

# MASTER GARDENER connection

A JOINT MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE MASTER GARDENERS OF KING COUNTY  
AND THE MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF KING COUNTY

MAY 2022

## Growing Knowledge at the Intern "Learn and Work" Days



...by Penny Kriese, Master Gardener and  
Thyme Patch Park Demonstration Garden  
Lead

Introducing new King County Master Gardener interns to the demonstration gardens across the county is a key part of each year's training. This year, the Intern

"Learn and Work" Days took place on March 19 and 26, the last days of Master Gardener training.

Garden Leaders shared photos and stories of the activities during this year's Intern Days in their gardens.

[Read more](#)

*Photo credit Penny Kriese*

## King Conservation District Soil Testing Update



When working with a client, in some situations, it can be important to encourage a basic soil test. When this is necessary, your clinic bins have a useful Tip Sheet as well as a flyer from King Conservation District (KCD), our soil testing partner, which you can provide to clients. We've learned that KCD has made two significant changes to their procedures.

- The soil sample size requirement is now three pounds. This is an increase from what it was in the past.
- Each resident in the KCD service area is eligible for a total of five free, basic soil nutrient tests for properties they own or rent. Additional tests are now \$25 (up from \$20).
- As in the past, the cities of Enumclaw, Federal Way, Skykomish, Milton and Pacific are outside the KCD District service area, but their samples can be processed for the \$25 fee.

The link to KCD soil tests on Tip Sheet #1 (Gardening Websites <https://extension.wsu.edu/king/tip-sheet-1-gardening-websites/>), and on the KCD soil test flyer in your bins is still <https://kingcd.org/programs/better-soils/healthy-soil/>. This link will direct to the updated information on the KCD website. Your CICs have been asked to ensure any existing KCD Soil Sample Information flyers have been updated with the new sample size and cost information.

### *Extend Your Resources*

## Discovery reveals how fungi bypasses plant defenses, kills plants

*...article by Scott Weybright, WSU College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resources*

A team led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and Washington State University researchers has discovered a protein that the fungi, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, uses to bypass natural plant defenses. *Sclerotinia* causes damage in more than 600 plant species including many food crops.

Read more about this discovery in the full article [here](#).

This article was originally published in the *WSU Insider*, *Washington State University*.

## Looking for Help With Your Gardening Questions?

The Plant Answer Clinics and Demonstration Gardens staffed by the WSU Extension Master Gardeners will be opening over the next few weeks. Bring your gardening questions to the Plant Answer Clinic near you and get expert advice, plant identification, and help with plant problems. WSU Extension Master Gardeners will make recommendations based on scientifically sound gardening principles.



See for yourself how to grow your own food and put into practice research-based gardening guidance. Our demonstration, outreach, and youth gardens offer different experiences.

Use our Map of WSU Extension Master Gardener Clinics and Gardens to locate a clinic or garden near you: <https://mgfkc.org/resources/map-of-mg-clinics-and-gardens>.

Note that opening days and times vary by location.



Explore

List



EN



Please **enter your volunteer hours regularly** on the GivePulse King County Master Gardener site at <https://wsu.givepulse.com/group/453122-WSU-King-County-Master-Gardeners>.

Look for KCMG in the webpage title and bookmark the page in your browser so you don't forget.

See the [KCMGs, Only](#) webpage for guides about adding or updating your hours.



### *Cultivate (More) Knowledge*

### What do nutrients do for plants?

...blog post by Amanda Ramcharan, Bayer Crop Science

### Quick Links



[MGFKC](#)



[King County MG](#)

[Become a Master Gardener](#)

[MGF Washington State](#)

This blog post from the Soil Science Society of America reviews the essential soil nutrients plants need to thrive. Did you know that nitrogen influences the process of photosynthesis? Or that potassium assists in the regulation of water use?

Brush up on your soil knowledge. Read the entire blog post [here](#).

This blog post was originally published in *Soils Matter*.

## Record Impacts

[GivePulse Login Page](#)

## Staying Smart

[BDG Saturday Workshops 2022](#)

[Education Events for the Public and Master Gardeners](#)

[Growing Groceries](#)



Where can anyone find out about the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program in King County, how to become a Master Gardener, our list of speakers or the Puget Sound Tip Sheets?

<https://extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening/>

For **MG-only** information, log into the "KCMGs, Only" area.



Where can anyone find links to the most current newsletters, education events for the public, and the Foundation activities and recognitions?

<https://www.mgfk.org/>

For **MG-only** information about Foundation policies and more clinic resources, log into the "Member Area."



## News Shoots: Short Subjects

A Message from the  
Program Coordinator:

The Washington State University statewide Master Gardener Program website has been completely redesigned and improved. It now includes a page with resources for Master Gardener volunteers. Check out the new webpages below.

## Of Interest to You

### Tip Sheets for KC

Browse tip sheets about  
Puget Sound  
Gardening

[Garden Tip Sheets](#)

### WHERE am I?

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

MG Program Main Page:  
<https://mastergardener.wsu.edu/>

MG Volunteer Resource Page:  
<https://mastergardener.wsu.edu/resources/for-master-gardeners/>

Celebrate **National Public Gardens Day** on May 14 at the Carl. S. English Jr. Botanical Garden at the Ballard Locks. Stop by the Master Gardener pop-up clinic while you're enjoying the beautiful gardens and other special events from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Find more information about the garden [here](#).

