

Foundation News

Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County Awarded \$30,000 grant from Washington State Department of Commerce as part of the latest round of Working Washington Grants

During this past summer the Washington State Legislature allocated a new round of grant funding for small businesses affected by the pandemic. \$70 million was appropriated by the legislature for the next round of Working Washington Grants: Round 5, with \$45 million of the appropriation directed to eligible businesses and nonprofit organizations in the arts, heritage, and science sectors, including those that operate live entertainment venues. \$25 million was directed at most other sectors, including hospitality, fitness and personal services.

Some of the eligibility requirements for the grant funding were:

- Be able to demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak
- Have been in operation prior to December 31, 2020
- Minimum total revenues of at least \$10,000 in 2019 or 2020.
- Generates at least 51% of revenue in Washington State
- Have experienced a reduction in business income or activity related to COVID-19 or as a result of state or local COVID-19 related public health measures
- Adherence to all required COVID-19 public health measures

The application process opened mid August and closed early September. Grant recipients were notified of grant awards in late October.

Given the impact COVID-19 had on our annual plant sale in 2020 and 2021, this grant opportunity fit very well for the Foundation!

With this grant the Foundation will be on great financial footing to continue supporting the Master Gardener Program for years to come.

~Gilbert Plascencia, Treasurer

Still needing CE/MG Basic Training credits?

Here is an opportunity to pick up some hours. Each class is an hour.

Cowlitz County WSU Master Gardeners has presented weekly on-line free programs which have been recorded. By going to their website

<https://www.cowlitzcomg.com/workshops-videos>

you can access an array of topics: Landscape Gardening, Fruits, Vegetable Gardening, Lawns, Composting, Pollinators/insects, Weeds, and How-to videos. Be sure to enter your impact in GivePulse under Continuing Ed or MG Basic Training, selecting the tag "Zoom Approved Classes."

Program Coordinator

Corner

News & Notes from Your Program Coordinator

Reapplication Survey Update

To date 51 MG members have filled out the Reapplication Survey. If you have completed the following, you are ready to take the survey.

Certified MG's: Recorded volunteer work in GivePulse of at least 25 hours and 10 hours Continuing Education.

Emeritus MG's: Recorded volunteer work in GivePulse of at least 1 hour and 0 hours for Continuing Education required in 2022. Please note – you have to check the box you have met State requirements for Continuing Ed. This year Yakima will not have the 5 hour requirement. That will start next year.

Returning MG's: Your survey is coming! I will be mailing out surveys for returning MG's soon. Please watch your personal email from me with a link to take the survey.

GivePulse

A huge shout-out to Julie Hunziker for catching us up on verifications in GivePulse. She has worked tirelessly to resolve issues that occurred before we made some improvements. Thank you Julie!

Please email or call for an appointment with me if you are having difficulties on GivePulse(GP). Our GP website says we have 143 members. A few members may have retired, or been on LOA. Given that, it would not be surprising if there are fewer Master Gardener's using GP.

However, we currently only have 84 people recording their hours this year in GP, out of 143. Please let me know if you need help or reach out to another MG who is successful with GP. I did have open office hours, but due to my workload will need to offer help by appointment.

Curriculum Team

Our team met in late October and November and we are busy working on advertising, speakers and logistics for this years Basic Training and class series. If you know of someone who is interested in applying to become a Master Gardener, please put them in touch with me through email at patty.ratzlaff@wsu.edu.



The deadline is extended to Dec. 5. We currently have 11 applications and would like to see more.

Northwest Flower and Garden Festival

For the first time in the history of our Program we will participate in the NWFGF as a statewide Program. Thanks to a number of local county foundations (including Yakima) and the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State we will sponsor a judge and host a 10x20 booth at the show in Seattle.

We will tell the story of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program and the impact we have on the communities we serve. Participating counties will have an opportunity to publicize their own activities and events.

