

Heirloom Garden

Heirloom Garden Season is Here!

by Judith McDonald



thing! Additionally, the landlord has installed a new variable pressure water pump and our irrigation system will have to be updated to the new plumbing. We truly are starting all over again.

Weather permitting, work in the garden will begin **Thursday, APRIL 6 @ 10:00**. We have lots of prep work to do

We are always facing changes. ALWAYS! The last few years have certainly taught us that! Last year **Phyllis Pugnetti**, who founded the seed library and the Heirloom Garden, went emeritus and has handed over the garden, now co-chaired by **Sally Mayo** and me, using Phyllis as our emeritus mentor.

We got off to a slow start last year, knowing little about what we were getting into, and both Sally and I suffering from mobility issues (mine augmented by a serious auto accident in midsummer and Sally's degenerated hip --for which she finally had replacement surgery last week.) But the garden talks were well attended by some very enthusiastic community members. Thanks to all of you who came and helped. We may not have accomplished our seed goal, but we did educate.

And we all prayed for sun. Growing vegetables in the shade is challenging. If you've been to the greenhouses this spring, you have seen how the sun is now streaming into the Heirloom Garden in the morning as the arborvitae have been removed from the cemetery edge. This changes every-

and a few peas to plant. It's going to be dirty work, so wear appropriate gear. Additionally, we will continue to hold logistics and information meetings on Zoom Tuesday evenings at 6:30, to discuss the upcoming Thursday's work plan and to discuss heirloom seed saving hows and whys. And, of course, watch the weekly team emails.

We're so looking forward to getting out there and starting to turn things around. The shade of the arborvitae kept the garden in snow until after the plant sale last year. This year we start our garden talks the Saturday of the plant sale. Keeping that date was a hard choice to make, with all the traffic and parking and chaos of the sale, but it gives us the extra incentive to put on a good display even if there's not much growing in the garden yet. It's a change and a challenge. Let's meet that challenge!! Show them how it's done! The first talk is on "Growing Soil", so we'll display how it's done, possibly attracting people who have never been to or don't even know about the garden talks.

If you have questions text Judith 379-3904 or Sally 949-7034.

Reminder! Foundation Meeting

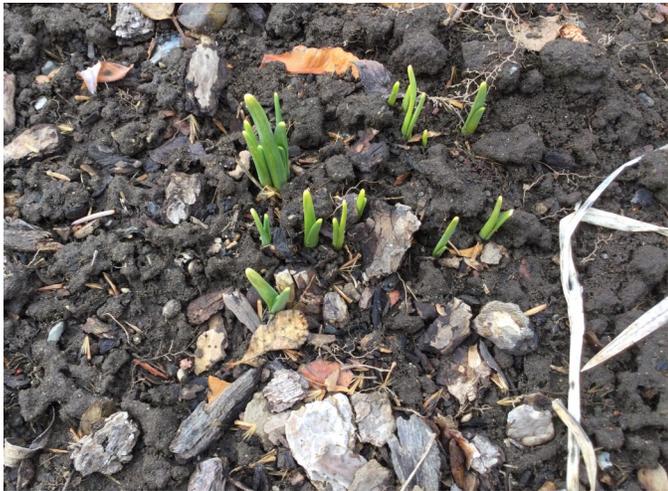
Wednesday, April 12th at 10:30 at the Red Barn

Demonstration Garden

Slowly, the Demonstration Garden is waking up from its winter sleep.

Weekly Wednesday work has begun. Join the crew at 9:00 to get a little clean-up done before class.

(Photos by Diana Pieti)



