

Scoop o' Dirt

Yakima County Master Gardener News

April 2022



Plant Sale 2022!

Our Plant Sale is April 28th for members and April 29th - May 1st for the public. Thursday, those who volunteer for the first shift will be shopping 8-9 and the remaining members 9-4. The hours are 8 AM - 4 PM on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Sunday hours 9 AM - 12 PM. We are not scheduling shopping times for master gardeners, so first come, first serve. We will be accepting cash, credit/debit cards and checks. As always, for our sale to be successful, we need many volunteers. Please volunteer, we need you! You will be receiving sign-up sheets for different volunteer activities. We have tried to reduce shift times to approximately 3 hours. We have

many areas that need volunteers. Each department should plan on providing one team member for each shift during the sale. Your team members are our experts. All our teams have put in a lot of time planting and grooming their plants and the Art's Team has put in many hours creating great items. We are all aware that we have missed two years of profits and have experienced rising costs for power and planting materials. Finally, please participate in our major fund raising event and volunteer! Thank You.

Your Plant Sale Co-Leaders, Susie, Virginia, and Deanna

(Photos by Julie Hunziker)



West Valley Food Garden

West Valley Food Garden Update

by John Strong

Good ideas sometimes take a long time to come to fruition. So it has been with the new garden that is emerging in west Yakima. A dream that started a couple of years ago by MGs **Karen Orange** and Rory Flint Knife, is starting to look like something might soon be growing there!

A field that once produced tree fruit to nourish earlier generations will soon nourish residents of the Tieton / Cowiche area through the Highland Food Bank.

We spent two seasons growing the soil with three cover crops and many yards of composted horse manure. After a work party last Saturday, a "crop" of irrigation piping can be seen popping up across our new garden. Soon, when the irrigation water is flowing, we will charge the system and check for leaks. Then trenches will be filled, drip lines installed, and the first vegetable seeds will finally find their way to soil!

Photos by John Strong



Gary, Karen and Camille



Janet and Walt

Thanks for their support and labors go to many who have helped to get us to this point. At the risk of omitting a name, I'll try to recognize them all: Rory, who thought it would be important to contribute to a local food bank; Karen, who said, "Let's do it here at my home!" **Gini** and Ron Obert schlepped their equipment all the way from Buena to prepare the ground and later dig trenches and build beds. Gini also contributed with her planning and design skills. Gini, Karen, **Gary Schemp, Darrell Monroe, Jack Vonfeld, Tom Schiels, Mike Woods, Camille Smith**, and yours truly put our backs to work shoveling manure, hoeing, raking, and seeding cover crops. And Vickie Bullard's big trailer was a huge help. A planning team including most of the above and **Melody Westmoreland** and **Phyllis Pugnetti** designed the planting plan. Seeds have been donated by the Seed Library, The Home Depot, and the veggie team. And our recent irrigation installation was achieved by **Marcie Chandler, Janet Roberts, Debra Kroon, Dan Fortier, Walt Clear**, and several of the already mentioned. Thanks also to Trickinnex Tree Falling and Trimming for their donation of giant loads of wood chips for our pathways! As with everything Master Gardeners do, an eager and talented team comes together and gets it done!

As we go forward, others will surely join us, and soon carrots, radishes, tomatoes, peppers, tomatillos, cucumbers, beans, zucchini, summer squash, and watermelon will help fill shopping baskets for some of our Valley's hungry neighbors.

Huge, heartfelt gratitude goes to all that have helped, and we look forward to many more of you to join in the fun!



Debra and Marcie

Photos from WVFG

Photos by John Strong



Gary, Karen, and Camille



Marcie



Trickinnex delivery

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension Office.

Demonstration Garden

Rose Pruning Class

You don't want to miss our rose pruning class on Saturday the 9th at 10:00 in our demonstration garden. **Angela Galbreath** will be our teacher and guide and she is so great. This is a hand-on class so bring your clippers and leather gloves. This class can be used for CE. Come and learn from the best!

Adoption

We love to hear of families who have adopted a child; so happy for that child and, of course, for that family as well. And who among us has not adopted a pet? Such rewards from both kinds of these adoptions!

