

Scoop o' Dirt

Yakima County Master Gardener News

September 2023



1. Three to four days of networking with like-minded garden enthusiasts.
2. Meet our dynamic keynote speaker, Michael D. Blackstock (Gitxsan name: Ama Goodim Gyet), writer and visual artist.
3. Learn from the best. We have over thirty top-notch instructors packed into this 3-day conference.
4. Earn up to ten or more CE credits.
5. You won't want to miss the line-up of educational and fun tours. Have you checked them out?
6. The conference is the culminating event celebrating 50 years of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. Do you really want to miss this birthday party?
7. Exclusive 50th canvas swag bag. Who doesn't love a swag bag with free stuff?!
8. Shop garden-related items from statewide WSU Master Gardener Foundations and vendors all in one place. Browse exhibitors and Sharing Success displays. Win a raffle or silent auction item.
9. Our next in-person conference won't happen until 2025.
10. Even at the regular price, this conference is a bargain.

Reminder! Foundation Meeting

Wednesday, September 13th at 10:30 at the Red Barn
In lieu of the Program meeting, State Coordinator Jennifer Marquis will address the membership.

News From Our Program Coordinator

September 13 Program Meeting

At a recent strategic planning meeting, it was discussed that there is a need for a presentation to all Yakima Master Gardeners on the relationship between the MG Program and the Foundation and how the Foundation supports the Program. This month's Program meeting will host Jennifer Marquis, our state program coordinator, who will present on Foundation-Program Relations. This presentation will delve into the difference between the Master Gardener Foundation and the Master Gardener Program and discuss best methods to promote positive interaction between the two. This is a special opportunity for us to have an important time of learning together and have an open Q & A. I am hopeful for a strong turn-out for this presentation. Your presence will be appreciated.

This presentation will be in lieu of our usual Program meeting for the month. Please plan on the meeting running a bit longer than our usual meeting. Thank you in advance for your commitment to the Master Gardener Program. I appreciate your support.

~ Patty Ratzlaff

GivePulse Training ***Mon, Sept 18 at 10:00*** ***(Make note of date change)***

Would you like to be able to use GivePulse successfully? You are not alone. Currently, there are 25 of our 122 Master Gardeners who are not entering their hours in the GivePulse system.

Solution! You are invited to attend a GivePulse training in September. This session is open to anyone who is wanting to improve their ability to log in and record their hours. We look forward to helping you become successful with GivePulse and make it a positive experience for you. Julie and Patty will be teaching the class; please send one of us an email in advance. This is important so we can troubleshoot any behind the scenes issues prior to the training session, issues such as two different emails inside the GivePulse system or not having your name linked to our Yakima group. By resolving these issues in advance, you can participate in the training in a successful way.

Remember – please let us know you are planning to attend!

~ Patty Ratzlaff

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>

Helpful hints:

- 1) Be sure you are in the WSU GivePulse site, not the generic GivePulse site, which will not make the YCMG group available. The above link takes you directly to our group.***
- 2) Do you have more than one email address? Check to make sure you are using the correct email associated with your GP account.***
- 3) Do you check your email regularly? Even just once a day? When you are done with that, switch to GivePulse and enter your recent impact (that day or that week). It takes all of 90 seconds. (Thanks, Andrea)***



TOMATO FEST 2023

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT THE RED BARN

MOCKTAILS AND APPETIZERS AT 12:30 pm

FOLLOWED BY LUNCH



It took many centuries and a circuitous journey over thousands of miles for the tomato to plant itself as the most popular garden crop in America.

After potatoes, tomatoes contribute the greatest amount of nutrients to the American diet and are the most important processed vegetable in the US. The USDA reports that each American consumes close to 20 pounds of fresh tomatoes every year. Let's eat a few more!

Come to Tomato Fest 2023 and celebrate all things TOMATO with fellow Master Gardeners. Bring your favorite pot luck dish that features (you guessed it) tomatoes! You're limited only by your imagination.

