



Cultivating Excellence: The Synergy Between WSU Extension Master Gardener Program and the Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County

by Gilbert Plascencia

At the heart of Yakima County's gardening community, a powerful partnership blossoms between the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program and the Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County. This dynamic duo plays a crucial role in delivering exceptional horticultural education and resources to our residents, enriching our community's green spaces and gardens.

A Collaborative Mission

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is renowned for its dedication to providing science-based horticultural education. Through a network of trained volunteers, the Master Gardener Program offers expert advice, hosts workshops, and supports community gardening projects.

The Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County complements this mission with essential financial support. As a non-profit organization, the Foundation's primary goal is to support and expand the Master Gardener Program's initiatives. By raising funds and managing donations, the Foundation ensures that the Master Gardener Program can continue to offer top-notch educational opportunities and resources.

Supporting and Enabling Growth

The Foundation's financial contributions are instrumental in sustaining and expanding the Master Gardener Program's reach. Here's how the Foundation's support makes a difference:

Funding Educational Workshops and Events: The Foundation helps cover costs for classes, workshops, seminars, and public events. This funding ensures that residents have access to high-quality educational sessions on topics ranging from pest management to soil health.

Enhancing Community Outreach: With the Foundation's backing, the Master Gardener Program can extend its outreach efforts, bringing gardening knowledge to underserved areas and diverse communities throughout Yakima County.

Supporting Research and Resources: Financial support from the Foundation aids in acquiring the latest horticultural research and resources. This enables Master Gardeners to provide up-to-date information and best practices to local gardeners.

A Shared Vision for Growth

The synergy between the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program and the Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County is a testament to the power of community collaboration. Together, we ensure that every resident in Yakima County has access to valuable horticultural knowledge and resources. This partnership not only supports individual gardeners but also contributes to the overall beauty and sustainability of our community.



WSU Extension Master Gardener
Advanced Education Conference

Gardening in a Changing Climate

Register today!



September 27-28, 2024



September 27-28, 2024



2024 Keynote Speaker

We are pleased to announce our 2024 keynote speaker, Rebecca McMackin!

\$100 Scholarships Available for Yakima Master Gardeners who have already registered for the 2024 Advanced Education Conference.

The Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County is offering \$100 scholarships on a first-come-first-served basis to Yakima Master Gardeners who have already registered for the 2024 Advanced Education Conference. If you've registered and are interested in receiving this financial benefit, please email a copy of your proof of registration to Amber Knox at ymgtreasurer@gmail.com and request the scholarship.

Demonstration Gardens

Our unique demonstration gardens are in full swing this time of year! Visit the Demonstration Garden at Ahtanum Youth Activities Park to explore a variety of plants and gardening techniques. At the Heirloom Garden, cultivation and preservation of heirloom vegetables and flowers help us maintain our rich agricultural traditions. And don't miss the West Valley Food Garden, where we grow produce to support the Highland Food Bank. Each location offers a special glimpse into sustainable gardening and community support. Come see how we're growing together!

- pictures by Troianello and Altmayer



Yakima County Master Gardener Garden Locations

Demonstration Garden (Ahtanum):
1000 Ahtanum Road, Union Gap
(by Red Barn)

Heirloom Garden:
1522 South 18th Avenue, Yakima
(just south of the greenhouses)

West Valley Food Garden:
602 South 123rd Ave, Yakima

Kamiakin Gardens:
1020 Fort Road, Toppenish

Plant/Answer Clinic Corner

by Lindy Sheehan

This month's topic is Plant Fasciation.

I think most have us have seen or had a plant grow in our garden that has fasciation. I see this most often in my garden with sunflowers, coneflowers and gerbera daisies. Personally, I'm fascinated with fasciation.

What's is fasciation? Every once in a while, the normal growth pattern of a plant goes awry, producing an interesting "mistake" that can be attractive and ornamental, or ugly, bizarre, or humorous. This physiological disorder, called fasciation, can occur in almost any plant part, but is most noticeable in the stems. In a normal plant, growth in the apical meristem occurs at a single point, producing essentially cylindrical growth. Fasciation causes an elongation of the apical meristem so that flattened, ribbon-like growth is produced instead.

