



# Putting your Garden to Bed

**WSU COWLITZ COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENERS**



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



*Master Gardener Program*

# The GOAL!

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The goal of this workshop is to help the novice gardener succeed in winterizing their garden for next season.

# The Basics on Preparing Your Garden for Next Year:

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- ▶ Planning.
- ▶ Removing.
- ▶ Soil.
- ▶ Tending.
- ▶ Pruning.
- ▶ Tools.

## The Basics





# It's all about timing – *no matter what you decide to plant*



Average 1<sup>st</sup> killing frost:  
**23 OCTOBER 2020**

Average last killing frost:  
**9 MAY 2021**



# It all Starts with a Plan . . .

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- ▶ When to start?
- ▶ What to do with the produce or the produce left?
- ▶ How to winterize the garden?
- ▶ What to do with the remaining plants and leaves?
- ▶ How much work are you willing to put in?
- ▶ How to prepare the soil for winter?
- ▶ What to do with the tools?





# Keep a Record -



December 2007

- 11 Various 2017
- 12 Pure Rouge de France 1/2 tray
- 13 Pure Carandé 1/2 tray
- 14 LT, Umbriacana (50)
- 15 LT, Les salés (10)
- 16 LT, Port de Penlang (20)
- 17 BLET, Val de Penlang (20)
- 18 BLET (10)
- 19 Colive Scarle (10)
- 20 Cherry, Sugar (10)
- 21 Cherry, Catalayna (10)
- 22 Swiss chard, Bright light (10)
- 23 Swiss chard, 2.5 set
- 24 Spruce Beet
- 25 Chinese Cabbage, Pe-Tai (10)
- 26 Chinese Cabbage Taso (10)
- 27 Pak choy Green Red (10)
- 28 Mizuna
- 29 Aubergine, Elara Beauty 1/2 tray
- 30 Aubergine, Route de Valence (10)
- 31 Aubergine, Violella lunga (10)
- 32 Pea (mangerout) Tarkan (45)
- 33 Pea (mangerout) Mammoth Sugar Pea
- 34 Parsley
- 35 Avoncris Cuttings
- 36 Grandad's home pepper Lucells
- 37 Trinidad Scallions
- 38 Kale

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and recently do cleaning in the  
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# Removing Expended Plants and Mow Low!



**Survey Question: Do you want to cut the plant off at ground level or remove the whole plant?**



# A Great Garden Starts with Great Soil:

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- ▶ Compost – Compost – Compost!
- ▶ Organic matter - Worked in early & often ...
  - ▶ Improves soil structure.
  - ▶ Improves drainage as well as water retention.
  - ▶ Improves soil tilth.
  - ▶ Reduces fertilizer requirements up to 50%.
  - ▶ Enhances microbial activity & suppresses pathogens.
  - ▶ Accelerates the breakdown of pesticides & other synthetic compounds.





# Soil Amendments:

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- ▶ While annual soil amendments may be necessary, they are not a substitute for healthy soil ...  
Compost – Compost - Compost!
- ▶ Manure – Must be well composted and must be vegetarian, not meat eater manure!
- ▶ Cover Crops:
  - ▶ Weed suppression, erosion control, reduces surface crusting, breaks up hardpan.
  - ▶ Green manure, nitrogen fixing: Red Clover, Annual Ryegrass, Fava Beans, etc. check out cover crops at Territorial Seeds.
- ▶ Lime
  - ▶ Provides calcium over the long term, neutralizes acidic soils
  - ▶ Alternative: Bone Meal.



**Survey Question: Do you want to add fertilizer to your garden beds after tear down?**

# Soil Amendments:

- ▶ Fertilizer – Inorganic (Synthetic) and Organic are not recommended in gardens during the fall but great for lawns around Thanksgiving.
  - ▶ Fertilizer is most effective when used on plants at their peak growing cycle.
  - ▶ Excessive nutrients will not be utilized (unless you are winter gardening) and could leach into the water tables.

# Tending:

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# Covering Garden Beds!



# Commonly Used Cover Crops:

(green manures)

- ✓ Varieties.
- ✓ Type & growth characteristics.
- ✓ Seeding rate:
  - ✓ Pounds per 1,000 square feet.



Annual rye 2 - 3 lbs.