As part of our annual tradition, Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring tomatoes for judging. Votes will be counted and awards will be given for *Best Tasting Tomato*, *Ugliest Tomato*, *Most Beautiful Tomato*,

Sweetest Tomato, and *Best Tasting Cherry Tomato*.

If you're entering tomatoes to be judged for taste, bring several of each variety, cut into small sections and arranged on a plate. We will provide toothpicks for serving. Come a little early so we can register your entries before Mocktail Half Hour begins.

"Mocktail Half Hour" is new this year. Sip a cool beverage and nibble a tomato-centric appetizer as you evaluate the tomato entries and vote for your favorites. Lunch will follow.

In addition to Mocktails, the Foundation will provide tableware, rolls and butter, a non-tomato dessert, coffee, and tea. Questions? Call Carol Barany at 901-9018.

Foundation Board

President: Dan Fortier

Vice President: Rick Russell

Treasurer: Gilbert Plascencia

Secretary: Janet Jones

Members at Large: Dick Larson

Sheila Gunderson

Past President: Debra Kroon

Program Coordinator:

Patricia Ratzlaff

Newsletter submissions are due on the 25th of each month. Please send to Julie at jbhunziker@gmail.com. Texting photos (portrait format preferred) and brief descriptions are fine, as well: (530)209-4329. Please include your name so that credit can be given to the source.

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

2023 Heirloom Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
September 2nd	Tool Sharpening	Rick Russell
October 7th	Putting the Garden to Bed	Judith McDonald and Sally Mayo

2023 Demonstration Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
September 9th	Mulching and Compost	Suzann McFeat and Diana Pieti
September 23rd	Trees and Water Gardens at the Yakima Arboretum	Garrett Brenden

2023 WV Food Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter
September 16th	Basics of Starting a Vegetable Garden	Camille Smith

*A SEED
planted today
is a GIFT
for tomorrow*



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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



We use knowledge to empower healthy and resilient communities, but what if we could do more?

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is raising \$1.5 million to hire a horticulture professor fully dedicated to the Program and to the volunteers who give their time and talents.

Learn how your gift will support a greener, healthier Washington when you give to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Endowed Chair Fund.



To support this campaign, scan the QR code or visit mastergardener.wsu.edu/how-to-donate

West Valley Food Garden

**August 17th harvest loaded: 319#!!
Biggest harvest to date. But wait...**

All photos provided by *Kelli Barton*.



Great picture of our yellow crookneck squash that somehow must have crossed with the zucchini next door.



Camille was persuaded to try a taste of purslane. The jury is still out.

West Valley Food Garden

Another record harvest...374#!! August 24th.

(Photos submitted by Kelli Barton)



Demonstration Garden

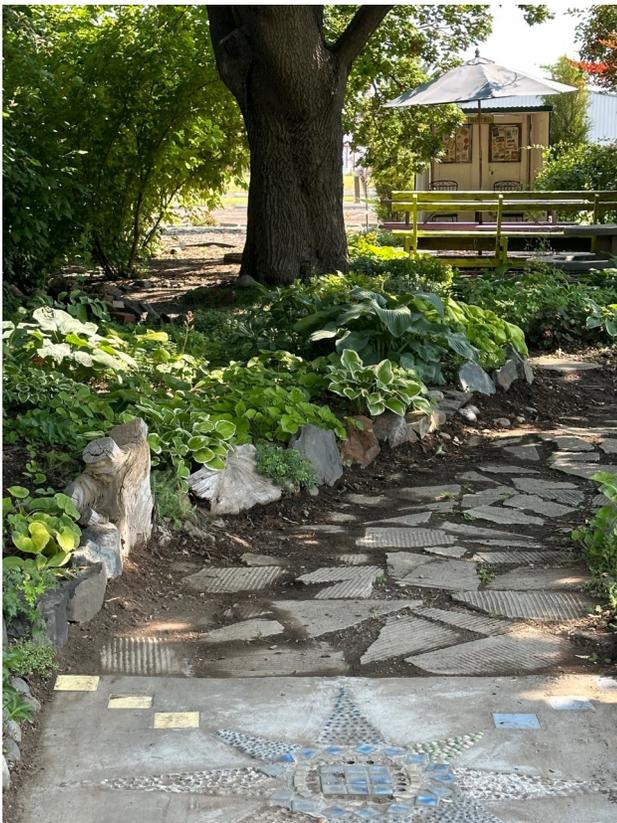
(Photos by Angela Galbreath)



Miss Tin Lizzie has a lovely display of annuals to present to us.



