



GROUNDDED

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Grant-Adams Counties Master Gardeners, 1525 E. Wheeler Road, Moses Lake, WA 98837
<http://county.wsu.edu/grant-adams/Pages/default.aspx> · ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu

Training to Become a Grant-Adams Master Gardener

If you're interested in learning more about sustainable gardening practices and care of the environment, the Grant-Adams Master Gardeners are offering in person training the fall of 2026 for those who want to become a Washington State University (WSU) Extension Master Gardener volunteer.

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New MG Training

Our program might be just right if you want to expand your gardening knowledge, meet new people, and make a difference in the community. We can provide the knowledge and understanding to help you learn about science-based research and approaches to solve yard and garden challenges that matter to you, your friends, and neighbors and also benefit your community.

Washington Green School

Getting the Garden Ready for Winter/Spring

WSU Master Gardener volunteers are a diverse group of individuals. We have a wide range of ages, skills, interests, and backgrounds. But the one thing we all have in common is the desire to share gardening knowledge and experience with other gardeners. We are the go-to resources for the community seeking research-based, innovative gardening solutions. And we are committed to the stewardship and sustainability of our natural resources in the Columbia Basin.

Free Native Seeds

Sprucing up Demo Garden

Knowledge gained during the Master Gardener training program includes how to:

- Create resilient landscapes that are adapted to our changing climate and ways to reduce risk of loss due to wildfires.
- Use integrated pest management and provide options to controlling pests.
- Use water-wise gardening and landscaping practices to conserve water.
- Build healthy soils to prevent loss and degradation and ensure the long-term viability of local food security and natural resources.
- Help native bees and other pollinators thrive in home and community landscapes.
- Use sustainable techniques for growing local food to improve individual and community health and wellness.

Easy Way to Promote Soil Health

Sweet Potato Success

MG Accomplishments

A Master of the Master Gardener Program

The Requirements:

- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, have access to email and a computer, pass a federal background check and agree to a volunteer code of conduct (<https://greenschool.extension.wsu.edu/home/grow-with-wgs/become-an-extension-master-gardener/agreement/>).

Mark Your Calendar

The Application Process:

Becoming a WSU Extension Master Gardener is enjoyable and rewarding. To start the process, those interested need to complete and submit an application form and then pass a background check. A program orientation meeting will be held the last week in August, and then the actual in person training begins.

The Training:

WSU Extension Master Gardener training is offered online through WSU as well as in person. Online training walks trainees through lessons on topics like botany, soils, food gardening, plant diseases, and entomology. Online training can be taken in any year even though the in-person training is only offered every other year. The in-person training is hands-on and teaches trainees how to apply what is learned online to real world situations that WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers may encounter. Certified Master Gardeners will be assigned to each trainee to guide them through the training process and answer any questions.

The training fee is \$390, which includes online and in-person training, a downloadable copy of the Master Gardener Manual, and a background check.

The Internship:

After successfully completing the online and in-person training and successfully passing online tests, students become interns starting in January 2027. Interns volunteer alongside certified WSU Extension Master Gardeners during the year to further develop their knowledge and skills and to become comfortable working as community educators and participating in our varied programs. At a minimum, interns must volunteer at least 50 hours during 2027 to earn WSU Extension Master Gardener certification.

The Commitment:

Then once you become a certified WSU Extension Master Gardener, you volunteer each year at least 25 hours of approved time and earn at least 10 hours of continuing education to maintain your Master Gardener certification. At the end of each year, if you've met these minimum requirements to maintain your certification, your continued commitment is confirmed for the following year by submitting a simple reapplication form. There is no fee for the yearly reapplication.

If you're interested in this program, please go to ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu to request an application and leaflet.

You can email your completed application to ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu. Or you can either mail or hand deliver your application in person to the Master Gardener Program at the WSU Grant County Extension office, 1525 E. Wheeler Road, Moses Lake, WA 98837. The deadline to submit your application to the Master Gardener program is **July 31, 2026**.