2023 Master Gardener 50th Year Memorabilia

Do you want to get in the mood for the 2023 50th Celebration? You can buy a coffee mug, a tee shirt, etc. on our website. Or you can put it on your Christmas wish list! [WSU Master Gardener 50th Anniversary | SunWest Sportswear | powered by OrderMyGear \(itemorder.com\)](#)

Foundation Board

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We Grew Lunch! By Phyllis Pugnetti

We Grew Lunch is a garden-to-table meal with all the main ingredients grown in the gardens of Yakima Master Gardeners. Things we don't grow ourselves are sourced locally. We begin planning the menu in March so we know what to plan, and then try to time it so there will be fresh, frozen, or canned produce to make a meal that will be served to 60 or more friends in winter. It show cases that veggies aren't just for summer!

November 30th may seem a bit late to prepare a luncheon for 60 people using the bounty from our gardens. There's always a worry that pests, disease, heat, drought, or frost will spoil our lunch. But when everything works out—it's a gift to share good food with good friends.

We Grew Lunch is a great opportunity to try some unusual food combinations that you might not otherwise think to use.

Melody's rhubarb spritzer was a delicious way to use up some of that very productive plant.

John's tomato gazpacho was a treat for anyone who's never tried it before.

Diana's sweet onion jam and sweet dill pickles were a huge hit.

Sue put a new twist on jalapeno jelly with the addition of pears.

Ray and Debra's fig preserves were a real treat. Who knew figs grow so well in Yakima?

Other things required a group effort to accomplish:

Edna and Beatrice picked red currants in the Demo Garden and made jam.

Phyllis grew veggies for a three-sisters medley adding squash from the Heirloom Garden.

Carol made frittata with eggs raised from **Ken and Sue**.

There were dessert bars that included **Camille's** cherries, **Gini's** apples, and **Phyllis' rhubarb**.

To have fresh veggies and fruit for 2 green salads was a challenge to make and treat to eat, with lettuce, peppers, and carrots from **Phyllis**; sweet onions and tomatoes from **Gini**; baby turnips from **Diana**; dried Manukka grapes from **Claudia**, and pears from **Camille**.

For a complete description of the food served and who grew the ingredients, check out the menu.



Diana spoke about the process of bringing We Grew Lunch together.



A happy and healthy crowd of nearly 60 people enjoyed the lunch and visiting with friends.



What a Menu!

WE GREW LUNCH

— Appetizers —

Rhubarb Spritzer

Rhubarb grown by Melody Westmoreland

Gazpacho

Red Brandywine tomatoes grown by John Strong

Sweet Dill Pickles

Cucumbers grown by Diana Pieti

Caprese Picks

Made by Diana with tomatoes grown by Gini Obert

Sweet Onion Jam

Made by Diana Pieti with locally sourced onions

Red Currant Jam

Made by Bea Reiss with currants from the Demo Garden

Pear Pepper Jelly with Cream Cheese

Made by Sue Schauer, jalapenos grown by Sue Schauer, pears grown by Suzann McFeat

Sicilian Caponata

Clear Pink Early tomatoes, Etuida peppers, Black Beauty eggplant, and yellow onions grown by Phyllis Pugnetti

— Main course —

Rosemary Knots with Fig Preserves and Cheese Spread

Rosemary, figs, and honey grown by Debra Kroon and Ray Yates

Mixed Green Salad with Honey Mustard Dressing

Tomatoes and sweet onions grown by Gini Obert, baby turnips grown by Diana Pieti
Red Romaine lettuce, Komatsuna leaf mustard, Autumn King carrots grown by Phyllis Pugnetti

Pear Grape Salad with Maple Vinaigrette

Bosc pears grown by Camille Smith, Manuka dried grapes grown by Claudia Steen
Red Romaine lettuce, Komatsuna leaf mustard grown by Phyllis Pugnetti

Three Sisters Medley

Butterbush squash from the Heirloom Garden, Honey Buns corn, Beefy Resilient Grex beans,
Clear Pink Early tomatoes, Etuida peppers, Bill Keep's Perennial onions grown by Phyllis Pugnetti

Frittata

Eggs raised by Ken Tolonen and Sue Schauer
Antohi Romanian peppers grown by Phyllis Pugnetti, locally sourced mushrooms, sausage, and cheese

— Desserts —

Chocolate Cherry Bars

Cherries grown by Camille Smith

Apple Walnut Bars

Granny Smith apples grown by Gini Obert, walnuts grown by the late Virginia Vorenkamp

Blueberry Rhubarb Bars

Rhubarb grown by Phyllis Pugnetti with locally sourced blueberries

Curriculum Team



Your Curriculum Team Hard at Work

By Debra Kroon

While folks have put their gardens to bed for the year and eagerly anticipate the annual flood of garden catalogs soon to arrive in our mailboxes, a group of fellow Master Gardeners have been hard at work behind the scenes, preparing for our 2023 Class Year.