The dahlias have been slower to bloom this year, but are showing some beautiful blooms now.



The Shade garden...A good example of using found materials for pathways and edging.



The Children's Garden...We hope to rejuvenate the marble path and the lizard soon.

Demonstration Garden II

(Photos by Angela Galbreath)



The Woods Walk is always a peaceful spot to pause and enjoy a few quiet moments on a garden



Lavonne's Garden...The Joe Pye Weed has been outstanding this year.



It is fun to spot different annuals in bloom in the Raised Bed Cutting Garden



The State Fair Zinnias started out slowly, some succumbing to bunny meals, but are favorites now of the swallowtail butterflies and hummingbirds.

Demonstration Garden III



Above: Mary Kearney shares a photo of the yummy grapes at the Garden that MG volunteers have been enjoying during their break.

Below: Mary Kearney models earrings that any MG would love to have (Kelli Barton)



Diana taught a class on herbs at the Demonstration Garden on August 12th. Good information! (Angela Galbreath)



Cobalt blue beetles enjoying the milkweed at the Demonstration Garden (Kelli Barton)

Demonstration Garden Tour

Demonstration Garden Tour for the public held on August 26, 2023. The various gardens were staffed by our faithful gardeners. Our BEAUTIFUL Demonstration Garden...Some in attendance said it is the best ever. Thank you, Annette, for the photos.



Below: Diana, Skip, and Kelli chat during the Demonstration Garden Tour.



The Garden Tour crew: Mary, Marjorie, Suzann, Carrie, Diana, Sue, Kelli, and Skip



Annette, Sue, and Kelli were happy garden tour guides.



Sheila and Angela chat during the Demonstration Garden tour.

Demonstration Garden: Two Native Beds Will Certify

by Annette Olson

Kelsi Potterf, Heritage Garden Program Director, has worked with our Native Plant Team since last Spring 2022 to install three native beds in the Demonstration Garden. Recently, our submissions for Native Bed 1 (Desert/Semi-Desert) and Native Bed 3 (Foothills/Montane) have been approved for certification.

Native Bed 2 has some native plants taking hold there having been planted in 2022. This summer, it has been the temporary home of the WSU 50th Anniversary Sunflowers – some are 8 feet tall!

Through a Heritage Garden Program grant, some additional native plants will be added to beds 1 and 3. To date, Master Gardeners have mainly funded the native plant material in these beds. Also, Brian

Schmidt at the North Yakima Conservation District donated some natives in 2021 for Bed 1. Bed 2 will benefit the most from this grant with natives scheduled to be introduced in fall 2023. Plant labels are also coming our way from this grant.

A special thanks to Kelsi Potterf for her ongoing support and consultation in developing the native beds, Kelsey Kelmel, Heritage Garden Program Coordinator for Benton and Yakima Counties, who is certifying the beds, and our Demonstration Garden leaders for encouraging this endeavor.

Our team is smiling: Debra Kroon (Native Bed 1), Kelli Barton (Native Bed 2), and Angela Galbreath and Annette Olson (Native Bed 3).

Debra Kroon created a wonderful guide to Native Bed 1:



Last fall, planted Silky Lupine, Monroe's Globe Flower and Fringed Sage. None of those plants made it.

Where some fill-in is needed is to the NW and the SE corners of this bed. Red Dot areas.

Where the Longleaf Phlox is, I did not expect the primrose to expand so much and so early. Advise on what to do there is appreciated.

Yellow lightning bolt is yarrow, but I doubt it is native, so it will go. Waiting on the bloom for ID.

