



master gardener connection

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

July 2026

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Applications Open for the 2027 Class of Washington Green School

It's time for WSU Extension's Washington Green School!



In its second year, Green School offers Washington gardeners the opportunity to learn research-based, sustainable gardening practices. As before, there are two tracks: WSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer and the Washington Gardener Course.

Applications for the WSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer 2026-27 class are open now and close on August 16. Registration for the Washington Gardener Course opens on August 17 and closes on September 30.

[Learn More and Apply](#)



King County Extension Master Gardener Featured on Statewide Podcast

One of our very own WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners was the special guest on a recent episode of The Evergreen Thumb podcast!

Extension Master Gardener Sally Bagshaw joined Erin Hoover, host of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program podcast, to discuss practical strategies that help gardeners keep gardening as they age. The conversation explores ways to make gardening more manageable, along with the important role gardening can play in building community and sharing knowledge across generations.

[Listen Now](#)

Cool Plants, Hot Topics Returns on September 13

By Extension Master Gardener Demica Linsten

Mark your calendars for the return of Cool Plants, Hot Topics on Sunday, September 13 at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. We are working on an exciting theme this year that will apply to every gardener, in every type of garden format.



You can count on the familiar aspects like expert speakers, plant sales from boutique sellers, and the beauty of the Bellevue Botanical Garden in the fall. We will also have some new additions to our offerings this year. Stay tuned because we will reveal many more details in the coming months. Your support makes events like this possible. We look forward to seeing you there!



Carkeek Demonstration Garden is a Serene Respite in a Cozy Forest

By Extension Master Gardener Gia Parsons

Getting to the Carkeek Demonstration Garden requires a trip on a winding road and into a dark but welcoming forest. The gardens were designed and developed around 1996 and followed a plan created by Russell Link, a landscape architect and manager with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Part of the garden is dedicated to Hazel Wolf, an environmental and social activist who championed many causes including the preservation of wilderness, wetlands, and wildlife.

[Read More and See Photos from Carkeek](#)



She Bugs Us: One Clinic's Resident Bug Expert

By Extension Master Gardener Marie Kurka-Brown

There is so much to say about this person who bugs us - and yes, I know it sounds wrong to say that about her. But every word is true.

At the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Renton McLendons Plant Clinic, there is one person we all agree on: Extension Master Gardener Heidi McKibbin-Cooper. The fact is, she really does bug us.

A little context helps.

[Read More About Heidi](#)

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

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Subscribe to CAHNRS Dean's Updates!

Did you know that the Dean of WSU's College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) sends out a biweekly update?



Subscribe now to these messages from Raj Khosla to learn more about statewide initiatives, scholarly achievements, and community partnerships led by CAHNRS. You'll stay in the know about everything the college is doing in addition to the work of the WSU Extension Master Gardener program.

[Subscribe Now](#)

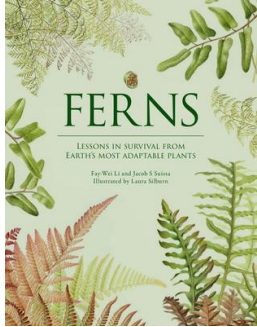
Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: Ferns

The Miller Library has a very large collection of books on ferns, reflecting the intense interest in these plants by area gardeners. However, these books mostly describe the aesthetics of ferns

Helpful Links

Browse our gardening tip sheets.

[Garden Tip Sheets](#)



and the growing requirements in temperate, sufficiently moist gardens.

“Ferns: Lessons in survival from Earth’s most adaptable plants” by Fay-Wei Li and Jacob S. Suissa and illustrated by Laura Silburn

takes a different approach. This is a study of the impressive evolutionary and adaptability history of these plants, that can be found throughout the world in almost every climate and ecosystem.

[Read the Book Review](#)

Note: this book won an Award of Excellence in Botany from the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries as part of the organization’s Annual Literature Awards for 2026!

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.

Plant Amnesty: Trees Under Construction

Presented by Ben Mark, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society

July 8 at 6 p.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Dishing Dirt: Summertime!

Presented by Richie Steffen and Bess Bronstein, Northwest Horticultural Society

July 8 at 6:30 p.m. | Webinar

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Growing Garlic (Free!)

Presented by Extension Master Gardener Lory Armitage

July 11 at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Getting Ready for Fall Crops (Free!)

Presented by Lisa Taylor, Cascade Water Alliance

July 14 at 7 p.m. | Webinar

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Growing Groceries: All About Seed Saving

Presented by Extension Master Gardener Sue Kraemer

July 15 at 7 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Native Plant Tour (Free!)

Presented by Cascade Water Alliance

July 31 at 11 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?
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.



www.mgfkc.org

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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