It is no easy feat to plan a 15 week curriculum for our Program, much less to make it relevant, engaging, interesting and not repetitive. The heavy lifting this year has been shouldered by Patty Ratzlaff, our Program Coordinator. Other team members have contributed ideas, made contacts, phone calls, emails, and planned presentations. It is shaping up to be a very good 2023 Class Year. Kudos and thanks to this hard working team of Patty, John Strong, Ken Tolonen, Claudia Steen, Margaret Morris, Sally Simon, and Moi.

Members Only Directory

by Debra Kroon

We're back! Rod and Carol Woolcock and I are getting the team back together to update our 2023 Members Only Directory. Rod and Carol will be set up the first week or two of classes to take new head shots of YOU.

Please watch the January newsletter for the exact date(s) of when we will be taking new photos. In the meantime, if you have changes to your information in the directory, please send all of that to me: debrakroon@gmail.com.

Have you moved? Got a new phone #? Changed your email address? Make sure you get your updates.



Reminder! Foundation Meeting
Wednesday, December 14th at 10:30 at the Red Barn

Floribunda: WVFG

by Carol Barany

“The charitable food system is vital for food access for vulnerable people in every community in the United States. Most individuals and their families accessing food pantries and other charitable food programs are food insecure, meaning there is an uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food insecurity is related to poor nutrition and many other negative health outcomes. Some of these health outcomes include poor physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional development among children and chronic health conditions, including diabetes, hypertension, and obesity among adults.”

~Diana Aviv, CEO Feeding America



It wasn't that long ago when lines, a block-long, waited outside Yakima food banks. Thankfully, when there is hunger and economic vulnerability, food banks get food to people who need it most. COVID-19 made the longstanding challenges of hunger and food insecurity even more urgent. Children need nutritious foods to fuel their growth, while seniors need them to stay strong and active. To make meals for a family, parents need a pantry stocked with essentials.

COVID-19 affected everyone differently. For Yakima County Master Gardeners, it was transformative.

The idea of a Food Garden was born in 2020. According to Master Gardener Camille Smith, who co-chaired the project, “2020 was the year of COVID-19. We knew local residents were losing their jobs and becoming dependent on food banks. A few of us got together and thought we could contribute fresh produce and help the community.”

Master Gardener Karen Orange offered a piece of land. An apple orchard she removed in 1996 had become an unused field of orchard grass and weeds. Transforming this humble beginning into a lush and productive 5,000 square foot West Valley Food Garden (WVFG) took plenty of careful planning and lots of hard labor.

Years of gardening experience taught the planners that “if you don't control the weeds, the weeds will control you”. In the spring of 2021, the weeds and grasses were killed.

These gardeners also knew that soils are living organisms, playing a critical role in plant health. What this heavily compacted soil needed was a cover crop grown specifically to improve the soil. Whether practiced on a large farm or in a home garden, planting a cover crop reduces soil compaction, increases soil microbial life, and improves water infiltration.

Now that the weeds were gone, a local landscaper donated his time, tractor, and disc to work the soil. A cover crop of cowpeas and buckwheat was planted, cut, and tilled in. Truck loads of composted manure were added to the mix. In the fall of 2021, a cover crop of winter rye was planted and tilled into the soil this past spring.

Soil samples were taken and sent to testing labs at the University of Massachusetts for analysis. Based on the results, no further amendments were needed.

Highland Food Bank serves a small rural community in western Yakima County where there is a great need for nutritious fresh produce. In 2021-2022 the WVFG team partnered with HFB managers to determine what vegetables their clients preferred.

(Continued on next page)

(Floribunda: WVFG continued)

Early in 2022, Master Gardener Gini Obert's husband Ron brought in equipment and created 28 berms, each 20 feet long, to serve as planting beds. Master Gardener and WVFG co-chair John Strong and his team designed and installed a drip irrigation system.

