



What is a Master Gardener?

We are people from your community who have received special training to extend education on all aspects of consumer horticulture to the general public.

We are a part of a powerful Volunteer force. Washington State University Extension faculty, staff volunteers and other knowledgeable resource people will teach the course. In return for the extensive training, we are required to volunteer a minimum of 50 hours of public educational outreach each year for a period of two years.

How can a Master Gardener help? We are here to help you find answers to gardening questions in the following areas: plants and plant disease identification, when, how, and where to plant, insect identification and control, soil amendments, and other topics. Although we are not experts in all of these areas, we have at our disposal many informative resources to assist us in troubleshooting and diagnosis.

How can you help a Master Gardener answer your questions? Diagnosis and troubleshooting can be quicker and easier when an example/specimen is provided. If you have what seems like a pesky insect put it in a bag and come on down. We will try to identify it and classify it as either a "good" or "bad" bug. If your plant looks sick, bring us a damaged and a healthy piece and be prepared to answer questions about where it is planted and details of how you are caring for the plant.

Overall, we are people who love to talk with people about the many facets of gardening. So, we welcome your questions!

Master Gardener Training Frequently Asked Questions

When can I get the application to apply for next year's training?

- ◆ Applications are available **after August 1st** for training that starts in January of the following year.

How do I apply?

- ◆ Send at least a 8 ½ by 11, self-addressed stamped envelope to:
WSU Extension Snohomish County
Attn: Master Gardener Coordinator
600 128th ST SE
Everett, WA 98208-6353
- ◆ Or visit our office and pick one up

How much does it cost?

- ◆ Approximately \$150 is charged to cover training materials. *See current year's brochure for actual cost.*

Where is training held?

- ◆ Training is held at the WSU Extension Education Center, which is located in McCollum Park in South Everett (see address above).
- ◆ Call office at **(425) 338-2400** for directions.

When is training held?

- ◆ Training begins the first or second Thursday in January and continues every Thursday and some Saturdays until 13 sessions of training have been completed, usually by 3rd week in March.
- ◆ Class sessions are from 8:30am to 4:00pm.

Still need more information?

- ◆ An informational brochure will be returned to you with your application.
- ◆ Or call the Master Gardener Hotline at **(425) 357-6010**.

What's Going On in the Snohomish County Master Gardener Program 2009

The Snohomish County Master Gardener Foundation works with the Master Gardener Program and other entities to provide service to residents. We have expanded programs and projects in the past year. In the last year Master Gardeners have –

- Volunteered approximately 22,000 hours of service to the community.
 - Operated over 300 clinics at 25 locations throughout the county, plus maintaining daily clinics of four hours in winter and eight hours in summer at the Extension Office.
 - Surveyed recipients of MG services to determine effectiveness. Favorable responses exceed 95%.
 - Maintained demonstration gardens in five locations throughout the County.
 - Donated several thousand pounds of food from the gardens to food banks and shelters.
 - Provided workshops and lectures on gardening and food growing at demonstration gardens and other locations.
 - Continued the very successful (always sold out) series of “Sustainable Gardening” lectures by garden experts, available to Master Gardeners and the public – a fundraiser and educational experience, too.
 - Sponsored educational garden tours, visiting private gardens.
 - Raised over \$20,000 for the Foundation through our annual Plant Sale, the first Saturday in May.
 - Put on the annual Master Gardener Recognition Dinner.
 - Provided leadership for MG projects, such as the Rain Garden, Growing Groceries, and greenhouse projects.
 - Provided a \$500 scholarship to a high school student beginning college in field of horticulture.
 - Made and sold 67 nest boxes to place in gardens.
 - Maintained a roster of speakers available to organizations on a variety of garden-related topics, emphasizing environmentally friendly practices, and taught and participated in talks, workshops, and seminars to spread good-gardening information.
 - Helped with projects sponsored by other related programs, such as the Snohomish Conservation District’s recycling program and native plant sale.
 - Taught nutrition, propagation, and plant science classes in a local junior high school, and helped students beautify their campus with plantings.
 - Helped maintain gardens for non-profit organizations such as the YWCA Place for Women in transition.
 - Put more emphasis into food gardening and rain gardening as these topics have become more prominent.
 - Took part in “Train the Trainers” seminars and workshops to teach people how to “Grow Groceries” and establish home-sized rain gardens, with the goal of disseminating this information through classes in local communities and the establishment of rain gardens and backyard and community vegetable gardens.
 - Established a fund through the SCMGF for starting community gardens. A total of \$10,000 is available through a grant process (see the SCMGF web page at <http://snomgf.org>).
- set up a 20 x 50 foot greenhouse on donated property at a local nursery for starting, propagating, and growing plants and for holding educational workshops.