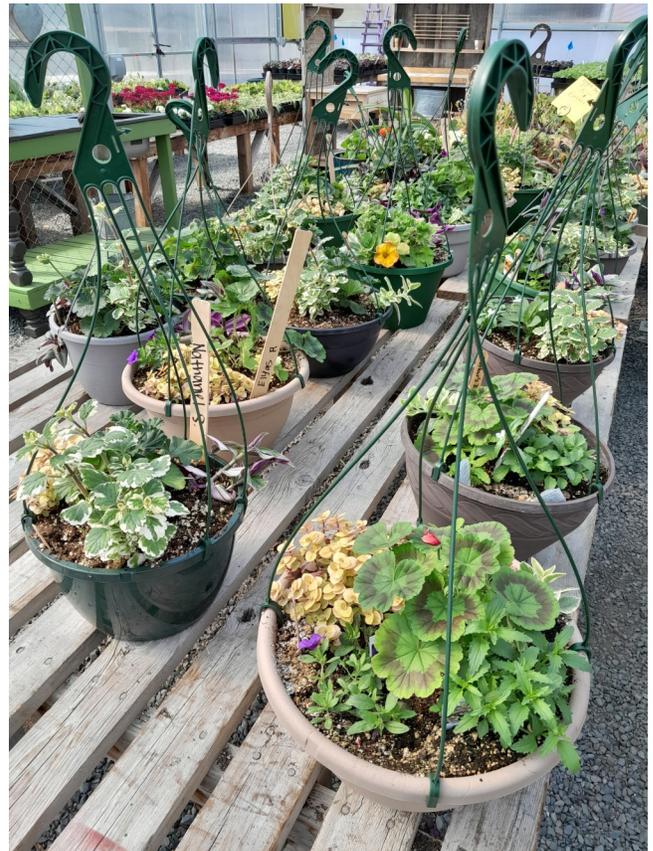
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Small but mighty...here we go...first stint this spring in the Demonstration Garden...**Skip B, Diana P, Vivian H,** and hiding under Red Barberry on R is our hard working **Kelli B. Mary K** joined us as well. **Marge C** stepped away to take these photos.



Youth Team

Mothers Day Baskets with Master Gardeners by Michelle Murphy

It was another fun year for Master Gardeners who were able to bring family to plant hanging baskets! Fourteen Master Gardeners brought grandchildren and/or great grandchildren. The baskets are tucked comfortably in the greenhouse until they are ready to be picked up in April. A huge thanks to the Basket Team for supplying the baskets and filler plants, as well as to the Greenhouse Team for the space.



Grape Pruning Class at the Demonstration Garden March 11th, 2023

Mary Kearney taught an enthusiastic master gardening crew how to prune grapes with hands-on learning at the Ahtanum Demonstration Garden. It was a win-win situation...grapes were pruned, master gardeners learned and received CE credit. (***Photos courtesy of Marjorie Conzatti***)



Top Left: Kelli and Mary work on the fine art of finishing the grape pruning.

Bottom Left: Mike Hendricks used loppers on some of the larger branches.

Bottom Right: Michelle Murphy and Mary Kearney assess where the next cut should be.



More Grape Pruning



Left: Skip and Vivian take care of some of the larger branches.

Right: Kelli, Annette, and Michelle get into the meat of the vines to prune.



Below: The enthusiastic crew of master gardeners gets into pruning the grapes at the Demonstration Garden.



Newsletter submissions are due on the 25th of each month. Please send to Julie 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.

Just Around the Corner...

WSU YAKIMA COUNTY

Extension Master Gardener Program

ANNUAL PLANT SALE



MAY 5,6,7
1522 S 18th
AVE
YAKIMA

FRIDAY 8 AM to 5 PM
SATURDAY 8 AM to 4 PM
SUNDAY 10 AM to 2 PM

100s OF ANNUALS,
PERENNIALS, SUCCULENTS,
VEGETABLES AND
HANGING BASKETS
UNIQUE YARD ART



WSU EXTENSION
Yakima County

Your program website

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact Deanna at 509-728-1513 at least 7 days prior to the event.