This abnormal activity in the growing tip often produces very flattened stems with a fan-like enlargement on the end, leading to another descriptive term for this condition of "crested." It may appear like several stems have been fused so that the stem looks like a wide, ribbed ribbon (fasciation comes from the Latin word *fascia* which means "a band" and refers to anything which resembles a wide band in shape); stems may be bent or coiled in abnormal directions; numerous growing points may develop to produce a witches'-broom effect; flowers and leaves may appear at odd angles to the stems and the leaves growing from distorted stems are usually smaller and more numerous than normal; or flower heads may be elongated, deformed, or misshapen with more flowers than normal. There is also a much rarer type, ring fasciation, with a ring-shaped growing point, which produces a hollow shoot.

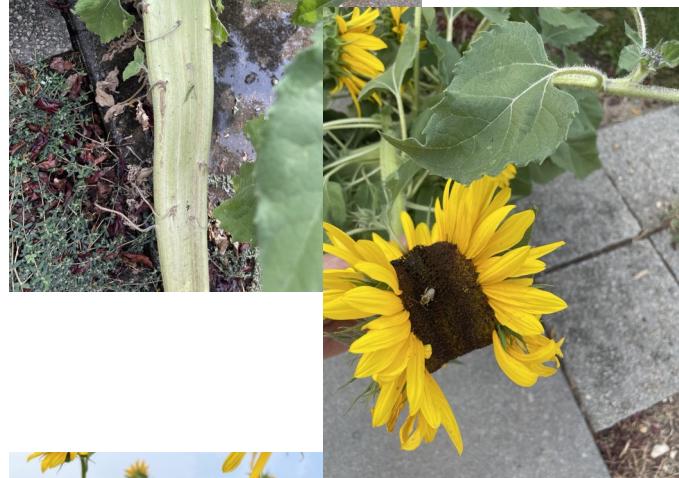
The cause of fasciation is varied, but not well understood. In some cases, this irregular growth is apparently triggered by infection (by bacteria, viruses or phytoplasmas), feeding by insects or other animals, chemicals or mechanical damage. Somatic mutations, hormonal imbalance, and environmental causes such as extreme weather have also been implicated, but in most instances, fasciation appears by chance with no obvious cause. In some plants a single recessive gene controls this condition, although the degree of expression is often very dependent on environmental conditions.

While fasciation affects the plant's appearance, it has little effect on the health of the plant and affected plants have the same cultural requirements as normal plants.

Read more on this topic here

[fasciation.indd \(wisc.edu\)](fasciation.indd (wisc.edu))

photo credit: Lindy Sheehan from her garden



Mark Your Calendars!

TOMATO FEST

2024

**Wednesday, September 25 at
the Red Barn**

**Mocktails and Appetizers at
12:00 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 2024 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. Awards will be given for *Best Tasting Tomato, Ugliest Tomato*,



to, 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 early so we can register your entries before Mocktail Half Hour begins.

During "Mocktail Half Hour", you can 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 509-901-9018.

Give Pulse Tip of the Month

by Julie Hunziker

GivePulse is rather straightforward when you look at the nuts and bolts. Everything we do is listed via the drop down menus. If you are not seeing what you need, back up a step or two and figure out what else your activity might fall under. It makes sense to most that working in one of the gardens falls under "Program Support," but there is no option for the Ahtanum Demonstration Garden, Heirloom Garden, or WVFG under Program Support. Thus, back up and choose another "Program Tag" that might make sense. Would it fall under Answer/Plant Clinic? Continuing Ed? Youth Activities? Play around with GivePulse a little and see what's there...where do various activities fall under the different Program Tags?



Even I have to do that occasionally when helping members navigate their way through GivePulse. **Again, if your activity isn't listed, back up and try another category in the drop-down menu.**

Additionally, check the date of your activity and the "AM/PM" box. Too often we find wrong dates because people enter the impact at a later date and forget to change it in their impact.

Emeritus Reapplication

Attention Emeritus Master Gardeners

WSU Master Gardener **Emeritus Reapplication** for 2025 will open early on Oct. 1. This will be our third year to have the Master Gardener reapplication process take place online. Any Emeritus Master Gardener needing assistance may come to the Extension office during the times below. The process should take less than 15 minutes.

All Emeritus Master Gardeners need to fill out the online reapplication form during the month of October. On November 1 the reapplications for Veteran & Intern MGs will begin.

