

master gardener connection

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

October 2025

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A Grand Opening for Habitats at Home Demonstration Garden



By Extension Master Gardener Gary Scheider

What better way could we have envisioned a formal opening of a new demonstration garden than to include it at one of the Master Gardener Foundation of King County's major annual events: Cool Plants, Hot Topics! On Sunday, September 14, we celebrated the opening of Habitats at

Home with a ribbon cutting, unveiling of interpretive panels, and visits from special guests.

This photograph shows how proud the members of the development team of Habitats at Home feel about their work. We hope you'll plan to come visit the important new demonstration garden situated in one of the area's finest botanical gardens.

Second Annual Kent Hops Festival Attracts Over 50 Attendees for Hop Picking, Brew Sampling, and More

By Extension Master Gardener Chris Ensor

The second annual Kent Hops Festival on September 6 was a great success! King County Extension Master Gardeners partnered with the Greater Kent Historical Society, Molly's Hops, Impaling Ales Homebrew Club, Allgrain Brew Supply, and Dubtown Brewing Company to put on the event.

The Extension Master Gardener pop-up clinic offered a range of information and activities, including information on growing hops and other gardening advice, children's activities, and free sparkling nonalcoholic hop water. The event also featured museum exhibitions, hop growing and brewing presentations, home brew tastings, and much more.



[Read More About the Festival](#)

Important Financial Updates

New Sales Tax Implications for Classes, Workshops, and Lectures

We want to let you know about an important change that will affect the cost of our classes.

Beginning October 1, 2025, a **new Washington State law (ESSB 5814) requires that all live presentations—including classes, lectures, and workshops—be subject to retail sales tax.** This applies to both in-person and virtual programs.

Starting October 1, sales tax will be added to the registration fees for all MGFKC classes, workshops, and lectures.

This law applies to nonprofits across the state. We appreciate your understanding as we adjust.

Please Submit Year-End Foundation Reimbursement Requests

Please submit your requests for reimbursement of 2025 expenses as soon as possible. The Foundation reimbursement form can be found at mgfkc.org under “Foundation Member Resources” in the password-protected member area.

Reimbursement requests can be emailed to treasurer@mgfkc.org or mailed to Master Gardener Foundation of King County, 560 Naches Ave, Suite 130, Renton, WA 98057.

All reimbursement requests must be submitted in the year incurred.

If you have any questions, contact treasurer@mgfkc.org.

Growing Groceries Returning in 2026 with New Approach



By Extension Master Gardener
Sharon O'Grady

Growing Groceries will be returning in 2026 as Growing Groceries: The Basics and Beyond! The "Basics" series will be offered as a digital box set of six previously-recorded sessions that can be watched at your convenience while waiting for the soil to warm.

Four new classes, developed for the more seasoned gardener, will be offered on Zoom as the "Beyond the Basics" series.

Look for registration to go live in late November, just in time for holiday gift giving!

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](#)



Extension Master Gardeners Raise Awareness of Climate Change Strategies with Help of Shoreline Grant



By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and
Foundation Board President

The Master Gardener Foundation of King County was able to provide several enthusiastically-attended classes in Shoreline this year thanks to a City of Shoreline Environmental Mini-Grant. Our presenters shared information on pollinators, trees, and yards while helping raise awareness about how we can all address climate change at home. Funds from the grant will also enable us to provide translations in six languages for another King County Gardening Tip Sheet!

[Read More About Our Work in Shoreline](#)

A Year of Big Impact Wraps Up for New Activities at Kenmore Rhododendron Park

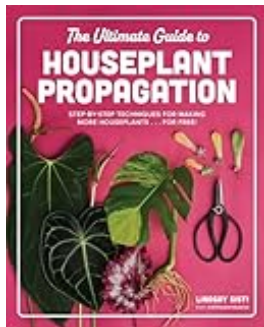
By Extension Master Gardener Sharon O'Grady

The new Master Gardener Activities at Kenmore Rhododendron Park program is nearing the end of its first full year in operation. Classes and “learn-by-doing” workshops were held monthly from February through September of 2025. We have donated more than 70 volunteer hours on location at the park, not including planning time!



Plus, our program appeared on the City of Kenmore's podcast, Let's Talk Kenmore, to promote the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program, Green School, and our work in Kenmore Rhododendron Park.

[Learn More and Listen to the Podcast](#)



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: The Ultimate Guide to Houseplant Propagation

By Brian Thompson, Manager and
Curator of Horticultural Literature

I hate seeing “ultimate” in any book title. There are many good books on almost every gardening topic. How can one deserve this designation above all the rest?

I had the privilege this winter of sitting on the committee deciding the American Horticultural Society’s 2025 Book Awards. As the review copies of nominated books arrived, my bias caused me to immediately downgrade “The Ultimate Guide to Houseplant Propagation” by Lindsay Sisti.

Fortunately, the rigor of the committee required me to spend much more time with this new book – and I discovered it’s a treasure! I recommend it for anyone who has a pandemic induced houseplant collection, and even those with a long-standing indoor forest of green.

[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.

PNW Garden Savvy

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.

Creating a Cut Flower Garden

Presented by Extension Master Gardener Colleen Donahue
Saturday, October 4 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

How to Combine Perennials, Shrubs, and Small Trees for Garden Color Throughout the Year

Presented by Extension Master Gardener Cleo Raulerson
Saturday, October 18 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

Creating a Happy Home for Houseplants

Presented by Ann Amato, Production Manager at Secret Garden Growers and Propagation Assistant at Little Prince of Oregon
Saturday, October 25 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

Miscellaneous

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

The Resilient Yard (Free!)

Presented by EMG Mike Peronto
October 7 at 12 p.m. | Virtual
No need to register, just pop in at this Zoom link: tinyurl.com/WSUZoomLink

Lichen Walk

Presented by Dr. Katherine Glew, Bellevue Botanical Garden
October 14 at 10 a.m. | In-Person
[Learn more and register here.](#)

Putting Your Garden to Bed (Free!)

Presented by EMG David May
October 14 at 12 p.m. | Virtual
No need to register, just pop in at this Zoom link: tinyurl.com/WSUZoomLink

Dishing Dirt

Presented by Bess Bronstein and Richie Steffen, Northwest Horticultural Society

October 15 at 6:30 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Next Steps for Nature (Free!)

Presented by Doug Tallamy, entomologist, ecologist, and author

October 16 at 4 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

In Search of Useful Spaces

Presented by Sue Goetz, Bellevue Botanical Garden

October 16 at 7 p.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Identifying Willows in the Pacific Northwest

Presented by Dr. Sarah Cooke, Washington Native Plant Society October

18 at 10 a.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

No Dig Lawn (Free!)

Presented by EMG Alice Slusher

October 21 at 12 p.m. | Virtual

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

Events & Coming Attractions

There will be no MGFKC Board Meeting in October, since the Board of Directors will be holding their annual retreat in lieu of a regular meeting. Monthly board meetings will resume in November.

The next **Staying Mission Driven** meeting with the WSU Extension Master Gardeners will take place on Thursday, October 30 at 9 a.m. on Zoom. Extension Master Gardeners can [register here](#) (and the event counts for continuing education credit!).

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

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

kayah.swanson@mgfkc.org.

The deadline to submit is the 15th of each month.

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

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