



GROUNDED

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Grant-Adams Master Gardeners

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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

Editor’s note: New Master Gardener training begins this September so if you are interested, now is the time to learn about the program and submit an application. Becoming a Master Gardener takes time and commitment and is a wonderful way to collaborate with and work alongside a cadre of dedicated volunteers here in Grant-Adams Counties.

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Training to Become a Grant-Adams Master Gardener

New Master Gardener Training

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.

Benefits of Joining the MG Program

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

WGS Graduates

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.

ML Demo Garden

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Symposium Recap

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

Foodscaping

- 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.

Japanese Beetle Alert

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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/>).

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 about \$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 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**.

Master Gardener Volunteers Enjoy Program Benefits...By Sue Franck and Mark Amara

Presently, the WSU Extension Master Gardeners are a small group of 19 individuals who are spread out and serve Grant and Adams Counties. With your interest and commitment, that number can grow and would allow us to reach more people to provide gardening resources and sustainable options for creating, enhancing and improving yards and gardens throughout our area.

Our entire Master Gardener group represents a wide range of interests, skills, abilities and many years of volunteer experience. While many members are retired from a diverse cross section of professions, a few are still juggling work and volunteering. We have a wide range in ages with both younger and more seasoned Master Gardeners. Everyone in the group provides positive feedback about the program. We staff plant clinics, maintain and improve demonstration gardens, hold an annual gardening workshop, put out a quarterly newsletter, teach classes, and hold training sessions to name a few of our activities.

Susan Franck recently interviewed three of our Master Gardeners group who provided their insights about why they joined the Master Gardener program. Mary Love, Don McGraw and Deb Russell are excellent spokespersons and advocates for the group.



Mary Love is a retired school teacher who finds the program “fun ways to learn more about growing plants” for yards and gardens, and to “answer a wide range of gardening questions that might include what to do my vegetables, what killed my plants or what infested them” or lots of other questions, and “the friendships and the social aspect of the group are important aspects.”

Mary Love. Photo credit: Sue Franck

Don McGraw is a retired business owner who joined the program because he “is interested in growing flowers, vegetables, and indoor plants including tropical plants.” Don has depended on both the Master Gardener program and his own experience to learn something new every day. Don likes getting more knowledge about how to get more involved in planting and growing and he has found there are a lot of people who can help answer gardening questions and provide resources on where to go for answers. “It has been a great group and a great experience” and Don encourages anyone interested to consider “joining as the group would love to have you”, and as there are lots of resources to help make new volunteers as successful as possible.



Don McGraw
Photo credit: Sue Franck



Deb Russell is a retired health care nurse who wanted to do something totally different and still be learning things along the way. Deb finds that she learns new gardening options every day through the science-based university resources used to provide answers to people who ask questions. Deb explains: “It is very fun being a Master Gardener”, and she is glad to be with the program

Deb Russell. Photo credit: Sue Franck

To entice prospective Master Gardener candidates, three informal meet-and-greet sessions are offered June 23-25, 2026. Come meet Master Gardeners, learn about how the program operates, and types of activities the group is involved with. Sessions are planned at the Old Hotel in Othello and at the CC McGraw Bldg. in Moses Lake with each get together beginning at 5:30 pm on Tuesday and Thursday, June 23 and 25, 2026. A third event is scheduled for the Quincy Public Library on June 24, 2026 4:30-5:45 pm. Watch for announcements elsewhere.

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. 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. Signups for this training can be done starting August 17, 2026 through September 30, 2026. Training starts in October 2026 and runs through February 2027.

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>.

More than 800 Green School Graduates...By Joe Roberts, WSU CAHNRS Communications

High school students and teachers, people with a lifetime of gardening experience, horticulture industry professionals: The new WSU Extension Washington Green School (WGS) drew a diverse gardening crowd in its first graduating class.