Plant Sale Teasers



Herbs



Annuals

Photos by Julie Hunziker



Baskets



Art

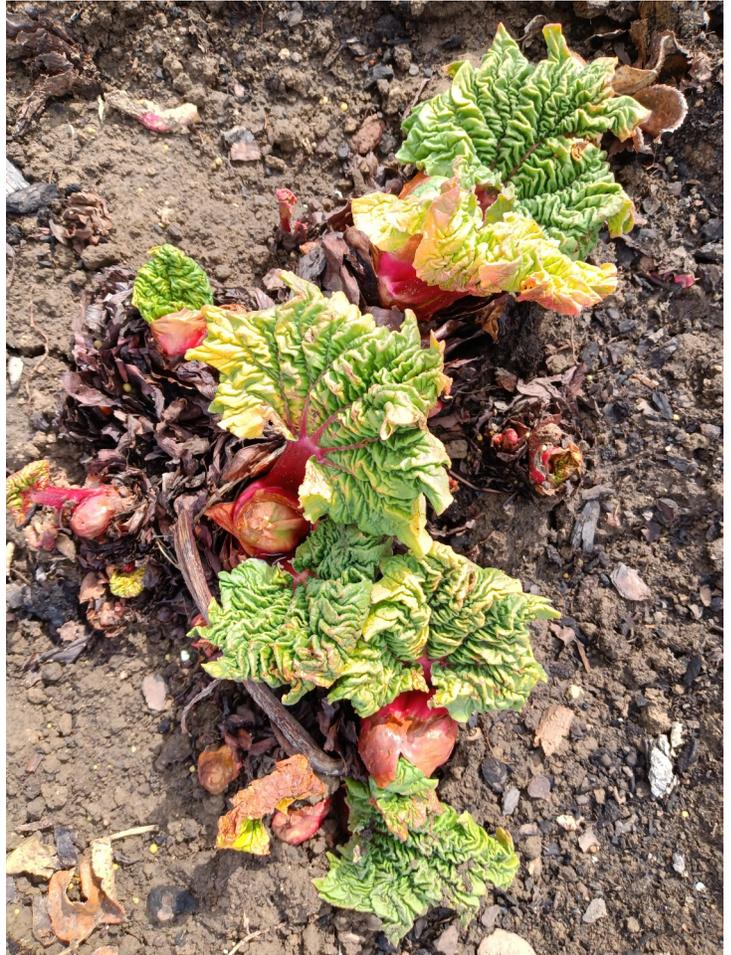
Master Gardeners at Home

Garden Gifts from Phyllis Pugnetti

(Photos from Phyllis' garden)

Rhubarb! It's one of the first things to pop up in the spring and can live for decades on nothing but neglect. Years ago Karen Orange gave me a clump. A few years later I had 2 plants, then 4, now 6 neighbors have some too. Talk about the gift that keeps on giving!

Even through a cold winter and late spring snow storms, onions and cilantro are looking good. Nearly 20 years ago, MG Bill Keep gave Diana some perennial onion bulbs. Even through a cold winter and late spring snow storms, onions and cilantro are looking good. Nearly 20 years ago MG Bill Keep gave Diana some perennial onion bulbs. She's shared with many people over the years, including the Heirloom Garden. This year, we shared bulbs with all who attended the advanced seed class. Another gift that keeps on giving!



Foundation Board

President: Debra Kroon

Vice President: Dan Fortier

Treasurer: Gilbert Plascencia

Secretary: Pat Bombard

Past President: Melody Westmoreland

Members at Large: Dick Larson

Mike Woods

Program Coordinator: Patricia Ratzlaff

Coming Soon...

Kamiakin Food Garden

Watch the Weekly Update to learn more about the ***Kamiakin Gardens*** and upcoming tour and work days. Ask ***Debra Byrd or Patty R*** for more info.

Floribunda: Rose Pruning

by Carol Barany

When I left the Master Gardener greenhouses in late February and announced that I was going home to prune my roses, at least one fellow rose grower was concerned that it was way too early.

Gardeners do fret about the timing of this annual ritual. Old wisdom advises that it's time to prune when the forsythia blooms. I checked a column I wrote for the paper about rose pruning in 2015. That year, the forsythia was blooming in late February. This year, it will happen almost a month later.

Spring pruning of the roses just may be my least favorite gardening task. When I woke up that morning in late February, raring to go, off I went before I had a chance to change my mind.

I know many gardeners are concerned with the potential for late frost damage, so they're sitting on their pruners for now. My roses are planted in a sea of perennials and bulbs. If I wait too long to prune, I'd flatten all that fresh growth as I moved through the roses.

Experienced rosarians don't need my advice on pruning. Newcomers may need more encouragement. Be assured that roses will dependably send fresh shoots out of old canes, even if you cut them nearly to the ground.

Venturing out into that tangle of brambles can be daunting, so make the easy cuts first. Remove all dead wood at the graft union, leaving no stubs.

Next, tackle the old canes, which don't produce many flowers. Young canes are often red or a shade of healthy green and about the diameter of your thumb. Older wood looks darker or mottled. When in doubt, examine the pith, which is the soft wood that fills the stem. When young and healthy, it's creamy white or green. Brown or blackened pith is either old or already dead.