Times open for assistance at the Extension Office

Wed. Oct. 9; 1:00 – 5:00

Wed. Oct. 23; 9:00 – 11:00

Wed. Oct. 30; 10:00 – 4:00

If you have any questions, please contact Patty Ratzlaff, at patty.ratzlaff@wsu.edu or call 509-574-1582

Leadership Opportunities

The Master Gardener Program offers great leadership opportunities for all! Whether it is leading the diagnostic clinic, one of the demonstration gardens or taking on the task of leading one of our growing teams in the greenhouse, we have a place a for you! We need co-leaders for the following:

Youth – Kelly Klingman is our newest leader for the Youth Team and she needs a co-lead. Michelle Murphy continues to serve as mentor to new co-leads for Youth!

Garden Tour Team – need 2 leaders. Both Jenny and Sheila are stepping down. They are available to assist with transition.

Directory – Debra Kroon has done this for years – thank you Debra! She would like to hand this off to someone who would take an interest and run with it. This person works with the coordinator for the initial list for the year.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the following leadership opportunities, please contact the Co-lead directly or Patty Ratzlaff at 509-574-1582 or patty.ratzlaff@gmail.com

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.



Floribunda: Fall Bulbs

Submitted by Carol Barany

For everything, there is a season, and that's especially true in the garden.

It's impossible to deny that our gardens are slowing down in September and October's shorter and cooler days, but it's not over yet. Fall bulb planting season is just getting started.

Daffodils, crocuses, tulips, hyacinths, and alliums are just some of the beauties arriving in Yakima this month after a long trip from Holland. Wooing every gardener with the promise of spring splendor, they have evolved to be tough, yet irresistible.

One of nature's wonders, flower bulbs are neatly bundled packages programmed with everything they need to grow and bloom on their own. Slice a bulb from pole to pole and take a look inside. You'll see storage tissue that provides food, roots all ready to grow, and even baby blooms with tiny anthers and developing leaf buds, all neatly packaged in a papery skin.

Every gardener needs some. Bulbs can be planted in containers, window boxes, borders, and under trees. Some can be forced to bloom indoors in the depths of winter.

I'm always tempted to just start buying, but it hasn't always gone well for me.

For fall bulbs to develop optimally and produce the best possible flowers next spring, the process of growing roots must begin during the colder months. And when the soil warms again in early spring, foliage develops, supported by the root system that has already been established. Strong, healthy roots and foliage produce the blossoms we prize.

If bulbs are planted too early in warm soil, foliage could be spurred into growing too soon, competing for a supply of the bulb's energy reserved for root development. Ultimately, the flowers will not reach their potential.

Wait until the soil cools to 50-60 degrees and then get your bulbs planted quickly. In Yakima's Zone 6, this usually means mid-October through early November. Keep un-planted bulbs at 60 degrees if you can. Transfer them from plastic bags to brown paper bags for better air circulation to prevent molding while you wait.

On the flip side, if you plant your bulbs too late, like in January or February, the bulbs will not have enough time to

produce a strong root system for the spring show. At a time when the bulb should be producing foliage and blooms, a root system is added to their 'to-do' list. Roots, foliage, and blooms will all be weak.

Planting too early has ever been a problem for me. More than once, I've found myself pouring hot water over frozen winter soil, attempting to thaw it just enough to dig planting holes for the bulbs I just discovered in a bag in a dusty corner of my laundry room.

I also confess to waiting until spring to plant. Hardy fall-planted bulbs require 10-13 weeks of soil temperatures below 45 degrees to root and begin shoot and flower production. My overdue efforts were a total waste of time and money, producing nothing but scraggly foliage and a few meager blooms

This year, I want to try something different.

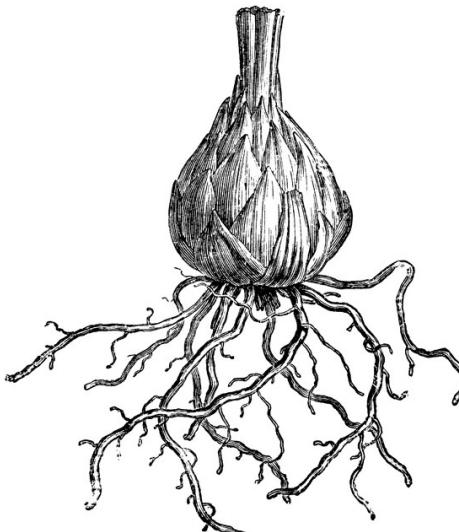
Before I buy a single bulb, I will plan ahead for the perfect spot for every single one. And I will plant them as soon as the soil cools to 50 degrees.