But we want to let you know that you, too, can adopt. There are spaces at the demonstration garden that are waiting for you to claim. Our garden has suffered for the last two years from not being able to gather because of covid, but also the wind storm that shut the whole park down for so long.

This year is going to be a year of renovation. Last fall, we made a list of so many areas that need attention and already we have members stepping up. **Jenny** has not only volunteered to take on the large shade berm, but has challenged herself to do it by not spending one penny. **Angela** and **Annette** are taking on one of the raised beds and we can't wait to see the results. **Ray** and **Debra** are looking at the new native plant bed and discussing the possibilities and thinking about installing some signage. **Sue** and **Margie** have adopted one of our raised beds and it will be exciting to see what they do. I see some color in our future... So, what would you like to do this year? There are tiny areas as well as big ones. If the plant world is not your thing, then maybe hanging some bird houses for us, painting signs, or spreading mulch is. Let us know by contacting **Skip, Angela, or Diana**. Thank you!

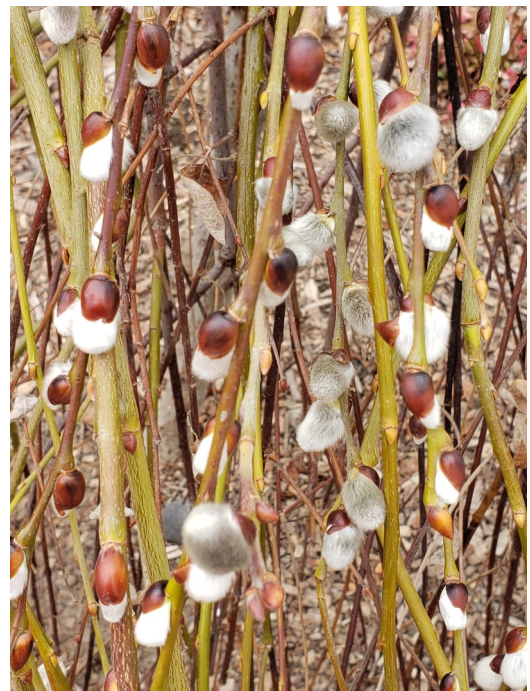
Reminder!

Foundation Meeting

Wednesday, April 13th and 27th



Ahhh...Spring. The Weeping Pussy Willow has sprung forth at the Demonstration Garden on March 2nd. (Photos by Annette Olson)



A closeup of the Demonstration Garden Pussy Willow.

Demonstration Garden Photos



Diana Pieti raking leaves



Crew working at the entrance to Ahtanum Youth Park



Rewarded by the sight of beautiful daffodils by the tool shed



Skip Brockman making more room in the dumpster bin with the assistance of Debra Kroon.

Greenhouse Effect

By Diana Pieti

Sensory overload occurs when one or more of your five senses becomes overstimulated. For instance, a person's sense of sight or smell when they enter the Master Gardener greenhouse may cause their senses to be overloaded. But, this is not a bad thing. The color green showed up first, but now there is so much color to go with that green. And look at those baskets! They are beautiful. And what is that fragrance? Basil? Those herbs are wonderful! The veggies are growing up nicely, we see. What a showing throughout all the greenhouses!

We are so proud of the great volunteers that come each week and love on these plants. It shows. It also helps to have good leadership and we have that with **Lorie, Camille, and Skip** at the helm and with **Darrel** watching over things daily. The greenhouse will need a lot of attention between now and sale time, so please watch for John's weekly schedule of what is going on. And come see the beauty yourself!

Grape Pruning Class

Claudia and her husband, Chuck, presented a class on grape pruning, then let the dozen or so MGs try their hand on the grapes in the Demonstration Garden. (Photos by Julie Hunziker)



Q and A

Question: *What is the difference between a Magnolia tree and a Tulip tree or are they the same?*

Please submit your answer to the editor for publication in next month's Scoop o' Dirt.

Have a gardening question? Submit it to our new Q and A column to glean answers from fellow MGs. Thanks to **Patty Dion** for her suggestion for the column.

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.

