



MASTER GARDENER connection

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

MARCH 2024

Dahlias for a Late Season Experience

...by Extension Master Gardener Bruce Bennett

Yes, it is March and still too early to plant many gardeners' favorite flowering tuber, the **Dahlia**, despite what may currently be on sale at Costco and other box stores. It is a *'Look at me!'*



perennial that can stand as a specimen plant or be massed around taller shrubs and serve as a bright spot in a mixed border. What it can't stand is the cold of our winters when the plant reduces down to a brown heap in the garden. So, why discuss it now – in late winter? The reply is an easy one: Tubers showed up in multiple booths at the recent Northwest Flower & Garden Festival and will be on sale at the annual Puget Sound Dahlia Association Sale later this month. (More about this event at the end of the column.)

[Read the full article](#)



Quarterly All-Volunteer Meetings & New Advisory Team

...by Sarah Moore, WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program Coordinator

This year the Program Office will be holding new, quarterly meetings – open to all volunteers – to review the state of the WSU Extension King County Master Gardener Program. We'll share our successes and let volunteers know what we have planned for the future. **Please save the date, Thursday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m.**, for the first of these meetings. (The meeting will be recorded on Zoom for those who cannot attend.)

[Read the full article](#)

Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops for 2024



...by the BDG Workshops Team

The 2024 Bellevue Demonstration Garden (BDG) Workshop series is off and running for 2024! We have amazing classes geared to getting ready for upcoming gardening activities. The first two classes focused on seed starting and plant propagating.

The workshops are on Zoom and scheduled on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. The workshops last about one hour with a Q & A session after the lecture. The workshops are open to the public and are a great opportunity to hear from gardening experts and ask questions.

[Read the full article](#)



First Growing Groceries Class of 2024 Focuses on Healthy Soil

...by the Growing Groceries Team

On January 31st, Growing Groceries kicked off the 2024 Winter Series with an enlightening and inspiring presentation, *Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants, Healthy Food*, by science authors David Montgomery and Anne Biklé. Their presentation combined historical perspective on the degradation of soil, science-based strategies for restoring soil health, the invisible interactions between root exudates and soil microbes in the rhizosphere, and recommendations for improving our own gardens. Their research points to the close relationships between soil health, plant health, and human health. The class provided a great introduction as we look forward to the growing season, reminding us that if we care for the soil, garden success will follow.

[Read the full article](#)



Quick Links

[MGFKC](#)

[King County MG](#)

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

Growing Groceries Corner!

...by Extension Master Gardener Carol Johnson

March is the perfect time to shop for and plant seed potatoes. You will find many unusual and delicious varieties available in nurseries and farm stores. Potatoes are a fun crop to grow, especially with children. They take great delight in “fishing” for the potatoes at harvest.

In this episode, Extension Master Gardener Karen Adams reviews some basic information about how potatoes grow and demonstrates a fun idea for growing in burlap bags. Watch the episode [here](#).

For comprehensive information about growing potatoes in home gardens, follow [this link](#) to the WSU Publication “Growing Potatoes in Home Gardens (Home Garden Series)”. Give it a read and get those “spuds” sprouting!

Record Impacts

[GivePulse Login Page](#)

Volunteer hours must be entered monthly.

Staying Smart

[BDG Workshops](#)

[Education Events for the Public and Master Gardeners](#)

[Growing Groceries](#)

Gold versus Terra Preta

...by Extension Master Gardener Bruce Caredio

In the decades following Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World, numerous conquistadors were on a quest for Eldorado, the city of gold. The legend at the time told of a golden city somewhere in Central or South America. There may be an element of truth in the ancient myth. Archaeological evidence has established that the Muisca people, in what is now Colombia, regularly conducted ceremonies in which their chief, covered in gold flakes, washed himself in Lake Guatavita and offered gold objects to its depths. This tale of abundant wealth has driven explorers' expeditions from the 1500s to present day. In 1925, Percy Fawcett, an English Eldorado seeker, went on what was to be his and his son's last trip to the Amazon, only to disappear. Fawcett's exploits were the basis for the character, Indiana Jones, of Hollywood fame, and the book, *The Lost City of Z*. Did this legacy of exploration, with all its misery and pillaging, overlook what might be the most valuable commodity to come out of the Amazon? That commodity would not be gold, but instead a soil called Terra Preta.



[Read the full article](#)

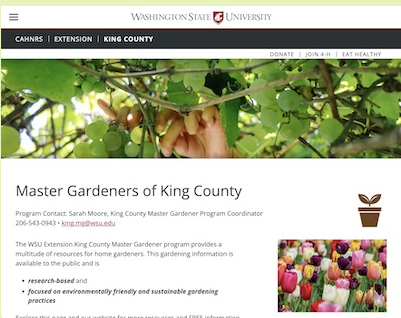
Image: Alonso de Ovalle's 1646 engraving of the conquistadors Garcia Hurtado de Mendoza, Pedro de Villagra and Rodrigo de Quiroga. Image Credit: Napoleón333 at Spanish Wikipedia, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Ways to donate to MGFKC



MG Program Priorities



Find out about the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program in King County, how to become a Master Gardener, a list of speakers and the Puget Sound Tip Sheets.

