



Master Gardener Newsletter



WSU EXTENSION
Cowlitz County

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GARDEN

Gary Fredricks

MARCH 2024
304 COWLITZ WAY,
KELSO, WA 98626

Lending a Hand

“If you really want to do something, you will find a way. If you don’t, you will find an excuse.” ~ Jim Rohn

It was a late-night and as I was getting ready for bed, my son arrived home from work. When I asked how his day had gone, he said he had stopped to help someone alongside of the road whose car was leaking water. He was there to get tools and water. I helped him collect water in milk jugs and we headed back. They had managed to get off the freeway but had no options for help and still needed to drive 50 miles. It was a young couple with two very small kids, and she was 7 months pregnant. After 90 minutes in the rain, my son managed to get the old hose off that had a three-inch gash, wrap it in duct tape, replace it, add water, and send them on their way. You could see the relief in the young mother’s eyes as she gave my son a big hug.

Over the years, I have heard many stories of service from those people in the community that have benefited from a WSU Master Gardener. A family that received a raised bed garden had been harvesting radishes. Many were eaten before they made it to the house, and they look forward to next year to plant another crop. Another lady stopped me in a store and was excited to tell me that her mason bee house was nearly full after setting it out last spring. A lady with tomato plants was thrilled at the success of having small tomatoes when past plants had yielded little to nothing. The food bank passed along a thank you note for over 700 pounds of fresh produce that was donated. A man whose hedge was dying brought a sample into the clinic, learned how to treat it and was happy to be able to save the plants from destruction. The list goes on and on.

Hundreds of people have been helped by the WSU Master Gardeners in the plant clinic, at workshops, at Farmer’s Market and a variety of ways. The result is people’s quality of life is much better because of the time and energy given unselfishly by WSU MG volunteers.

Like my son, there were no awards handed out or newspaper articles, just a grateful thank you for touching a life and making it better. I hear the words “Thank You” almost daily regarding people who have been helped by a WSU Master Gardener volunteer. The community is far better because of your efforts, and I pass along the countless thank you I have heard from those who appreciate everything you have done. My thanks to all the WSU Master Gardeners in Cowlitz County who have given so much of their time and talents. Know that you do make a difference.

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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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PLEASE LET THE AUTHOR KNOW!

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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 March issue due March 20, 2024

Meetings & Event

Foundation Meeting:

April 9, 2024

10:00 am - 11:30 am
Zoom and Training Center



MASTER
GARDENER
CALENDAR

Upcoming Workshops :

Tuesday NOON Zoom except where noted

Tue 4/2	Starting a Garden	Adam Weeks
Tue 4/9	Keeping Pollinators Safe--it's up to YOU!	Alice Slusher
Tue 4/16	Edible Flowers	Rosalinde Willson
Tue 4/23	Pesticide Labels--Why should I bother?	Jennifer Mendoza
Tue 4/30	Companion Planting: the Real Deal	Terrie Phillips

Master Gardener
Directory

On members' page of website

MGFCC President Jerry Winchell

Priorities

If you're reading this and it's still light outside, put this letter down by your favorite chair and get outside! See you after dark!

OK—so you're exhausted now—but that's gardening. Wasn't it fun?

I've been buying lots of trays and pots and you know what that means—I've got a heap of dirty pots and trays around...Aargh! I hate wasting time cleaning pots so I try to do it quickly, i.e. I fill a plastic 50 gal drum with water and put a ton of laundry bleach in (like 9 gallons of water to 1 gallon of laundry bleach) Scrub the barnacles off your pots then stuff them in the bleach barrel (submerged) for 10 minutes. I'm sure your nose would fall off if you left them for 11 minutes, but Iowa State University says 10 minutes! After the soak—rinse with water, and let them dry. Don't do this on a day where the weatherman says, "No rain," and he's wrong. You'll notice that my pile is still wet after 24 hours. In this case either:

- A. Shoot yourself
- B. Place a canopy over the mess
- C. Pretend they will dry out tomorrow

So far, I'm working on C. Good luck!

P.S. Be careful! This stuff is Sodium Hypochlorite (bleach.) Your nice blue jeans can turn into blue and white jeans. Also, next time you see me, I could have a white bleached out spot on my forehead. A pot bubbled and I got splashed. Wear goggles, and rinse well if you do get a splash. Better yet—

Hey! Let's go buy some new pots and trays!

Jerry



Visiting Dignitaries

On March 11 (Tuesday) Kathy and Brian Schlaefli were driving through Longview on their way home (in Yamhill, Oregon.) They chanced a call because we've been hyping our new "Whoop House" and they wanted to see. (I like to think it was really because they loved all of us soooo much..., but we'll accept a tour of the Whoop House anyway!)

