



GROUNDED

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Editor's Note: The principles outlined in this article apply to Grant-Adams Counties lawns and gardens and provide tips in preparing the ground for the coming year. This timely article was used with permission from the author.

GETTING THE LAWN AND GARDEN READY FOR WINTER

By Marianne C. Ophardt, WSU Extension, Benton/Franklin County Extension

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With the end of the gardening season, there are still a few chores that gardeners should tackle before they can lean back, relax and hibernate for the winter. Let's review what still needs to be done outside.

Lawns: Grass growth has just about slowed to a stop. However, if your lawn has grown taller than the regular mowing height, you should mow it one more time. It should not be left extra long going into winter, as there are some diseases that can attack lawns during the winter months and long grass is conducive to these turf diseases. Extra short grass can make your lawn more vulnerable to winter drying and cold temperature injury.

If you haven't fertilized your lawn this fall, go and do it! Remember, fall is the best time of year to fertilize your lawn. It encourages sideways growth and promotes a thicker, healthier lawn. Fertilizing in the fall, in early September and again in early November, guarantees your lawn will look better than those lawns fertilized only in spring and summer.

It's also important to remove tree leaves that are lying on top of the grass. A thick layer of leaves can mat together and smother the grass below ... but raking is so very tedious. Mowing can aid in chopping up and gathering the leaves. Start at the perimeter of your lawn and mow in a circle (or square) inwards so that you end up with a pile of chopped up leaves and grass in the center of the lawn. You can then pick up this pile and put it in the compost. Mulching mowers are great in that they finely chop up the leaves. You may not have to rake your leaves at all, unless you started with an excessive amount!

When you retire your mower for the season, remember to clean it up first. Remove caked grass and gunk. Take off the blades and get them sharpened over the winter. Follow the manufacturer's directions for winterizing the engine. A little extra care in the fall will make it easier to get started mowing again next year.

Garden Cleanup: Once your garden has been hit by frost or you're just tired of looking at the bedraggled plants, you can remove the annual flowers and veggies.

If you don't have a shredder-chipper, place the waste in a layer on your lawn and go over it a couple of times with the mower. The smaller pieces created by mowing will compost more quickly. If you aren't composting your yard waste, chopping will reduce the volume of waste you're throwing out. FYI: Any diseased garden plants, weeds with seeds, or perennial weeds should not be placed in your compost. If you have a large vegetable garden with lots of waste, consider digging a trench in the garden and burying your chopped waste in it. The waste will decompose in the ground and can be mixed into the soil next spring.

Watering: A very important fall task is watering. Too many plants suffer from winter drought. Make sure the soil is moist around your evergreens, including those with needles, like pines, arborvitae, spruce, and those with leaves like maple and cotoneaster. Even though we may be experiencing some "rainy" days, the moisture may not be adequate to provide for the needs of the plants. Check the soil moisture by digging down six or more inches. If the soil is dry, give the trees and shrubs a good soaking. Be sure to apply the water in the root zones, not right at the trunks. It's especially important to check shrubs and trees planted beneath the eaves of your house. Even if natural precipitation is adequate, it usually doesn't reach these protected plants. Check the soil moisture there too and water if needed. If you have spring flowering bulbs, they also need moisture during the fall and winter. Hidden beneath the soil, the bulbs are growing roots that will sustain them next spring. The roots can't grow if the soil is dry.

Planting: Did you know fall is generally considered an excellent time for planting trees and shrubs? In fact, research has demonstrated that some species of fall planted trees establish more quickly and grow better than those planted in the spring.

When planted in the spring, the plants use their energy resources for above-ground growth of leaves and shoots, not for root growth. In addition, the extreme heat and windy conditions in our region can severely stress spring-planted trees and shrubs, delaying their ability to grow new roots and become established. Without new roots it's hard for them to take up the water needed to replenish the water lost during hot or windy summer days . . . further weakening the plant.

In the fall, more moderate weather is less demanding on plants, and root growth is favored. The roots of most deciduous trees and shrubs will grow if soil temperatures are above 40°F. Conifers prefer a little warmer soil of 60° to 70°F. If planted about four weeks before the soil becomes too cold for root growth, fall planting gives trees and shrubs a real advantage over those planted in spring and summer.

However, it's important to note that fall planting is only successful if there is enough soil moisture available to provide for root growth. When you plant trees and shrubs in the fall, you'll need to "water them in" during the planting process and then follow up by making sure the soil is adequately moist. If you can't water the plants during the fall and winter, then fall planting is not advisable. Natural precipitation is usually not adequate for the plants' needs.