I also vow that this year, all those early bloomers will be planted where I can see them from my kitchen or dining room windows, along the driveway, or near the street where they can be enjoyed by passersby.

Has this ever happened to you? You're in love with the idea of a lavish display of hundreds of tulips, so you buy that many. After several hours of toil on planting day, you realize that you have room for only half of the bulbs you bought. Not wanting to waste them, you plant the excess in random locations, often places not easily seen from the house. I remember the year I planted surplus crocuses in a distant corner of our property where they bloomed unseen by anyone but my neighbor's chickens.

For the most dramatic color effect, I'll plant in groups of at least 10-25 bulbs of the same variety. Twenty five bulbs planted close together will have more 'pop' and presence than 200 planted 3' apart.

Summer isn't over yet, and the garden is still putting on a glorious display, but I can feel it. Winter is on its way. Get some spring flowering bulbs in the ground before the soil freezes. Come March, as soon as you see their bright green tips emerging from barren soil, you'll be glad you did.





Clods of Dirt

Tapteal Native Plants is having a pop-up sale Saturday, Sept. 28th at the Yakima Area Arboretum from 10am-1pm. They will be bringing more than 60 species of native & drought tolerant wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees to sell. They will donate 10% of the proceeds to the Arboretum. If you have ordered from them recently they will be bringing their Yakima customers' plant orders at that same time.

www.taptealnativeplants.com

Did you know that when you are viewing the weekly email that lists the weekly activities, you can click on the colored category heading for "Clinic Sign Up," "This Week," "Training Opportunities," "Announcements," and "Looking Forward" to jump directly to that section in the email? How convenient is that??!!

Our Guiding Principles

Act Respectfully
Lead Supportively
Adaptability
Work Together
Always Learning
Emphasize Quality
Communicate Effectively
Be Honest

Art Team

Coming Soon: Fall Garden Sale

ART TEAM IS LOOKING FOR DONATIONS for the FALL GARDEN SALE.

Art Team is collecting pots, planters, wheel barrows, rakes, hoes, shovels, pruners, hand tools, clean hoses with no leaks, trellis, wire tomato cages, garden décor such as outdoor wall hangings, bird baths, bird houses, patio furniture in good condition, garden boots, stakes, gloves, spreaders, arbors, small chain-link wire gates, wagons and more.

All donations must be clean and not broken. Clean out your garages and sheds, contact neighbors and friends, local business' you visit for donations. NO PLANTS, NO CHEMICALS, NO SOIL.

Master Gardener Mission Statement:

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

Reminder!
Foundation/ Program Meetings
Wednesday, September 11th at 10:30 at the Red Barn

Please text Jenny at 509-480-8829 or ceeron19@comcast.net to set up time to meet at Greenhouse. If you have questions whether we can accept your donation, please email Jenny a picture and she'll respond as soon as she can.

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 hours in 3 different gardens of Intern's choice)
 - **Youth Team:** 2 hours
 - **Writer's Guild/Speaker's Bureau (optional):** 1 hour with veteran assistance (counts as 1 hr choice)
 - **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

Master Gardener Venue Work Seasons

2024 Demonstration Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter
Sept 14th	Success with Natives	Ann Autrey
Sept 28th	Changing Lawn to a Pollinator Haven	Kelli Barton

2024 Heirloom Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter
Sept 7th	Improving Soil Content for Gardening	Beatrice Reiss

2024 WVFG Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter
Sept 21st	Rotating Crops/Cover Crops	Melody Westmoreland



GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

“Adapting to Our Changing Climate”

Building a better world, one yard at a time!