Washington Green School

Over the past 50+ years, Washington State University Extension has provided guidance and instruction to the gardening public along with training to those who have been certified as Master Gardeners. Starting in 2025, WSU has developed new options for anyone who wants to learn gardening principles through the Master Gardener program or for anyone who wants to take gardening classes. Training may also apply to those who want to learn more about gardening in Washington but may not want to serve as Master Gardener volunteers. Some gardening professionals may be only seeking a gardening endorsement for their resumes but might not want to be obligated to volunteer annually, which is a requirement for

all Master Gardeners. The new program is called Washington Green School, and it offers lots of options to explore. The attached website link explains the program, options, schedules, and fees and is quite comprehensive: It is <https://greenschool.extension.wsu.edu>.

Sign-ups for these classes take place August 15 to September 30 of every year. These classes may also count as part of the online courses required when a student is interested in training for the Grant-Adams Master Gardener program. They must first apply to become a Master Gardener, be accepted into the program, and finish this online course work as well as attend in-person/lab courses as part of that training. However, since classroom training/labs are only offered every other year in Grant-Adams Counties, those who finish the Green School training will wait to participate in the next round of formal in-person Master Gardener training beginning in September 2026. Go to the Grant-Adams Master Gardener website to obtain details and to download a leaflet and application.

https://extension.wsu.edu/grant/gardening/master_gardeners/

Editor’s Note: Susan Franck and Joyce Stauffenberg are two of six Master Gardener interns who finished the latest round of new master gardener training which began in 2024. That training included the online classes, classroom instruction and tours, and participation in volunteer outreach activities in 2025. Both Susan and Joyce are now WSU Extension Grant-Adams Master Gardeners and will be granted certification. They join an elite cadre of WSU Extension Master Gardener educators servicing Grant-Adams Counties. Pictures and recognition to follow in the coming months. Others who complete the training this year will be honored in a timely manner.

Getting the Garden Ready for Winter and Spring . . . By Mark Amara

Consider this short list of activities to tackle now to prepare the garden for winter and the following spring.

Soil testing is recommended by WSU about every 4 to 5 years. Soil test results identify nutrient needs and provide good baseline data on organic matter, pH, N-P-K-S as well as how much and what kind of fertilizer to apply before/at planting. Fall or early spring are the ideal times to determine nutrient needs and fertilizers. Keep records and test at the same time of year for each test.



Adding organic matter to the soil helps improve soil structure and reduces potential erosion by wind or water. It improves porosity of the soil, helps increase water holding capacity, and is a way to minimize nutrient loss over time. Soil organic matter is improved with mulch, compost or cover crops.

Using mulch or compost late in the fall can reduce weeds and protect the soil. Spread straw, lawn clippings, or leaves if they have not been sprayed with pesticides. Composted manure should be tested before applying, and fresh manure should be avoided. Left on the surface, these materials attract worms and other micro-organisms which convert mulch into useful organic matter. Compost can be made at home or purchased. Lawn clippings, manure, fruit/vegetable waste can all be turned into good compost and are great sources of organic matter

Raking the yard or lawn to remove leaves is recommended in urban areas. Winter is a good time to apply mulch (leaves or other vegetal materials) around perennial plants or in the vegetable garden. Mulch can be incorporated into the soil because as it breaks down, it helps improve organic matter and serves as a positive medium for plant growth. It also helps with water-holding capacity, biological activity, water and air infiltration; helps improve nutrient retention; and promotes good soil structure while reducing compaction and surface crusting.

Cover crops may be planted if the soil is not frozen. Cover crops improve soil quality, help conserve/add nutrients, control soil erosion, improve water infiltration, reduce weeds and other pests, increase biodiversity (entire ecosystem), and improve soil health (structure, organic matter (OM), pH, improved

porosity. There are a variety of crops that can be planted in the fall including legumes and grains. Legumes add nitrogen while grains and legumes add OM. Since we are close to winter, planting after the ground thaws early in the spring (Austrian winter peas, vetch, cereal rye, winter wheat or barley, winter oats) may be preferable so crops do not winterkill. Seeds may be broadcast or tilled into the ground. When cover crops are tilled into the ground before they go to seed they add OM and improve fertility. Legumes add N to the soil when tilled in (2 lbs/1000') and can help gardeners save on fertilizer.



Example of a cover crop planted over winter.