They Ooohed and aaahed and reminisced regarding all the good old days when we had more room for bindweed, horsetail, and black berries! It was just a hit and run visit, but it sure was good to see them.

Their new home has had some "issues." They are gardeners and built up their garden soil with compost from some mint farm that was "OSU approved." They labored and planted tomatoes and other crops that all promptly died. Now what?

They lost a whole growing season and are still scratching their heads to know how to unpoison their soil... They are happy being closer to family, but miss all of us.

Farewell, old friends. We miss you, too!

Jerry Winchell

P.S. I'm just to the right of Carolyn in the picture...



Spring

is raising it's head from the slumbering flower beads.
Even poking up through drifts of remaining snow.

A sweetheart of spring and a favorite of mine is the tulip. The French most likely introduced them to North America at Plymouth in 1621 . There is a bounty of bulbs and knowledge in Woodland , Washington.

For some local eye candy, be sure to visit the Holland America Bulb Farm at 1066 S Pekin Rd Woodland, WA. The bulbs are locally grown and most definitely hardy for our climate. In 2005, a new tulip was on the market from the Netherlands. Dobbe, owner of Holland America, named the tulip Woodland. He also got to name a second variety, a red and white flower, which he named after his company, Holland America. I personally have the Woodland tulip in my own front yard. I find bulbs purchased from local growers are less likely to have issues with rot and can withstand our soggy spring. Local bulbs return with vigor year after year where the box store bulbs may only last a season. Google up 'Best Spring Tulip Festivals in the U.S. 'and you will find some close-to-home farms to purchase from.

#2 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, Mount Vernon, WA, April 1-30 Take a trip to the northwestern corner of Washington state to tour the gorgeous tulip fields of the community in Mount Vernon. The month-long festival includes garden venues at four separate farms. Garden Rosalyn is home to a manmade lake, marketplace, and flower stand. Roozen Gaarde includes a 5+ acre display garden with more than 1 million blooms and over 25 acres of row after row vibrant tulips. Tulip Town's on-farm attraction has 50 varieties of tulips, indoor displays, and fresh-cut tulips. Tulip Valley Farm offers U-Pick options, Afternoon Tea Time in the tulips, and guided painting classes.

#3 Woodburn, OR, March 24-April 30. Walking through 40 acres of over 100 types of tulips to your must-do list of the year. Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm is home to over 200 acres of outdoor space, picturesque display beds, and plenty of activities. The Tulip Market and Field Greenhouse Tent to shop for merchandise, precut flowers, and flower bulbs.

In order to bring those spring flowers to the surface tulips require a period of 8-16 weeks of chilling to initiate flower buds inside the bulb. If they don't receive that chilling period, the bulbs may sprout but will only grow foliage. Temperature is the most important factor in tulip growth and flowering. The lifespan of an average tulip bulb is two to five years, though I have had them last longer. Northwest gardeners can plant the bulbs in October and November once the soil has cooled. You will be rewarded with a spring bonanza! Tulip bulbs are planted three times as deep as the bulbs are wide, so about 6-8 inches deep, with the pointed side up. Space them about 4-8 inches apart. This can be in a trench or a hole from a bulb shovel. I personally use the trench method.

A few lesser known facts about the tulip, petals are edible and can be used to replace onions in many recipes or even to make wine.

At the peak of the tulip mania, the flowers were worth more than diamonds. Take a moment to tip-toe through the tulips this spring. They are a feast for the eye and can lift your spirit!

Kristy Hagen

Sources: A Brief history of tulips the-potshack.com, The Columbian, Country Living Publications, Holland America Flowers/Facebook and my own Personal accounts. Photos taken by Kristy Hagen at the Holland America Farm Woodland Wa.



MG Reporting: Getting the Word Out

Getting the Word Out About Cowlitz County Master Gardeners

By: Alice Slusher

Out of the blue, I got an email asking if I could offer 2-5 sentences about having a garden on an apartment balcony, and post the article on our website when it was available. This is one of those free magazines that are distributed at many locations; so very wide circulation, reaching a lot of people!

Here's what I sent back:

Elevate your apartment living by creating a vibrant balcony garden that attracts pollinators and enhances your container-grown veggies! Opt for pollinator-friendly plants like cosmos, thyme, lavender, and zinnias alongside your tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. With a little creativity, minimal space, and 6 hours of sunlight, you'll be harvesting delicious home-grown produce while fostering a thriving ecosystem right outside your door.

This is posted on the [Here's What We Do](#) page of our website:

WSU Extensions Master Gardeners were named a local expert on [ApartmentGuide](#).
Read the full article here: [How to Start a Balcony Garden](#)

Here's what he did with the information. He kind of got it wrong in the article—I asked him to say that I was a WSU Extension Master Gardener in Cowlitz County. He wanted the link to the article posted on our website—apparently, he used the foundation as the identifier.