<https://extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening/>

For **MG-only** information, log into the "KCMGs, Only" area.



Discover the many ways contributions help the King County Master Gardener program operate public gardens, diagnostic plant clinics for the public and offer low-cost classes and workshops to the public.

<https://www.mgfk.org/>

For **MG-only** documents, Foundation policies and clinic resources, log into the Foundation "Members Area". See the MGFKC May 23 email for the password.

Extend Your Knowledge...



Drought Declaration Still in Effect

by Jimmy Norris, State of Washington, Department of Ecology

Of Interest to You

Tip Sheets for KC

Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening

Garden Tip Sheets

WHERE am I?

Find King County

Overall, it's been a warm wet winter. Despite an early January cold snap, the water supply outlook for much of the state can be characterized by two words "below normal," according to a group of experts who recently gathered for the first Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting of 2024.

[Read the blog post](#)

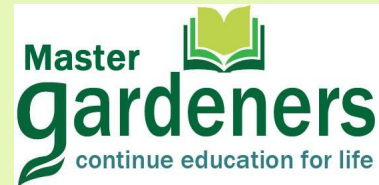
Master Gardener clinic and garden locations using the [MGFKC map](#)

**Sign up to receive the
Master Gardener
Connection**

Continuing Education Opportunities

What Counts as CE?

Classes that will improve a volunteer's knowledge and skill base for performing work as a horticultural advisor and serving as a resource on issues of sustainable gardening for home gardeners.



Staying Smart! Education Opportunities

Check out additional educational offerings on the MGFKC Education page: kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/education/. Master Gardeners can also find more approved Continuing Education offerings on the [Master Gardeners Only](#) page of the Program website.

Growing Groceries Classes

Growing Groceries classes are Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Please visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and registration for all classes.

March 13: The Cool Season Menu: Peas, Hardy Greens, Carrots and More, presented by Extension Master Gardener Anne Neilson.

March 27: Grow Kale, Broccoli and Related Cole Crops, presented by Extension Master Gardener Sue Kraemer.

Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops

Workshops are online Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Registration is required. For registration information and workshop details, please visit the [Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops](#) page.

March 2: Common Pests and Diseases of Rhododendrons, presented by Atsuko Gibson, Nursery Manager Rhododendron Species Garden.

March 9: Weeds! Friends or Foes? presented by Extension Master Gardener Jim Olson.

March 16: Noxious Weeds, presented by Skye Pelliccia, King Conservation District Educator.

March 23: The Complete Talk on Groundcovers, presented by Gary Lewis, author and owner of Phoenix Perennials.

WSU Extension Staying Mission Driven

Watch Staying Mission Driven to learn more about the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program directly from the state leader, Jennifer Marquis, and from other WSU Extension Faculty and Staff. View the recording at <https://youtu.be/BfsEw9gWwpw>.

WSU Master Gardener Online Workshops

Tuesdays in February at 12:00 p.m. WSU Master Gardeners present **free** weekly online programs. *No need to register, just pop in.*

Connection information (To attend you must have a Zoom account, sign up for one at zoom.us), then join from

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or

Android: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/7756056320?pwd=RzVxbTI0dXpyUjJjSDdsWnJuTXdydz09>

Meeting ID: 775 605 6320

Password: 12345

Phone Call: +1 253 215 8782, 775 605 6320#

For help, call Gary Fredricks at garyf@wsu.edu or 360-577-3014 Ext. 3.

March 5: Growing Succulents, presented by Extension Master Gardener Heidi Hubler. Learn about succulent varieties, tips on care and avoiding potential pitfalls.

March 12: Growing Blueberries, presented by Extension Master Gardener Marsha Tisdale. Learn about the best blueberry varieties for our region and get insights on planting techniques and care.

March 19: Growing Raspberries, presented by Extension Master Gardener Alice Slusher. Learn about the best raspberry varieties for our region and get insights on planting techniques and care.

March 26: Growing Vegetables: Where to Start, presented by Extension Master Gardener Sara Clark. Learn the ins and outs of planning, prepping and planting for a bountiful vegetable harvest.

Bellevue Botanical Garden Society

BBGS members receive a 30% discount on most webinars, lectures and classes. Visit <https://bellevuebotanical.org/adult-ed/> for class information and registration.

March 7: Fuchsia Care and Growing Hardy Fuchsias, webinar presented by Caroline Zebroski.

