

Scoop o' Dirt

Yakima County Master Gardener News

November 2024



WE DID IT AGAIN! 'WE GREW LUNCH'



The main course of squash lasagna, coleslaw, and an assortment of bread.



The kitchen crew made all that good food. **Diana, Carol, Gini, Sue, and Shelly**



Friends visiting between appetizers and the main course.



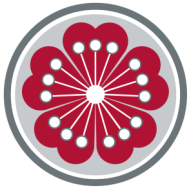
Table centerpieces artfully crafted by **Carol Barany**



Patti Dion showed up in full fall fashion!

Reapplication Time!

It's time to renew your Master Gardening membership. Look for Patty's email inviting you to reapply. Must be done electronically (no paper) by the end of November. No exceptions!



Program Coordinator

Corner

WSU Yakima County Master Gardeners Leadership Opportunities

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@wsu.edu

2025 Co-leads needed for:

- **Garden Tour Team** – needs 2 leaders, as both **Jenny** and **Sheila** are stepping down. They are available to assist with transition for the 2025 tour. Ask them more about what is involved.
- **Facebook** – in need of a certified MG right away. Patty anticipates collaboration with Kittitas for articles and info that pertain to both counties.

Positions Accepted

- **Demonstration Garden** - Thank you, **Angela Galbreath** for co-leading in the Demo Garden and doing such an excellent job. She is now stepping down and **Sue Schauer** has stepped forward to accept this position. Please welcome Sue for serving in this way!
- **Youth** – **Kelly Klingman** has accepted this position, and she now has a new co-lead: **Jennifer Harris** (Class of 2023) Hurray, hurray!! **Michelle Murphy** is available to mentor for the Youth Program position.
- **Facilities** - **Melody Westmoreland** has served tirelessly in this role. When I discovered just how many tasks Melody and the Facilities team performed each week, I was amazed. Thank you, Melody! **Reggie Sander-son** has stepped up and will be filling some pretty big shoes for 2025. Go Reggie!
- **Directory** – **Debra Kroon** has done an amazing job for years putting together our Directory. Last year she included additional information on award history, Foundation Board contact info, certification requirements and many other helpful reminders. **Rhonda Gardinier** and **Steve Kuhn** will be taking over the Directory for 2025. Thank you both for stepping up!

GIVEPULSE USAGE AND REPORTING VOUNTEER HOURS

- In 2023 we had 98 of 128 volunteers using the GivePulse system with a total of 12,824 hours entered. Thank you!
- In 2024 we have 101 of 134 volunteers using the system and a total of 11,414 hours entered to date.

Knowing our hours really helps our program! Hours served informs others both inside and outside our local organization.

1. Our information goes to the State to quantify what we are doing and helps tell the story of our county efforts. These totals are looked at for **each county**, added to State Master Gardener Program totals, which in turn are added to national numbers. We want Yakima to accurately show how much we really are doing.
2. Our local County Commissioners see this information and take into account what the Extension Programs are doing in our county. Our volunteer information helps show why the County should continue to help support us.
3. It prepares us to accurately represent our work and activities to support our request for any grants or donations we might receive.
4. Co-leads can ask for a report for how many hours were volunteered in their team or project. They will want accurate numbers.
5. An accurate report will help internal program evaluations. This does affect future planning.
6. In case of injury...L&I needs hours to be reported.
7. Lastly, we will have an accurate view of what we do and are able to send in numbers for State Year End Reports that we know represent our Master Gardener efforts for Yakima County.

Thank you all for using GivePulse. It's important!

Youth Team



Team lead, **Kelly Klingman**, and intern **Hilary Alexander** were prepared to teach youth at the last Farmer's Market the benefits of spiders.
(Photo by **Kelly K**)



Selah Middle School Apple Pressing and Cider Making

(Photos by Marguerite Kirby. Permission given by students' parents)



Selah Middle School teacher Julie Rust, MGs **Sarah Judd** and **Gini Obert** show off the apple press used to make cider with the students.



SMS students are proud of the watermelon grown in the school garden.



SMS students chop apples before putting them in the press.

Youth Team II



It appears that the boys liked the cider served by MG **Sarah Judd**.



Teacher Julie Rust is enthusiastic about teaching her students with **Grandma G's** help.



The boys got every last apple out of the bin to go into the press.



The guys are excited about putting some muscle into pressing the apples.



Thanks to Selah Middle School students for the decorated gallon jugs and sharing the cider with our MG Heirloom team! We greatly appreciated the refreshing drink! **Kathy, Lindy, Phyllis, Sally, Paulien, and Janice.**



It's Been a Good Run! New Co-Leads for MG's Own Directory!

I am happy to announce that **Rhonda Gardinier** and **Steve Kuhn** have stepped up to become co-leads for the Master Gardener's own directory. After fifteen years of dedicated efforts, I have decided it is time to open myself up to new opportunities.