<p>— Woolly Sunflower—Oregon Sunshine</p> <p>○ Longleaf Phlox</p> <p>▭ Line Leaf Daisy</p> <p>▭ Prairie Smoke (already established before project was started.)</p> <p>○ Roundleaf Alumroot</p>	<p>◇ Indian Rice Grass</p> <p>△ Little Bluestem (I know, wrong bed)</p> <p>○ Fragrant Evening Primrose</p> <p>— Sulfur Buckwheat</p> <p>☺ Firecracker Penstemon</p>
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August 8, 2023

Demonstration Garden: Native Beds

Photos by *Annette Olson*



Native Bed 3: View nearest the Filbert tree.



Native Bed 3: Look at the Root Sculpture discovered by Darrell and Angela. It had wrapped around a 6-inch PVC pipe. The PVC removed, it will now be home to friendly pollinators.



Northside view. Three small *Solidago canadensis* (Goldenrod) that have spread into a 4-foot display.

*"In gardens, beauty
is a by-product.
The main business is
sex and death."*

—Sam Llewelyn

Master Gardener Mission Statement:

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

Grandview Fair *by Diana Pieti*

Note: John has this article and will submit it to the state newsletter, but you can read it here first.

Sue Schauer has been a member of Yakima County Master Gardeners since 2014 and gives back so many hours in several ways. She is very active in our greenhouse and our gardens that we maintain, and has mentored new students.

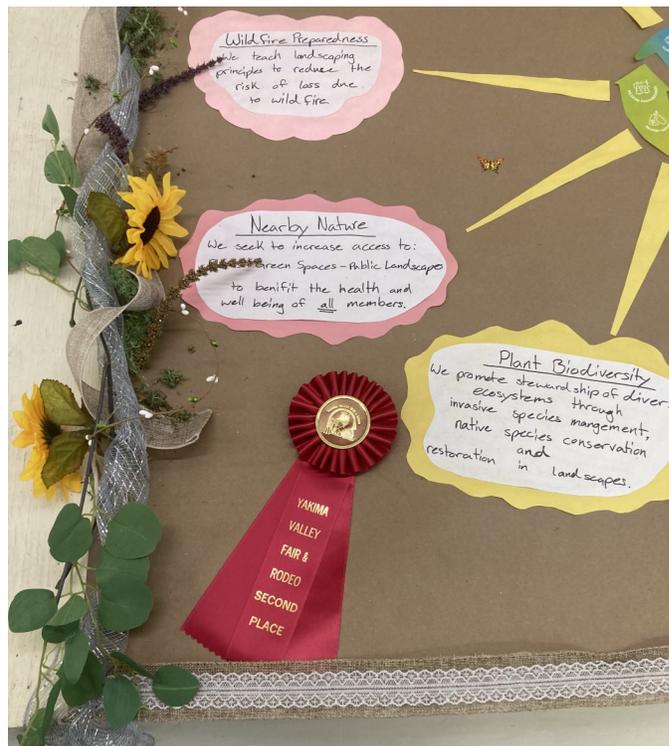
She lives in the town of Grandview, which is nearly the southern border of Yakima County. She has been a big part in letting people in her area know all about what we do.

Last year, along with member **Marjorie Conzatti**, she created a static display about the Master Gardener program and entered it in their local fair. The display took first place!

This year Sue decided to focus on the nine priorities that we use in training and teaching, and had them all written out, but then she suffered the loss of her son. In her grief she mentioned that the display was due in two days. We assured her it was okay not to do it, or we would find someone to complete it. She said she would somehow get it covered before she had to leave town.

The next thing we heard about the display was that her daughter, Shelly, and grandchildren, Audrey, Dahlia, Luella, Mya, and Gunnar took the nine priorities and figured out a way to call attention to them,

filled out the rest of the display with all their creativity, and won second place. They were all so excited. It has been a very hard time, but working, displaying, and enjoying a red ribbon took away a bit of the sadness for awhile. We are proud to call Sue one of our members.



Sue said the kids were so excited to win the red ribbon!