“I’m already hearing so much great feedback,” said Jennifer Marquis, director of the long-running Washington State University Master Gardener Program who oversees the new green school course. Participants are reporting increased confidence in locating science-backed gardening information, elevated purpose and goals, and the ability to accurately identify plant diseases in their own backyards.

Washington Green School participants developed their horticultural expertise, including proper tree-pruning practices. Picture provided by Chelan/Douglas MG program

“It was gratifying to reach such a large and diverse audience,” Marquis added.

A shared desire for research-based gardening information tailored to Washington state’s unique climates drew participants together for the inaugural five-month course. Over 800 people graduated, each earning a Washington Gardener Certificate while honing their green thumbs along the way.

The new course adopts the curriculum of the WSU Master Gardener volunteer program, which has deep historical roots in WSU Extension. Master gardener volunteers serve communities throughout Washington, offering horticultural expertise and cultivating community to grow resilient landscapes, support nutrition security, and connect people to the health benefits of gardening.



WGS fills a niche for those who don’t have the time, desire, or energy to become a master gardener but still want access to the science-based gardening curriculum.

“Participants are really appreciative of the research-based gardening knowledge that they can apply in their own gardens,” said Bryce Battisti, WGS coordinator. “They trust WSU will provide them with gardening information that is not based solely off people’s personal experience or opinions.”

Marquis and Battisti used the newly published, peer-reviewed [Pacific Northwest Gardener’s Handbook: Growing for the Future](#) in the WGS curriculum. Over 50 experts from across WSU’s College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) and partner organizations contributed to the 28-chapter manual, published in summer 2025. The initial WGS course began in the fall.

The handbook covers topics ranging from basic botany and soil science to lawn maintenance and fire-resistant landscaping.

“We took learners through this online content in multiple ways – there’s the chapter, a video overview, and lesson-by-lesson learning activities that align with quizzes building toward the final exam,” said Battisti, who has nearly three decades of experience in higher education. “All this is supported by a weekly live review session and feedback explaining every quiz answer.”

Creating an online, statewide WGS learning platform allows participants from anywhere to connect and interact with university specialists from across Extension and CAHNRS – this is especially helpful for those who live in more remote areas, Battisti said.

To explore the breadth and depth of information presented throughout the course, Battisti recommends participants set aside about 10 hours per week. For some participants, the hours invested in learning translate to career advancement.

“WGS satisfies continuing education credits for those in horticultural industries, and we wanted the certificate at the end to mean something – evidence that the education made a difference,” said Battisti.

But for the many home gardeners who took the course, one of the greatest rewards is the new confidence and fulfillment found in the art of cultivating backyard veggies, fruits, and flowers.

“I believe that education empowers people to make informed decisions that will enhance their lives,” Marquis said. “Through WGS, people learn how to be successful gardeners and discover how plants benefit individuals, families, and communities.”

Further information

The next [Washington Green School](#) course will begin fall 2026. Registration is open through Sept. 30.

Springing Forward at the ML Demo Garden....By Bobbie Bodenman and Mark Amara

Last fall the Grant-Adams Master Gardeners added several new native grasses and flowering plants to the Native Plant and Drought Tolerant Demonstration Garden at the Moses Lake Public Library. The plants were donated by BFI Native Seeds. It has been a joy to discover which ones made it into spring after our relatively mild winter. Among the additions were Idaho Fescue and Needle and Thread grass which seem to wave in the wind to those who pass by on the sidewalk as the breeze catches them. Other flowering herbs added include purple and daisy-like Fleabane, a blue flax, and more orange globe mallow.

This Spring Master Gardeners and a community volunteer spent considerable time weeding, pruning, and removing invasive species as well as general garbage cleanup. Leaks to the irrigation system have been repaired so the drought tolerant segment of the garden is being drip irrigated at capacity. Master Gardeners, Bobbie Bodenman, Mary Love and Mark Amara were assisted by community volunteer, Louis Logan all of whom put in countless hours.

