



Master Gardener Newsletter



WSU EXTENSION
Cowlitz County

SEPTEMBER 2023
304 COWLITZ WAY,
KELSO, WA 98626

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GARDEN

Gary Fredricks

Being an expert!

"People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do." ~ Isaac Asimov

If you have a pet that isn't feeling well, everyone you talk to has an opinion why your cat is ill and how to cure it. They have a second cousin whose great aunt's distant nephew had the same thing happen to their cat 10 years ago. "If you feed it nothing but castor oil for 5 days and wave it over head every morning for a week, it will be fine" (The cat left on the second day and was never seen again.) People are always happy to share their ideas, but it can be hard to know what information is accurate and what is useless. The internet has made it worse. Always beware when someone starts the sentence with "I think that ..."

While trying to determine what information is accurate, people know that WSU Master Gardeners provides trustworthy fact proven information. They may not like what they hear, and they always have the option of not using it, but legitimacy is without question. As trained MG volunteers, you are looked on as experts in our community. That can be frightening at times. Some of you may not feel so knowledgeable. You don't think you know enough to answer questions, so you shy away from volunteering opportunities.

Remember: You don't have to know it all. You know much more than you think and don't forget, you have a whole organization that will back you up. When you get a question that you can't answer, let the person know that you need more time to research it. You can get their name and phone number to get back to them. If they are pressing you for an answer, remember that you don't have to give them one immediately. Their emergency is not your emergency. The right answer is always better than giving a quick response that is inaccurate.

If you research the question and still don't know the answer. Then contact me or the plant clinic. As MG, we are all here to support each other. Never feel like you are on your own or will be thought less of for not knowing. Don't let self-imposed limitations stop you from helping. Volunteering is part of the process of learning and growing.

2024 MG Training: If you know anyone interested in MG training, please have them contact me. I will be in touch with those interested in early November to provide detailed information on the classes and an application.

Record your Hours: I know that many more of you have been volunteering your time that what is reported. Please don't wait, go online, and log your hours. **It is important that all MG service hours are recorded.** If you need help getting started, see me. I am also happy to record your hours if you drop them off at the office.

WSU Extension Office

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WSU Gardening Websites

mastergardener.wsu.edu/

gardening.wsu.edu

cowlitz.wsu.edu

HortSense Fact Sheets

hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/

PestSense Fact Sheets

pestsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/

WSU Educational Pubs

<http://pubs.wsu.edu>

WSU Cowlitz Co. MGs

extension.wsu.edu/cowlitz/mg/

Master Gardener Foundation

www.cowlitzcomg.com/

Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact the office at least two weeks prior to the event. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

Announcements

Plant and Insect Clinic is open!

In-clinic visits, calls, and emails. In office April-Oct: MWF, Nov-March: Wed. only, 10-noon. 360-577-3014 Ext. 1

All of our workshops-with slides, handouts, and videos: cowlitzcomg.com/workshops-videos

In this issue

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Log your Volunteer Hours



wsu.givepulse.com/group/453100-WSU-Cowlitz-County-Master-Gardeners

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- Article Opportunity -

If you specialize in a specific type of gardening, then why not share your knowledge by writing a short article for the newsletter? It's a great way to contribute, and help inspire fellow gardeners. Not to mention that the time spent writing can be turned in as volunteer hours!

If you have an article you'd like to share, please email them to: Alice Slusher: alslush@gmail.com
Articles for September issue due October 20, 2023

Meetings & Event

Foundation Meeting

OCTOBER 10, 2023

10 am- ZOOM



MASTER
GARDENER
CALENDAR

Upcoming Workshops

(Tues. 12 pm on Zoom unless otherwise noted)
cowlitzcomg.com/public-events

10/3	Putting your Garden to Bed	Art Fuller
10/10	Planting Spring Bulbs, Corms, and More!	Dale Wheeler
10/14 In Person-Training Ctr.	Harvesting and Evaluating Mason Bees	Billie Bevers
10-17	Winter Magic: No-Dig Lawn-to-Garden Bed Transformation!	Alice Slusher
10/24	Transplanting Shrubs the Easy Way	Tom Myklebust
1-/31	Growing Herbs	Carolyn Winchell

Master Gardener

Directory

On members' page of website

Foundation Announcements

Art Fuller (Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County, President)

Another Great Year!