Season extenders. Row covers or cold frames can help extend fall crops or help hold plants over winter. Plants like beets, carrots, greens, kale, spinach, turnip or parsnips, parsley, or cilantro if planted early enough in the fall can produce into winter and may start growth earlier in the spring with these covers.



Example of row covers holding plants over winter.



Seeds planted in plastic jugs survive winter conditions.

Winter sowing. There are opportunities to start plants now by sowing seeds in plastic jugs and placing them outside. This is an effective way for the winter gardener to start a wide variety of vegetables, herbs and flowers. Left in a sunny area even in the cold, plants will germinate as long as sufficient moisture is added to ensure they will come up. This method can be used now through March.

Starting plants inside or in greenhouse. Some plants may be started inside especially if there is a greenhouse available although a warm environment inside a house with grow lamps or heating pads helps vegetables start early in the year.

Some plants may be started inside and brought outside to raised beds or in ground flats very early in the year if they are covered with plastic or fabric mulch. Pots that were started outside should have been brought inside for continued production.

Prepare ground for planting. For those people willing to consider taking out lawn to plant native plants or drought tolerant plants, winter can be a time to help prepare the ground for early spring plantings as long as the ground is not frozen.

All photographs provided by Mark Amara except for the winter sowing photo provided by Terry Rice.

Free Native Seeds for Fall Planting . . . By Mark Amara

You can get a jump now to add colorful plants to your yard or garden for lasting benefits in 2026 and beyond. The WSU Extension Grant-Adams Master Gardeners are offering the public free seed packets that need to be planted this fall and/or winter. These are the optimum times to plant so seeds are ready to germinate in late winter to early spring. This is a great opportunity to create native habitat for a wide range of pollinators and monarch butterfly species.

For planting success, make sure that planting sites are bare and weed free. If planting is not done in the fall, it can be done in late winter as long as the ground is not frozen or covered with snow or plant (weeds

or crop residue) materials. Seeds may be planted through the winter of 2025-26 on bare ground with the same germination results expected in 2026. Seeds packets can be stored until planting in a cool, dry, dark place.

The Master Gardeners have two Columbia Basin Seed Blend packets available. The first is Bee’s Knees and Butterfly Wings, which consists of Blanket Flower, Hoary False-Yarrow, Munro’s Globemallow, Nine-leaf Biscuitroot, Rocky Mountain Heliantheliia, Silky Lupine, Wild Blue Flax, Woolly Sunflower, and Wyeth’s Buckwheat. The seed mix can be broadcast or lightly spread without burying them.

The second packet consists entirely of Showy Milkweed for monarch butterflies to use. Ideally, the milkweed seeds should be spread in raked, well drained, moist soil in late November and covered so they are about one-half inch deep.

These free seed packets can be obtained by emailing the Master Gardeners at ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu, or by leaving a message with your address for the Master Gardener Program at the Grant County Extension Office at 1525 E. Wheeler Road, Moses Lake M-F 8-5. Alternatively, you can contact Master Gardeners at our in-person plant clinics at the Moses Lake Winter Farmers Markets or other events to obtain these seeds packets.



Seed packet photograph credits: Mark Amara

This special offer was made possible by a cooperative effort between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and WSU Extension Grant-Adams Master Gardeners to offer the public a planting opportunity to help control weeds, grow adapted pollinator flowers, and beautify our desert landscape. Julie Combs, WDFW Pollinator Species Lead, was instrumental in making seeds available and has graciously provided seed packets to the Master Gardener program as a way to help the public increase habitat.

Sprucing Up the ML Demo Garden . . . By Mark Amara

Several Master Gardeners worked tirelessly on multiple occasions this fall pruning, weeding, and digging out plants like purple sage and milkweed that keep spreading. One particularly noteworthy late-season effort was undertaken to spread a layer of bark mulch over the surface of a drought tolerant portion of the garden. Dave Jones, owner of Basin Bark, graciously provided a full yard of mulch, which was an unexpected donation and much appreciated. Dave has often supported our MG program activities, periodically donating Basin Bark products to our program and landscaping products at the annual symposium.