One of the many improvements to the garden this spring consisted of repositioning the basalt rock edges, which define and accentuate the spaces contained to help clarify the plant borders. Many of the angular shaped basalt rocks seemed to have ‘up and walked out of the place.’ Maybe that’s all just our imagination but some basalt pieces appear to be actually missing!! A couple of us realigned and weeded the borders, creating, once again, aesthetic clean edges to the garden so that should make you smile!

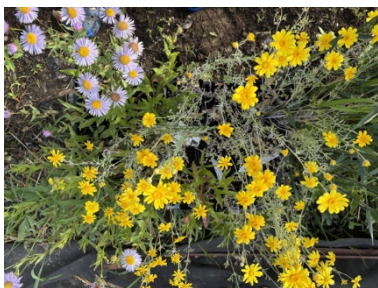
The garden itself is in full bloom and has many contrasting colors adding much beauty! Stop by sometime and take a look, find a bench, and take time out of the business of the world to breathe in some fresh air and enjoy the color.

Weeding and pruning helped reestablish and release plants that were being smothered by competitors. Black medic, cheat grass, filaree, errant milk weed and blue Bachelor button were among the plants that took the most time to remove and/or relocate. Before and after pictures show the extent of the challenges in one area of the native plant garden and demonstrate what it looked like afterwards.



Native Plant Garden before weeding and after weeding. Photo credits: Mark Amara

If you have noticed the weedy empty vegetation-free spot near the library entrance, there are future plans to landscape this area! The first step to that happening is to eradicate weeds. The Grant-Adams Master Gardeners are collaborating with the City of Moses Lake to prepare this space for planting. The city has done a great job so far in controlling weeds and there are plans to provide drip irrigation to the area. We are thankful for the city’s cooperation and look forward to filling the space with new drought tolerant plants this coming fall.



Plants donated by BFI Native Seeds last fall have been nurtured in the MG Quincy Greenhouse and outside and will be planted in the new space this coming fall. Among the plants on hand and are being saved/watered in a private garden through the spring and summer are: fleabanes and coneflower (left picture), penstemon and rabbitbrush (middle), rocky mountain fescue and sweet vetch (right) to name a few.





Bobbie Bodenman, Louis Logan, community volunteer, and Mary Love
Photo credits: Mark Amara



Drought Tolerant Garden in foreground while the Native Plant Garden is in the background.
Photo credit: Bobbie Bodenman

Mother's Day Class a Success in Othello



Terry Rice, RJ Lembcke and Linda Crosier taught a class to 9 adults and children at an event held at the Old Hotel in Othello in early May 2026. Besides creating fingerprint bumblebees on planting pots, the group chatted about the benefits of pollinators and planted geraniums as part of the hands-on class. This class was designed to give adults and kids an opportunity to get their hands dirty, prepare plants in pots for Mother's Day and do some actual planting.

Another class taught by Terry Rice is scheduled prior to Father's Day with plans to demonstrate planting tomato plants.