September is just about over and the year sure has flown by. What another great year in the PNW for harvesting. It is always so satisfying, when this time of the year comes around and you get to reap the rewards of all the hard work you put in during the year gardening. I am anxious to try a frozen tomato sauce recipe that I received from Bill and Susan Deak.



On another note.

It is with a sad heart that I need to step back in 2024. I will not be able to run for President of the Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County in 2024 due to Willow's 2nd surgery will possibly be at the beginning of the New Year. This will require all my attention for approximately four months. I was fortunate this last year where the date of her surgery fell, the majority of our events were over and we were winding down. I don't think I can give the Foundation and her the fair attention that is needed if I continue as President, so one will have to be sacrificed. I am glad no one got the picture of my wife's face during the awards banquet when Gary gave my certificate for hours that I volunteered.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to be your President. It has been a pleasure and I really appreciated the challenge this year as your President. I enjoyed the experience working with everyone and seeing how all aspects of the program ran. Our Master Gardener group is 110 strong with 51 Foundation members. It was with real enjoyment watching our Foundation and program grow and thrive. There are no boundaries and will remain strong due to our great leaders and members. I think one of the biggest enjoyments in the Master Gardener program is the training class and watching how the trainees evolve and become involved in this great program. Our Plant Sale has grown by leaps and bounds due to all the hard work and camaraderie and I feel it is going to continue to flourish.

Thanks to the Board, Gary Fredricks, Foundation members and Master Gardeners for their support, insight, and backing that I received. I can't think of a better group to be involved with. I will continue on with the Board as Past President which should take a lot less time than what I have been putting in yearly for the last three years.

Thanks for all you do!

Art Fuller

Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County, President



MGs reporting: Cattle Panel Low Tunnel

Cattle Panel Low Tunnel for 4x4 Garden

By Yvonne Herrmann-Martineau



I use a Cattle Panel trellis in my smaller 4x4 raised gardens.

They are strong and versatile. They can be used to hold plastic to extend your growing season.

You can cover them with mesh to keep pests out or shade cloth to protect fragile plants from the sun.

They also make a nice trellis for smaller climbing plants.

They are limited to 4 feet in length because you need to be able to reach inside through the end. I have seen several shorter trellises (i.e. to 2 feet), spaced in a long row, 2- 3 feet apart. These can function as longer row covers and hoop house support also.

Supplies for a 4' x 4' cattle panel trellis hoop:

- 8' x 4' cattle panel (It comes in 16' x 4' panels which would give you enough for two trellis')
- 8 garden staples
- 2 "T" bar
- Zip ties, Wire
- Wire cutters.

Directions:

1. Place the T bars at the middle point of two facing garden bed inner edges. Use a T post driver or mallet to pound the T bars into the ground.
2. Cut Cattle panel to 4'x8' size. Cut out the bottom of the cattle panel squares that will be touching the soil. This will help with anchoring.
3. You will need two people, one on each end of the panel, to push the cattle panel into a bow. I like to mark the center of the wire with a piece of tape to ensure it stays at the top center as the panel is bowed. Otherwise, your arch might not be centered and straight. Both partners must use equal force to bend the arch and keep it straight.
4. Use zip ties or wire to attach the arch to the T posts where the horizontal cattle panel wire meets the post. Attach in a few different locations.
5. Garden staples are used to secure the arch into the ground.
6. You can use garden clips, greenhouse clips, clothes pins to secure plastic or row covers to the low tunnel.



MGs reporting: MG of the Year Nomination

My goodness, how time flies. Once again, it is time to nominate a veteran master gardener as well as an intern for their outstanding efforts in helping our organization succeed. We do this by honoring each of these individuals with a Cowlitz County Master Gardener of the Year Veteran and Intern award. These awards are given once-in-a lifetime.

Please take the time to think about those who have shown exceptional dedication in making this a great program by nominating them.

You will be asked to give examples of ways your nominee shows:

- Commitment
- Community involvement
- Educational impact
- Promoting WSU MG programs and Leadership

The nomination form is available on the following page and is **due by NOVEMBER 1st**. After completing the questions, please email it to Jo Tuom at ituommg@gmail.com or simply drop it off at the Extension office. You can contact Jo Tuom directly at 360-423-5688.