Using steel stakes and cattle panels; trellises for peas, cucumbers, tomatoes, and tomatillos were built.

A generous \$3,000 grant from Farm Credit Services went a long way in covering expenses.

Trickinex, a local tree service, donated 20 yards of wood chips to pave easy to navigate garden pathways. Partially composted yard waste from the Yakima County facility was used for mulch.

All was in place.

In April of 2022, the team started tomatoes, peppers and tomatillos from seed in the Master Gardener greenhouses, followed by squash and cucumbers in May. Early crops like peas, carrots, and radishes were directly seeded into the garden beds.

The results have been extraordinary. So far this year, over 2,000 lbs. of produce raised by over twenty volunteers has been delivered to the Highland Food Bank. Master Gardeners harvest and deliver on Fridays, and the bounty is distributed at HFB the next day. It doesn't get any fresher than that.

Providing healthy food options in a friendly communal culture, HFB has been a non-profit food bank for over eleven years in temporary locations. HFB is currently finishing a permanent location building project in Tieton.

Moving forward into 2023, the WVFG team will meet with HFB to assess their needs for next year. According to Camille, "developing, planning, planting, and harvesting have been a labor of love for all of us."

Planting a vegetable garden can supply you, your family, and your community with an abundance of fresh, healthy vegetables throughout the season. When done right, it can also beautify the landscape, protect water quality, and conserve natural resources. Environmentally sound gardening practices improve soil fertility through crop rotation and by turning waste materials into valuable compost and fertilizer.

Master Gardeners are looking forward to using the WVFG (Camille fondly refers to it as an "experimental educational garden") as a classroom where gardening knowledge can be shared with their community. Look for announcements next spring.



MANY THANKS

I would like to thank you all for the wonderful well wishes, the cards, the beautiful flowers, and the yummy treats. I feel very blessed and grateful to have such a caring Master Gardener family! I felt like a sick little plant that was being nurtured back to health by all your good thoughts and prayers. I hope to be back in the greenhouse working by January!! Yay!!

~ Camille Smith



***Master Gardener
Mission Statement:***

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

DECK THE HALLS!

MAKE A FRESH HOLIDAY CENTERPIECE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

NOTE NEW TIME: 9-10:30 AM

IN THE NEW GREENHOUSE

Bring:

- Pruners, Greens, pine cones, pods, dried plant material, ribbon, berries, or any adornments your little heart desires.

- A block of wet floral foam (Oasis) to share if you have some. Oasis will be provided for those who need it.

Holiday refreshments and music to get us in a festive mood will be provided.

MG will supply rustic wood bases for the arrangements, or you can bring your own favorite waterproof container to hold your centerpiece.

Please try to join us. Questions? Call Carol Barany 901-9018.



John Lopes, an artist from South Dakota, usually creates life sized sculptures of horses, buffalo, wolves and other animals associated with the American west using old repurposed metal parts from farm equipment. He says he can't grow a tree so he decided to make one! Now that's cool!

~ Phyllis Pugnetti

Greenhouse Effect

By Carol Barany

Greenhouse activities began in October, and the results have been amazing. We must be Master Gardeners!

Darrell Monroe knows each plant by name and has talked them all into getting growing. We are so grateful for all he does.

The Perennials team ordered a long list of seeds this summer, many of them from England. We're hoping to produce dozens of never before offered plant varieties for the May sale. You're gonna love the Heuchera! A monstrous 22 trays have been started! We also have a few hundred houseplant starts getting bigger each week.

The Arts team is creating hypertufa planters to hold all the succulents they've been propagating. They have plans to upscale loads of unused and unusual items into garden treasures, and we have never been disappointed with the results.

The Herb team has struck cuttings such as rosemary and lavender, and will begin seeding all the herbs we love to grow and cook with in late winter/early spring.

Allyn reports that visions of tomato varieties have been dancing in her head as she and her team plan their edible offerings for the sale.

Over in Hanging Baskets, cuttings for filler plants are waiting to be eventually tucked in with their thriller and spiller cousins to create the lush and overflowing baskets this team is well-known for.