Terry Rice and students



Bumblebees adorn a newly plant geranium plant



RJ Lembcke and Terry Rice instruct children

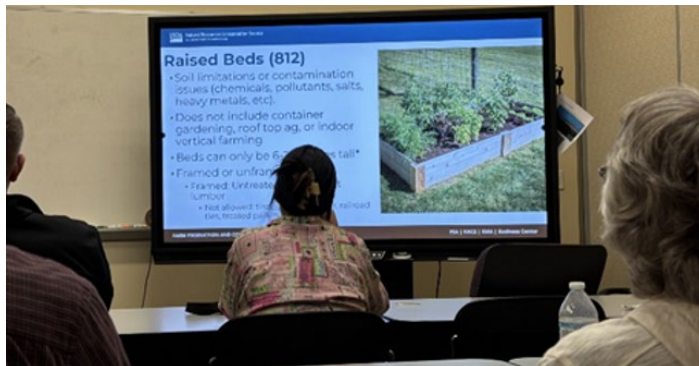
All photographs by Linda Crosier

Symposium recap...By Mark Amara

The 9th annual Columbia Basin Eco-Gardening Symposium in Moses Lake was a resounding success. Over 160 attended the free event which featured two keynote speakers, Isaac Lnenicka and Judy Conlow presenting on vegetable gardening and pollinators, respectively. Additionally, several breakout sessions provided insights on irrigation, container gardening, bugs and pests, composting, herbs and native herbs, winterizing the garden, technical assistance and cost sharing for gardeners and small farmers through the USDA NRCS, pollinators and bees, and food preservation.



Isaac Lnenicka was one of two keynote speakers who provided gardening tips and insights about successful planting strategies



Lisa Robinson, Washington Native Bee Society and RaeAnn Apodaca, Natural Resources Conservation Service were among the speakers who gave breakout session talks. Photo credits: Mark Amara

Seventeen resource and business vendors also participated. All of the vendors were very applicable to the symposium themes and focus. Though some of the vendors were repeats from prior years others were new and all provided excellent resources, recommendations, opportunistic engagement with the public as well as materials for sale. Snacks and lunches were available and provided sustenance to those seeking it through the event which lasted from 8:45 am to 1:30 pm at BBCC in Moses Lake. The 10th annual symposium is tentatively scheduled for April 17, 2027.



Left to right, Some of the represented vendors included Best Test Analytical, Washington Native Bee Society, Grant County Solid Waste, BFI Native Seeds, Ephrata Seed Library, and Grant County Noxious Weed Board. Photo credits: Mark Amara

Foodscaping Options

According to the Clackamas County MG Association in collaboration with and in support of the OSU Extension MG Program, webinars on specific gardening topics are offered through the 10-Minute University program. The following summary outlines what foodscaping is presented by Master Gardener Jane Collier describes, what benefits it has, how to use it, and how to incorporate it into urban yards and gardens.

Foodscaping is a gardening concept whereby edible plants are planted into ornamental landscapes. Foodscaping is also known as edible landscaping and is an alternative to planting conventional spaces. Foodscaping allows the gardener to use designs of their own choosing and plant selections that are intertwined throughout the yard or garden helping to create limitless planting layouts and arrangements.

Planting with edibles is an interesting concept because it encourages the use of growing fresh and flavorful homegrown foods, minimizes pesticide use, allows the gardener to grow unusual varieties and can even help save on grocery bills and reduce our carbon footprint.

There are lots of other benefits of foodscaping It can help created so called ecological balance in the landscape, Growing edibles amongst non-edible plants provides beneficial habitat for soil microbes, beneficial insects, birds, and people. Having a diverse landscape can lead to fewer insect and disease challenges, fewer nutrient deficiencies, reduce the need for pesticides, and make it harder for animals to locate desirable plants.

Foodscaping does require some forethought. and planning but is an opportunity to plan the landscape in appealing ways. The planting area should have 6-8 hours of sunlight so planting in shady areas is discouraged. Plan on using areas that receive a maximum of sun. Soils should be prepared that are deep and well drained and have the proper pH for planting. There should be an adequate water supply available so plants can be watered during the growing season. Some plants may require support structures so that may be a planning consideration rather than allowing plants to grow willy-nilly which can lead to unsightly and chaotic growing conditions. And, the grower might consider using or incorporating raised beds for early planting and ease of harvest.

New foodscapers might consider starting small to see how the concept works adding a few edibles into the landscape. This can be done by replacing one or two ornamentals with edible plants or put in a couple of containers with edibles rather than planting those to flowers or other ornamentals. Consider adding herbs or free-standing berry bushes. Herbs do not seem to need as much care as some other vegetables.