Before I go, I want to share some history and thoughts about the directory over the last 15 years. When I first joined our program in 2003, the directory was really just a couple of 8x10 pages with names and addresses. It began to morph into a more organized spreadsheet. Around 2007, an intern entered the program who had 'skills' and she created the first booklet-style directory.

I took over the directory responsibility in 2009. Over the years, I listened to our members and suggestions. The directory just kept growing. At one time, it well exceeded 80 pages, including reference pages about skills and abilities, in the back of the directory. In 2021, when the world changed, we made the decision not to bring new trainees into the program for that year. We also decided not to produce a hard copy of the directory. Beginning in 2022, the reference pages were removed to reduce the size of the directory and as a cost saving effort. You may not know this, but each of those directories now cost about \$6.75 to produce. They are not cheap!

Email Changes to note

Kim Foster: Kimberlee@lightcurve.email

Cary Tauscher: casunc@outlook.com

Allyn Perkins: lochnal@icloud.com

Please make corrections in your current directory.

Master Gardener Mission Statement:

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

Clods of Dirt



However, they are coveted by our members. They are a history capsule, of sorts, for that year. Each year I found a way to enhance the information. Some years, we had a contest to find a cover photo that expressed who we are as an organization. Some years, it was easy to find that perfect photo, others, not so much.

This project would not be possible without the talented **Rod**, aka Cecil B. DeMille, (I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. DeMille!) **Woolcock** and his fabulous assistant **Carol Woolcock**. Since about 2017 Rod has been taking all of our members photos (well, those that would sit for a shoot). Carol has tirelessly tracked who got a new photo and who didn't. These two made the directory work fun and rewarding.

Above is a photo of the directories over the last 15 years. I am excited for new people to be stepping into this effort. I am excited to see their vision going forward.

~Debra Kroon

Guiding Principles

Act Respectfully

Lead Supportively

Adaptability

Work Together

Always Learning

Emphasize Quality

Communicate Effectively

Be Honest

Take Responsibility

Give Pulse Tip of the Month

by Julie Hunziker

As reapplication time is upon us, it is good to have a reminder of how to find your hours. Do you have enough CE? Do you have enough volunteer hours? Please use the following directions to find your information.

- Go to **"My Activity"** and click on **"Impacts"**.
- Click on the **blue funnel** near the center top of the page
- Under the funnel, click on the **"Dates"** box. Use the left arrow to scroll back to "January 2024" and click on January 1. Then use the right arrow to scroll forward to the current date, ie. November 1. Click on the blue **"Apply"** box.
- Click on the blue **"Filter"** box.
- On the right, just above the green **"Add Impact"** button, click on **"Print Summary."** Multiple pages will be available for viewing, but you really only need to view the first page as it will give you a summary of your hours in the different areas. No need to actually print the report.



Why be timely in entering your impacts? In case of injury claim, L&I needs a record of activity/work. Also, when applying for grants, our hours matter.

A Group of Gardeners...

Dee Adams was recently doing some research for her garden club and found an interesting tidbit of information. Did you know what a group of gardeners is called? According to the Marin Art and Garden Center website, the name given to a collective group of gardeners is "a sprinkle." It has also been called "a dig" or "a society." I'm wondering if the intent is a sprinkle of rain or a sprinkle of seeds? All quite fitting. Nice little article [here](#).

I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to Challenge the elements or to Challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow.

—David Hobson

Reminder! Foundation/ Program Meetings

**Wednesday, November 13th at 10:30
at the Activity Center at Ahtanum Youth Park**



Be on the Look Out!

Have you seen this pest? Thousands of Japanese beetles have been found in Yakima, Benton, and Franklin counties. If you spot this pest, take a photo and report it at agr.wa.gov/beetles.

See it? Report it! Japanese beetles are destructive, invasive pests that attack over 300 types of plants. Snap a photo and report at agr.wa.gov/beetles.

Demonstration Garden



***Back Row: Annette, Sheila, Kelly K, Gina, Karen, Shelly, Paulien, Joan, Beatrice, Edna, Vivian
Front Row: Bob (UG), Reggie, Diana, Sue, Marjorie, Angela, Tim (UG)***

The Ahtanum crew had their last day in the garden last week, so we partied. Vivian was apparently on the lookout for snakes. Beware! They're closer than you think!!



Demonstration Garden II



Left and right: Team lead **Kelli B** caught some last blooms at the Demonstration Garden in early October.

All photos by
Kelli Barton



Kelli Barton caught the Ahtanum Demonstration Garden in its Fall glory late in October. The crew has done a marvelous job!



The hardworking crew jumped in to clean up the gardens at the entrance. And had FUN while doing it!