3. Consider pollinator-friendly plants

Enhance the biodiversity of your balcony garden by incorporating pollinator-friendly plants. This contributes to the overall health of your garden ecosystem and adds a vibrant and dynamic element to your outdoor space as you witness the beauty of these pollinators interacting with your plants.

When searching for pollinator-friendly plants, Alice Slusher with the [Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County in Cowlitz County, Washington](#), recommends cosmos, thyme, lavender, and zinnias alongside tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers as options.



MGs Reporting: Green Roof in the Future

Green Roof in The Future

By: Carolyn Winchell

One of the new things we're hoping to implement in the Demo Garden this year is a green roof. Amy Norquist inspired us when we learned that she had had a business creating green roofs in New York for 12 years. Last fall we talked about the possibility of creating one in our Demo Garden. She proposed that we put it on the roof of our structure that shelters our worm composting area. Amy mentioned that most of the plants would be succulents. Then Heidi Hubler did a wonderful class on succulents this month and in addition to sharing so much good information about propagating succulents she included a link from the University of Michigan on green roofs including their recommended plants for various areas.

A trip to a garden center yielded one of each of most of those recommended and a search on the net yielded seeds to the remaining plants. (Yay!)

Then the Master Gardener class of 2024 spent time with the Demo Garden March 13th and they divided succulents and grasses and potted them (including using the honey water that Heidi had recommended. (Real honey mixed with water)

We can hardly wait for them to multiply. There will be muscari (grape hyacinth) multiple beautiful sedums, blue fescue, snow in summer, miniature lupines, cup flower, blue field folia, and cinquefoil.



Amy says we can plant in the fall. It's going to be BEAUTIFUL!!! I've included a picture of some of the sedum that we've divided (before we did the dividing.) It's just joy to look it as is.

Thanks Amy and Heidi, and MG class of 24!



MGs Reporting: Large Bee Fly

Large Bee Fly

By: Dana Kent

The large bee fly, or *Bombylius major*, looks like a bee but isn't one [more [photos](#)]. It's a fly that pretends to be one! Despite its fuzzy appearance, it only has two wings, unlike bees, which have four. Adult bee flies, stocky and about $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long, are active from early spring to late summer, depending on the region. They are great pollinators, often observed hovering near flowers, using their long proboscis to extract nectar. Despite their bee-like appearance, they do not possess the ability to sting.



Photo: *Bombylius major*

But as much as we appreciate bee flies for their pollination services, they also have a darker side. Here's what we know:

- When solitary ground-nesting bees such as halictids, colletids, and andrenids visit a flower and get a full load of nectar and pollen, they head back to their nest to provision it with food for their young. The wily and agile bee fly follows a bee back to its nest and deposits her eggs near the entrance of underground nests of solitary bees and wasps.



- Once the eggs hatch, the larvae find their way into the nests and feed on the bee larvae.
- The bee-fly larvae not only consume the stored provisions of pollen but also devour the developing bee larvae.
- After feeding on the bee larvae, the bee-fly larvae pupate and remain inside the nest until the following spring.

The GOOD NEWS is that *Bombylius major* doesn't attack mason bee larvae, only solitary ground-nesting bee larvae. Since mason bees don't nest in the ground, they're safe from this. The BAD NEWS is that another menace, the [Houdini fly](#), *Cacoxenus indagator*, with a similar m.o., poses a threat to mason bees, even though they're not related to *Bombylius major*. So, mason bees should be wary of Houdini flies, not the large bee-fly, *Bombylius major*.



Photo: I found this beast in my hoop house. I believe it to be a "Bee Fly." I looked them up and they can be detrimental to ground dwelling bee's larvae.

MGs Reporting: Mantid

Mantid Ootheca

By: Dana Kent

Now that we're spending more time in the garden people will be seeing mantis eggs all over. Keep an eye out for them so you don't crush them. They can be attached to almost anything. I've had them on T-posts, planting trays, pots, walls of my hoop houses etc. I found one this week on a dry poppy stalk that I had pulled. It landed on the ground, and I found it the following day.

They camouflage well. Unfortunately, I think this one has been compromised; note the little round hole just to the left. Not sure what insect



Ootheca with hole of unknown origin.

does this but like a piece of fruit, something chews its way inside and eats the larva from inside. Something else for me to look up.

I've come across just one article discussing mantis eggs being foraged from the egg case of the praying mantis, known as an ootheca. According to this source, ants are reported to attack and consume these eggs. I can't confirm this firsthand. While ants are known foragers, it seems unlikely they actively seek out these eggs. The article advises against placing the ootheca on the ground due to potential ant predation. But I've personally found ootheca attached to t-posts without any observable ant presence. However, these ootheca still exhibited similar damage as shown in the picture, leading me to suspect that another predator is responsible for the damage.