Margaret Atwood

Pheno - Phooey - What?

by Gini Obert

No, I said, "Phenology." **What's that?** According to the Oxford Languages Dictionary, it is "the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life." **So what!** I'm growing vegetables and I want to know when to plant my seeds and when to transplant my starts. If you are a long time vegetable gardener you know all about last frost date and soil temperature as it relates to germination rates of seeds. You may even have a soil temperature probe and have scoured the seed catalogs for the proper soil temperature at which to plant your favorite veggies. When you look up the last frost date it is always stated as an average and usually with a range of dates. Without the soil temperature you are left high and dry. So what's a person supposed to do? I say don't fuss or fret, go for a walk around your yard and your neighborhood. Talk to your neighbors, look over the fence and see what's blooming and where it's planted. Gardening should be fun, not a science project. Slow down and tune into the rhythms of life.

Now let's talk about planting by nature's signs – phenology. As spring unfolds and the temperature and precipitation become optimal for plants, they grow and bloom. In other words, the soil, light and heat are just right. Amazing isn't it? Crocus bulbs bloom, forsythia pops with beautiful yellow flowers. Soon you see a host of golden daffodils and quince move into bloom. We see the apple trees bloom, love the

fragrance of lilacs, and are amazed at the beautiful tall stands of bearded iris. All you flower gardeners know this succession and rhythm by heart. Well, let's put that knowledge to work. Let's use these observations to plant our vegetables. Below, you will find my personal phenology table for my vegetable garden. The information is from various articles; much came from the Old Farmer's Almanac. It is information that I glean and store behind my garden journal tab labeled **Garden Secrets**. Look below to know how to use **phenology**. Enjoy your Spring time walks among your flowers and in the neighborhood.



What's blooming

What to plant

Blooming crocus	Radishes, parsnips and spinach
Forsythia in bloom	Safe to plant peas, onion sets and lettuce
When first dandelions bloom	Plant potatoes
When daffodils bloom	Plant beets, carrots and chard (half hardy veggies)
Quince is blooming	Transplant cabbage and broccoli starts
When apple trees bloom	Plant bush beans
When apple blossoms fall	Plant pole beans and cucumbers
When lilac flowers fade	It's safe for cucumbers and squash
When lily-of-the-valley is in full bloom	Transfer tomato starts to the garden
When bearded iris are blooming	Pepper and eggplant can be transplanted to garden
When peonies blossom	It is safe to plant heat loving plants such as cantaloupe
When the oak leaves are the size of a mouse ear	Plant corn

Floribunda: Strawberries!

by Carol Barany

My two grandchildren just may be even pickier eaters than my own children were, and that's saying something. There is one thing they all craved, and that's fresh strawberries. This is the time of the year when strawberries from Mexico start arriving at local grocery stores. At first, I'm wary about buying them. Their plump, ruby perfection has fooled me before, but I'm forever hoping that maybe this time will be different. Seduced, I buy them for the kids. Preschoolers are easy to fool, but one bite tells me what I first suspected. These berries have absolutely no taste. Sugar-free Strawberry Jello has way more flavor.

And then June arrives. The taste of my homegrown berries reminds me why we crave strawberries in the first place. And that first berry of the season isn't even the best, because I'm impatient and pick it still pink and under-ripe. If you want great strawberries, you have to grow them yourself.

Gardeners love to exchange strawberry starts, but experts at WSU recommend buying plants that are "certified virus-free." Over time, strawberries can become infected with aphid-transmitted viruses, and though the plants appear healthy, the viruses will ultimately limit fruit production. Another caution: strawberry plants are highly susceptible to verticillium wilt and shouldn't be grown where potatoes, tomatoes, eggplants, peppers or black raspberries were recently grown.

Strawberries are sun-loving herbaceous perennials with a productive life of 4-5 years. If all you have is dappled shade, try the Alpine Strawberry, or Fraises des Bois. Savored for centuries, this tiny berry's fragrance and flavor is incomparable. Otherwise, there are three main types of cultivated strawberries: June-bearing, ever-bearing, and day-neutral.

June-bearers yield a main crop of berries in June or July on flower buds formed the previous autumn. They produce many runners that root and make new plants in the bed. WSU evaluators consider 'Rainier' and 'Shuksan' to be the best-flavored June-bearers for our region.