**West Seattle Bee Festival** – May 21. We're hosting an Ask a Master Gardener pop-up clinic at West Seattle's High Point Commons community. We'll start the day at 11:00 a.m. and provide an hour of in-garden advice time answering questions in the P-Patch. At noon, we'll move a few feet and join the Vendor Fair along with organizations who prioritize sustainability, other organizations like ours, and businesses that focus on bees. If you'd like to volunteer, there are a few slots left. Read the event details and sign up [here](#).

### **Master Gardeners: Questions About GivePulse?**

If you have questions about GivePulse, you'll find links to information and instructions in an email from Program Coordinator Mary Watts on November 24 titled "GivePulse: Two Updates and our Top 5 Tips".

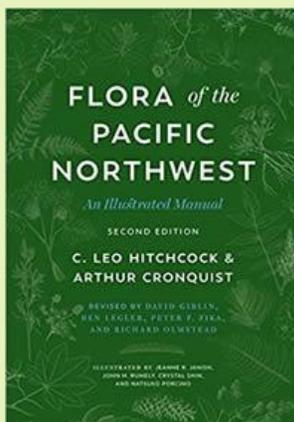


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**Thank you.**



### ***Elisabeth C. Miller Library Selection***

### ***Flora of the Pacific Northwest: An Illustrated Manual***

*Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, written by botanists C. Leo Hitchcock and Arthur Cronquist, is a comprehensive reference guide of native and introduced vascular plants found throughout the Pacific Northwest. This completely revised second edition, which was published in 2018, has been updated to include 1,000 more taxa and more

than 1,300 more illustrations than the first edition. The species' descriptions and illustrations are embedded within taxonomic keys (an important innovation when the book was originally written in 1973). This is an essential book for both the professional botanist and amateur gardener. Brian Thompson, Curator of Horticultural Literature, reviewed the book.

[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 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 Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please visit the [Growing Groceries](#) page for information and registration for all classes.

**May 4: Integrated Pest Management: Bugs, Beneficial Insects and Plants that Support Them**, presented by Master Gardener Brandon Bray.

**May 18: Summer and Winter Squash, Beans & Corn**, presented by Master Gardeners Emile Castle and Carol Johnson.

**June 1: Global Vegetables**, presented by Master Gardeners.

### ***Bellevue Demonstration Garden Workshops***

Workshops are Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. For information and details, please visit <https://www.mgfk.org/education/bdg-workshops>.

**May 14: Perennials for Year-Round Color**, presented by Master Gardener Cleo Raulerson.

**May 21: Gardening with Children**, presented by Master Gardener Pauline O'Rourke.

**June 4: Growing Roses**, presented by John Hamerling, Master Rosarian.

### *Washington State University Clallam County Extension*

**June 9: Tips for Diagnosing Tomato Plant Problems to Set You on Your Way Towards Solving Solanaceous Crop Problems**, presented by WSU Extension Diagnostician Jenny Glass. Find more information [here](#).

### *Bellevue Botanical Garden*

BBGS members receive a 30% discount on most webinars, lectures and classes. More information at <https://bellevuebotanical.org/learn/?all-events>.

**May 5: Fall and Winter Edibles** presented by gardener and author Bill Thorness.

**May 18: Hardy Orchids in the Garden: At the Intersection of Beauty and Conservation**, presented by Peter Zale, Ph.D.

**June 2: The History and Art of Bonsai** presented by Master Gardener Bruce Williams. *(King County Master Gardeners may sign up for this class at a discounted rate of \$10.50. The discount is for this class only.)*

### *Washington Native Plant Society*

**May 5: Update on the Seattle Area Sword Fern Die-off**, presented by Dr. Tim Billo, lecturer with the University of Washington Program on the Environment. This free event will be offered online via Zoom. Please register to attend through the event web page: <https://www.wnps.org/cps-events/calendar/1555>

### *Future File*

**September 29 - October 1, 2022:**

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

at the Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake in Olympia, Washington. Registration opens May 1, 2022.



### *Events and Coming Attractions*

**MGFKC Board Meeting** on Thursday, May 12, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. online Zoom meeting. Information and details at <http://www.mgfk.org/events/mgfk-meetings>. Zoom Meeting

[-https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88172076722](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88172076722)

Meeting ID: 881 7207 6722

One tap mobile - +12532158782,,88172076722#

Dial in - +1 253 215 8782 Meeting ID: 881 7207 6722

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### 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 10th of the month prior to publication (ex: May 10 for the June edition). For more information or to submit items for consideration, please contact us at [communicate@mgfkc.org](mailto:communicate@mgfkc.org). All published photos have the photographer's permission or are sourced from free-to-use sites.

### **WAIT! Don't unsubscribe from all mailings if you are an active Master Gardener!**

If you wish to unsubscribe, be selective and identify the email lists you wish to receive. **All active Master Gardeners in King County are expected to subscribe to the current year's "KC Master Gardeners" Email List** to continue receiving information about Program activities, updates and recertification notices. Other email lists are optional.



The Master Gardener Connection is a joint publication from the King County Master Gardener Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and the WSU Extension Master Gardener program in King County to provide research-based education about urban horticulture to the residents of King County.



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