Plant and Insect Clinic reply: Probably parasitic wasps. They like to lay their eggs inside things and suck the juicy life right out of them! Small wasps, such as species of *Podagrion*, parasitize mantis eggs by clinging onto a female mantis's wings until she lays her eggs. However, once the wasps emerge, the egg case typically remains intact except for small exit holes.

<https://www.gvrhc.org/Library/PrayingMantis.pdf>

Commentary:

Here in the PNW, mantids (more accurate name) lay their autumn and hatch in spring. The mantid nymphs hatch in the spring by emerging from the holes that run along the midline seam of the ootheca.

Mantids are predatory insects that hunt for their prey using their vision. They patiently wait for insects to come within reach, then ambush and capture them using their front legs—they are fly-by hunters. With sharp spines on the insides of their legs, they pierce and immobilize their prey while consuming it. Mantids have a diverse diet, which includes other mantids among various insects.

Is it a good idea to buy and introduce praying mantids into your garden? Probably not. While they are known for being fierce predators, praying mantids may not necessarily benefit your garden. They have a diverse appetite and will consume not only pests like caterpillars but **kill beneficial insects like butterflies and bees**. They are also known to prey on each other, so their population in your garden might not increase significantly even if you release them. Additionally, they may not remain in the specific areas you intend them to, making their impact on pest control uncertain. Considering that praying mantids are not native to the PNW, so probably shouldn't be released here.

If you are trying to attract pollinators like butterflies and bees to your garden, it's not a good idea to encourage mantids.

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm>



Mantid ootheca hiding in plain sight on a dried poppy stem on the ground.

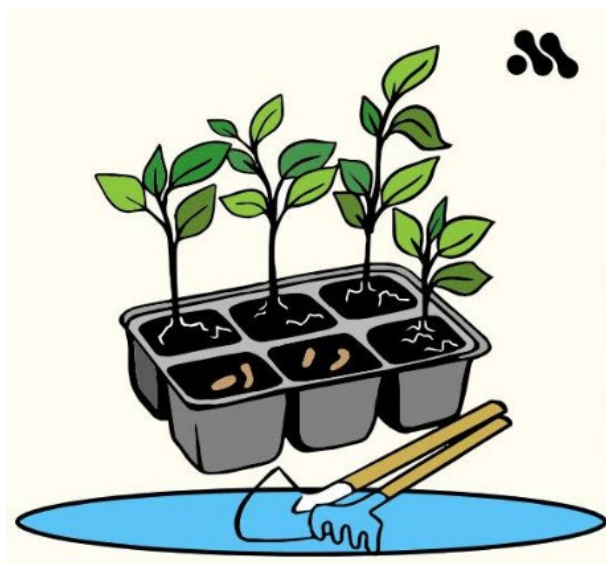


MGs Reporting: Starting Seeds

The Joy of Growing Your Own: A Beginner's Guide to Choosing and Starting Seeds

By: Alice Slusher

The promise of fresh, homegrown vegetables is irresistible, but navigating the world of seeds can feel overwhelming. This guide is here to help you take the first steps towards cultivating your own bountiful garden, focusing on choosing seeds, starting them indoors, and nurturing them into healthy seedlings.



Choosing Your Seeds:

- **Consider Your Preferences:** Start by selecting vegetables you and your family actually enjoy eating. Don't get carried away with trying everything in your first year. Pick a few varieties with different harvest times to spread your enjoyment throughout the season.
- **Check the Seed Packets:** Each seed packet contains valuable information. Look for the "days to maturity" to understand how long it will take for you to harvest your vegetables after you've transplanted them into the garden. Varieties that are 55-75 days to maturity (from the date you transplant into the garden) are ideal for our short growing season.

- **When to start:** While the seed packet might suggest starting seeds based on the last frost date, in Cowlitz County, despite the average last frost being early-mid May, we recommend waiting until the first week of June to transplant outdoors due to cooler soil temperatures and potential late frost risks. Directly sow seeds for carrots, turnips, radishes, peas, Swiss chard, and beans outdoors. However, start tomato and pepper seeds indoors around 8 weeks before you plan to transplant them; squashes and cucumbers, 4 weeks. If the seed packet recommends starting your seeds 8 weeks before the last frost, you should start your seeds indoors on April 1.

Planting Your Seeds:

- **Gather Your Supplies:** Invest in "seed starting mix," a lightweight soil medium specifically designed for seedlings. Don't use garden soil—it's too dense and can harbor disease organisms. You'll also need containers with drainage holes - anything from repurposed yogurt containers to dedicated seed-starting trays will work.
- **Prepare the Soil:** Moisten the seed starting mix until it forms a ball when squeezed and feels like a damp sponge when released. This ensures proper moisture without drowning the seeds.
- **Planting the Seeds:** Fill your containers with soil, leaving about half an inch of space from the top. Gently tamp down the soil. Make shallow indentations, sow your seeds, and cover them with a thin layer of soil. Lightly pat down the soil. Plant two seeds per container and thin them out later if both seeds germinate.