Willing and able MGs, including Bobbie Bodenman, Don McGraw, Mary Love, Joyce Stauffenberg and I, unloaded mulch from the truck, which took little time and greatly improved the look of the garden even going into the winter.



Dave Jones, Basin Bark business owner, Moses Lake, donated bark to the MG program for the ML Demo Garden. Photo credit: Mark Amara



The bark mulch spreaders included, left to right, Joyce Stauffenberg, Mary Love, Bobbie Bodenman, Don McGraw, and I (taking the picture). Photo credit: Mark Amara

The City of Moses Lake Park maintenance staff recently resolved watering issues caused by a leaky irrigation line. This made for some challenges in the drought tolerant portion of the garden much of the growing season, but most plants survived.



City of Moses Lake Maintenance staff applied herbicides to the space several times in 2025. Photo credit: Mark Amara

Many of the plants donated by BFI Native Seeds last fall 2024 also look good, although our planting program strategy for planting using additional plants has changed.

A large number of plant plugs donated to the MG program this fall have again been made available through an informal partnership with BFI Native Seeds. Of the over 400 plant plugs donated this fall, most have been repotted and will be sold to the public in the spring 2026. The remainder of

the plants are being nurtured in greenhouses or placed outside before setting in MG demonstration gardens in Othello and Moses Lake. Some plugs were planted this fall at a new MG demonstration garden in George.

Linda Duran, BFI Native Seeds, Forb Specialist, and BFI Native Seeds co-owner, Matt Benson have continued to support this cooperative venture which provides excess plants to our program for the retail market.



Linda Duran, BFI Forb Specialist and Matt Benson, BFI Native Seeds co-owner, were instrumental in organizing the plant acquisition effort with the Master Gardeners. Photo credit: Mark Amara



BFI Native Seeds typically only works with larger organizations and government agencies on diverse planting projects providing seed or plants, which means the retail market has been excluded. This arrangement is helping to bridge that gap and gets native plants to a wide range of individuals and communities. Plants are nurtured and sold at the MG annual plant sale each year to generate funds which support activities associated with the program.

Plans for expanding the demonstration garden into a new space at the public library have required taking some extra time to deal with persistent morning glory, a tough perennial weed that has set back planting this area. It is being treated by a sustained regimen of herbicides until at least next fall 2026 when the area will be planted with native and drought tolerant plants.



Bobbie Bodenman displays design drawing. Photo credit: Mark Amara

Master Gardeners have come up with a design for the new planting area that will include paths, mounds or hills built with imported soil, and a wide variety of adapted plants.



Garden with new layer of bark mulch. Photo credit: Mark Amara



Some of the plants that have been repotted and will be set out in demonstration gardens or sold to the public in 2026. Photo credit: Mark Amara

Easy Way to Promote Soil Health . . . *By Mark Amara*

As the days are shorter and the day and nights turn colder and longer, leaves and needles are dropping everywhere from trees and shrubs around the Columbia Basin. Rather than putting them in the garbage can or taking them to the dump, burning or letting them blow away, a better option is keeping and using them. Leaves (or wood chips, yard waste like grass, brush, or clippings, or even crop residues) used as mulch (compost or cover) are excellent renewable resources, add an important source of organic matter, and can help reduce landfill space. I even have an arrangement to get unlimited (untreated) shredded leaves from a neighbor, but more on that later.

Collecting and spreading leaves on or around the garden and yard can help to retain soil moisture and conserve water, minimize weeds, improve soil quality and health, reduce compaction, add nutrients to the soil, and even help promote plant growth. Leaves (or other materials) that are spread on the surface are referred to as mulch. Adding leaves can help improve soil texture, stabilize fluctuations in soil temperature, and reduce evaporation during dry spells.

Mulching leaves is a good conservation practice to adopt when added to the soil surface this time of year. Here we are in fall with mountains of leaves to deal with and I know that applies to me as my maple trees are prolific droppers. Collecting them is sometimes a challenge. Whatever way they are collected, there are many benefits for keeping and using them. Spreading leaf mulch helps smother weeds, reduces soil and water runoff, and increases water retention the following year. Laying materials down 2-4 inches or more in thickness helps keep weeds from surfacing assuming the ground is relatively weed-free to start with. If the layer is too thick, it will repel water, decompose more slowly, and can actually smother young desirable annuals.

