

November 2026

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Master Gardener Foundation of King County

Fall Appeal: Navigating Change, Growing Impact

By Joan Baldwin, Extension Master Gardener and Foundation President

Each year, thousands of King County residents rely on WSU Extension Master Gardeners for trusted, science-based gardening advice. From Ask a Master Gardener clinics to educational programs and demonstration gardens, our volunteers make a difference throughout the community.

This year's Fall Appeal theme, "Navigating Through Change," reflects the challenges facing our program as demand for services grows while public funding becomes less certain.

Learn More and Donate Now

Hundreds of Volunteers Recognized for Contributions at End-of-Year Celebration Event



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

On Saturday, October 17, WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners enjoyed a wonderful catered breakfast followed by a ceremony celebrating their contributions as individuals and teams throughout King County. There was a great deal to celebrate.

Traditionally, most of the event focuses on recognizing volunteers who were nominated by fellow Extension Master Gardeners. In 2025, we had approximately ninety nominees. This year, we had well over two hundred!

Read More



Putting the "Demonstration" in Demonstration Garden

By Extension Master Gardeners Marty Byrne and Darcy Korhonen

This has been a busy and productive year for the WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners at the Animal Acres Demonstration Garden in Lake Forest Park. This year, the Extension Master Gardeners committed to putting the "demonstration" in our garden.

Animal Acres covers around 3500 square feet of space devoted to food production, water-wise perennials, Pacific Northwest native plants, and large plantings of pollinator-friendly plants. The community is noticing, and our work was even mentioned recently in the Shoreline Area News!

Read More

Miyawaki Forests: Pockets Full of Miracles (Part One)



By Extension Master Gardener Sally Bagshaw

A major area of tension in our community today has arisen between housing advocates and developers who are dedicated to building much more housing, and other neighborhood activists who prioritize preserving mature trees and expanding the tree canopy while the housing is being built.

We need both right now: much more housing and many more trees.

Dozens of worldwide scientific studies confirm that tree canopies provide one of the most effective ways to create a cooler environment, cleaner air, and

healthier neighborhoods for everyone. WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners and friends can contribute to smaller, manageable community projects and advocate for improvements in neighborhoods that have been denied support in the past.

Read More

Note: Part Two of the Miyawaki Forests series will be published in the December 1, 2026 edition of Master Gardener Connection. Stay tuned!

Please Submit Year-End Foundation Reimbursement Requests

Extension Master Gardeners: the deadline to submit expense reimbursement requests for 2026 is November 15!

The reimbursement form can be found in the password-protected Volunteer Portal in the Quick Links section. 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

If you incur expenses after the November 15 submission deadline, those expense reimbursement requests should be submitted no later than December 22. All reimbursement requests must be submitted in the year incurred. If you have any questions, contact treasurer@mgfkc.org.

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

2027 PNW Garden Savvy Series One Classes Coming Soon!

By the PNW Garden Savvy Team



Need a gift for a favorite gardener who seems to have everything? You can soon purchase a subscription for the 2027 PNW Garden Savvy Series One classes, just in time for the holiday season! These classes are perfect for helping gardeners to plan and get ready for 2027.

Extension Master Gardener Molly van der Burch kicks off the 2027 classes on Saturday, January 9, presenting “Keystone Plants.” Molly will share how a small group of native plants can power our entire garden ecosystem.

All PNW Garden Savvy classes qualify for WSU Extension King County Master Gardener continuing education credit. Classes are recorded and remain available to registrants throughout the year.

Look for registration to go live in November, giving you plenty of time for holiday gift giving!



Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection: Sustainable Stormwater Management

Thomas Liptan introduces his new book, Sustainable Stormwater Management, by recounting an aha! moment early in his career as a landscape architect. While working on a parking lot design, the project's engineer urged putting the water "in the landscape." That is what they did, effectively directing the runoff to shallow gardens for absorption and filtration.

As Liptan's career progressed, he discovered this was very unusual thinking for the time (1978). However, he continued to seek opportunities to further this design concept, his guiding principle being "we continually underestimate the capacity of our built environment to manage rain and runoff, just as we underutilize rainfall's benefit to soil and plants."

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 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.

Lichen Walk
Presented by Dr. Katherine Glew, Bellevue Botanical Garden
November 4 at 10 a.m. | In Person
Learn more and register here.

Benefits and Beauty: Landscaping with Native Plants (free)
Presented by King Conservation District
November 4 at 6 p.m. | Virtual
Learn more and register here.

Botany for Gardeners
Presented by Laura Matter, Tilth Alliance
November 4 at 6 p.m. | Virtual
Learn more and register here.

PNW Garden Savvy | Seed Snails & Winter Sowing: Grow More, Stress Less
Presented by Erica Browne Grivas, horticultural speaker and writer
November 7 at 9:30 a.m. | Virtual
Learn more and register here.

Plant Propagation for Beginners
Presented by Laura Matter, Tilth Alliance
November 7 at 10 a.m. | In Person
Learn more and register here.

Urban Landscaping with Native Plants (free)
Presented by King Conservation District
November 10 at 6 p.m. | In Person
Learn more and register here.

Deer-Resistant Gardening
Presented by Adam Romero, Bellevue Botanical Garden
November 12 at 7 p.m. | Webinar
Learn more and register here.

Arboretum Walking Tour
Presented by Cynthia Welte, UW Botanic Gardens
November 14 at 10 a.m. | In Person
Learn more and register here.

Arboretum Lichens
Presented by Dr. Katherine Glew, UW Botanic Gardens
November 22 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.

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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.

WSU EXTENSION King County

MGF 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 many be reported through your local WSU Extension office.

Follow us on social media!

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