October 26th @ PNWU, Terrace Heights

Yakima County **Master Gardener Leaders**

Answer/Plant Clinic: Andrea Altmayer/Kim Foster/Kelli Barton

Greenhouse: Camille Smith/Skip Brockman/Kelli Barton

Annuals: Lorie Harrison/Camille Smith/Deanna Husch

Perennials: Carol Barany/Melody Westmoreland/Cathy LeCompte

Herbs: Diana Pieti/Diane Berthon/Janice Miller

Hanging Baskets: Patty Ferguson/Shellie Oshie/Cathy Penny

Vegetables: Don Flyckt/ Allyn Perkins/Beatrice Reiss (emeritus)

Art: Jenny Mansfield/

Plant Sale: Laura Willet, Reggie Sanderson

Demonstration Gardens:

Ahtanum: Angela Galbreath/Skip Brockman/Kelli Barton

Demonstration Garden Classes: Angela Galbreath/Annette Olson

Heirloom Garden: Sally Mayo/Janice Miller

Kamiakin: Debra Byrd/Rosebud Guthrie/Greg Uberuaga

West Valley Food Garden: Camille Smith/Kelli Barton/John Strong

Youth Program: Kelly Klingman /Open Opportunity

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

Publications: Julie Hunziker/Debra Kroon/Open Opportunity

Advisory Board: Andrea Altmayer/Debra Kroon/John Strong/Julie Hunziker/Michelle Murphy

***Note for Interns:** If you are challenged in getting to any of the venues and earning your hours, please contact the team*

Foundation Board

President: Dan Fortier

Vice President: Rick Russell

Treasurer: Amber Knox

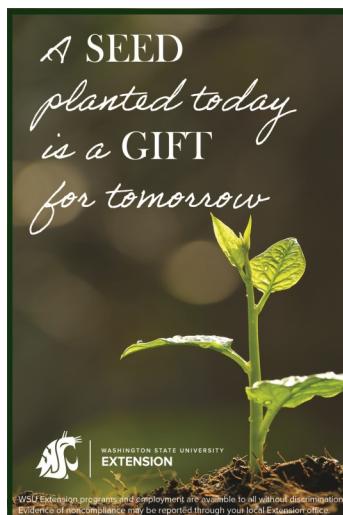
Secretary: Annette Olson

Members at Large: Beatrice Reiss
Sheila Gunderson

Past President: Debra Kroon

Program Coordinator

Patricia Ratzlaff



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

Continuing Education Opportunities

WSU Master Gardener Workshops: September

Oregon State University Extension Level Up Series (Free)

2024: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2024>

2023: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2023>

2022: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series-2022>

WSU Cowlitz County

Tuesdays at noon via Zoom

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/7756056320?pwd=RzVxbTI0dXpyUjjjSDdsWnJuTXdydz09> Meeting ID: 775 605 6320 Password: 12345

9/10: Harvesting Your Garden/Theresa Moore

9/17: Growing Garlic/Billie Vevers

9/24: Unusual Weed Control Methods/Jennifer Mendoza

WSU King County Growing Groceries Series (\$7.50 per session)

9/11 7-8:30 pm: "Get a Jump on Spring!"

To register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/mqs62ps>

10/9 7-8:30 pm: "The Savory Subterraneans: Garlic and Onions"

To register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/aw9cp7f>



September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Farmer's Market 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	2 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	3 Demonstration Garden 8-11	4 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	5 Heirloom Garden 8-11	6 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4 WVFG 8-11	7 Heirloom Garden Class: Improving Soil Content
8 Farmer's Market Yakima Herald Article	9 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	10 Demonstration Garden 8-10	11 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4 Foundation/Program Mtg @ 10:30	12 Heirloom Garden 8-11	13 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4 WVFG 8-11	14 Demonstration Garden Class: Natives
15 Farmer's Market 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	16 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	17 Demonstration Garden 8-11	18 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	19 Heirloom Garden 8-11	20 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4 WVFG 8-11	21 WVFG Class: Rotating Crops/ Cover Crops
22 Farmer's Market 9-1 Yakima Herald Article	23 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	24 Demonstration Garden 8-11	25 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4 TomatoFest noon@Red Barn	26 Heirloom Garden 8-11	27 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4 WVFG 8-11	28 +Demonstration Garden Class: Lawns to Pollinator Haven
29 Farmer's Market 9-1 (Youth Team) Yakima Herald Article	30 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	31 Demonstration Garden 8-11				2024 Advanced Education Conference (Sept 27-28)



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.