TEACHING OLD GARDENERS NEW TRICKS . . . *By Kris Nesse*

Yes, I am an old gardener—mid-60s, gardening over 40 years, with requisite aches and pains. Still, the wonder of gardening continues. Every year, heck, every day, I learn something new.

Sometimes my fellow gardeners teach me. Every one of my MG colleagues possesses specialized, sometimes esoteric knowledge, enough to amaze me whenever we gather. Classes, recommended books, articles all contribute to the never-ending bank of information and wonder. Clients at the plant clinics (Farmers Market and on-line) stretch my knowledge with every question and concern. Researching the answers leads to continual new and/or expanded knowledge. "Master" Gardener, after all, is really a misnomer. How can anyone know everything about gardening?

Then there are the gardening ‘accidents’ to keep me growing. Many friends consider me a vegetable/herb ‘expert.’ (Passion is sometimes misconstrued as expertise.) I grow celery some years, and discovered that surrounding the transplants with waxed milk cartons or sections of irrigation pipe forces the plants to stretch to the sun and help blanch the stalks. In a hurry this summer, I hacked the celery heads down and did not get a chance to dig the roots. Of course, those roots grew heads of celery again. What a miraculous revelation! As a gardening friend exclaimed when told this story, “It is possible to teach an old gardener new tricks!”



Master Gardener Interns Make the Grade

Though as many as 10 Master Gardener trainees completed the on-line course work and labs in 2013, they remain as interns until completing an additional 50 credit hours of on-the-job training and community service to the program. Four of the interns graduated in 2014 to become certified Master Gardeners and were recently awarded certificates of achievement by Jeannie Kiehn, WSU Extension MG Coordinator. The newest recipients are Nicole Meany, Edris Herodes, Trudie Walsh and Karen Fowler.



Nicole Meany



Trudie Walsh



Edris Herodes



Karen Fowler

The next round of training for the Master Gardener program is in September 2015 as described below or interested individuals can obtain, complete, and return an application

available online at ga.mgvolunteers.ad.wsu.gov.

How to Become a Master Gardener

WSU Grant-Adams Area Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Training Classes

- ✿ Do you enjoy and/or have a strong interest in gardening?
- ✿ Are you interested in expanding your horticultural knowledge?
- ✿ Do you want to serve your community and share your gardening skills with others?

If so, you may want to consider becoming a Grant-Adams County Washington State University Extension Master Gardener.

Master Gardener Basic Training information is available at our various plant clinics and on our gardening page at grant-adams.wsu.edu

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Co-Master Gardeners of the Year Awarded to Escure and Rice . . . *By Cynthia Calbick and Barbara Guiland*

The purpose of the MG of the Year Award is to recognize a member or members who have demonstrated outstanding work and contributions to the program. The descriptions of the MG of the Year are as different as each recipient of the award. Diane Escure, from Quincy, and Terry Rice, from Othello, are the co-recipients of this honored award by the MG Grant-Adams Area Foundation.

Diane Escure has been a MG since 2011. In that time, Diane has made her mark on the rest of us, bringing special talents and skills to further the goals of the group. She expressed a vision and expectation about what Grant County MGs can do as a group and has been a driving force behind the establishment of the long-range strategic planning effort. Escure was instrumental in helping the core committee, who met many times this year, to develop a framework plan that identifies and prioritizes projects using the Foundation's limited resources to wisely target actions that benefit the Foundation's long-term goals. As Foundation Treasurer for the last year, Escure stepped in to take over tasks that are not thrilling to most gardeners but are more than necessary to accomplish our mission in support of the Master Gardener Program in the Grant and Adams County area.



Escure's presence, donations, and enthusiasm have been appreciated at the annual plant sales for the last three years. She was the originator of the decorated pumpkin sale fundraiser two years ago, which was a lot of fun, even though there were a few pumpkins left over.

With her special graphics skills, for the last three years Diane has formatted the quarterly newsletter, *Grounded*, into printable form and regularly writes and edits articles for it. Escure has faithfully volunteered many hours and works hard to attain the requisite education courses all continuing Master Gardeners need to take to keep current.

By contrast, Terry Rice has been a Master Gardener since 2003. She helped establish and maintain the Othello Demonstration Garden in 2009, takes a regular shift to answer online plant clinic questions, annually assists with the setup of the MG booth at the Adams County Fair, assists with financial support at the annual MG Plant Sale, and has mentored Master Gardener interns during their training.