The highest honor (just behind becoming a veteran MG) is being recognized as MG of the year. In Cowlitz County, we honor both a Veteran and an Intern. Once the nominations are submitted, the winners will be selected by the awards committee. As you think about filling out the nomination, consider the following frequently asked questions...

I don't know if the person is an intern or veteran.

Not a problem, the committee will put them in the correct group

You may be thinking, "I am positive that someone else will nominate this person."

Not usually, so don't take the chance of someone being missed. It doesn't take that long so please make the effort.

What if a person who is truly deserving is not nominated for the award?

Then they will not be recognized. Only those MGs having a completed nomination form turned into the committee will be considered. Nominees will not be submitted by committee member's during the meeting when nominations are being evaluated.

What if a committee member is nominated?

They will be excused from the committee before the meeting.

I can't fill out an application since I don't know everything this person has done.

Put down what you know about the person. Then ask other MGs who have worked with the person, or perhaps you can ask your nominee what they've done. It's important for the committee to consider all the good work you nominee has contributed.

While only 1 Veteran and 1 Intern MG are awarded, all MG that are nominated will be recognized. Please take the time to recognize an MG you think has done a fantastic job.

Thank you,
Cowlitz County Master Gardeners Awards Committee

You may also pick up a printed form at the Extension office on the shelf outside the secretary's office.



MGs Reporting: Master Gardener of the Year Nomination 2023

Cowlitz County Master Gardener of the Year Nomination 2023 (November 1st Deadline)

Nominee Name: _____

Nominator (s): Thank you for using your time and knowledge of this Master Gardener to nominate him/her for this once in a lifetime award.

Provide as much information as you can to describe your nominee's involvement in Master Gardeners. Your answers to the prompts below will help us discover your nominee's level of involvement in Master Gardening. If you need more information reach out to other Master Gardeners or to the nominee. Only completed nomination forms will be considered. The MG of the Y committee can only base their decision on the information which is provided in this document.

Please fill out a separate form for each person you nominate.

1. Describe evidence of **COMMITMENT**. Give explanations and specific examples of ways your nominee has demonstrated commitment by volunteering hours of service and an investment of personal ability and skill.
2. Describe evidence of **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**. Give explanations and specific examples of ways your nominee has demonstrated participation in activities which bring positive change to our community, including responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices.
3. Describe evidence of **EDUCATIONAL IMPACT**. Give explanations and specific examples of ways your nominee has contributed to educating Master Gardeners and the community at large.
4. Describe evidence of **PROMOTING WSU MG PROGRAMS**. Give explanations and specific examples of ways your nominee has supported the Master Gardener Foundation's efforts to spread the Master Gardener educational message, to recruit and mentor new members and to promote other Master Gardener goals like the 9 Priorities.
5. Describe evidence of **LEADERSHIP**. Give explanations and specific examples of ways your nominee has been able to create enthusiasm for Master Gardening, to promote team building and to encourage others to develop their skills, interests and strengths.

Nominator (s) _____

Send this nomination to Jo Tuom (jtuommg@gmail.com) or drop off at the Ext. Office for the awards committee.



MGs Reporting: Darlingtonia



From Tony Aegerter

I stumbled upon these plants when I was in Florence, OR last week.

Thought our Master Gardeners might enjoy them!



MGs Reporting: Unusual Early Flowering Spring Bulbs

Unusual Early Flowering Spring Bulbs

By: Alice Slusher

Now that autumn is here, I'm ready to start planning for next year's garden—specifically my pollinator garden. I have many late spring, summer, and fall flowers for the bees and beneficial insects, but nothing for our early risers. I looked around for ideas and a lightbulb went off in my head—I told my hubby I was going plant lots and lots of unusual spring bulbs out in the lawn that will bloom as early as late January. These plants all naturalize and spread nicely for an ongoing vibrant color display during the dim and rainy months. He was appalled. "In my lawn? Heck no!" Then he muttered something along the lines of "over my dead body." But after I explained that these little flowers bloom and are finished before the grass gets long enough to cut, he was more amenable to the idea. My 250-bulb order should arrive this month!

