



master gardener connection

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

January 2026

In This Issue:

- Winter speaker series on exciting topics begins this month
- Important sales tax changes for classes and workshops
- Registration open for new 2-part Growing Groceries series
- PNW Garden Savvy is back for 2026
- Seeds of Intention: Planning a Garden in the Quiet of Winter
- Camellias: A PNW Keystone Plant
- Our book of the month, continuing education events, and more!

2026 Sustainable Gardener Series Continues Two Decades of Great Gardening Advice



The Sustainable Gardener Winter Speaker Series will begin again this month! The series is sponsored by WSU Extension Snohomish County Master Gardeners and is open to all. The series features eight knowledgeable gardeners, authors, and subject matter experts sharing their expertise on a variety of gardening subjects.

First up: a presentation on USDA zones and climate change with meteorologist Mike Everett on January 9!

[Learn More & Register](#)

Important Information About WA State Tax Changes for Classes, Workshops, & Lectures

By Nancy Marshall, Extension Master Gardener and Treasurer for the Master Gardener Foundation of King County

We want to make you aware of a recent important legislative change in Washington state tax law. The new law affects our in-person and virtual classes and workshops and has implications for you.

As of October 1, 2025, organizations including nonprofits are required to collect and remit retail sales tax on "live presentations." This includes the online and in-person educational events the Master Gardener Foundation of King County hosts in concert with the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program.



[Read More About the Change](#)

Growing Groceries Registration Open Now



By Extension Master Gardener
Sharon O'Grady

Attention all edible
gardening enthusiasts:
registration is now open!

The WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners present 2026 Growing Groceries: The Basics and Beyond series subscriptions. The classes are divided into two separate series that provide six basic presentations and four more advanced presentations. You can sign up for one or both series to learn about all things edible gardening!

[Learn More About the Classes](#)

Quick Links

[Become a Master Gardener](#)
[Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State](#)
[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Upcoming Events

[PNW Garden Savvy](#)
[Growing Groceries](#)
[Education Events for Home Gardeners](#)



PNW Garden Savvy Returns for 2026

By Extension Master Gardener Janile Martin

Welcome to PNW Garden Savvy 2026! We are happy to be back and to share Saturday mornings with you. For 2026 classes we have pertinent and fun topics with new and known speakers.



Classes kick off on Saturday, January 10 with our long-time favorite Christina Pfeiffer presenting “PNW Month-by-Month Tips for Cultivating a More Resilient Garden.”

[Learn More & Register](#)

Seeds of Intention: Planning a Garden in the Quiet of Winter

By Extension Master Gardener Intern Jill Hall

As the dark days of winter settle in, my garden has tucked itself into its seasonal slumber. A quick walk to the mailbox for the daily snail mail delivers one of the great joys of winter for gardeners everywhere: a seed catalog. I clutch it like a prized manuscript and prepare for a cozy evening with a blanket, a cup of tea, and a generous amount of daydreaming about what I might grow in the coming year.



There is always a dash of urgency while flipping through the catalog pages, knowing that the prized exotic heirloom seeds could sell out before I have the chance to secure them. However, this is no longer the frantic ordering spree of past years. Finishing my King County Extension Master Gardener internship this past year has given me a curious mixture of clarity and ambition. I am learning to pause before tossing every tempting seed packet into my cart (or the ground).

[Read More About Intentional Planning](#)

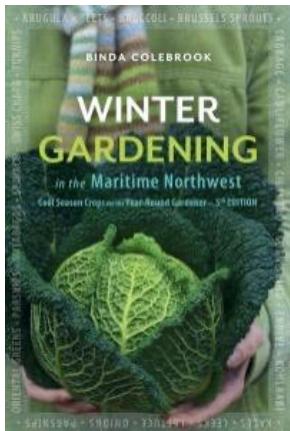
Camelias: A PNW Keystone Plant



By Extension Master Gardener Bruce Caregio

No garden in the Pacific Northwest is complete without at least one or two camellias. These hardy evergreen shrubs and trees are native to eastern and southern Asia. The camellia species includes over 200 types and more than 3,000 named varieties. The wide range of size, flower color, and form are astounding.

[Learn More About Camellias](#)



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: Winter Gardening in the Maritime Northwest

Binda Colebrook is on her fifth edition (the first from 1977) of the classic "Winter Gardening in the Maritime Northwest," and it's still a must for any serious food gardener.

The emphasis is on crops that will grow throughout the year, so no tomatoes or corn, but instead you'll discover many options that are really better suited for our mild climate. There is much emphasis on ways to reduce the impact of freezes, heavy rains, and cold winds, but Colebrook is great at encouraging experimentation even if your property doesn't have perfect conditions. An excellent reference section completes the book.

Note: Brian Thompson's [book review](#) was originally published in the *Arboretum Bulletin* in Winter 2013. It has been reprinted here with permission from the author.

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](#)

Gardening Education

Classes presented by Extension Master Gardeners and partners of the
Master Gardener Foundation of King County

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 [Volunteer Portal](#) page for a full list of approved content eligible for credit toward annual continuing education requirements.

PNW Garden Savvy: Month-by-Month Tips for Cultivating a More Resilient Garden

Presented by Christina Pfeiffer, horticulture educator and certified arborist

January 10 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Growing Groceries: The Art and Science of Seed Starting

Presented by EMG Brandon Bray

January 21 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register for the series here.](#)

PNW Garden Savvy: Principles of Gardening in the PNW (Intermediate Level)

Presented by EMG Jim Olson

January 24 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Sweet Pea School

Presented by Marryn Mathis, Northwest Horticultural Society

January 25 at 1:30 p.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Growing Microgreens

Presented by Marni Sorin, Tilth Alliance

January 29 at 6 p.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Plan Your Vegetable Garden

Presented by Alex Soleil, Tilth Alliance

January 31 at 10 a.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Secrets of Companion Planting

Presented by Alex Soleil, Tilth Alliance

January 31 at 1 p.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register 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 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.

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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.



Master Gardener Connection is a joint publication from the Master Gardener Foundation of King County, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program to provide research-based education about horticulture and home gardening 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 | 560 Naches Avenue SW, Suite 130 | Renton, WA 98057-2219 US

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