Terry currently serves as the Grant-Adams Area Master Gardener Foundation vice president. As service to her community, Rice regularly teaches gardening and related classes through the Othello Community Schools program and leads children's activities at the Othello Crane Festival. One of her major accomplishments this year has been to organize Master Gardeners, develop a plan, and complete landscaping around the new Adams County Pet Rescue facility.

Diane and Terry's accomplishments are greatly appreciated and the Foundation commends them on their continuing efforts.

HORTUS MUSTUS -Grant-Adams MG Recommended Plants 'Lady in Black' (Aster lateriflorus) . . . *By Kris Nesse*

This regular feature of Grounded presents plants grown and loved by one or more Grant-Adams Master Gardener volunteers. This issue features a perennial, Aster lateriflorus, commonly known as 'Lady in Black' or Calico Aster.

A group of volunteers put the Ephrata Pollinator Border to bed on October 18. The lovely day and the time spent working with the plants provided an opportunity to reflect on this demonstration garden, installed in the spring of 2013. Plants attractive to pollinators, especially natives, were selected for this space at the front of Ephrata's Community Garden. I was familiar with only about half of the species when we planted

them. After two seasons, plant characteristics, strengths and weaknesses are becoming apparent. Varieties of blanketflower and goldenrod are doing their best to take over the universe, looking gorgeous as they do so. Three particular species have impressed me with their beauty, good manners, and pollinator-attracting ways: Millennium Allium, Prairie Clover, and Lady in Black Aster.



I have already placed Millennium and Prairie Clover in my home garden, and want Lady in Black this coming spring. The lady looks lovely all season long, beginning with deep purple/maroon leaves unfurling along the cascading stems in the spring. Smooth-edged leaves are larger toward the base, becoming smaller and more lance-like toward the tips. In late summer, thousands of tiny dark buds dot the densely-branched plant. These bloom into small compound ray florets, white to lavender flowers that literally blanket the shrub attracting hundreds of pollinators! The blooms persist well into autumn (end of October this year). Branches are lovely and long-lasting in bouquets.



Photos taken October 2014

Lady in Black is a non-invasive native wildflower that has behaved well in the Ephrata garden. It quickly became a dense shrub. The cascading habit had it leaning well into the path, so twine was used to pull it more upright and toward the fence. Otherwise, it has required very little care. Most asters benefit from frequent division, and we will divide this one next spring. Even toward the end of October, the plant was covered with pollinators, including natives and honeybees. Plant guides detail these characteristics:

Type	Herbaceous clumping perennial
Zone	5-8
Size	3 feet by 3 feet
Bloom time	September to October
Exposure	Full sun
Water	Medium
Uses	Beds and borders
Style	Meadow garden, cottage garden
Noteworthy	Native, showy foliage and flowers, attracts pollinators

Check out ‘Lady in Black’ at the Ephrata Community Garden in 2015!

References:

- <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=w990>
- <http://www.finegardening.com/aster-lateriflorus-‘lady-black’>

Consider These Timely Holiday Gifts –Gloves, Bags, Books, Oh My . . . by Barbara Guiland

Gloves, sold by the Master Gardener Foundation of Grant/Adams Counties, are only \$5.40! They’re useful in other places beside the garden: cleaning cupboards, painting, dusting books, repairing a bike or lawn mower, washing windows, putting up holiday decorations, hauling in wood for the fireplace. Our roofer uses them for cutting metal for downspouts and drainpipes. The list goes on! Master Gardeners Barbara Guiland (765-3219) and Mona Kaiser (246-0641) still have quite a few on hand for purchase!

Consider putting those gloves in a canvas bag from the Moses Lake Public Library Foundation (\$15.00 donation. They are available from Barbara Guiland).

- Add some interesting seed and plant catalogs. They’re free. Find them on the internet or any of the wonderful gardening magazines available at the newsstand: Garden Gate, Organic Gardening, Garden Design are some that I especially like.
- Every flower gardener needs small, inexpensive holders for flowers to give to friends. Visit the local thrift shop for small vases and glasses to hold flowers, less than a 1.00 each.

Here are some books about gardening and life in the fresh air for that gift bag that should satisfy dedicated gardeners as well as people who enjoy spending time outside doing other things.