Herbs - Clackamas County, OR photo



University of Georgia Extension photo

There are some cautions. Planting annuals every year can disrupt nearby perennials. And, be sure and rotate crops so the same annuals are not planted in the same locations each year. Try to avoid using self-sowing or spreading plants as these can create unwanted volunteer issues. Be cautious in using pesticides and be aware that some animals are attracted to edibles unless care is taken to discourage them. Avoid planting near roads, sidewalks or runoff areas because of potential issues with pollution from those sources.

Store bought foods with the most pesticides include spinach, peppers, kale, potatoes, apples, peas, strawberries and blueberries, grapes and stone fruits. Incorporating these into a home landscape without the pesticides that growers typically use can be of great benefit to health and well-being. In addition, More beneficial insects will be attracted to a diverse landscape



Jane Collier, Master Gardener, Clackamas County, OR Master Gardener photograph

Finally, incorporating edibles into the landscape requires care at different growth stages. Soils can be improved using edibles if crop residues are returned to the soil to add organic matter. Many annual edibles require fertilizer to optimize production so gardeners will need to pay attention for plant needs. Ensuring there is an adequate water supply and site-specific water needs are met may require some additional time

and effort. Figuring out the mature sizes of plants is useful so one can plan for the space required. Planting dwarf or semi-dwarf trees and/or smaller shrubs, using trellises or fences to grow vertically helps with space management.

Foodscaping Resources

<https://cmastergardeners.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/foodscaping-.pdf>

Growing Herbs

<https://cmastergardeners.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/growing-herbs.pdf>

Vegetable Starting Time for Oregon <https://cmastergardeners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/annual-vegetable-production-specifics-for-oregon.pdf>

Extension Resources

Growing Edibles in the Landscape - North Carolina Extension

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/growing-edibles-in-the-landscape>

Grow food with style - University of Georgia <https://fieldreport.caes.uga.edu/news/grow-food-with-style-edible-landscaping-blends-beauty-and-bounty/>

Ornamental Vegetable Gardens - Iowa State University <https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/ornamental-vegetable-gardens>

Deer Resistant Edibles and Herbs from Connecticut Extension

<https://homegarden.cahnrc.uconn.edu/factsheets/deer-resistant-vegetables-and-herbs/>

WSDA Japanese Beetle ALERT!!!

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) continues to work to protect the community from the invasive Japanese beetle with a multi-year eradication project in King, Yakima, Benton and Franklin counties. To achieve eradication, WSDA offers [annual free yard treatments](#) to properties near recent beetle catches, including those close by in Grant and Adams Counties.

WSDA will begin treating properties with a reduced-risk insecticide. Properties must return a consent form to be treated. Every property that does not consent becomes a refuge where beetles can multiply.

WSDA conducted environmental reviews and research determined that the eradication project will not have an adverse impact on the environment. The comment period is closed, but the [environmental review documents](#) are still available.

WSDA needs your help to reach residents

Please help us protect the community and environment by encouraging residents in treatment areas to give consent to have their property treated. Less than half of eligible properties have responded to WSDA's treatment requests. If more property owners do not consent, Japanese beetles will become permanently established in our state.

Help WSDA eradicate Japanese beetle and spread the word about treatments on social media, in newsletters, on websites and more. To make sharing easy, WSDA has provided images and text for you to use on our [spread the word webpage!](#)



You are receiving this message because you have been identified as a stakeholder in the multi-year Japanese beetle eradication. WSDA will share updates to keep you informed about the project and look for collaboration as well answer questions on this eradication project. Please reach out to Cassie Knavel Outreach Specialist, Washington State Department of Agriculture Cell: 360-688-0560 | ccichorz@agr.wa.gov

Announcements

In Person Plant Clinics, Moses Lake Farmers Market, McCosh Park, third Saturday of each month, May-October, 8-1 pm.

Grant County Fair Plant Clinic. Tuesday-Saturday, Noon to 5 pm, Agricultural Building, Grant County Fairgrounds, Moses Lake. August 18-22, 2026.

Ask Master Gardeners questions 24/7 on line. Go to ga.mgvolunteers@wsu.edu

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