The Annuals team is on their way to filling the greenhouse with an array of cuttings they successfully started from healthy geraniums, coleus, plectranthus, sweet potato vine, begonias, and lots more. Seeds will be started and plugs will be planted in the new year.

On a cold and gloomy morning a trip to the greenhouse lifts your spirit and puts a smile on your face. Just call it one more form of psychotherapy that works!

Newsletter submissions are due on the 25th of each month. Please send to Julie Hunziker at jbhunziker@gmail.com. Texting photos and brief descriptions are fine, as well. (530)209-4329. Just a reminder...the newsletter is only as interesting as the articles members send in. Editor appreciates those who send in material.

YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM
Holiday Lights Extravaganza!

December 6 - 17 | 10AM to 6PM

Come and support your local charities and enjoy the spirit of the Holiday Season!
 Over **30** beautifully lit trees and other symbols each decorated by a local Charity.

\$12 adults | \$10 senior | \$5 children

Each adult or senior will get back 5 x \$1 tickets to give to your favorite Charities or the trees you like most. Charities will redeem these tickets for cash.

Save your museum admission receipt for a free hot cocoa for kids under 12 at the Soda Fountain!




2105 TIETON DRIVE, YAKIMA, WA
PHONE: 509-248-0747 · YVMUSEUM.ORG

Art Team

The Art Team is inviting all Master Gardeners to show their support and visit the Yakima Valley Museum Holiday Lights Festival and view the Christmas tree on display showcasing Yakima Master Gardeners. Event is December 6 through December 17 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (closed Sundays/ Mondays). Photos have been collected demonstrating who we are and what we have accomplished this last year. See if you can find your picture on the tree! Every ticket deposited into our “box” is worth a dollar and will be given to our Foundation at the end of this event. Price of ticket allows you to view the entire museum and other trees displayed by many non-profits in the valley. A fun event to get in the Christmas spirit and support the Yakima valley. Hope to see you there!

~Jenny Mansfield

Herbs

~Diana Pieti

It is easy for *Diane* and I to be “herb pushers” when you see this bouquet in its lovely vase harvested Thanksgiving morning. The rosemary and thyme were standing up tall but the parsley and savory had to be pried from the frozen ground where it was so limp...but a bit of a drink of water and look at them even two days after harvest. Diane has been working with herbs in sort of 1st gear but we will soon shift up.



In July 2016, **Gini Obert** enjoyed the harvest from the Buena Community Garden. Photo courtesy of **Sue Schauer**.

Give Pulse Tip of the Month

by Julie Hunziker

To Access Give Pulse, go to:

<http://wsu.givepulse.com/group/453187-WSU-Yakima-County-Master-Gardeners>

After logging into your account—

To Edit An Impact:

- ◇ Access the pull-down menu by clicking on ***“My Activity”*** in the upper right of the red banner.
- ◇ Select ***“Impacts.”*** A list of all your entered impacts, verified and pending, will open.
- ◇ Find the impact needing to be edited and click on the down-arrow to the right of the ***“Pending/Verified”*** box.
- ◇ Select ***“Update.”***
- ◇ Make your correction, then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the green box ***“Update Impact.”*** This will save your edit. If you exit/log out without updating, your changes will not be saved.

◆ ***To Delete An Impact:***

- ◇ Follow the above steps to update your impact, but **without making any changes**, scroll to the bottom page and click on the ***“Delete”*** box on the **right side**. There are times when deleting may be necessary. For example, you may have entered the same impact twice. Or perhaps your entry was so convoluted that you need to start over.



“Gardening is the art that uses flowers & plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas” - Elizabeth Murray



A Friendly Reminder

Remember to record your impacts in GivePulse in a timely manner, which helps lighten the verifier’s workload. Are you getting in your CE and pay-back hours? We are nearing the end of our Volunteer year. Veterans need to obtain 10 hours of CE each year and return at least 25 hours of volunteer time. Interns need 20 hours class time, 40 volunteer hours that include 9 hours in the Clinic, 9 hours in the greenhouse, and 9 hours in the gardens (3 each), plus completion of the Canvas coursework.