Bugs of Washington and Oregon, John Acorn and Ian Sheldon, Lone Pine Publishing, 2001, \$14.95. Children or adults of any age should love this book! The illustrations have fantastic detail and authenticity.

A couple of the older books from Lone Pine Publishing that are among my favorites are *Tree and Shrub Gardening for Washington and Oregon* and *Perennials for Washington and Oregon*. The two books, written by former Master Gardeners Alison Beck and Marianne Binetti, respectively, have great pictures and clear and specific descriptions and suggestions for how to use the plants. The price listing is \$18.95 each (less on Amazon).

Taming Wildflowers, Miriam Goldberger, St. Lynn's Press, 2014, \$14.31 on Amazon. Remember that all our flowers come from wild flowers. This book helps you reach back to some of the original forms. As the writer's beginning sentence claims, there's "No such thing as too many flowers." It's fun to read her take on how to use them in the garden and in other places. Goldberger's web site is: www.tamingwildflowers.com.

Brushed by Feathers: A Year of Birdwatching in the West, Frances Wood, Fulcrum Publishing, 2004, \$16.95. This is a wonderful bird watching journal. You can garden better by knowing what birds are present, what attracts them, and how they can help, and hinder, the health and attractiveness of the garden.

FRANCES WOOD: Taking Flight may be viewed at the Moses Lake Museum and Art Gallery. Dates: November 21, 2014 – January 2, 2015. Naturalist and watercolor painter Frances Wood brings a life-long study of birds to a new series of watercolor paintings, including bird portraits and birds in flight.

Finally, there is www.sunset.com/garden, which is the online supplement to The *New Sunset Western Garden Book* 8th edition. You can find it on every magazine newsstand. Gardening in the Northwest is not complete without it. The Sunset Magazine was instrumental in the jump start of the Master Gardener Program back in 1972. And, it's still a great way for a novice gardener to get truly interested in gardening.

Poinsettia History and Care ... *By Mona Kaiser*

In the 1820s, President John Quincy Adams appointed Joel Roberts Poinsett as the first United States Ambassador to Mexico. During his stay in Mexico, he wandered the countryside looking for new plant species. In 1828, he found a beautiful shrub with large red flowers growing next to a road. He took cuttings from the plant and brought them back to his greenhouse in South Carolina. Even though Poinsett had an outstanding career as a United States Congressman and as an ambassador, he will always be remembered for introducing the poinsettia, later named for him, into the United States. The poinsettia did not start to become popular in the United States until the early 1900s.



Today, when someone wants a flowering plant for a holiday centerpiece, a red poinsettia is often the plant of choice. The red poinsettia makes up about 75% of the poinsettias sold each year in this country. White and pink poinsettias come in as second and third. There are also other color options available including salmon, apricot, plum, burgundy, dark red, creamy white, and speckled, marbled, or variegated novelty varieties (cultivars).

It is important to select the best plant for your home environment. The following are a few selection pointers:

- Choose a plant with dark green foliage down to the soil line.
- Choose bracts (modified leaves) that are completely colored.
- Do not purchase poinsettias with a lot of green around the bract edges.
- Do not choose plants with fallen or yellowed leaves.
- The poinsettia should look full, balanced and attractive from all sides.
- The plant should be 2 1/2 times taller than the diameter of the container.
- Choose plants that are not drooping or wilting.

- Do not purchase plants that are displayed in paper or plastic sleeves. Plants held in sleeves will deteriorate quickly.
- Do not purchase plants that have been displayed or crowded close together. Crowding can cause premature bract loss.
- Check the plant's soil. If it's wet and the plant is wilted, this could be an indication of root rot.
- Check undersides of leaves for insects like aphids and whiteflies.
- Check the poinsettia's maturity. Check the true flowers or cyathia which are located at the base of the colored bracts. If the flowers are green or red-tipped and fresh looking, the bloom will "hold" longer than if yellow pollen is covering the flowers.

After you have made your poinsettia selection, make sure it is sleeved or covered properly because exposure to low temperatures, even for a few minutes, can damage the bracts and leaves.

Whether a poinsettia has come into your home as a gift or as a traditional holiday decorating item, there is the question of, "How do I take care of it?" With good care, a poinsettia will last up to 6-8 weeks in your home. Poinsettias should be placed where they will receive indirect light for six hours. Keep poinsettias away from warm or cold drafts and keep them away from touching cold window panes. Ideally, poinsettias require daytime temperatures of 60 to 70°F and night time temperatures around 55°F. High temperatures will shorten the plant's life; if possible, move the plant to a relatively cooler room at night.