MGs Reporting: Starting Seeds (continued)

- **Labeling:** Keep track of your seedlings by creating labels with the plant name, variety, and sowing date. Keeping good records from year to year to track what you did throughout the growing season is a great way to become a more successful gardener.
- **Watering:** Place your planted containers in a tray and water from below. The water will wick up and moisten the soil. After 20 minutes, drain any excess water to prevent root rot. While the seeds are germinating, spray them lightly to keep the soil surface moist. It's important to keep in mind that overwatering kills more plants than underwatering. A good way to tell when watering is needed is when the containers feel significantly lighter. When your seedlings have grown larger, here's a helpful tip: water thoroughly when the first plant just begins to wilt.



- **Humidity and Light:** Cover your containers with a clear dome or plastic wrap to maintain moisture. However, seedlings also need proper light: 16-18 hours daily. Invest in a full-spectrum fluorescent shop light, keeping it 2

inches above the plants as they grow. LED grow lights may also be used, but the distance is variable. If the leaves have tan bleached areas or are crunchy, increase the distance; if the plant is leggy, decrease the distance. Maintain that optimal distance as the plant grows. Tip: create a “tent” with a [reflective mylar sheet](#) over your lights to keep the light on the plants—not dispersed out in the room.

- **Germination and Care:** Remove the heat mat and cover once the first seedlings emerge. Provide air circulation with a clip-on fan. Adjusting the light source as your seedlings grow is essential, maintaining an appropriate distance to avoid leggy plants.
- **Fertilizing:** When your seedlings have two sets of true leaves, it's time to repot them into larger containers and introduce diluted fertilizer. Choose a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer or a diluted organic (but stinky) option like fish emulsion. Remember, less is always more when it comes to fertilizing seedlings.

By following these simple steps, you'll be well on your way to starting your own thriving vegetable garden from seeds. Remember, gardening is a journey, and there will be successes and challenges. Embrace the learning process, and enjoy the delicious rewards of homegrown vegetables!

More information on our website:

[Vegetable Gardening — Master Gardener Foundation \(cowlitzcomg.com\)](http://VegetableGardening—MasterGardenerFoundation(cowlitzcomg.com))



MG Reporting: Fungus Gnat Management

Fungus Gnat Management By: Alice Slusher

Many folks are starting veggies and other plants at home for the plant sale and for their own use. Fungus gnats are just a nuisance most of the time, but if the infestation is heavy, they can damage the roots of tender young plants. Prevention is key! Don't overwater and don't let your pots sit in water. See below for more details.

1. Life Cycle:

- Fungus gnats go through four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.
- Eggs and oblong pupae are found in damp organic media where females lay eggs.
- At 75°F, eggs hatch in about 3 days.
- Larvae take approximately 10 days to develop into pupae.
- About 4 days later, adults emerge.
- **A generation of fungus gnats (from female to female) can be produced in about 17 days**, depending on temperature. Warmer conditions lead to faster development and more generations per year.

2. Cultural control methods:

- ◆ **Target Immature Stages:**
 - Most of the gnat's life is spent as a **larva and pupa** in soil or organic matter. Focus on controlling these stages rather than the short-lived adults.
- ◆ **Physical and Cultural Tactics--Note: these guidelines also reduce algae growth** on the soil surface, which also encourages fungus gnats.
 - A [layer of vermiculite on the soil surface](#) may help to prevent algae growth, which in turn, may deter fungus gnats.
 - Reduce **excess moisture** and **organic debris**.
 - Avoid **overwatering** and ensure **good drainage**.
 - Don't let pots sit in water!
 - Let the **surface of container soil dry** between waterings.
 - Heavy infestations may be alleviated by **re-potting in fresh soil medium**

◆ Cleanliness Measures:

- Eliminate standing water and fix **plumbing or irrigation leaks**.
- Remove **moist and decomposing** materials like grass clippings, compost, and mulch.
- Use **pasteurized organic matter** in potting soil to prevent infestations.

3. Trapping:

- Use **yellow sticky traps** available at garden centers.
- Cut them into smaller squares, attach to sticks, and place in pots to trap adult gnats.
- **Raw potato chunks** placed in soil attract gnat larvae for monitoring and trapping.
- Replace infested chunks with fresh ones after a few days.