The finished product, designed by Sue but crafted by her grandkids. (Photos from Sue Schauer.)



The grandkids worked together to finish the display.

A Rose Tidbit: When to Stop Deadheading Your Roses?

By Angela Galbreath

Typically the answer is a few weeks before the first killing frost. The reason being that roses need to start forming rose hips as a signal to prepare for winter. How long is a few weeks? The Chicago Botanic Garden says to stop deadheading roses after Labor Day to avoid encouraging new growth which could be damaged by early cold temperatures and to encourage the formation of rose hips. However, they are a planting zone 5 (which used to be Yakima's designation). We are now considered a zone 6- mostly 6b, a warmer zone than zone 5. So we probably can go a week longer.

Plantmaps.com, which bases their conclusions on weather data collected for 1990 to 2020, suggests our first killing frost dates to be October 1-10th. When I first moved to Yakima in the mid-60's, I was instructed that September 15th was the usual first killing frost. Climate change has definitely affected Yakima! When looking at long range forecasts on Accuweather.com, it appears September lows are expected to be near normal and October temperatures to be at times above, and at times below, normal, nearing 32 degrees about the 5th or so. But as we



know, although weather forecasts are scientifically based and thus more accurate, conditions can rapidly change one way or the other.

Perhaps we won't experience marcescence like last fall and our roses will lose their leaves normally. I'm hoping so. Therefore, I plan to keep deadheading for a week or two. I enjoy the color so very much, I'm going to encourage some late blooms, but fade they will. And I'll let them. And maybe this year the fall leaves on the trees in the valley will satisfy my craving for color.

Angela was able to capture photos of a few hummingbirds, both at home and at the Demonstration Garden.



Zauschneria (hummingbird's trumpet or California fuschia)



Pink Salvia

Master Gardeners at Home



I first met Turtle Vine at our sale. One small plant has exploded. I think it is happy. This pot is foliage only and is one of my favorites. "Callisia Repens," also known as creeping inch plant or turtle vine, is a succulent from the **Commelinaceae** family and comes from Central and South America.

~ **Sheila Gunderson**



Carol Barany's kitty encountered a couple of "friends" at the window. Kitty does not look amused. Carol was able to shut the window just in time to avert disaster.



Beatrice recently harvested a beautiful Gloria's Gloriosa tomato...it weighed 2 pounds!!



Who is Nikolai Vavilov? The Man Who Died for Seeds

by Phyllis Pugnetti

Nikolai Vavilov was a Russian botanist and geneticist. Inspired by his grandmother's vegetable garden, his goal was to combine her art of seed saving with science, to breed resilient plants that would end global famine. He traveled across five continents, collecting more than 250,000 seed varieties for plant breeding research.

Vavilov was building a global seed bank that would rescue people of any land whose crops were decimated by a drought or a blight. Lenin believed Vavilov's work would make Russia the global superpower of agriculture and food production. He was promoted to head the Vavilov Research Institute of Plant Industry, directing 25,000 workers from 1921-1940.

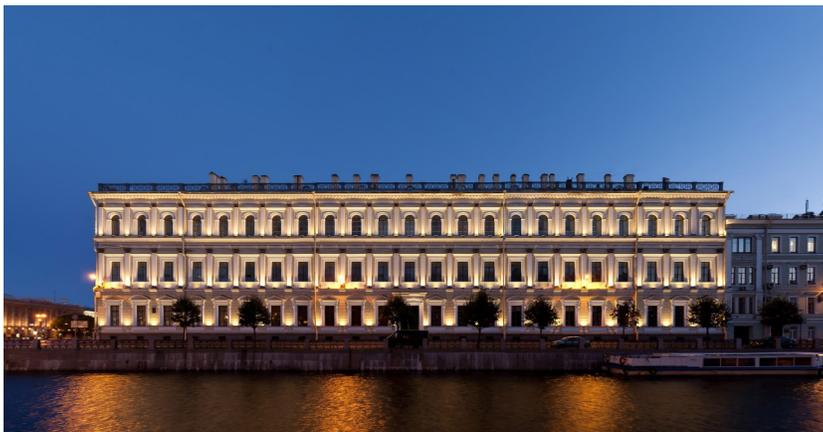
When Stalin came to power, he became impatient and issued an ultimatum that Vavilov must create a "miracle plant" within 3 years. Failing to meet the deadline, Vavilov was arrested for espionage and sabotage in 1941. In prison, he was tortured for over 1700 hours but refused to confess to any crime. Eventually his jailers locked him in a cell where he died of starvation.