It's important to always keep mulches several inches away from tree trunks and shrubs and stems of herbaceous plants, which helps keep excessive moisture away from these contact points (to help prevent rot and other diseases). Remember that mulching does not control weeds indefinitely and plant materials must be reapplied for continuing benefits. Putting leaves higher and deeper up to 3-6 inches around perennial trees and shrubs is of benefit. Mulching perennial weeds like field bindweed, horsetail, or quackgrass does not control them. They will have to be pulled or dug up by hand or might even require some kind of chemical removal both before and after mulch is applied. Using leaves in walkways or between plant rows are also effective ways to control weeds and add plant nutrients. Mulches help cool the soil and temper soil temperature extremes as well as helping to beautify the landscape.

All plant mulches have some nutrient value in terms of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium and can provide 50-80% of the fertilizer plants need each season. It is always best to soil-test at least every few years (WSU recommends 4-5 years for gardens, 3-5 years for fruit trees and berries) unless specific fertilizer needs are known. The addition of biodegradable plant mulches stimulates microbial activity, which in turn helps with rooting, decomposition, residue breakdown and ultimately releases nutrients into the soil. As leaves decompose, they also provide food for earthworms, which helps aerate the soil. Most leaves are a good source of potassium and often have pH from 6-7.5. The potential for increased biological activity in the soil can help improve biodiversity and help prevent plant diseases.

Some precautions to think about: Do not use leaves or other treated organic materials because the pesticide residues can affect subsequent plant growth. Avoid using leaves or other organic materials that have diseases or insect problems as these pests can spread to other parts of the yard or garden. Maple leaves can add as much as 2-3% nitrogen and don't seem to have any drawbacks. Like oak, cottonwood leaves are higher in tannins than most tree leaves, but adding small quantities of shredded cottonwood leaves mixed with other materials such as mulch should not be a problem. Adequately composting yard materials is a good way to reduce harmful impacts. Shredded leaves (or other materials) are more desirable than unshredded materials. Shredding helps with decomposition, and the increased surface area helps keep

leaves in place (as they are less likely to blow away). If materials are not shredded, depending on how thick and compacted they get, they can form barriers that block water and oxygen movement in the soil. If there are only a few trees in the yard, consider shredding leaves and leaving them in place on the lawn, using a mulching mower which can be more effective than leaving the leaves in place as is.

It is interesting as I lean on my rake for the umpteenth time this fall collecting and spreading leaves in my garden that I am adding a great soil building resource to my soil. My neighbor has a machine that he drives around his yard which picks up leaves and shreds them. I can have all that I can get from him at no charge.

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Sweet Success with Sweet Potatoes . . . *By Mark Amara and Mary Love*

Sweet potatoes are catching on in the Columbia Basin. Prefacing remarks on the potatoes is needed because they are really potatoes in name only. Without carefully researching how sweet potatoes are grown could result in surprising results with little to show. That is because if sweet potato tubers are planted by themselves, no sweet potatoes form at all! Instead, slips have to be procured or grown and planted. Unlike conventional potatoes that are typically planted in March or April, sweet potatoes are warm-season crops, so here in the Columbia Basin, planting cannot occur until mid-June when soil temperatures are 60-65° F. The plants need 90 to 120 days to mature during relative hot days, which seems like a long growing season even for the Columbia Basin.

In March 2025, Mark Amara bought several tubers at an organic grocery store in Kirkland, WA. The Stokes variety were purple on the outside and inside. Also purchased was a Japanese variety called Murasaki, which is purple on the



This leaf catcher is pulled behind a lawn mower which picks up leaves and shreds them for easy removal. Tim Bernard uses this innovative tool behind his mower to pick up leaves and shred them. Photo credit: Mark Amara



Slips can be home grown by planting tubers in flats, placing them in a warm place inside in the sun and waiting 6-8 weeks for them to produce shoots. Photo credit: Mark Amara

outside and yellow on the inside. To grow slips, the tubers were laid horizontally in flats. It took over six weeks in a warm environment for the slips (shoots) to grow. Alternatively, Mary Love purchased mail order Centennial variety slips from Urban Farmer, which she planted this year in early June. Centennial sweet potatoes have orange skins and orange insides.