Generally, canes 1 1/2" or larger in diameter won't produce many roses, so remove them. Remove twiggy canes that are less than the diameter of a pencil where they meet the graft union, unless the rose is a Miniature or small Floribunda, whose canes remain slender. Remove branches that cross, rub, or grow in the wrong direction.

If the rose is grafted and there is sucker growth, remove it by digging down to where the sucker comes off the root and twist and tear it off with your hands. Cutting stimulates the re-growth of several suckers where there once was one.



Deciding how much more wood you want to remove is as much art as science. Aim for a fountain-shaped bush, with canes radiating from the bud union arching upward and outward around an open center. For most Tea, Floribunda, Grandiflora, and English roses, pick 5 to 8 strong, healthy canes, anywhere from 18-30" tall (about 1/2 their former height). Keep in mind that there's no hard and fast rule. Consider your garden space and personal preference.

Modern shrub roses, which naturally have more branches, are pruned a bit differently. In their first two or three seasons, leave them unpruned, but deadheaded. Then try what the University of Illinois Extension calls the "one-third" method. In the spring, remove one-third of the very oldest canes. Keep about one-third of the very youngest canes that grew the previous season, and remove the remaining canes. Remember that shrub roses were bred to grow vigorously, so prune them two feet shorter than the height you want them to be this season.

Train the canes of climbing roses to grow horizontally. This encourages more laterals or side-shoots to form, which is where the flowers originate. In the fall, prune the laterals to 3-6", and remove one or two of the oldest canes at the ground.

The process of pruning triggers a rose's growth cycle. Once again, it's all about apical dominance. At each break on the cane where a leaf grew, there's a bud eye which remains inactive as long as there's a growth point above it. Once that top growth is pruned away, the bud eye that you made the highest point on the cane will be the one that starts growing.

(Continued on next page)

(Rose Pruning, continued from previous page)

Try to prune to an outward facing bud, since the direction the bud faces is the direction the new shoot will grow. Cuts like these divert new growth away from the center of the plant out to where it gets more sun, yielding more flowers. Cut about ¼” above the bud at a 45-degree angle, slanting the cut upward and away from the bud.

If cane borers are a problem, seal the cuts with Elmer’s Glue to prevent the critters from entering.

Tidy up by removing all weeds and last year’s rose leaves and flower petals.

I got the job done. Was every cut I made perfectly placed and precise? Heck no. I did the best I could in the time I had. My arms and shins weren’t shredded too badly by thorns, and I only lost one pair of pruners. I got a mountain of old canes picked up and loaded into my Suburban for recycling at the County yard waste site.

It was a good day.

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



Youth Team

Arborfest - Youth is partnering with 4H again this year for Arborfest! Scheduled for April 15th, we are still looking for one more veteran to volunteer for the afternoon shift (12-4). Please contact [Michelle](#) or [Sarah](#).



Master Gardener members **Andrea Altmayer, Becky Lang-Boyd, Sarah Judd, and Carrie Chicken** interact with the kids on a project at Washington Middle School during their STEAM night on March 14th.

A Friendly Reminder

Remember to record your impacts in GivePulse in a timely manner. Are you getting in your CE and pay-back hours? Veterans need to obtain 10 hours of CE each year and return at least 25 hours of volunteer time. Emeritus need 5 hours of CE and 1 hour of time. Interns need 20 hours class time, 40 volunteer hours that include 15 hours in the Clinic, 9 hours in the greenhouse, 9 hours in the gardens (3 each), and 2 hours with the Youth Team, plus com-



Rays of Sunshine

Sally Mayo underwent recent hip replacement surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her smiling face, as well as Geneva, at the Heirloom Garden.



And You Think Your Garden is Challenging!

By Phyllis Pugnetti

Sigiriya, in Sri Lanka, is a fortress with surrounding gardens that were built on top of a flat-top granite tower that is 700 feet tall. Built in the year 477, no one is sure how they got the stone building materials and garden soil up to the top of the tower. They also chiseled a water reservoir about the size of a swimming pool into the granite tower top. A hydraulic system was engineered to pump water through canals to fountains, ponds, and gardens, part of which remains today. Sigiriya is often called the 8th Wonder of the World. Sometimes the most stunning gardens really do start with the biggest challenges!