Demonstration Garden

Before our first significant snow storm of the season, **Angela Galbreath** visited the Demonstration Garden and caught some beautiful photos on her phone camera. Even though it was a chilly 28 degree overcast day, there was early winter beauty to be found.



Norway maple leaves with grainy powdered sugar-like snow crystals littered our break area.



Hamamelis (Witch Hazel) buds hold promise of color splashes yet to come.



Interesting contrast between texture and color. When will the lingering leaves finally all fall?



The birds left no sunflower seeds behind.

Demonstration Garden II

More of **Angela's** photos from her recent foray through the Demonstration Garden.



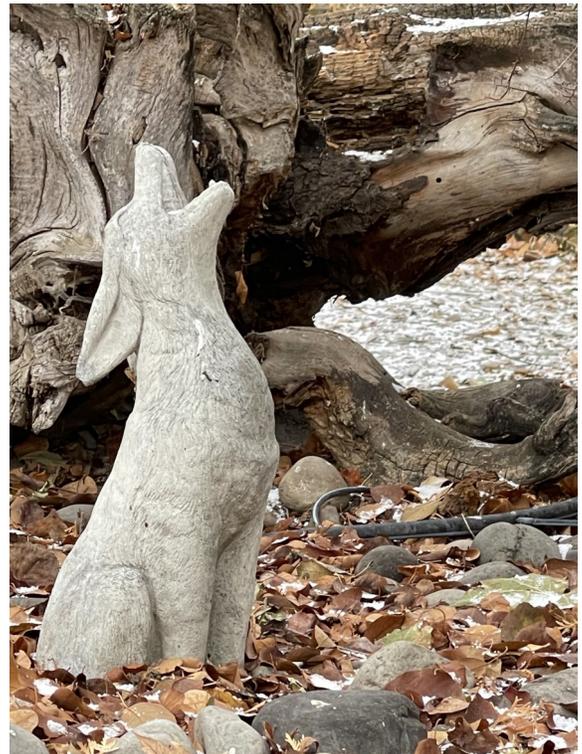
A zinnia seed head looks so different from the beautiful summer flowers visited by the hummingbirds last summer.



A cold wintery day, but one could still hear the rustle of birds in the shrubs and trees. No doubt seeking shelter from the coming storm.



Still, touches of green are to be found.