Plant/Answer Clinic Corner

by Lindy Sheehan

This month's article is all about the Central Washington State Fair (CWSF) which ran from September 20th through September 29th.

Why is the CWSF important to us as Master Gardeners? The CWSF has supported the Yakima County Master Gardeners for years. The Agricultural Building has a large sign above the main entrance that lists us along with the Granges, 4-H, and FFA clubs. We are also listed in each year's fair guide. In addition, we have our own booth, similar to the Farmer's Market; the fair booth is an extension of our Answer Clinic. I personally think that's pretty cool.

The 2024 Central Washington State Fair had 263,349 attendees, which was an 8% increase over 2023. Our MG booth, located in the Ag Building, saw 282 visitors. We define visitors as people who actively engage with our volunteers at our booth. We answered many questions and encouraged people to contact or visit our Answer Clinic, as well as visit our Demonstration Gardens.

Here is a breakdown of how people asked about our 9 priorities:

Plant Biodiversity: 53

Water Conservation: 11

Nearby Nature: 14

Soil Health: 25

Wildfire Preparedness: 3

Pollinators: 46

Climate Change: 24

Local Food: 51

Clean Water: 28

We, as Master Gardeners, love our gardens. Whether they are pollinator, cutting, vegetable, Heritage, or pocket forest gardens, we take pride in them. We attend classes, seminars, Zoom meetings, and listen to podcasts to be more educated in order to help others with their gardening questions. The CWSF gives us a wonderful venue to do just that.

That's not all the CWSF offers. We can enter our produce, floriculture, or home goods, too. This year, **Kelly Klingman** took home a Blue Rosette Ribbon for her entry of the largest turnip. Even though it's not gardening, Kelly also won "Best of Show" for the photograph of her cat which she entered in this year's



Always a bright spot in our program, **Jenny** and **Beatrice** man the fair booth.


fair. I took home 17 blue ribbons and two red ribbons for my produce and canned goods. A couple of non-Master Gardeners who attended our class on exhibiting at the CWSF also won several ribbons. Next year, I hope more Master Gardeners enter in the CWSF. It's fun and rewarding.

A special thank you to everyone who staffed our booth. I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize a few people who helped make our booth display extra special this year. **Debbie Sundlee** hand painted all the literature holders; **Diana Pieti** made Walter, our mascot scarecrow; **Carol Barany** provide the corn stalks; **Jenny Mansfield** provided accessories; **Ken Tolonen**, my co-lead, was ever helpful. I'm already looking forward to next year!



Main entrance to the Agricultural Building

Master Gardeners in the Community






YAKIMA VALLEY LIBRARIES PRESENT

Gardening Workshop: Houseplants

Yakima Central Library
Monday, November 4
3-4 pm

Add some beauty to your home by adding houseplants to your indoor environment. This class will show you how to grow this wildly popular group of plants.



Master Gardeners are university-trained volunteers who serve as educators in their communities. The Master Gardener program originated in Washington State to enable WSU Extension to better serve the public - specifically home gardeners.



Demonstration Garden

September 28th...last class at the Ahtanum Demonstration Garden. **Kelli** spoke on "Taking out your lawn and putting in a pollinator garden."

Master Gardeners at Home



Phyllis shares her view of breakfast in the garden looking over waist high eggplant at the view of Union Gap.



Janice Miller felt lucky to spy this banded garden orb weaver recently in her garden. It was gone the next day.



Kelli Barton has worked hard and is excited to share the fruits of her labor from her front yard.



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



This year's black-eyed susan vine was the biggest **Joan Sousley** has ever grown.

Floribunda: Gardening Thanks

Submitted by Carol Barany

Let us give thanks for a bounty of people.

For children who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are.

Let us give thanks For generous friends...with hearts...and smiles as bright as their blossoms;

For feisty friends, as tart as apples;

For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them;

For crotchety friends, sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the others, as plain as potatoes and so good for you;

For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes;

And serious friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you through the winter;

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;

For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and witherings;

And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, but who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter.

For all these we give thanks.

Our beloved Jim McLain, who wrote a gardening column in the Yakima Herald-Republic from 2003-2013, offered "A Harvest of People" by Max Coots in one of his Thanksgiving columns. Yakima's Master Gardeners quickly adopted it as part of their tradition.

Anyone interested in gardening can never be bored in Yakima. I'm thankful for every garden I have the pleasure of seeing on a walk or drive through our city. The new "starter" gardens speak of so much hope. They remind me of my early gardening days when I was just discovering plants, and the sheer bliss that came from the smallest successes. For the keepers of these gardens, and for those who open their more "grown-up" gardens for a closer look on the Yakima Arboretum Garden Tour each June, your imagination and creativity inspires me to keep wishing and dreaming for a garden "just like that."