Water when soil is dry, allowing water to drain into the saucer and always discarding excess water if there is any left over. Be sure to punch holes (in foil) so water can drain into a saucer. Wilted plants will tend to drop bracts sooner. If wilting does occur, immediately water and allow it to filter through. Water again 5 minutes later to ensure the potting medium is well soaked. Don't fertilize your poinsettia when it is in bloom.

There is a way to overwinter and save your potted poinsettia so you can enjoy it next Christmas. In the spring after all danger of frost is past, place the poinsettia outdoors where it is sunny, but avoid direct sun during the hottest part of the day. Prune all branches back to within 6 inches of the soil line and if necessary, re-pot it in a larger container. Throughout the summer growing period, a half-strength houseplant fertilizer should be applied every 2-3 weeks. Keep tips pinched back to encourage branching. In mid-September, bring the poinsettia back into the house and maintain it in a well-lighted area.

To prepare it to set flower buds that will be in bloom during the Christmas season, all artificial light must be excluded from the plant for 16 hours each day. Either cover the plant with a lightproof box each evening or place it in an unlit room or closet in absolute darkness. Even a momentary flash of light will interrupt the necessary dark period and inhibit the setting of flower buds.

The following is a general time schedule for bring poinsettias into bloom:

Mid-September: Bring the plant inside and place in a draft-free area where the temperature does not drop below 60°F.

Early October: Begin giving the plant long nights (complete darkness from 5 pm until 8 am).

Mid-November: Color should be showing in the bracts.

Early December: Bract color should be almost complete; plant can be brought into ordinary light.

During the "bloom" forcing period, keep the temperature between 60-70°F. The plant should receive all possible sunlight during the day. Reduce fertilizer applications since the plant grows less while in the house. If possible, avoid spraying the plant with chemicals after the bracts begin to develop color. Keeping a poinsettia from one year to the next takes effort, but may be worthwhile for a special variety or color.

References:

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/poinsettia/selecting.cfm>

<http://butler.osu.edu/topics/horticulture/news/poinsettia-history-and-care>

<http://spokane-county.wsu.edu/spokane/eastside/Fact%20Sheets/C061%20Holiday%20Gift%20Plants%2005.pdf>

To Graft Or Not To Graft? Good question! . . . *By Kris Nesse*

Apparently, grafting is the hot tomato of the gardening world. Seems all my 2014 seed catalogs included grafted plants (very expensive!) and/or grafting supplies. I attended two informational classes on grafting over the last couple of years. The WSU Mount Vernon Center continues its research and outreach on grafting, an initiative that started in 2009.

To say I was interested would be an understatement. We love our heirloom tomatoes—black, green, orange, pink, red and huge, pleated, lumpy, gnarly—the more variety the better. But, these old wonders really aren't the workhorses my hybrids are, and suffer more cat-facing and growth cracks. Would grafting make heirlooms more productive and less susceptible to superficial imperfections in my garden?

We Americans are behind on the grafting curve. Asians have practiced vegetable grafting for centuries to reduce disease susceptibility, as well as to improve plant production and vigor. European farmers have used grafted varieties for many years. Apparently, intensive farming on smaller tracts of land in Asia and Europe make crop rotations more difficult, leading to severe and persistent problems with soil-borne diseases. Also, countries that phased out methyl bromide (a soil sterilizer) pushed farmers toward the use of grafted plants. In the US, the Environmental Protection Agency has been phasing out the use of methyl bromide only since 2005. Interest in and sales of grafted tomatoes in the U.S. really began growing in 2011.

The claims of gardeners who have jumped on the grafting bandwagon are persuasive: greater root mass leading to less irrigation and fertilizer, boosts in yield, ability to bloom and fruit at higher temperatures and longer in the fall.



Drip-irrigated tomatoes

So, in the spring of 2014, I decided to try a limited experiment. I started tomatoes as usual in my little greenhouse, including Brandywines. I also ordered one grafted Brandywine through the mail. My greenhouse start was lush and healthy while the poor mail order plant arrived looking kind of sickly. In mid-May, I planted them isolated from my other tomatoes, side by side, against an 8-ft fence panel. My normal seedling was planted deeply, my usual technique intended to produce a sturdy root system and bushier plant. The grafted plant required very different treatment, as the graft needs to stay above the soil line so the scion does not root into the ground. If the Brandywine scion were to root, it would defeat the potential benefit of the sturdier rootstock.