There are many catalogs and online companies that offer quality bulbs, and our local nurseries carry some of these more unusual bulbs, too. I can't wait to get mine in the ground from late October to mid-November. I have never heard of some of them, and I am so looking forward to a very welcome flower display when we (and the early pollinators) most need it.

Here are some recommendations from experts for unusual fall bulbs that bloom very early in spring and can help support pollinators in the Pacific Northwest:

Chionoscilla (*Chionoscilla* spp.) bulbs produce delicate flowers resembling miniature blue or white stars.

Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*) is a charming bulb that produces bright yellow flowers with a cup-like shape. It blooms extremely early, often emerging through the snow, and provides an early nectar source for bees and other pollinators.

Glory-of-the-Snow 'Spring Beauty' (*Scilla siberica* 'Spring Beauty')-This variety of Glory-of-the-Snow offers a unique color combination with its pink and blue flowers.

Chionodoxa luciliae, also commonly called Glory-of-the-Snow, is a small bulb that blooms early in spring with star-shaped flowers in shades of blue, pink, or white.

Fritillaria (*Fritillaria* spp.) bulbs come in various species and cultivars, with fascinating bell-shaped flowers. Look for varieties such as *Fritillaria meleagris* (Snake's Head Fritillary) or *Fritillaria persica* (Persian Lily). They look like flowers from a sci-fi show!

Winter Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*) is a bulbous plant that bears delicate white flowers with green spots.

Dog's Tooth Violet (*Erythronium* spp.), also known as Trout Lily or Fawn Lily, produces beautiful nodding flowers in shades of yellow, pink, or white. Oregon Fawn Lily is a native bulb with nodding, lily-like flowers in shades of yellow or white.

Anemone blanda, also known as Grecian Windflower, produces daisy-like flowers in shades of blue, purple, and white.

Puschkinia (*Puschkinia scilloides*) offers delicate white flowers with blue stripes. They resemble miniature hyacinths and can naturalize in lawns or meadows, providing an early nectar source.

Camassia (*Camassia* spp.) are native bulbs that produce tall spikes of flowers in various shades of blue, purple, or white. They are beneficial for native bees and other pollinators.

Bellevalia bulbs, such as *Bellevalia pycnantha*, offer clusters of bell-shaped flowers in shades of blue or purple.

When planting bulbs for naturalizing, select a site with well-drained soil and sufficient sunlight. Plant the bulbs in the fall, following the recommended depth and spacing for each specific bulb type. To create a naturalized effect, consider planting them in groups or drifts rather than in formal rows. And equally important, I think, is to plant them where you can enjoy a beautiful and pollinator-friendly display in early spring.



MGs Reporting: To Till or Not to Till, To Dig or Double-Dig

To Till or Not to Till, To Dig or Double-Dig

By Carolyn Winchell

On June 29th we started an experiment in the Demo Garden. We transplanted Latte and Bodacious corn in equal proportion. We left the back part of the bed as No-Till, meaning we cut off the tops of weeds, we pulled any volunteer potatoes. We single dug one side of our bed and we double-dug the other side of our bed. (See the July newsletter for further information on the meaning of the separate types of soil-preparation methods.) We planted the transplants all the same distance apart in each part of the bed and all parts had equal drip irrigation. Sunlight was a variable we couldn't fully control, but we felt that the sections of the bed got approximately the same amount of sun each day. Then we covered the soil in all the beds with 2 inches of arborist wood chips. About four weeks later we fertilized all of the corn with equal amounts of chicken manure.



(article continued on next page)



MGs Reporting: Till/Dig (continued) & Supplies Needed

As we suspected, some of our ears of corn “walked.” We had decided we could best measure the results of the different methods by measuring the height of the No-till, Single-dig, Double-dig corn plants. For some time, it looked as if the No-till was lagging the Single-dig and both were lagging the Double-dig area, but in the last couple of weeks the No-till made significant progress. When we measured the corn on Sept 7, the tallest No-till and the tallest Single-dig were each 54” high. The tallest Double-dig corn was 84” high. In the picture my gloves are touching the tops of the tallest Single-dig and the Double-dig corn.

Our conclusion is that Double-digging allowed significantly more growth for the corn.