2023 March Winter Classes

Date	Presenter	Topic
4/5	Bernardita Sallato , Tree Fruit WSU Extension Specialist Claudia Steen , YCMG	Fruit Crops Growing Grapes
4/12	Lon Inaba , Yakama Nation Farms YCMG Trainees	Sustainable Farming Practices MG Trainee Presentations
4/19	YCMG Trainees Plant Sale Team	MG Trainee Presentations Plant Sale Information and Training
4/26	Plant Sale Team	Continued Plant Sale Information and Training End of Year Wrap

Give Pulse Tip of the Month

by Julie Hunziker

To Access Give Pulse on your computer, go to:

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

Save the Date: Thursday, May 31st @ 10 am in the Extension Office Conference Room. Patty and Julie will host a hands-on Q and A session for challenges with entering, editing, or deleting impacts in GivePulse.

A Few Quirks...

- If you are using the GivePulse app, make note that it does **not** ask for the start and end time of your impact. You may want to go back in to your account on your PC or tablet to enter those times to save the agony of having to do so in the distant future, which some of us had to laboriously do after an audit of 2021 impacts in 2022.

Why be timely in entering your impacts? In case of injury claim, L&I needs a record of activity/work.



Master Gardener Mission Statement:

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

2023 Heirloom Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
May 6th	Growing Soil	Judith McDonald and Beatrice Reiss
June 3rd	Cover Crops in the Garden	Sally Mayo
July 1st	Pruning Tomatoes	Phyllis Pugnetti
August 5th	Bumblebees	Don Flyckt and Sally Mayo
September 2nd	Fall Gardening	Sally Mayo
October 7th	Putting the Garden to Bed	Judith McDonald and Sally Mayo

2023 Demonstration Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
May 13th	Container Planting	Patty Ferguson
May 27th	Meadowscaping in our Area	Kelsi Potterf
June 10th	Seeds and Sunflowers	Michele Murphy
June 24th	Summer Care of Roses	Angela Galbreath
July 8th	Soil Testing	Ken Tolonen
July 22nd	Orchids	Nancy Kallenberger
August 12th	Herbs	Diana Pieti
August 26th	Demonstration Garden Tours	Master Gardeners will lead tours
September 9th	Mulching and Compost	Suzann McFeat and Diana Pieti
September 23rd	Trees and Water Gardens at the Yakima Arboretum	

2023 WV Food Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter
June 17th	Bee Ready for Pollinators	Debra Kroon
July 15th	Tomato Pruning	Julie Hunziker
August 19th	Drip Irrigation	John Strong
September 16th	Basics of Starting a Vegetable Garden	Camille Smith



April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Yakima Herald Article	3 Perennials Team 8-11 <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	4 Annuals Team 8:30-11:30	5 Demo Garden 9 am Class @ Red Barn 12:00-2:30 <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	6 Veggie Team 8-10 Basket & Herb Teams 9-12 Heirloom Garden 10	7 Art Team 8-11 Veggie Team 8-? <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	8
9 Yakima Herald Article	10 Perennials Team 8-11 <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	11 Annuals Team 8:30 - 11:30	12 Demo Garden Foundation Mtg 10:30 –11:30 Class @ Red Barn 12:00-2:30 <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	13 Veggie Team 8-10 Basket & Herb Teams 9-12 Heirloom Garden 10 am	14 Art Team 8-11 Veggie Team 8-? <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	15
16 Yakima Herald Article	17 Perennials Team 8-11 <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	18 Annuals Team 8:30-11:30	19 Demo Garden 9 am Class @ Red Barn 12:00-2:30 <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	20 Basket & Herb Teams 9-12 Heirloom Garden 10 am	21 Art Team 8-11 Veggie Team 8-11 <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	22
23 Yakima Herald Article	24 Perennials Team 8-11 <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	25 Annuals Team 8:30-11:30	26 Demo Garden 9 am Class @ Red Barn 12:00-2:30 <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	27 Basket & Herb Teams 9-12 Heirloom Garden 10 am	28 Art Team 8-11 Veggie Team 8-11 <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	29
30 Yakima Herald Article	1 (May) <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	2 (May) Demo Garden 8-11	3 (May) <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	4 (May) Plant Sale (MGs)	5 (May) Plant Sale (Public) <i>Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4</i>	6 (May) Plant Sale (Public) Heirloom Garden Class 10 am



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.