The plants were drip irrigated, and straw mulch was laid in late June. They were pruned over time to two leaders (though I got behind in pinching suckers on all my indeterminate tomatoes as the season progressed).

The first Brandywines were harvested in late July. The grafted fruit was definitely more attractive, with no split, while the first regular Brandywine was badly cracked. A very slow harvest continued until the end of September. We cut and pulled the plants in mid-October as part of the regular garden cleanup.



So what were the overall results of this amateur experiment?

- **Root mass:** When the plants were pulled, the roots of both were spread widely, but did not go as deeply as the tomatoes planted in higher raised beds. The two experimental plants were fairly equal in total mass.
- **Productivity:** These two plants were the least productive of my 15. All other heirlooms far out-produced the Brandywines, though Carmello set much later. Perhaps the difference was in the planting beds. The Brandywines were in a 4-in. raised bed, while all others were in 18-in. beds. Still, the harvest was underwhelming:

Grafted plant	6.4 pounds
Ungrafted	12 pounds

- **Appearance:** The grafted tomatoes had fewer cracks and were more attractive, although later fruit on the regular plant improved in appearance.

Will I give up on grafted vegetables? Good question, but probably not. Any experiment deserves replication. Next year, I hope to try grafting myself, eliminating the shock of spending days in transit for the poor plant. Research indicates that some rootstocks are better for tomatoes. I have no idea what rootstock the grafted plant ordered this year was on. Also, I will put plants in the higher raised beds. Finally, I may try another heirloom variety.

References:

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS052E/FS052E.pdf>
https://www.academia.edu/5498492/Grafting_Effects_on_Tomato_Growth_Rate_Yield_and_Fruit_Quality_under_Saline_Irrigation_Water
www.nytimes.com/2013/05/30/garden/in-defense-of-grafting-tomatoes.html

Volunteers Tuck Demonstration Gardens in for the Winter

Just like your yard at home, Master Gardener-maintained demonstration gardens need attention in the fall. During October, volunteers pruned, weeded, planted, and cleaned up demonstration beds in Othello, Moses Lake, and Ephrata.



The Old Hotel Demonstration Garden is all tucked in for the winter. Plants have been trimmed back and the fence has been rebuilt. In 2015, the drip irrigation system will be installed, and a new layer of bark will spruce up the area. Two basalt columns were donated by a local farmer, and in the spring of 2015 the

Othello Master Gardeners will be designing those areas with new grasses and sedums.



Edris Herodes, Nicole Meany, and Kris Nesse at the Moses Lake garden work the grounds. Second picture is the "after" condition.

On October 9, 2014, six Master Gardeners and a guest helped prepare the ML demonstration garden for winter. The garden crew included Barbara Guiland, Kris Nesse, Nicole Meany, Edris Herodes, Cynthia Calbick, Jean Bushman, and Judy Kent. Getting a demo garden ready for winter is like getting your own flower beds ready for winter. Weeds and dead flowers were removed, perennials that needed dividing were divided, dry tops were cut back, mulch was applied as needed, and water devices were cleaned, removed or repaired.

Kris Nesse

Removed weeds from the native plant garden and clipped back the many colored penstemon *Palmaraii* palmer's penstemon; penstemon *strictiformis* firecracker penstemon, penstemon *venustus* Venus penstemon plus other natives. After taking some volunteer penstemon plants home with her, she discovered the giant leaves of the Balsamorhiza *sagittata* arrowleaf balsamroot with which she was unfamiliar.

Barbara Guiland

Weeded and cleaned out native plants *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* kinnickinnick, *Gaillardia aristata* blanket flower, *Oenothera caespitosa* desert evening primrose and the *Allium acuminatum* wild onion.

- Edris Herodes Removed stumps from Rosa *woodsii* rose wild rose that had become very invasive. She topped *Hemerocallis* peach and white day lilies and edged the *Mirabilis multiflora* Colorado/wild 4 O'Clocks.
- Nicole Meaney Dug out tsuckers from the *Perovskia atriplicifolia* Blue Spires/ Russian Sage. She hoped they would survive in her back '40' for the bees in her hive to enjoy along with the grey rabbit bush she has growing there now. She also took a seedling from the *Purshia Tridenta* cliff rose/antelope bitterbrush.
- Cynthia Calbick Cut back the *Cotinus coggygria* purple smoke bush that had gotten rather rangy and unbalanced. She also answered questions from the MG volunteers and the garden visitors who always have questions.
- Judy Kent, guest Removed purslane among the drought-tolerant plants, treating it as if it were her personal enemy. She planted a replacement for a deceased lavender plant. She also worked her way through all the weeds that had expected to remain hiding among the drought-tolerant plants. Judy especially liked the red flowered *zauschenaria garrettii* Bowman's Hybrid hummingbird trumpet.