Ever-bearing strawberries also set flower buds in the fall, and continue through summer. Two moderate crops are produced each year: one in the late spring or early summer, and another in the late summer and



early fall. 'Quinault' and 'Fort Laramie' were rated "good" in flavor and do well in the inland Northwest, according to WSU.

Day-neutral strawberries set flower buds throughout the spring, summer, and fall. In some climates, they bear a continuous crop of fruit from late spring until fall frosts. In our warm summers, they grow more like everbearers, with moderate to heavy crops in the spring and fall, and a small yield of berries in our hot summers. For flavor, WSU rated 'Tristar', 'Tribute', and 'Seascape' as "excellent".

Because they love fertile, well-draining soil, strawberries are a perfect crop for berms or raised bed. Before planting, incorporate some organic matter and fertilizer into the soil. WSU recommends 2 pounds of 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 fertilizer or $\frac{3}{4}$ pound 21-0-0 ammonium sulfate per 100 square feet.

June-bearers are grown in a "matted row" where plants are set 15 to 24 inches apart within rows sited 36 to 42 inches apart. Let runners fill in the spaces between plants and within the row until the "matted row" is 14 to 18 inches wide. Because day-neutrals and ever-bearers don't produce as many runners, they're grown in "hills" with plants placed 10 to 18 inches apart. Allow one runner to start another plant between the two mother plants, and keep new plants 8 inches apart.

(Continued next page)

Strawberries (con't.)

On planting day, set the middle of the crown at soil level with half of the crown above the soil line and half below. Spread the roots out in the planting hole with the top roots just below the soil surface. Water to settle the plants, and then check to make sure the crown hasn't settled deeper, where it could rot. And if the roots are too shallow, the plant will dry out and die.

Mulching the soil in the summer with two to three inches of straw conserves moisture and prevents many weeds, which are tough to control in strawberry beds. It's also a soft, clean cushion for the ripening fruit. Keep the soil moderately moist, but not wet. After harvesting, renovate strawberry beds by mowing off the leaves, taking care not to damage the crowns. This stimulates new plant growth and reduces disease problems.

In the first year, remove all flowers that develop on June-bearing and ever-bearing strawberries. On day-neutrals, remove flowers until the first of August. Delaying fruiting will encourage leaf, crown, and root development.

Harvest berries in the early morning if possible, and refrigerate them immediately. Wet berries encourage fruit rots. Wash the berries just before serving.

For in-depth information, WSU Extension booklet MISC0253 "Growing Berries in the Inland NW" is free at <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/MISC0253/MISC0253.pdf>. For help choosing from the hundreds of strawberry cultivars available, check WSU on-line publication C133 "Strawberry Cultivars for the Inland Northwest."

Sue Schauer's granddaughter, Luella, was very intent on creating a basket for Mom.



Mother's Day Baskets

Master Gardeners, grandchildren, and great grandchildren had a very good day at the GH last Saturday, choosing just the right plants and flowers for their baskets, being it for sun or for shade! We had 26 children from toddler to teenagers. It was fun to watch them carefully plant. Now we say, "Grow, Grow, GROW!"

~Beatrice Reiss



MaryLou Calhoun and her great granddaughter Lainey Chaney enjoyed a day together creating a basket for Mom.





Submitted by Debra Kroon

Newsletter submissions are due on the 25th of each month. Please send to Julie Hunziker at jbhunziker@gmail.com. Texting photos and brief descriptions is fine, as well. (530)209-4329

