

master gardener connection

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

February 2026

In This Issue:

- Congratulations to new and returning Extension Master Gardeners
- Fall fundraising appeal results
- EMGs at the Northwest Flower & Garden Festival
- Everything you need to know about growing radicchio
- Pest alert: European chafer
- Our book of the month, upcoming events, and more!

Congratulations to new and returning EMGs on certification!



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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

When you meet an Extension Master Gardener, whether here in King County or anywhere in the country, you can be assured that they are equipped to help you answer your gardening questions and build your own gardening skills. Every Extension Master Gardener has completed an intensive year-long training. To continue in the program, they must remain current, volunteering a required number of hours and taking continuing education classes to qualify for an annually renewed certification. Extension Master Gardeners are always learning, sharing their knowledge, and building their gardening skills.

Our certification process is our way of committing to the community that our volunteers are ready to provide current, researched-based plant advice, and to help you find accurate answers to your gardening questions.

Congratulations to the **625 Extension Master Gardeners** who completed their annual certification and will be returning to volunteer with the program in 2026. Additional congratulations to our graduating class of 2025 who completed their rigorous year of training and volunteer service. I could not be more proud of the work that each of you does.

2025 Fall Appeal: Thank You For Your Generosity!

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President

Results are in from the Master Gardener Foundation of King County's 2025 Fall Appeal fundraising event, "Master Gardeners Building Together." We received generous donations from 102 fellow Extension Master Gardeners and Foundation members **totaling \$24,825** to support the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program!

Thank you to all our donors for your investment in the future of the Program. Your continued support ensures the sustainability of our community outreach through plant answer clinics, demonstration gardens, educational activities, and other events.



**Master Gardener
Foundation
of King County**

Master Gardeners at the Northwest Flower & Garden Festival



By Extension Master Gardener Gary Scheider

Be sure to visit the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program booth at this year's Northwest Flower and Garden Festival from February 18 - 22 at the Seattle Convention Center.

You'll find a very informative and engaging large booth staffed by WSU Extension Master Gardeners who can answer your gardening questions. We'll also be sharing more about special gardening topics and opportunities. You'll find us at booth #2166 in the North Hall.

Growing Groceries Corner: Growing Radicchio



By Extension Master Gardener
Andrea Borning

What is a crop you can easily grow in the fall and winter in the PNW, must be harvested in late fall and

Quick Links

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

[Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State](#)

[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Upcoming Events

[PNW Garden Savvy](#)

[Growing Groceries](#)

the dead of winter, is incredibly photogenic, and does not have serious pest pressure?

This is radicchio in the chicory family of vegetables, or more formally the family *Asteraceae* and genus *Cichorium* which also includes endive, escarole, and chicory.

[Learn More About Growing Radicchio](#)

[Education Events for Home Gardeners](#)



Pest Alert: European Chafer

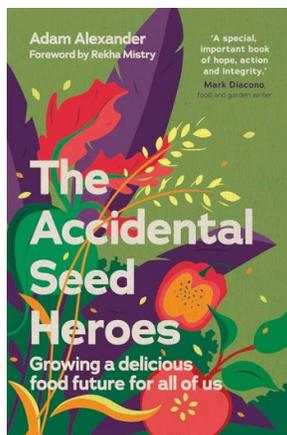
By Extension Master Gardener Carrie Hill

The European chafer beetle continues to spread in Puget Sound. The invasive pest is prevalent in South Seattle (SeaTac, Rainier Valley, West Seattle, Burien, and

Renton) and is spreading north to Mercer Island and Kirkland and south to Tacoma. If you live in King or Pierce Counties, it's coming to a lawn near you soon.

To learn more about the beetle (and for WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners, how to earn continuing education credit while learning about them), read the full pest alert below.

[Learn More About the Chafer](#)



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: The Accidental Seed Heroes

For millennia farmers and gardeners everywhere have saved seeds from their best plants each season to improve the next year's crops. In "The

Accidental Seed Heroes" Adam Alexander argues that in the quest for food crops that can survive climate change, "Indigenous farmers, independent local breeders, and obsessive and passionately committed amateurs and professionals who believe in freely sharing their work" are the best ones to keep us alive. They can maintain and develop traditional crops and

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](#)

breed new cultivars that use little or no chemical fertilizer and, he stresses, taste delicious.

[Read the Book Review](#)

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: Grow Your Own Flowers and Vegetables from Seed

Presented by EMG Colleen Donahue

February 7 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Grow Your Own Plant Starts

Presented by Marni Sorin, Tilth Alliance

February 7 at 10 a.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Lichen Walk

Presented by Dr. Katherine Glew, Bellevue Botanical Garden

February 10 at 10 a.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Gardening Practices for Soil Health

Presented by Lars Nelson, King Conservation District

February 10 at 6 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Garden Educator Workshop: Co-Designing School Gardens

Presented by Sharon Siehl and Nirvani Bissessar, Tilth Alliance

February 11 at 4:30 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Grow Fruits and Berries

Presented by Marni Sorin, Tilth Alliance

February 12 at 6 p.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

The Year-Round Gardener

Presented by Alex Soleil, Tilth Alliance

February 14 at 10 a.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

PNW Garden Savvy: Vegetables A-Z

Presented by EMG Joan Veach

February 21 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

The Year-Round Gardener

Presented by Marni Sorin, Tilth Alliance

February 21 at 10 a.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

How Can I Help? Saving Nature With Your Yard

Presented by Doug Tallamy, Bellevue Botanical Garden

February 21 at 7 p.m. | In-Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Garden Planning 101

Presented by Alex Soleil, Tilth Alliance

February 25 at 6 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.

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 occupied by the Coast Salish Peoples since time immemorial. 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 steward them for future generations. As WSU volunteers, we also recognize that the Morrill Act of 1862 established land-grant institutions by providing each state with “public” and federal lands, which are traced back to the dispossession of Indigenous lands.



WSU EXTENSION
King County

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.

Follow us on social media!



Master Gardener Foundation of King County | 560 Naches Avenue SW, Suite 130 | Renton, WA 98057-2219 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!