Slips were planted so that all the growth nodes were entirely buried, which in some cases were way up near the top of the slip and covered some of the leaves. Slips were spaced 12-18 inches apart. They were kept moist, weeded, and mulched through the growing season. Planting recommendations were to put them in the ground when the soil temperature was at least 65°F.

Initially, there was a shock period as slips went into the ground but eventually the plants recovered, the canopy covered their space, and then they spread a long way in every direction. However, since they are a member of the morning glory family which is known for its wild spreading growing characteristics, no one was surprised.

While in western Washington plastic mulch is used to increase the soil temperature and control weeds, here in eastern Washington, plastic is not necessary as we have significant heat in the summer. Instead, potatoes were hilled (mounded) and (organic) wheat straw mulch was used around each plant to conserve moisture and help keep them relatively weed free though weeding was necessary before the canopy cover was complete.



Slips grew from tubers in a warm indoor environment. Multiple slips per tuber were produced. Photo credit: Mark Amara



Slips were planted evenly apart, hilled, and mulched. Photo credits: Left Mark Amara, Right - Mary Love

Canopy cover helped reduce weed competition at both the Love and Amara plantings, respectively. Photo credits: Left - Mary Love, Right - Mark Amara

Watering was done using an overhead sprinkler irrigation system or drip irrigation. At least one foliar application of organic fish emulsion was used as a fertilizer supplement.

When the weather cooled in the Columbia Basin in late September-early October 2025 it was time for harvest. Waiting too much longer is not recommended because if they are harvested from cold, wet soils or are exposed to temperatures below 50°F, that could result in a chilling injury, and those conditions were not conducive to getting the best quality potatoes. As much vegetation was cut away as possible and plants were dug up. The harvested vines can be used as livestock feed and are wonderful for the compost pile as well.

It was sometimes difficult to determine where the tubers were as they tended to become intertwined and spread out. Discerning between tuber and rocks was sometimes a challenge in the Ephrata gravelly sandy loam/Malaga cobbly sandy loam soils, and many tubers appeared to be growing nearly vertically or had

interesting shapes. Sometimes, they broke or were damaged when harvesting but most were removed intact. WSU publications on sweet potato harvest suggest that bruises or wounds can heal during curing so this was not too much of a concern.

At harvest, there were many thin and long tubers although the larger ones were really nice to see too!

Sweet potatoes are not ready to be eaten immediately after harvest. Instead, they require some time to set their sugars. They need at least a couple of weeks in a warm environment to do that. Research indicates sweet potatoes should not be left in the sun for any length of time after harvest to avoid moisture loss and susceptibility to decay.



Sweet potatoes just dug up at harvest. Photo credit: Mark Amara



Murasaki, a Japanese sweet potato (left) has a yellow interior and Stokes sweet potato (right) which is purple on the outside and inside were cured in Mark's garage for a few weeks. Photo credit Left -Mark Amara, Right - Mary Love.



Stacked bins at the Mary Love garage cured in a warm place. Photo credit: Mary Love



Centennial sweet potatoes were large and cured in Mary's garage prior to eating. Photo credit: Mary Love

Earth was lightly brushed or larger clods clinging to each tuber were washed off, and sweet potatoes were allowed to dry thoroughly before putting them into plastic ventilated milk crates sometimes separated with newspaper to absorb moisture. Putting them in the garage or other warm environment for 1-3 weeks helps to cure them and set their sugars.

After curing, multiple recipes were experimented with. Baking and boiling were the usual ways to prepare them. However, stir frying, roasting, and making a sweet potato soup were big hits as well. Some of the Amara sweet potatoes were sold at the Moses Lake Farmers Market. They were very popular and fill a definite niche. Both Mary and Mark are storing them in cool dry dark places to use through winter. Based on these small space experiments at each respective garden space, it seems like sweet potatoes would seem to have a future in the Columbia Basin at least on a small scale or as a rotational crop.