March 14: Garden Hospitality: Inviting Wildlife to Your Yard, webinar taught by Extension Master Gardener Penny Bolton in partnership with the WSU Extension King County Master Gardeners. *(There is a discounted price of \$10.50 for King County Master Gardener members on this class.)*

March 21: Daylily 101: The Perfect Carefree Summer Perennial, webinar presented by Daralee Newkirk.

Washington Native Plant Society

March 7: Northwest Prairie Annuals - Propagation and Place presentation about our region's prairie annuals by insect ecologist, Eric Lee-Mäder. Learn about prairie ecology, propagation, species selection and use in different human landscapes. This free webinar will be live-streamed only via Zoom; please register in advance at <https://www.wnps.org/cps-events/central-puget-sound-northwest-prairie-annuals-propagation-and-place-by-eric-lee-m%C3%A4der>.

Master Gardener Foundation of Spokane County

Cabin Fever Gardening Symposium, this virtual event will start on Saturday, March 2 at 10:00 a.m. with a live presentation and celebration of WSU Extension Spokane County Program's 50th Anniversary. Ten recorded presentations will be available for viewing for two months. Find information and registration at <https://spokane.mastergardenerfoundation.org/cabin-fever-gardening-symposium/>.

Save the Date:

Virtual WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference

September 27 – 28, 2024: Gardening in a Changing Climate. Visit the event [website](#) for more information.

Upcoming Plant Sales

Tilth Alliance's March Edible Plant Sale, Saturday, March 16

We're excited to invite you to Tilth Alliance's [March Edible Plant Sale](#), where you can stock up on spring plant starts! Saturday, March 16, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands, 5513 S Cloverdale St, Seattle, WA 98118.

Tilth's garden educators have carefully chosen varieties that grow well in our Maritime Northwest climate. Choose from a wide selection of organically, sustainably and locally grown edible plant starts.

WNPS Spring Native Plant Sale, Sunday, April 14

The Central Puget Sound chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) will be offering a local selection of pollinator friendly, beautiful native shrubs, perennials and groundcovers that are ideal for gardens in Western Washington.

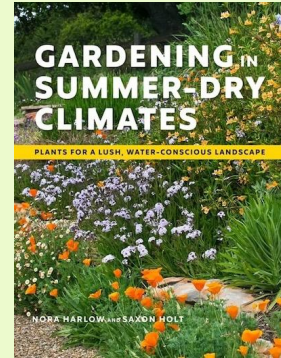
See the event web page for more details including a list of plants for sale [Central Puget Sound: Spring Native Plant Sale](#).

Sunday, April 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Aaron Education Center and Paccar Pavilion, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St, Bellevue, WA 98005.

Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection

Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates: Plants for a Lush, Water-Conscious Landscape

Start planning now for warmer and drier summer seasons. This book has information that will help you create a beautiful garden that uses minimal water and celebrates biodiversity.



Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates: Plants for a Lush, Water-Conscious Landscape was published in January 2021, by Timber Press. Brian Thompson, Curator of Horticultural Literature, reviewed the book.

[Read the review](#)



Events and Coming Attractions

MGFKC Board Meeting on Thursday, March 14, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. online Zoom meeting. Information and details at <https://kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/board/>.

Zoom Meeting

-<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88172076722>

Meeting ID: 881 7207 6722

One tap mobile - +12532158782,,88172076722#

Dial in - +1 253 215 8782 Meeting ID: 881 7207 6722

Tilth Alliance's March Edible Plant Sale Saturday, March 16, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands, 5513 S Cloverdale St, Seattle, WA 98118.

Puget Sound Dahlia Association's Tuber Sale March 22 and 23, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, WA.

WNPS Spring Native Plant Sale Sunday, April 14, 2024, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Aaron Education Center and Paccar Pavilion, Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St, Bellevue, WA 98005.

Contributing to The Connection

Do you have an event or CE opportunity to share? An article of interest to

Master Gardeners? Deadline for announcements or article submissions is the 15th of the month prior to publication (ex: May 15 for the June edition). For more information or to submit items for consideration, please contact us at communicate@mgfkc.org. All published photos have the photographer's permission or are sourced from free-to-use sites.

WAIT! Don't unsubscribe from all mailings if you are an active Master Gardener!

If you wish to unsubscribe, be selective and identify the email lists you wish to receive. **All active Master Gardeners in King County are expected to subscribe to the current year's "KC Master Gardeners" Email List** to continue receiving information about Program activities, updates and recertification notices. Other email lists are optional.

Follow us on social media!



The Master Gardener Connection is a joint publication from the King County Master Gardener Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program in King County to provide research-based education about urban horticulture 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.

Master Gardener Foundation of King County | c/o WSU Extension King County, 560 Naches Avenue SW, Suite 130, Renton, WA 98057-2219

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