



master gardener connection

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

October 2026

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- New research review from the Review Crew
- Join PNW Garden Savvy on rainy Saturday mornings
- Reminder to submit reimbursement requests
- Our book of the month, upcoming events, and more

Cool Plants, Hot Topics 2026: A Sold-Out Celebration of Biodiversity

By Extension Master Gardener Demica Linsten

Thanks to our incredible community, this year's Cool Plants, Hot Topics event was a resounding success!

Focused on the theme Gardening for Change: Protecting and Enhancing Our Biodiverse Environment, the event achieved record-breaking attendance and completely sold out its lecture series for the first time. Most importantly, this strong support directly advances our mission to increase gardening access and education across King County.



[Read More](#)

Review Crew: Rooting for Good Soil



By Extension Master Gardener Vicki Sironen

Have you been adding compost and fertilizer to your garden beds? If so, you may be adding too much.

A recent study by Oregon State University, "Excess fertility in residential-scale urban agriculture soils in two western Oregon cities," tested the soil in 33 food production garden beds comprised of both raised beds and in-ground garden beds. All of the garden beds

sampled for the study came from the home gardeners of certified Oregon State Extension Master Gardeners.

The results found that the levels of organic matter, phosphorus, magnesium and manganese exceeded the recommended parameters for these soil components.

[Read More](#)



Join PNW Garden Savvy on Select Saturday Mornings

By Extension Master Gardener
Janile Martin

As the chilly and often rainy mornings return, we have the perfect way for you to start your Saturdays.

PNW Garden Savvy is the go-to online Saturday morning gathering. Join fellow gardeners from the comfort of your own home for interesting and relevant science-based garden classes.

Many of us are already making notes for gardening changes we are considering for next year. Our Series 3 classes provide information for new things to grow and for drought-tolerant practices to support our gardens and pollinators.

[Learn More and Register](#)

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](#)

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Gardener Foundation of
King County**

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Please Submit Year-End Foundation Reimbursement Requests

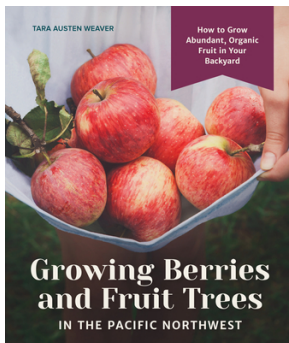
Extension Master Gardeners: Please submit your requests for reimbursement of 2026 expenses as soon as possible!



The Master Gardener Foundation of King County reimbursement form can be found at mgfkc.org under “Foundation Member Resources” in the password-protected volunteer area. Reimbursement requests can be emailed to treasurer@mgfkc.org or mailed to:

Master Gardener Foundation of King County
560 Naches Ave, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057

All reimbursement requests must be submitted in the year incurred. If you have any questions, contact treasurer@mgfkc.org.



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: Growing Berries and Fruit Trees in the Pacific Northwest

Tara Austen Weaver became smitten on growing fruit in Seattle after planting raspberries during an extended summer visit. Later, she moved here permanently to a house with nine mature fruit trees and proceeded to add 14 more plus many berry plants.

The emphasis is on the most popular, including strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries, but the author is adventuresome. She maintains a small but controlled (she claims) patch of Himalayan blackberries and recommends trying wild fruit such as our native huckleberries, or even salal.

[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](#)

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

Need Master Gardener CE?

Extension Master Gardeners can visit our [Volunteer Portal](#) page for a full list of approved content eligible for credit toward

The Role of Seed Banking in Native Plant Conservation (Free)

Presented by Bellevue Botanical Garden

October 1 at 7 p.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

PNW Garden Savvy: Resilient Landscapes: Battling Climate Change at Home

Presented by EMG Mike Peronto

October 3 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Put Your Garden to Bed

Presented by Marni Sorin, Tilth Alliance

October 8 at 6 p.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

PNW Garden Savvy: The All-Season Grass Garden: Drought Tolerant and Beautiful

Presented by Susan Calhoun, Landscape Designer

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

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Grow Great Garlic

Presented by Marni Sorin, Tilth Alliance

October 14 at 6 p.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Pruning and Propagating for the Edible Garden

Presented by Marni Sorin, Tilth Alliance

October 17 at 10 a.m. | In Person

[Learn more and register here.](#)

PNW Garden Savvy: Succulents 101: Your Guide to a Thriving Indoor Garden

Presented by EMG Emilie Castle

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

[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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