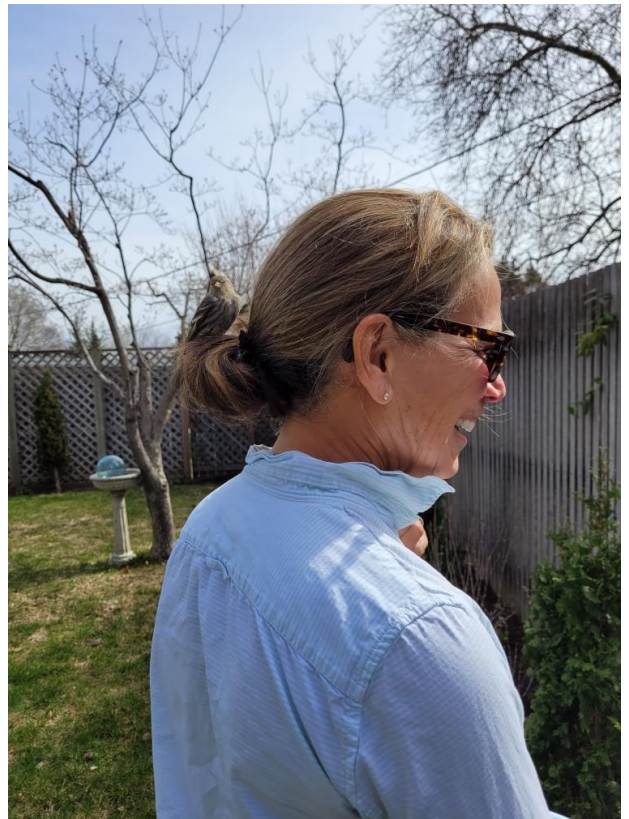
Heirloom Garden

The Heirloom Garden starts its new year under a new team on April 18th. We'll be meeting at the garden 9-Noon depending on weather conditions or in that end of the big GH if weather is inclement. There will be chips to spread (we hope), beds to ready, discussions to be had. We look forward to a new year. Phyllis will return from vacation April 1 to teach us what she has been doing and get the new team (**Sally Mayo** and myself) up to speed. See you then.

~Judith McDonald

A big THANK YOU to Kim Foster for stepping up the last couple of months to help with the newsletter. She is unable to continue, but Debra Kroon has volunteered to help as needed.

~Julie Hunziker



Something to make your day...working in the garden, my new feathered friend flew onto my head, so light I didn't realize it at first, and stayed there with me for a good 20-25 minutes, while I spread my new mulch ... she would move from the crown to my bun and back...love creation!!

~Sara Holtzinger

Melody and others represented the Yakima County Master Gardeners at the recent Home and Garden Show at the SunDome.



2022 Master Gardener Classes

Date	Presenter	Topic
April 6	Eric Olson Sally Mayo	We Need To Recognize That Pollinators Are Essential Workers Adaptive Gardening
April 13	Sue Bird Ken Tolonen	Escaped Ornamentals Shrubs and Screening Plants
April 20	Deanna Husch, Susie Walters, & Team	Plant Sale Details
April 27	Plant Sale Team	Continued Plant Sale Information End of Year Wrap

2022 Demonstration Garden Classes

Date	Presenter	Topic
May 14	Sarah Judd	DIY Self-Watering Containers
May 28	Marjorie Constanzi & Sue Schauer	Perennials for Year-round Color and Dividing Perennials
June 11	Richard Russell	Tool Care for a Long Life
June 25	Sean Tate	Tree Health
July 9	Diana Pieti & Diane Berthon	Drying and Pressing Flowers
July 23	Debra Kroon	Using Native Plants to Benefit Wildlife & Pollinators
Aug 13	Claudia Steen	Growing & Care of Houseplants
Aug 27	Diana Pieti	Bulbs You Really Want, But Didn't Know You Did
Sept 10	Carol Barany	Flowers for a Cutting Garden
Sept 24	Sarah Judd	Planning Now for Starting Seeds
Oct 8	Virginia Vorenkamp	Bird Seed Ornaments and Inviting Birds to Your Garden

2022 Heirloom Garden Classes

Date	Presenter	Topic
May 21	Claudia Steen	Raised Bed Gardening
June 18	Sally Mayo	Growing Zucchini and All Things Squash
July 16	Diana Pieti	Use and Preservation of Herbs
Aug 20	Beatrice Reiss	Planning Vegetables for Winter Gardens
Sept 17	Sally Mayo	Garden Clean-up/Preparing Beds for Winter

Thanks to the Extension office for sending out this alert:

The FBI has begun advising the public to watch out for malicious QR codes. QR codes are the square 'codes' you see on everything from shipping labels to menus.

As QR codes have become more and more ubiquitous – they present opportunities for bad guys to exploit. Criminals are tampering with legitimate QR codes and replacing them with malicious ones in order to redirect visitors to potentially harmful websites.

The next time you scan a QR code out in the wild, make sure it took you where it was supposed to.