4. Biological Control:

- ◆ Purchase **commercial biological agents**:
 - Steinernema nematodes—not practical for small scale use ([order online](#))
 - Hypoaspis predatory mites—this might be a practical solution ([order online](#))
 - ****[Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies israelensis \(Bti\)](#) such as [Mosquito Bits](#) or [Gnatrol](#) **BEST FOR HOME GARDENERS. Mix with water and apply it when watering.**
 1. Mix 4 tablespoons Mosquito Bits or Gnatrol per 1 gallon of water.
 2. Let mixture sit for 30 minutes and skim off the floating granules. For easier



Figure 2. Darkwinged fungus gnat larvae feeding in rotten potato. Photograph by Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



MGs Reporting: Thoughts To All

(Fungus gnat management continued)

- cleanup, granules may be placed in a
3. nylon stocking prior to immersion in water.
4. Stir or shake the water then apply treated water directly to soil or growing media surface.
5. Compost or discard used granules.
6. This treatment controls fungus gnat larvae present in the soil at the time of application.
7. Repeat weekly for three weeks.
8. Repeat treatment if fungus gnats reappear.

5. Chemical Control

- ◆ Gnat control sprays may give *temporary* but fast-acting control of large infestations:
 - Use a spray containing pyrethrins.
 - ONLY spray the surface of potting soil and areas where adult gnats rest. Avoid tender seedling tissue.
 - Pyrethrins are safe for people and pets and derived from certain chrysanthemums.
 - Examples:
 1. Natria Insect, Disease & Mite Control (Ready to use)
 2. Bonide Bon-Neem ready to use
 3. Monterey Rose And Flower Spray Plus
 4. Bonide Bon-Neem (ready to use)
 5. Monterey Take Down Garden Spray (ready to use)
 6. Espoma Insect!

Follow all label directions!

Resources:

- <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7448.html>
- [\(PICOL\) Database - Washington State University WSU Pestsense](#)



To all...

I wanted to share with you all some thoughts I had while driving home from our class day at the Demonstration Garden last week.

I know I've said it one hundred times, but before we are completely entrenched in the plant sale activities, I think it's worth repeating.

We have a wonderful program – more money in our bank account than ever before, a beautiful state-of-the-art greenhouse, an awesome shiny new hoop house, more fancy tools and gadgets we will ever need, a clinic to help us solve our gardening problems equipped with the best microscopes and computers.

Aren't we fortunate? All those things are all great tools to help us grow, teach and produce.

With all that, let's not lose sight on our MOST valuable asset – which of course is our people. All of you. I think sometimes we need to step back and look at who we have. Take a moment to be a good listener, have a laugh, share in the joy of being a Master Gardener with so many wonderful friends. And I will use the word "friends" because every one of them is that to me. Our gardener friends deserve a smile, a greeting and respect, because that's what makes us come back next week and beyond.

My thoughts for now-
Jane Yahrmarkt



MGs Reporting: Buy/Sell/Trade/Give-away

[Cowlitz MG's Buy/Sell/Trade/Give-away](#)

Have something to sell, or better yet, give away! Join our MG-only Facebook Market Place group. This could be so much fun if we all started using it! Clean out your shed, your closets! Sign into your FB account, click this link, and request to join the group! Please shoot me an email so I go in and approve it. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/169199163564668>



Master Gardener Photo Albums



Hey there, shining star! Ever wonder if you're gracing the pages of our story albums? Well, here they are! Check out all the photos uploaded by our amazing Master Gardeners. such a lively bunch of volunteers! We're crossing our fingers that YOU make an appearance, showcasing the fun times you've had with your fellow Master Gardeners.

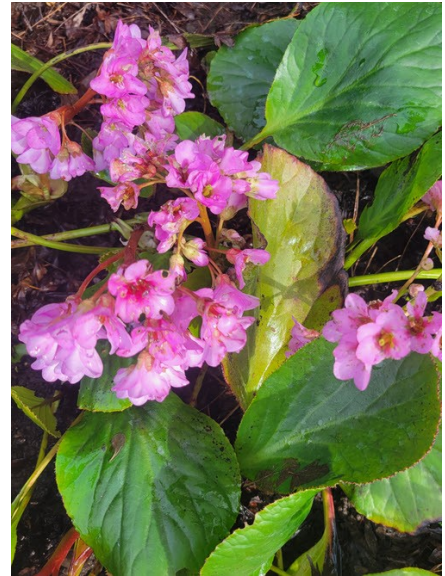
Together, we're a powerhouse! From organizing the plant sale to hosting educational workshops, building the incredible hoophouse, tending to our Demo Gardens, and welcoming the future Master Gardeners of the 2024 class, we're all in this together, propelling our Master Gardener Program forward in the Cowlitz County community. 🌱 Let's keep growing!

