions

MGFKC Board Meeting on Thursday, August 14 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

The **2025 International Master Gardener Conference** will take place August 25 - 28 on Zoom. Learn more and register: imgc2025.com

Save the Date:

The **2025 Kent Hops Festival** will take place on Saturday, September 6 from 12 - 4 p.m. at the Kent Historical Museum at 855 E. Smith St. in Kent.

The **Virtual 2025 WSU Extension Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference** will take place September 26 - 27. Register at mglearns.mastergardenerfoundation.org/registration

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.

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

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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