

master gardener connection

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

April 2026

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Thank You, Volunteers!

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

April is National Volunteer Month. As our WSU King County Extension Master Gardener volunteers gear up for clinics, prepare spring and summer gardens, teach classes and

workshops, plan events, and support the Program behind the scenes, please know that the work of all our volunteers is appreciated and recognized.

Click below to see the amazing numbers that demonstrate the impact of Extension Master Gardeners throughout 2025.

[Read More About Volunteer Impacts](#)

Save the Date to GiveBIG on May 5

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation Board President



Mark your calendars for May 5 to support the Master Gardener Foundation of King County's spring fundraising campaign! The GiveBIG campaign will run from April 28 through the special giving event on May 5. Every dollar of the funds raised will go to support the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program.

Your generous donations will allow us to bring sustainable, science-based information to gardeners in King County. Stay tuned—we'll publish more information about how to visit our Washington Gives page during the campaign in the May 1 edition of this newsletter.

Urgent: Spread the Word About Critical Japanese Beetle Treatments!



The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is conducting Japanese beetle treatments in SeaTac and surrounding areas in King County. Less than half of all treatment area residents have responded to WSDA's requests for consent to treat their property.

"Our state's beetle eradication success or failure hinges on getting access to treat properties," Sven Spichiger, WSDA's Pest Program manager, said. "Untreated properties become a haven for beetles where they can thrive and multiply."

To learn more and sign up if you are in the treatment area, click below.

[Learn More About Treatment](#)



Tree Walk: There's An App For That

By Extension Master Gardener Sally Bagshaw

If you've wondered what the trees planted along Seattle's new waterfront are, good news: there's an app for that!

The Tree Walk app is supported by Trees for Neighborhoods, a program of Seattle Public Utilities. It offers forty-one tree tours throughout Seattle with two along the waterfront – a shorter loop from the Overlook Walk to the Aquarium, and a longer route that runs south to Washington Street.

New Demonstration Garden Name Coming Soon



WSU EXTENSION
King County

Given [recent New York Times reporting](#) about César Chávez, the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program and the garden's host organization, [El Centro de la Raza](#), are working together to identify and select a new name for the César Chávez Demonstration Garden.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out about this matter. We will provide an update about the garden's name as soon as we can.



Spring Garden Tips with PNW Garden Savvy

By Extension Master
Gardener Janile Martin

Spring has arrived!
The longer and

brighter days let us know it is time to get outside and put our garden plans into action. Join us for PNW Garden Savvy Series 2 as we look into some nuts-and-bolts topics.

Learn more about the can't-miss classes coming up in the series below.

[Learn More About Series 2](#)

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](#)

**Support the Master
Gardener Foundation of
King County**

[Donate Now](#)

Go Wild! Transforming a Lawn into a Wildflower Meadow

By Extension Master Gardener Chris Ensor

I recently went through the process of wilding my small turf lawn to provide environmental benefit. From site and plant selection, turf removal strategies, and more, there were many lessons learned! Here I share more about my project and learnings in the hopes that you can benefit and begin your own project.



[Read More About Going Wild](#)

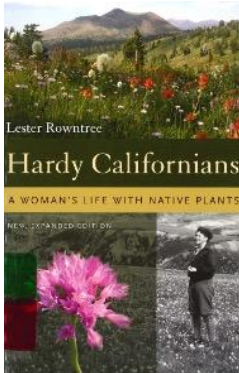


Reminder: Register Now to Learn to Adapt Your Landscape

By Extension Master Gardener Sharon O'Grady

Join the Kenmore Climate Action Team on April 18 for a meet and greet followed by an afternoon of science-based presentations relevant to home gardeners. This is an event you won't want to miss!

[Register Now](#)



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: Hardy Californians

Most books on native plants are in the style of a field guide. While useful in the field, they are not especially enjoyable for reading cover-to-cover. Lester Rowntree's

(1879-1979) two books on California native plants from the 1930s are very different – they are fun to read!

The author said it the best. "This is not 'another garden book.' Nor is it a handbook of California wild flowers."

[Read the Book 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](#)

Upcoming Plant Sales

From Our Gardens to Yours: Shop the Tilth Alliance Plant Sale

By the Master Gardener Foundation of King County

Looking to add something special to your garden this spring? Visit the Extension Master Gardener booth at the Tilth Alliance Plant Sale on May 9 - 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



[Tilth Alliance Sale Details](#)

Bellevue Demonstration Garden Hosting Spring Plant Sale

By Extension Master Gardener Erica Halford



Celebrate the arrival of spring at the Bellevue Demonstration Garden Annual Spring Plant Sale! This year's sale will take place on Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 15500 SE 16th St in Bellevue.

[BDG Sale Details](#)

Washington Native Plant Society Spring Sale

By Jan Bird, Washington Native Plant Society

The Central Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society is holding its annual spring sale on April 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will feature over 1,500 plants from our nursery stock, local native plant nurseries, and wholesalers.



[WNPS Sale Details](#)

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.

Dishing Dirt

Presented by Richie Steffen and Bess Bronstein, Northwest Horticultural Society

April 8 at 6:30 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

PNW Garden Savvy: Natural Lawn Care

Presented by Ladd Smith, Co-owner of In Harmony Sustainable Landscapes

April 11 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Fundamentals of Container Gardening

Presented by Marni Sorin, Tilth Alliance

April 11 at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Small Fruit Tree Pruning and Training

Presented by Barb Burrill, Tilth Alliance

April 11 at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Growing Your Diasporic Garden

Presented by EMGs Gia Parsons and Tujuana Simon

April 16 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Mason and Leafcutter Bees: Pollination for your Garden

Presented by Thyra McKelvie, Northwest Horticultural Society

April 21 at 6:30 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Drip Irrigation for the Home Gardener

Presented by Chris Hoffer, Tilth Alliance

April 24 at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

PNW Garden Savvy: Basics of Composting

Presented by WSU Emeritus Gary Fredricks

April 25 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Fire Prevention for Your Yard

Presented by Natalia Williams, King Conservation District and Mike Lasecki,
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

April 25 at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Secrets of Companion Planting

Presented by Alex Soleil, Tilth Alliance

April 29 at 6 p.m. | Webinar

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Gardening for Wildlife

Presented by Matt Jevnikar, Northwest Horticultural Society

April 30 at 10 a.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?
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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.



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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