If you've taken photos, please share them by uploading via this link to our 2024 Dropbox Photo Album: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/HuXC8u0G2qodQeFCdZ9q>

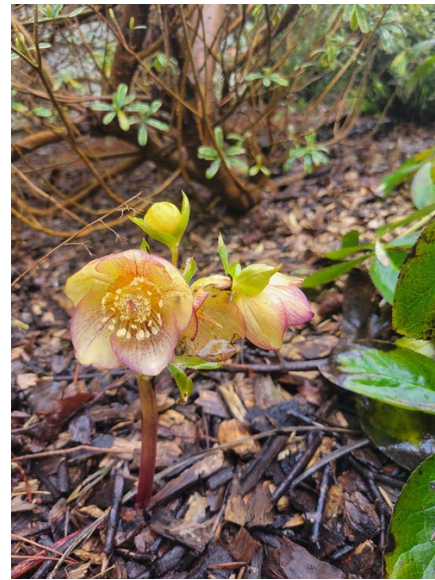
- ◆ **Rose Garden Pruning Workshop:** <https://photos.app.goo.gl/kS3PZRvjCVKgoWwRA>
- ◆ **Seed Starting Workshop 3-2-24:** <https://photos.app.goo.gl/k2V8G5mqoC4zuxKe9>
- ◆ **Trainees Greenhouse Tour:** <https://photos.app.goo.gl/53VPzqnUSY1L9p4r5>
- ◆ **Hoophouse Hoopla!** <https://photos.app.goo.gl/nq142FbxjvwMnKNBA>
- ◆ **Plant Sale album:** <https://photos.app.goo.gl/zCBw26a3pmvSs5Cg6>
- ◆ **Demo Garden:** <https://photos.app.goo.gl/5ap8xDz2CRF3aYSF7>
- ◆ **HomeGrowers:** <https://photos.app.goo.gl/1Fo2sF3HhdFuyvNRA>



MGs Reporting: Signs of Spring



- Patricia Bosh**
- Pink Hellebores (above)
 - Begonia Elephant Ears (top right)
 - Hellebores (right)
- Roman Fedorka**
- Bearded Iris (below)
 - Carex in a pot (below)
 - Hardy orchids from Turkey (below right)



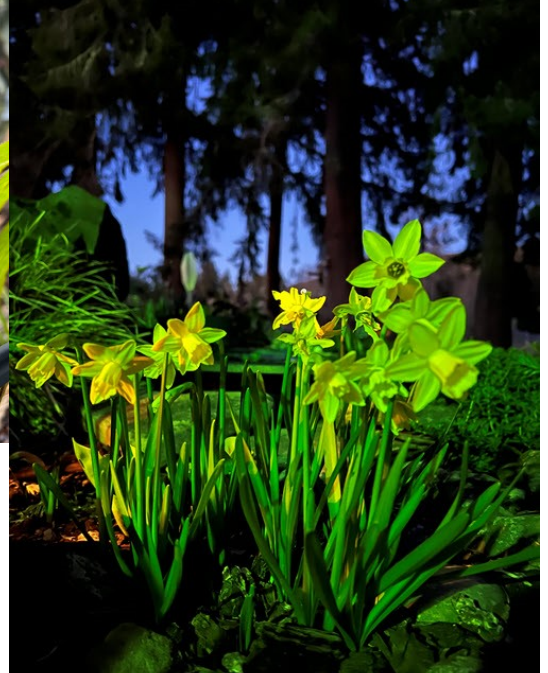
← Bearded Iris
From Roman F.
Carex in a pot →



Hardy orchids from Turkey I bought on Ebay a couple of years ago. Roman F.



MGs Reporting: Signs of Spring



Terrie Phillips

- Deer in dusting of snow
- Daffodils layered by snow
- Heliobores
- Spring Catalogs
- Daffodils in morning

*from Kate Martin
1500 ft elevation:
this is what my raised beds look like this
morning. Also lost a couple panels on my
greenhouse!
Spring, Ta Da*



