



The Foundation Connection

A monthly e-newsletter from the Master Gardener Foundation of King County

Ellen A'Key Grant 2018: *Whatcom County Master Gardeners*

...by Master Gardener Bob Connor

We received three applications for the A'Key Grant award this year. Our committee of four chose the Whatcom County project, Grow Your Groceries.

The Foothills, encompassing approximately 620 square miles, is in a rural area of Whatcom County and home to approximately 9,000 people. In 2014, the USDA classified the Foothills as a food desert, a low-income area with at least 33 percent of the population lacking adequate access to retail sources of food.

Whatcom County Master Gardeners will institute a pilot program, Grow Your Groceries, to lessen this area's food insecurity problem. The project proposes four fruit and vegetable gardening classes at two of the Whatcom County Library System libraries. A WSU Extension specialist will teach a class on food preservation in summer. Most classes will be taught on Saturdays. Classes start in the early spring of 2019.

March 2019: Planning your garden.

Early May: Planting and management of your garden.

Mid July: Fall vegetable crops and preparing your garden for winter.

November–December: Fruit tree pruning and growing small fruits.

The grant was named in memory of Ellen A'Key, King County Master Gardener, whose generous bequest enabled the Master Gardener Foundation of King County to establish a reserve fund. It is in her honor that we share our resources with other MGs around the state.