Seed Library in Vavilov Institute

In WWII during the siege of Leningrad, Hitler sent a team of Nazi SS commandos to confiscate the seed bank and the genetic research. Vavilov's colleagues moved his research into the basement where the seeds were stored, then barricaded the doors. They worked around the clock to protect tons of edible seeds from hordes of rats and starving people. Fortunately the Nazi's never reached the seed bank.

In 1955, Vavilov was posthumously pardoned and his reputation restored. Today he is regarded as a hero of Soviet science. In his honor, a crater on the moon, a planet, schools, streets, plazas, and monuments are named after him. Vavilov's seed bank survives to this day and remains the largest and oldest seed bank in the world.



Vavilov Institute, Moscow



Rays of Sunshine

Thank You!!

During my illness and recovery, the notes and messages received helped ever so much. Thank you all who sent cards and good wishes. You helped raise my spirits and keep the clouds away. Many thanks.

~ Margaret Morris

Floribunda: Noxious Weeds

Submitted by Carol Barany

By Susan Bird, Maintenance and Outreach Specialist

Greetings from the Yakima County Noxious Weed Board!

Weeds seem to be the most visible lawn and landscape pest, and will always be a major headache for homeowners. Weeds have evolved to be tough and opportunistic, taking advantage of thin areas in our lawns, landscape beds, or fields and pastures the moment we turn our backs.

Once established, weeds not only compete with desirable plants for space, light, water, and nutrients, but look downright unattractive. When only a few weeds are present, they can be pulled or dug up by hand, but some weeds are extremely difficult to control. If root sections remain for difficult weeds, the weed can regenerate and grow again next year.

In Yakima County, Fall is a great time to gain control of noxious weeds. Biennial and perennial weeds are forming rosettes and growing rapidly in these cool, moist days. By controlling their rosettes of new growth now, you'll get ahead of the spring bolt of weeds such as Scotch Thistle, Houndstongue, and Knapweed.

Fall is also a great time to gain control of toxic plants. Native and forage grasses are browning and drying off, while plants such as Houndstongue, Knapweed, and Yellow Star Thistle are still persisting. Toxic to livestock, animals typically avoid these plants when other vegetation is available. However, an animal is more likely to consume a toxic plant when their preferred vegetation has been grazed down or killed by frost.

Check areas of your garden or landscape where you've had troublesome weed issues in the past. Often, old dry plants will mark the locations of new weeds.

There are two options for Fall control. With a shovel,

hoe, or your favorite straight shafted weeding tool (similar to an asparagus knife), cut the offenders off below the soil surface, typically an inch or two below the crown or growth point. If the weed has gone to seed, carefully collect all plant material, place it in a plastic bag, and dispose of it as garbage, rather than compost.

The other option is to use a broadleaf herbicide. For good control, it's critical to target weeds at their most vulnerable stage, so it's very important to make herbicide applications at the right time of year. In the fall, before we've had a hard frost, perennial weeds are busy moving carbohydrates produced by photosynthesis to their roots for winter storage, instead of to upper plant parts for continued growth. If herbicides are applied at this time, the chemicals are transported to the roots along with the carbohydrates, killing the entire plant instead of just the parts above the soil surface.

Select an appropriate broadleaf herbicide, and mix and apply it exactly as the label directs. Make sure to add a liquid surfactant (1/2 ounce per gallon of solution).

If you're not sure if you have a noxious or toxic plant on your property, contact the Weed Board and schedule a property walk to check. Weed control is possible through persistence and diligence to prevent new seed production!