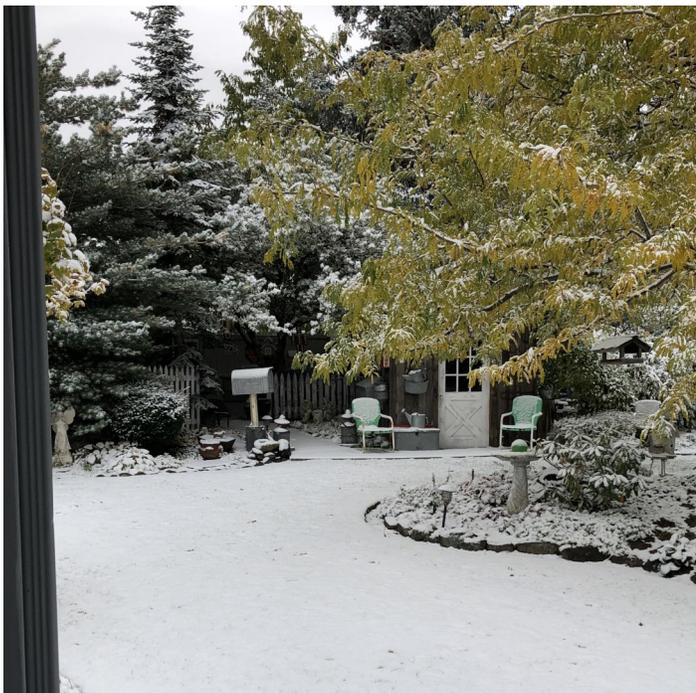
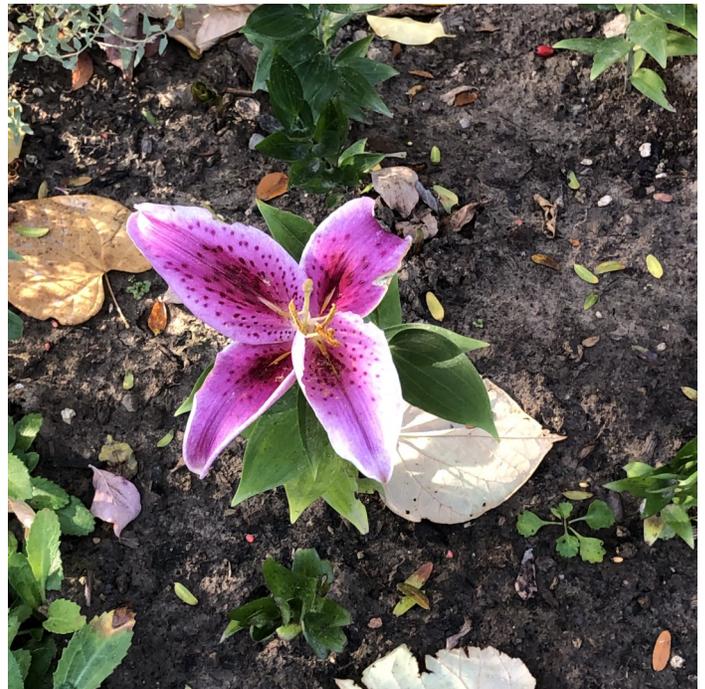
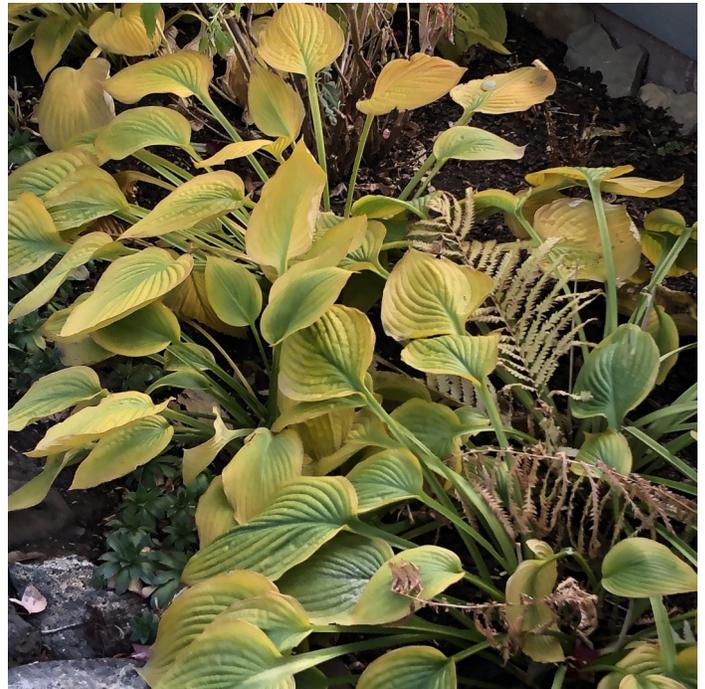


The coyote from Diana's farm doesn't seem distressed by the cold.

Master Gardeners at Home

Photos showing the last color of the year taken in my backyard on 11/02/22. Less than a week later, on 11/08/22, the first snow fell, bringing with it winter weather. Time to hit the garden books and seed catalogs to begin my planning/wishing for 2023. There is always beauty in our four seasons here in the Yakima Valley and I appreciate and welcome it all.

~ Jenny Mansfield



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



December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Basket Team 8-11	2 Art Team 8-11	3
4 Yakima Herald Article	5 Perennials Team 8-11	6 Annuals Team 8-11	7 New MG Class Meet & Greet 12-1:30	8 Basket Team 8-11	9 Art Team 8-11	10 Holiday Centerpiece Class 9-10:30 Greenhouse
11 Yakima Herald Article	12 Perennials Team 8-11	13 Annuals Team 8-11	14 Foundation Mtg 1030 -11:30	15 Basket Team 8-11	16 Art Team 8-11	17
18 Yakima Herald Article	19 Perennials Team 8-11	20 Annuals Team 8-11	21	22	23	24
25 Yakima Herald Article <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 Perennials Team 8-11	27 Annuals Team 8-11	28	29	30	31



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.