This fall, we will remove the stalks from the single-dig and the double-dig beds roots and all. We will cut off the stalks of the No-till corn at ground level and leave the roots in. Then we will cover all the beds with 2-3 inches of arborist wood chips. We would hypothesize that next year, the No-till corn will perform better than this year because of the mycorrhizae being undisturbed and the added plant matter from leaving the roots of the corn in the bed.

We’ll report back next year!



In need of Scrap Wood and Miscellaneous items.

Used or scrap pieces of:

- 2” x 4” various lengths (8” or longer).
- 2” x 6” various lengths (12” or longer).
- 4” x 4” various lengths (12” or longer).
- 1” x 6” cedar fencing various lengths.
- plywood - 1/2”, 5/8” or 3/4”
- 3/4” pine, fir or cedar - 8” or longer, any width.

1 gallon glass jars.

All of these items are transformed into craft projects for the plant sale and help in our fund-raising process. Thanks for the donations!

Contact Art Fuller, 369 785-0298



MGs reporting: WSU Master Gardener Endowed Chair Campaign

WSU MG Endowed Chair Campaign

We use knowledge to empower healthy and resilient communities, but what if we could do more?

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is raising \$1.5 million to hire a horticulture professor fully dedicated to the Program and to the volunteers who give their time and talents.

Learn how your gift will support a greener, healthier Washington when you give to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Endowed Chair Fund.

To support this campaign, scan the QR code or visit mastergardener.wsu.edu/how-to-donate

A SEED
planted today
is a GIFT
for tomorrow

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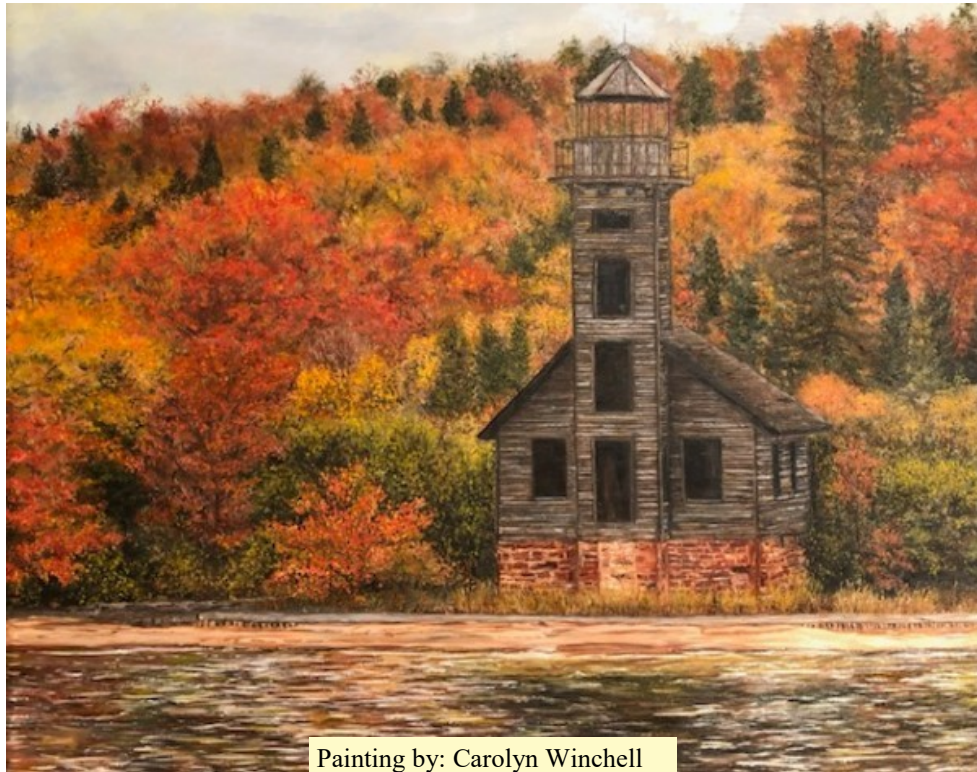


To support this campaign, scan the QR code or visit mastergardener.wsu.edu/how-to-donate



September 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Fall a
Time to
Reflect &
Recharge



Painting by: Carolyn Winchell

Cowlitz County Master Gardener 2023 Foundation Board

