

master gardener connection

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

August 2026

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Cool Plants, Hot Topics Returns for 2026

By Extension Master Gardener Z Hudelot

Join the WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners at Bellevue Botanical Garden as we explore how our gardens can and do impact our ecosystems. Discover how we as gardeners can help protect our precious Pacific Northwest biodiversity.

Cool Plants, Hot Topics will take place Sunday, September 13. The plant sale will be open from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and speakers will give presentations between 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. If you register online for all three talks, you'll get early entry to the plant sale starting at 9:30 a.m.!





Save the Date: Bellevue Demonstration Garden Harvest Festival

By Extension Master Gardener Erica Halford

Save the date for the annual Bellevue Demonstration Garden Harvest Festival! It will take place on Saturday, September 19 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bellevue Demonstration Garden, located at 15500 SE 16th Street in Bellevue.

The event will feature a fall plant sale, garden market, WSU Extension King County Master Gardener plant clinic, children's activities, demonstrations, a fall-themed photo backdrop, and more! The event will be free to attend, and parking will be free, too.

We'll share more information in next month's edition of Master Gardener Connection, so stay tuned!

New Evening Volunteer Hours at Soos Creek Demonstration Garden

By Extension Master Gardener Andreas Agduyeng

The WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners at Soos Creek Demonstration Garden are excited to introduce new evening volunteer hours to help more people get their hands in the soil.



Our volunteer community continues to blossom, and we've noticed more volunteers are juggling work, school, and family commitments. To help everyone put down roots, we're trying something new. We are now gardening every other Thursday from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Learn More and Volunteer



Curiosity Is Always Welcome at the Clinic Table

By Extension Master Gardener Wesa Anderson

When I first became a WSU Extension King County Master Gardener in 2018, I started volunteering at the clinic table at the now-closed Molbak's Garden + Home in Woodinville. Since then, I have answered questions at McLendon's, farmers markets, plant exchanges, garden tours, libraries, and community events across King County. Some events are small and quiet, like the Bothell Library seed and

plant exchange. Others are large and busy, like Renton River Days. Most fall somewhere in between.

No matter the size of the event, I have noticed a few common themes from the people who stop by our clinic tables: curiosity, reassurance, pride, and relief.

[Read More](#)

Kudos for **Ask a Master Gardener!**

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

WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Faith Hanna, who volunteers with the Ask a Master Gardener email clinic, identified a discrepancy in gardening advice given by two of the Program's key resources.

Faith was researching a client question about European chafer beetles and discovered a gap between the guidance in [Hortsense](#) and the guidance in [Pesticide Information Center Online \(PICOL\)](#). Faith reported the difference, and within hours, it had been routed to the correct parties at WSU and corrected.

[Read More](#)

Quick Links

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

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[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Upcoming Events

[PNW Garden Savvy](#)

[Growing Groceries](#)

[Education Events for Home Gardeners](#)

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EMG Enthusiasm Shines Through in Tribal Life Trail Demonstration Garden

By Extension Master Gardener Marie Kurka-Brown

Every once in a while, someone shows up in my journey as a WSU Extension King County Master Gardener and I think, "Where have you been hiding?" Well, Extension Master Gardener Ankie Stroes has been right there at the Tribal Life Trail Demonstration Garden, spending time twice a year telling second graders at Tahoma School District all about native plants and how they are used.



[Read More](#)

What's at Your Extension Office?

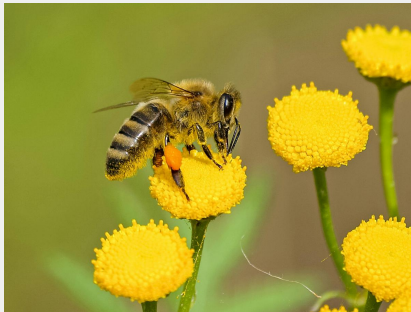
By Extension Master Gardener Gia Parsons

I had been a WSU Extension King County Master Gardener for fifteen years before I finally made my way down to the Extension office in Renton. Previously, the office had been a bit of an enigma. There had never really been a reason to head down to the office until I was invited to participate in a brainstorming session.

My second trip to the Extension office was to take part in our 2026 plant and seed swap (a new Extension Master Gardener tradition). Needless to say, I learned a lot about what our Extension office offers!



[Read More](#)



Scientific Paper Review: Bees and Native Plants

By Extension Master Gardener Craig Rixon

Did you know that each month, WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners team up with [King Conservation District](#) staff to review and summarize papers relevant to home gardeners in the Pacific Northwest?

The Literature Review Crew's July article was titled "The bee fauna associated with Pacific Northwest (USA) native plants for gardens," which investigates the relative attractiveness of various native and non-native plant species to bees.

[Read More](#)

The Importance of Native Plants

By Extension Master Gardener Marie Kurka-Brown

I'm not sure if this is unique to me or if it applies to you: my gardening is ever evolving. When I visit my favorite nursery, I want one of everything and two of some. I've trained myself to go in with a list but when I walk past a new plant, I'm pretty sure I heard it ask if it could come home with me. Not in a creepy way, but in a way that might just even out that corner I've been working on.

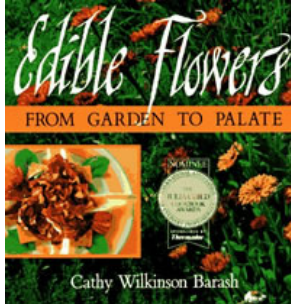


I love native plants, especially what I've learned about how they help biodiversity. To begin with, they know their region.

[Read More](#)

**Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection:
Edible Flowers**

Helpful Links



What could be more satisfying than creating a meal with home-grown edible flowers? Author Cathy Wilkinson Barash tempts the reader with sweet and savory recipes that feature fresh flowers.

Barash goes far beyond a mere sprinkling of nasturtiums in a summer salad to include recipes for lilac chicken, bee balm ice cream, and dandelion eggs.

[Read the Book Review](#)

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.

Best Summer-Flowering Shrubs

Presented by Dr. Ross Bayton, Northwest Horticultural Society

August 6 at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Seed Saving 101

Presented by Marni Sorin, Tilth Alliance

August 6 at 6 p.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Start Your Fall and Winter Garden

Presented by Marni Sorin, Tilth Alliance

August 8 at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Streamside Restoration Tour (Free!)

Presented by King Conservation District

August 11 at 6 p.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Help! Tree Troubleshooting from Canopy to Roots

Presented by Joseph Sutton-Holcomb and Connor McDermott, PlantAmnesty

August 12 at 6 p.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Designing with Common Nursery Plants

Presented by Benjamin Vogt, Northwest Horticultural Society

August 19 at 6 p.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Bringing Your Tomatoes to Harvest (Free!)

Presented by Sharon Peach, former WSU Extension Master Gardener

August 22nd at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Fundamentals of Organic Gardening

Presented by Alex Soleil, Tilth Alliance

August 28 at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

The Invisible Ecosystem at Home: Gardening for Biodiversity in a Changing World

Presented by EMG Alma Cardenas for Cool Plants, Hot Topics

September 13 at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Keystone Species Plants for the Pacific Northwest

Presented by EMG Molly van der Burch for Cool Plants, Hot Topics

September 13 at 11:15 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Discover the Threats Invasive Species Bring to Your Yard and Community

Presented by Cassie Knavel for Cool Plants, Hot Topics

September 13 at 12:30 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?
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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.



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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