



The Foundation Connection

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

March 2021 Issue



Sign Up NOW for 2021 Master Gardener Advanced Training: *Reload, Refresh, Rekindle, Required*

...by the Clinic Leadership Team

Take a moment now to register for one of the upcoming 2021 Master Gardener Advanced Training sessions beginning March 3.

Completion of 2021 Advanced Training is required for all Intern, Veteran and Emeritus Master Gardeners in King County. Part 1 is a prerecorded video to be viewed at your convenience prior to participating in Part 2, which is the live Zoom session you'll be registering to attend. Part 2 sessions are offered at various times of day between March 3 and March 29, giving all of us a chance to find a day and time that works. You'll find more information, including links for the Part 1 video

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and Part 2 registration, in your invitation email from Program Coordinator Mary Watts dated February 24.

We have been disconnected from our friends and clinic resource materials for over a year, so this course will give us a chance to dust off and refresh our skills at advising clients. You'll earn CE credits for completing this mandatory course, and we have a hunch you'll look forward to reconnecting with your peers, as we Reload, Refresh and Rekindle for 2021!

The Clinic Leadership team is comprised of Program Coordinator Mary Watts, Gary Scheider, Carrie Hill, Jim Olson, Daryl Schlessler, Molly van der Burch, Brenda Spilker, and Wendy Jordan.

Foodies in the Garden

COVID Times: Obsessed with Tomatoes



Tomato seedlings under grow light.

*...by Linda Shepherd,
Master Gardener*

What does it mean when you have tomato seedlings in your guest bedroom, laundry room, and at the neighbor's? Obsession! But one can never have too many tomatoes. Master Gardener Linda Shepherd details her pandemic growing season.

[Read more](#)

Note: Master Gardener Marcia Dillon will present a workshop Saturday, March 13, on *Growing Tomatoes in the PNW* as part of the Bellevue Demo Garden workshop series. Register [here](#)

The Growing Groceries series also includes a class on [The Tomato Family](#) in April. Visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for details.

The 2021 King County Master Gardener Plant Sale & Garden Market: A New and Enhanced Shopping Experience

[Database](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

Staying Smart

[Growing Groceries 2020-2021](#)

[BDG Saturday Workshops 2021](#)

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Of Interest to You

Tip Sheets for KC

Browse tip sheets about Puget Sound Gardening

[Garden Tips](#)

WHERE am I?

Find King County Master Gardener **clinics** and **garden** locations using the [MGFKC map](#).

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You can donate .5% of your purchase to the Foundation when you use

[AmazonSmile](#).

Thank You.

Make a Difference!
DONATE

[Donate to MGFKC](#)

...by Gary Scheider, Master Gardener and Plant Sale Lead



MGFKC Online Plant Sale & Garden Market, happening April 2021! More information will be posted in the upcoming April issue of the newsletter, on our Foundation website, and our Facebook page. Here's a preview.

Our decision to cancel last year's Master Gardener Foundation in-person Plant Sale at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) and develop an alternative online store gave us a chance to do something novel, an experience that worked out well. We sold all of our veggie inventory and hosted a store that was easy for our customers to use. We also generated nearly \$12,000 in profit for the Foundation, and while considerably less than our in-person outcomes at CUH, we were delighted. Given the ongoing 2021 uncertainties of "Master-Gardener-Life-As-We-Knew-It," we'll host an online plant sale again in 2021. But - wait for it - it will be bigger, better, and all jazzed up.

We've been conceptualizing the new store for months, and several Master Gardener volunteers with careers in the software world are crafting the new store on Shopify. The online storefront will be professional, attractive, and easy for our customers (to buy lots of stuff). This year, we'll host our usual (but larger) assortment of veggies, and we'll also add several of our specialty plant vendors from past in-person sales to the store, allowing guests to shop for a wider variety of ornamentals as well. It should be quite an interesting layout of zillions of interesting things, so hang on to your wallet.

Many more details will be provided soon. We'll have a broad promotional campaign to the public and to Master Gardeners, and we expect a very busy event.

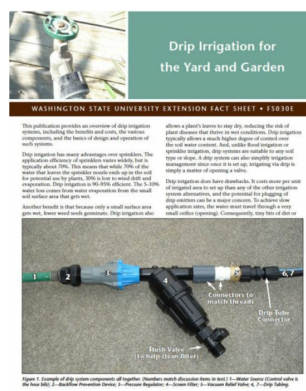
Extend Your Resources

Getting Ready: Resources for Early Spring Gardening

Here are several publications from the WSU

Extension website to help you get ready for the gardening season. All are free to download.

Home Lawns-EB0482: If you are considering installing a new lawn or renovating an existing one, [EB0482](#) has detailed information on all aspects of lawn care. See our King County Gardening [Tip Sheet #11](#) for a 4-season lawn calendar.



Drip Irrigation for the Home Garden-FS030E: Planning for watering is part of planning a garden. [FS030E](#) is an overview of drip irrigation, including the pros and cons, system operation, and maintenance. The publication includes many photos.