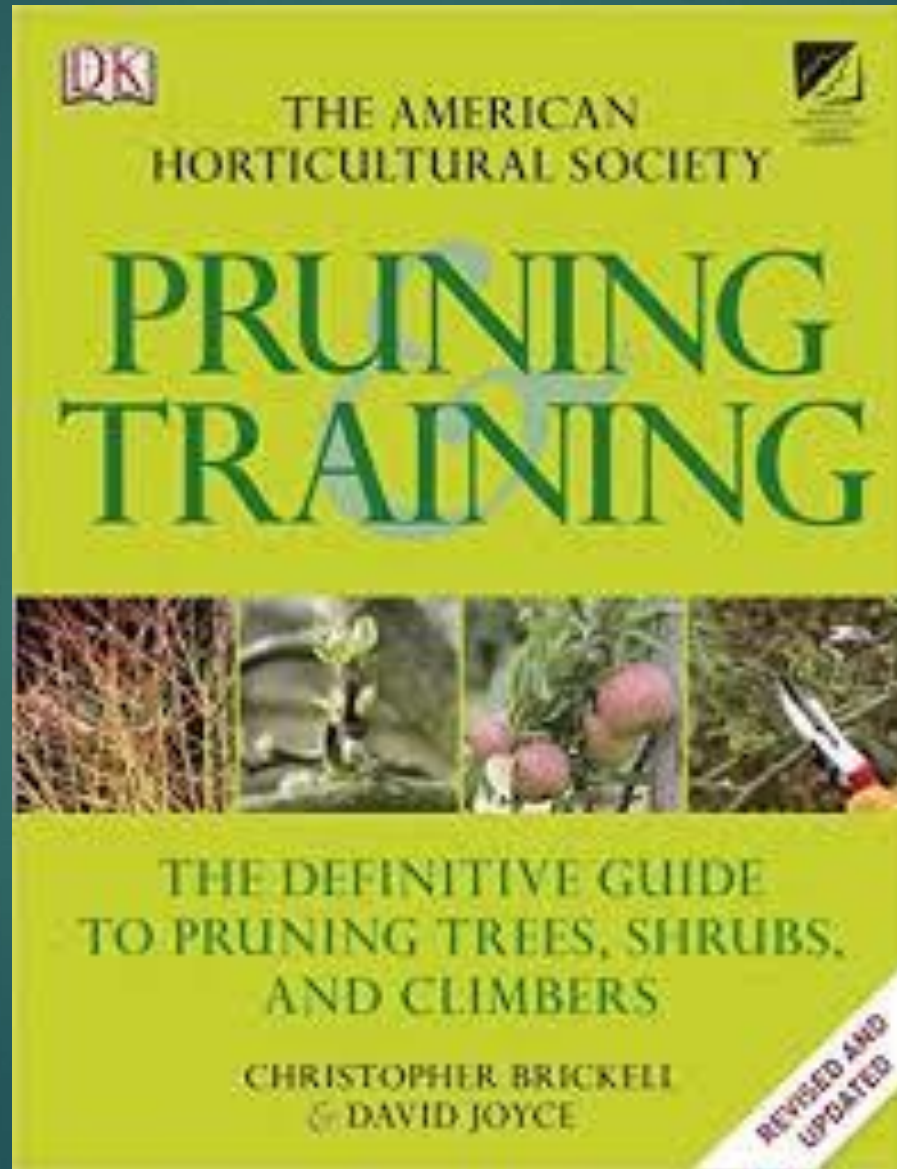
Buckwheat 2 lbs.



Crimson clover 1 - 2 lbs.



# Pruning:





# Tool Sharpening and Stowage.

## Sep. 15, noon: How to Sharpen Tools.



# Tools and Stowage:

- ▶ Water hoses – drain and store.
- ▶ Water lines – shut down and drain if necessary.
- ▶ Irrigation systems – breakdown, drain and store.
- ▶ Lawn Mowers – sharpen blades, scrape away all built up grass, grease bearings, and change oil.
- ▶ Loppers – sharpen and lubricate.
- ▶ Pruners – sharpen and lubricate.
- ▶ Chain saws – sharpen, lubricate, clean-up and store.
- ▶ Cages, trellising devices – remove and store.

# How I Put my Garden to Bed:

- ▶ Remove all my garden vegetables and put into my compost pile.
- ▶ Store all my cages, bird netting and bean poles.
- ▶ Remove and drain all irrigation systems and water hoses.
- ▶ Lime my raised beds.
- ▶ Add my compost.
- ▶ Cover my beds with mulched and cut leaves/grass mixture.
- ▶ Tarp my beds and keep them covered until spring prior to planting.
- ▶ Turn-off and drain my water to the garden. I have frost free hydrants but I still turn-off water.
- ▶ Blow out my water line to the greenhouse.
- ▶ Sharpen all tools and conduct maintenance on all equipment (rototiller, all yard machinery, chain saws, chipper, tractor).



# Summary:

- ▶ Planning.
- ▶ Removing.
- ▶ Soil.
- ▶ Tending.
- ▶ Pruning.
- ▶ Tools.

QUESTIONS?



# Resources:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/four\\_easy\\_steps\\_to\\_put\\_your\\_school\\_garden\\_to\\_bed](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/four_easy_steps_to_put_your_school_garden_to_bed)

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2051/2017/09/Time-to-Put-the-Yard-and-Garden-to-Bed-for-the-Winter.pdf>

<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/home-lawns>



Presented by the  
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**M - F, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

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## Interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

*We'd love to have you join us!*

Visit:

<https://extension.wsu.edu/cowlitz/mg/projects/>

or

<https://www.cowlitzcomg.com/partners>

or contact

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