BFI Native Seeds farm tour in May



Matt Benson, BFI owner, explains the vegetation plots and seed cleaning operations



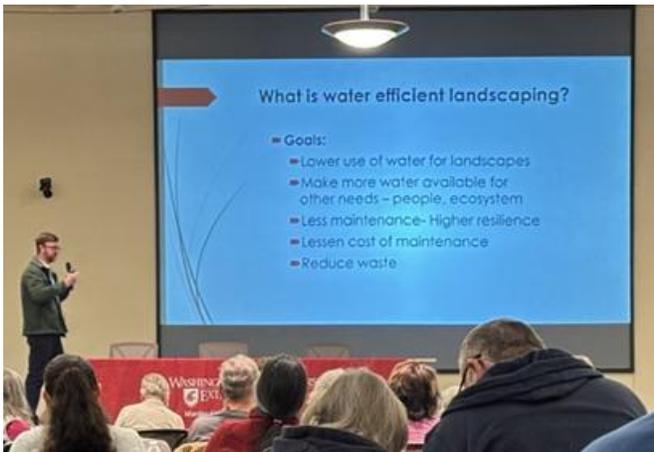
Othello and Moses Lake Demonstration Gardens. Deb Russell and RJ Lembcke hold down the mulch at the Othello Garden while Mary Love and Bobbie Bodenman stand in the Moses Lake Garden



SNAP personnel, CB Job Corps staff, Diane Escure and Mark Amara helped resurrect a Job Corps garden designed to grow food and use it sustainably.



Identifying and Managing Plant Stress in Vegetables was the focus of a Grant County Fair poster display while each day of the Fair MGs staffed the plant clinic there. Maria Reimers, Bobbie Bodenman, Barbara Guiland and Leyla Lyman answered questions on this day.



The Master Gardeners 8th Annual Columbia Basin Eco-Gardening Symposium was held at BBCC with a roomful of vendors, speakers, and mini demonstrations



Stephen Jones, Best Test Analytical Services had information on soil testing while Chanda Creiglow with supporting staff from the City of Moses Lake provided resource information on water use in the city.

A Master of the Master Gardener Program Retires



Barbara Guillard

The WSU Extension Grant-Adams Master Gardeners wish Barbara Guiland a grand goodbye as she retires from the Master Gardener program having faithfully served since 2003. During the last 22 years, Barbara has provided an incredible amount of volunteer time to support the program in a wide variety of outreach activities and education.

During her tenure, Barbara has been a leader and educator of the program. She was a go-to resource in answering all kinds of gardening questions at plant clinics, provided insight, direction, and many hours to the establishment and physical maintenance of the Moses Lake demonstration garden, and actively participated in organizing and growing plants for the annual plant sale. Barbara was instrumental in working with the City of Moses Lake to secure a Master Gardener Memorial Bench in Civic Park in Moses Lake and was a long-time editor and writer for GROUNDED, the quarterly MG newsletter which started in 2012. She has taught numerous gardening classes or made presentations to groups and was a speaker at the 2015 Eco-Gardening Symposium in Moses Lake. Barbara also served as President and Vice President on the Master Gardener Foundation of Grant-Adams Counties during the last dozen years.

Barbara was a volunteer Program Co-Coordinator for a year when it became apparent that WSU no longer provided financial assistance for that position and provided leadership to help the program thrive. In addition, Barbara compiled A Short History of the Master Gardener Program in Grant-Adams Counties 1982-2020 which highlights the progress made to establish, expand and improve the Master Gardener program here in Grant-Adams Counties.

To honor her for her wonderful volunteer efforts, she was awarded the Master Gardener of the Year in 2009 and received a Legacy Award in 2013.

Barbara's insights, resourcefulness, and leadership have been an inspiration for many of the Master Gardeners and her enthusiasm, thoughtful recommendations, and knowledge are tributes to the program which will be sorely missed.

Mark Your Calendar

- 9th Annual Columbia Basin Eco-Gardening Symposium at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake, April 18, 2026.
- Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale, Moses Lake Farmers Market, McCosh Park, May 2, 2026, 8 am-1 pm.
- Ask Master Gardeners questions 24/7 online. Go to ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu

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 Barbara Guiland, Vice President, 509-765-3912
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