The official FBI bulletin: <https://www.ic3.gov/Media/Y2022/PSA220118>



Youth Team

Youth Team is looking for 2 or 3 volunteers to help with activities at the Downtown Yakima Farmers Market! We have a fun project planned for each month. Dates are May 29, June 26, July 31, Aug 28, Sept 25, and Oct 9. You can sign up for one, or more, dates. Hours are 8:45 until 1:00 though generally we are done by noon. Please contact: Michelle at eriganzzz@gmail.com or Beatrice at Beatricereiss@yahoo.com for more details.

Master Gardener Mission Statement:

"Engaging university-trained volunteers to empower and sustain communities with relevant, unbiased, researched-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education."

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown,
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."

~A. A. Milne



Ten Steps to Success

- 1) Log in with username (your email address) and password. Do not use the WSU option.
--You should find yourself at a page that says "Welcome to Your Dashboard"
- 2) Find "**My Activity**" in upper right corner and click it to bring up the drop-down menu. Click on "**Impacts.**"
--You should find yourself at a page that shows your picture and name and a list of your impacts.
- 3) Click on the green "**Add Impact**" box on the right side of the page.
--You should find yourself on a page that says "Where did you create the following Impact?"
- 4) Under the "**Keyword Search**" box, click on "**My Groups.**"
--You should see a list of several WSU groups or just "WSU Yakima County Master Gardeners."
--Click on "**WSU Yakima County Master Gardeners.**"
- 5) You are now on a page titled "Add Impact" and it asks "**Did you attend a listed event or volunteer opportunity?**"
--Click on the box to bring up the drop-down menu. Choose the category appropriate for your activity.
--You should now be on a page that shows date and time entry options.
- 6) Click on the calendar to select the **date**, being diligent about clicking the date for BOTH the start and end of your activity. The dates should be the same.
--Click on the "**+Time**" box and enter your start and ending times in 15 minute increments. (This is necessary for L&I purposes)
- 7) Under "**Requested Information,**" click on the box for **Program Category** to bring up the drop down menu and click on the SAME category as the one you clicked on in Step 5.
- 8) In the next box, "**Where did you volunteer or what did you do?**" type in the venue/location or the lecture topic. (This is where my 3x5 cheat cards come in handy.)
- 9) Scroll down to the "**Reflection**" box and type in what you did...the GH team you worked with or details about your activity.
- 10) Scroll down to the bottom and click on the green "**Add Impact**" box.
--You will find yourself at a confirmation page with your picture. If you want to add another impact, click on the blue print in the yellow box at the top "Impact added. Continue adding Impacts to WSU Yakima County Master Gardeners."

If you need further assistance, feel free to call Julie Hunziker at (530)209-4329. We can also meet over coffee and I'll bring my iPad.



April 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Art Team 9-11:30 Veggie Team	Veggie Team email Beatrice if you plan to help
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Yakima Herald MG Article	Perennials Team 8-11	Annuals Team 8-11	Class @ Red Barn 12:15 – 2:30	Hanging Basket Team 9-11 Herbs Team 8-11	Art Team 9-11:30 Veggie Team 8-11	Veggie Team email Beatrice if you plan to help
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Yakima Herald MG Article	Perennials Team 8-11	Annuals Team 8-11	Foundation Mtg 1030 – 11:30 Class @ Red Barn 12:15 – 2:30	Hanging Basket Team 9-11 Herbs Team 8-11	Art Team 9-11:30 Veggie Team 8-11	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Yakima Herald MG Article	Perennials Team 8-11 Heirloom Garden 9-12	Annuals Team 8-11	Class @ Red Barn 12:15 – 2:30 Plant Sale Details	Hanging Basket Team 9-11 Herbs Team 8-11	Art Team 9-11:30 Veggie Team 8-11	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Yakima Herald MG Article	Perennials Team 8-11 Heirloom Garden 9-12	Annuals Team 8-11	Foundation Mtg 1030 – 11:30 Class @ Red Barn 12:15 – 2:30 Plant Sale Details	Master Gardeners only Plant Sale 9-4	Annual Plant Sale 8:00-4:00	Annual Plant Sale 8:00-4:00



Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact: WSU Extension/2403 South 18th Street/ Union Gap, WA 98903/509-574-1600.

For accommodation please call at least two weeks prior to the event. WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.