On the morning of October 18, 2014, a cadre of Master Gardeners and other volunteers worked to ready the Ephrata Pollinator Border for the winter as well. Three MGs and a family member, along with some young high school AVID group club volunteers, worked for several hours. We hadn't had a frost yet, so many plants were still blooming (Russian sage, blanketflowers, sedum, Lady in Black aster, rabbit bush, goldenrods). Volunteers left a few blooms for the pollinators still working, but pruned most to limit rampant reseeding. A row of sunflowers was removed, with AVID volunteers hanging many on a charming rustic frame for the birds to enjoy this winter. Any remaining weeds, along with persistent Tree of Heaven and elm seedlings, were pulled. Plants that were happily spreading were thinned. Finally, and on the recommendation of passers-by, the plant markers were turned to face the street rather than toward the community garden beds.

The best thing about the work parties at the garden is the chance that Master Gardeners have to get together to enjoy each other's company and to share our interest in plants, learning and gardening.



Cynthia Calbick prunes Russian sage



AVID volunteer & Nicole Meaney



Zach Knudsen prunes and thins

Master Gardener Annual Conference Highlights in Tacoma . . . By Barbara Guiland

The keynote speakers at the Master Gardener Annual Conference were dynamic, professional and interesting and so were the topics. The conference was held in the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center and the Murano Hotel within easy access to many interesting, informative activities.

Timothy Lawrence spoke on "Honey bees and Humans," which was an overview of the \$16.5 billion bee industry. There are multiple reasons for bee loss including a trachid mite, pollution, pesticides, and the bee farming lifestyle. Honeybee hives are moved with the crops from the southern US to the north and from east to west. It's estimated most beekeepers, due to loss, have to replace 40% of their bees in a season. New bees are imported, mainly from the Balkans and Italy.

Milliken and Dodson, of Far Reaches Farm, spoke on "Plant Collecting Around the World". This couple has presented to state conferences before. They brought a highly entertaining pictorial journey, mostly to China and Tibet, and presented wonderful insight into collecting and propagating rare plant seed. Check out additional resources on their website: www.farreachesfarm.com.

Richie Steffen, Director of the Elizabeth Miller Botanical Garden in The Highlands, provided a history of the influence of Elizabeth Miller on the modern parks of Seattle and a detailed look at the E. Miller Botanical Garden today. Only 500 people a year are allowed to visit, and it is already booked for 2015! Look at the Elizabeth Miller Botanical Garden website: www.millergarden.org.

Professor Cliff Mass, "Weather and the Gardener," believes, and the U of WA computer models say, that climate will continue to warm incrementally as it has been for about the next 10 years. Parts of the country that are drought- stricken now will get worse, although the Pacific Northwest (PNW) will stay fairly moderate until 2050. This is because PNW climate is moderated by the prevailing winds that blow in from the Pacific Ocean and protected from the continental cold by the Rockies and the Cascade Mountains.

The next advanced education Master Gardener state conference will be in Vancouver, WA, September 17-19, 2015. The annual conference offers superb training opportunities for the master gardening community.

Adams County Pet Rescue

Thirteen Grant-Adams area Master Gardeners worked with Adams County Pet Rescue (ACPR) and Animal House TV to help landscape the beds around the new ACPR building outside of Othello. Animal House TV chose ACPR as the pilot for its TV series, which focuses on communities and animal rescue. Visit AnimalHouseTV.com for more information on this fun new program.



New Home for WSU Extension/Master Gardeners

On November 1, 2014, the WSU Extension/Master Gardener office moved to its new location at 1525 E. Wheeler Road, Moses Lake, in the front of the District Court building. Check out the new location. Gardeners can bring their samples for analysis to the Extension Office in Moses Lake now. Call (509) 754-2011 x 4313 for information or questions.

An Open House for the WSU Extension Office will be held December 12, 2014, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

Grant-Adams Counties Foundation Officers

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 Diane Escure, Treasurer, 509 765-5747
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