MGs Reporting: Signs of Spring



**March 3, 2024
Spring weather at
higher elevations!**



MGs Reporting: Signs of Spring

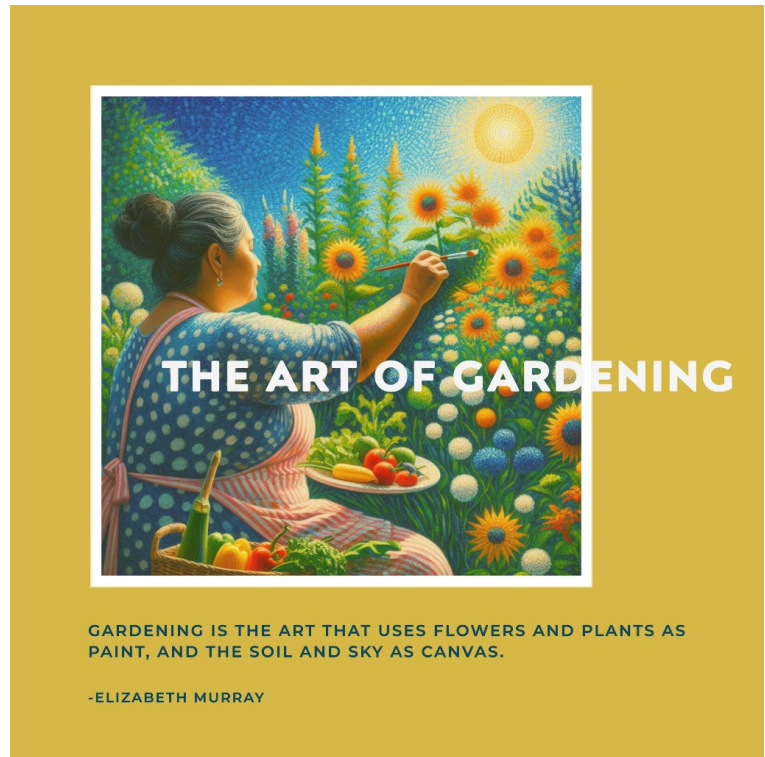


From Vickie Williams on March 14: Hellebores in the evening sun!

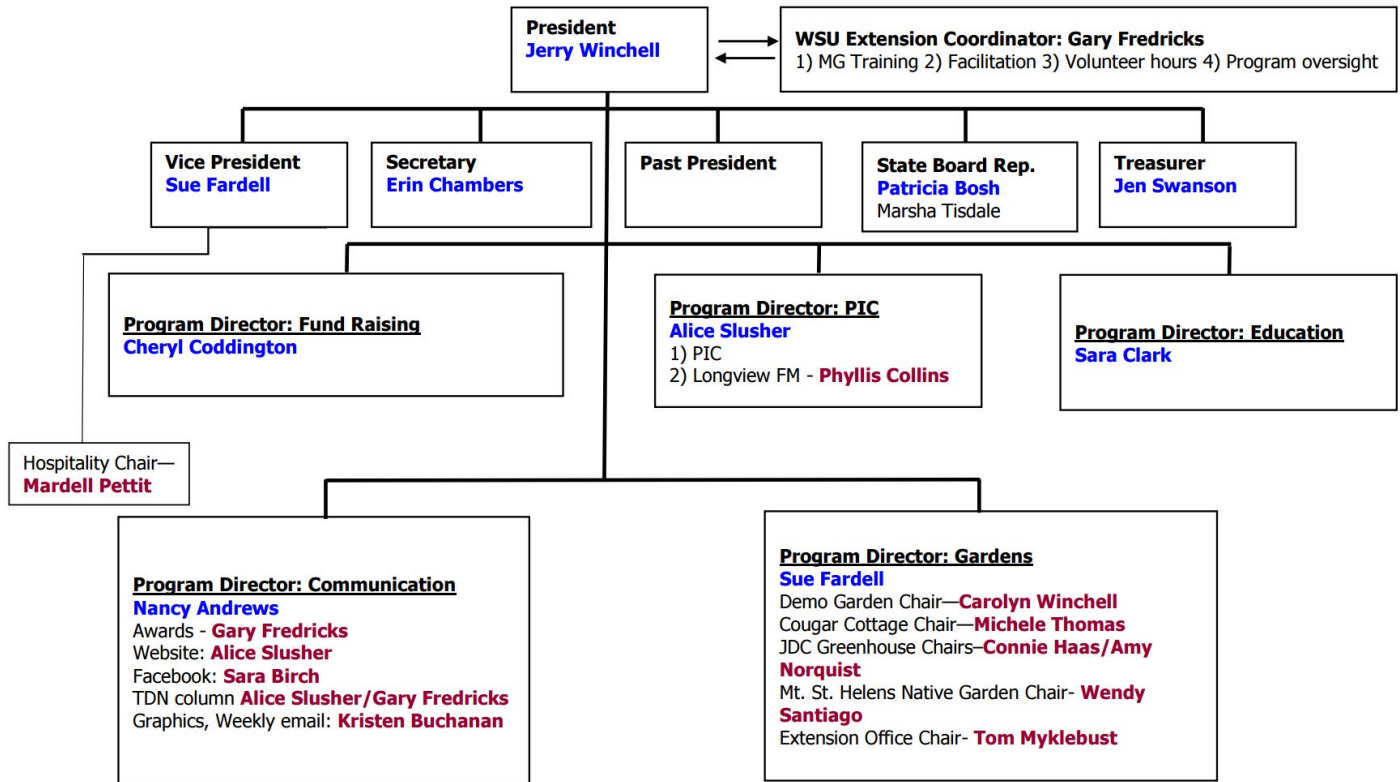


Meeting Minutes February 13, 2024

March 12 Meeting Minutes available in March. issue
[Meeting slide deck](#)



Cowlitz County Master Gardener 2024 Foundation Board



Foundation Officer
 Program Chair