We offer free presentations and discussion meetings to help with noxious weed identification. If you or your group or club would like a presentation or visit from our Outreach Specialist, give us a call.

Office: (509) 574-2180 or cell: (509)945-3357.

You can visit our office at 1213 S. 18th Street in Yakima between 8:00am and 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. We are always happy to assist with questions regarding weed identification, herbicide applications, toxic plants and more.

Program Requirement Reminder

Interns/Trainees:

- * **Canvas** online quizzes/final exam (80% average on all quizzes, 80% on final)
- * **Class:** Attend 14 of 16 in-person classes (make-up classes arranged through Program Coordinator)
- * **5 -10 minute presentation on a Plant Clinic question** or a research paper of the same.
- * **40 hours of Volunteer work with the following breakdown:**
 - **Answer/Plant Clinic:** 15 hours plus Clinic Question answered
 - **Greenhouse:** 9 hours
 - **Demonstration Gardens:** 9 hours (3 hrs in 3 different gardens of Interns choice)
 - **Youth Team:** 2 hours
 - 5 Hours at **Intern's choice**
 - **Record all Volunteer time in online tracking system: GivePulse**

Veterans:

- * **Continuing Education:** 10 hours
- * **Volunteer Hours:** 25 hours

Emeritus:

- * **Continuing Education:** 5 hours
- * **Volunteer time:** 1 hour

Team Leads

Answer/Plant Clinic: Margaret Morris/Andrea Altmayer

Greenhouse: Lorie Harrison/Camille Smith/Skip Brockman

Sub-teams:

Annuals: Lorie Harrison/Deanna Husch

Perennials: Carol Barany/Melody Westmoreland

Herbs: Diana Pieti/Diane Berthon

Hanging Baskets: Angela Galbreath/Patty Ferguson

Vegetables: Open Opportunity

Art: Jenny Mansfield/Kelly Barton

Demonstration Gardens:

Ahtanum: Diana Pieti/Angela Galbreath/Skip Brockman

Heirloom Garden: Sally Mayo/Judith McDonald

Kamiakin: Debra Byrd/Rosebud Guthrie/Greg Uberuaga

West Valley: John Strong/Camille Smith/Kelli Barton

Youth Team: Michelle Murphy/Sarah Judd

Writer's Guild/Speaker's Bureau: Claudia Steen/Carol Barany

Publications: Julie Hunziker/Debra Kroon/Open Opportunity

Note for Interns: If you are challenged in getting to any of the venues and earning your hours, please contact the team lead. They are often willing to work with you to help you fulfill your requirements.



September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	2 <i>Heirloom Garden Class</i> 10 am
3 <i>Farmer's Market</i> 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	4 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	5 <i>Demonstration Garden</i> 8-11	6 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	7 <i>WVFG 7am</i> <i>Heirloom Garden 8 am</i>	8 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	9 <i>Demonstration Garden Class</i> 10 am
10 <i>Farmer's Market</i> 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	11 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	12 <i>Demonstration Garden</i> 8-11	13 <i>Foundation Mtg</i> 10:30 –11:30 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	14 <i>WVFG 7 am</i> <i>Heirloom Garden 8 am</i>	15 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	16 <i>WVFG Class</i> 10 am
17 <i>Farmer's Market</i> 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	18 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4 <i>GivePulse Training</i> 10-11:30	19 <i>Demonstration Garden</i> 8-11	20 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4 <i>Tomato Fest Red Barh @ Noon</i>	21 <i>WVFG 7 am</i> <i>Heirloom Garden 8 am</i>	22 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	23 <i>Demonstration Garden Class</i> 10 am
24 <i>Farmer's Market 9-1 (Youth Team)</i> Yakima Herald Article	25 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	26 <i>Demonstration Garden</i> 8-11	27 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	28 <i>WVFG 7am</i> <i>Heirloom Garden 8 am</i>	29 <i>Plant Clinic</i> 9-12/1-4	30



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.