Home Gardener's Guide to Soils and Fertilizers-EM063E: This publication takes a detailed look at soil structure, water management, and soil amendments. [EM063E](#) gives you a good start on managing and maintaining your garden soil.



News Shoots: Short Subjects

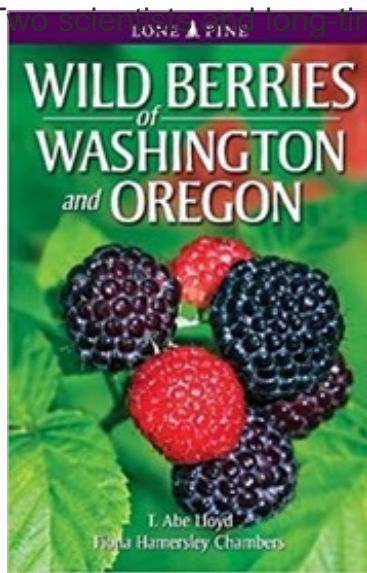
NW Fruit (Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation) is offering webinars the first Saturday of each month starting in March.

The webinars are free to members and will be available to non-members depending on available space. Please visit the [NW Fruit website](#) for full details.

The first webinar is Saturday, March 6, starting at 10 a.m. Foundation President Bob Baines will present **Selection and Care of Fruit Trees for the Home Garden**; there will also be a presentation by Bill Davis on grafting. *Note: The annual NW Fruit membership meeting, also on the agenda, does not count as CE for Master Gardeners.*

Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection

Wild Berries of Washington and Oregon



The foragers have teamed up for this field guide. Excellent photos and even some of the authors' favorite recipes are included.

[Read more](#)

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

Master Gardeners can still earn Continuing Education credit from a wide selection of online classes, webinars, and online workshops. Check out the offerings on the MGF Education page: <https://www.mgfk.org/education>

Growing Groceries Classes.

Growing Groceries classes are held on Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the Zoom online platform. There is a suggested minimum donation of \$5 for each class to the Master Gardener Foundation, which supports the activities of the Master Gardener Program. Advance registration is required for *each class*.

March 3: Cabbage Family: broccoli, cauliflower, kale, cabbage, arugula, mustard, collards, Brussels sprouts.

March 24: Pea Family: peas, green and dry beans, lentils.

Please visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and registration for all classes.

Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops:

Workshops are Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The first workshop each month is free and registration is not required. For the remaining workshops each month, the suggested donation is \$5 and registration is required.

March 6: How to Plant Bare Root Raspberry Plants

presented by Master Gardener Krista Faye.

Free: Zoom link posted [here](#)

March 13: Growing Tomatoes in the Pacific Northwest

presented by Master Gardener Marcia Dillon.

[Register](#)

March 20: Top 10 Garden Pests and Their Natural Enemies

presented by Sharon Collman, WSU Extension Professor Emeritus.

[Register](#)

March 27: Choosing the Right Plants presented by Laura Matter, Tilth Alliance Garden Hotline Manager.

[Register](#)

For information and details, please visit

<https://www.mgfk.org/education/bdg-workshops>

Bellevue Botanical Garden

Preregistration is required for webinars; \$5 fee for BBG members, \$15 for nonmembers. Registrants will receive an email within two business days with "join" information.

This is the second of three webinars co-sponsored with King County Master Gardener Foundation. Discounted fee for MGs is \$5.

March 4, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Container Vegetable Gardening

Master Gardener Joan Baldwin will suggest vegetables and varieties that are best suited for container, preferred container types, growing media, and watering strategies.

[Details and registration](#)

BBG offers several other webinars in March. You'll find details at

<https://bellevuebotanical.org/webinars/>

NW Fruit

NW Fruit (Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation) offers webinars the first Saturday of each month, starting at 10 a.m. Webinars are free to members and will be available to non-members depending on available space. Please visit [NWFFruit](#) for full details.

March 6, 10 a.m.: Selection and Care of Fruit Trees for the Home Garden; Grafting Presentation

by Bob Baines, President of NWFFruit. Note that the society's annual meeting, also on this date, does not count as CE for Master Gardeners.

King County Noxious Weed Control Program March 31, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants Class.

Learn how to identify and control noxious weeds and invasives in a range of habitats. Free. Space is limited, [registration required](#)

Savvy Gardener Classes (Saving Water Partnership) Classes will resume in the spring.
<https://www.savingwater.org/lawn-garden/gardening-classes/>

Future File

September 12 to 17, 2021:
[International Master Gardener Conference](#)
Norfolk, Virginia.

Fall 2021:

The WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference for 2020 is rescheduled to September 29 - October 2, 2021.

[WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference](#),

Events, Coming Attractions

MGF Board Meeting,
Thursday, March 11, 7:00
p.m. online meeting.
Information and details at



<http://www.mgfk.org/events/mgfk-meetings>

Tilth Alliance Edible Plant Sale, May 1 to 5, online only.

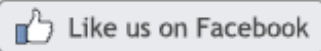
Details here:

[Tilth Alliance Edible Plant Sale](#)

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.

Stay Connected:



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