Describing the myriad of Yakima gardeners I've met over the years as "boundlessly generous" is just the beginning. Always cheerleaders, they have at times been mentors, evangelists, and occasionally psychotherapists, enthusiastically sharing their love of the game with me. Raise your hand if you've admired something in another's garden, and before you knew it, they're off running to find a spade and a cardboard box so you can take a start home. Nothing is ever expected in return, other than the pleasure that comes from seeing their plant making someone else happy. I've learned that Yakima gardeners are humble and kind, eager to share what they know with anyone who

asks.

My garden blooms with friends in the form of the plants they gave me, making me thankful for the greatest lesson of all: that "a garden grows best when it's given away."

If you sit near the back at a Master Gardener meeting, you'll notice a sea of predominantly grey-haired heads filling the room. The current nature of our program is that gardeners often can't complete the training until retirement frees up time during the day (when our classes are held), and we're working on changing that.

In the meantime, at a class for the public, or at our annual plant sale, you'll see a totally different demographic. Young twenty-something singles, millennials, and young families with babies and toddlers in strollers and backpacks come in droves. During the past five years, more Americans are growing their own food, and the largest increases are seen among younger households. Their desire to grow their own fresh food and flowers, often with practices that are far more ethical and sustainable than mine ever were at their age, refreshes and inspires this old gardener's spirit, hope, and optimism. Don't ever stop. For all of you, I'm thankful.

Lately, I've been thinking that perhaps gardening's greatest joy for me no longer comes exclusively from the plants themselves. I love talking and writing about plants almost as much as I love growing them. For that privilege, and for you readers, I am especially thankful.

Clods of Dirt

What a Beauty!!

Mary Kearney shared a new Lucy Glo apple, which was featured at our recent State Fair in Puyallup, with the crew at the Demonstration Garden. Mary's friend, Mike, helps manage the ag building each year. The person restocking their apple display had 2 extras. Mike brought them to Mary's house and she was so impressed. She kept one for show-and-tell at Demonstration Garden day. For more information click [here](#) .



Annual Fall Garden Sale

The Fall Annual Garden Sale that was held on October 5th at the greenhouse was quite successful! We collected \$1,063.25 and the new donation box received over \$85.00! Over 100 shoppers (plus 25-30 Master Gardeners) attended the 4-hour sale and 2 people are highly interested in joining Master Gardeners!

The Art Team spent the summer collecting and organizing gardening things from all over our local area. We had pots, planters, Adirondack chairs, wood barrels, tools, tomato cages, plant stands, a wood workbench, fencing, landscape fabric, solar patio lights, burlap bags, wreaths and a whole lot more.

Thank you to all our workers, attendees and buyers so these items did not go to the landfill. Unsold items were donated to Habitat for Humanity Restore. The Greenhouse is once again ready for the next growing season.

Jenny, Debbie and Mary

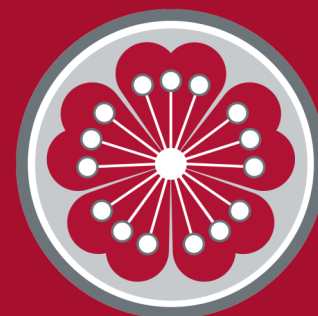
Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse

Save The Date to Deck the Halls!!

Our annual gathering to deck our halls with a hand-crafted holiday centerpiece will be Saturday, December 7 from 8:30-10:00 in the new greenhouse. Base and wet foam provided. Bring ribbons, a candle if you wish, greens, boughs of holly, jingle bells, dried flowers, berries, pods, and other merriments. More details to follow. For ALL Master Gardeners.



WSU Yakima County Extension
Master Gardener Program



Become a Master Gardener!

☐ **APPLICATIONS OPEN**

May 1 – Aug. 15, 2025

Applications available May 1 at:
extension.wsu.edu/yakima/
under Master Gardener tab

☐ **MEET & GREET – required**

Wed. August 6, 12:00 – 1:30

☐ **ORIENTATION LUNCHEON**

Wed. Aug. 27, 12:00 – 2:00

☐ **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Wednesdays 12:00 – 2:30
Sept. 3 - Nov. 19, 2025

☐ **COST: \$200**

2 scholarships available

***All events and classes listed will
be held at:***

WSU Extension

2403 S 18th St. Ste 100, Union Gap, WA



**Contact Master Gardener
Program Coordinator**

**Patty Ratzlaff | 509-574-
1582 patty.ratzlaff@wsu.edu
for more information**

[Master Gardeners | Yakima County |](#)
[Washington State University \(wsu.edu\)](http://Washington State University (wsu.edu))



**WSU EXTENSION
Yakima County**

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Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact (name of contact) at (address, telephone, email) at least (set a specific number of days, weeks) prior to the event.

Yakima County MG 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: Mary Hewitt/Shellie Oshie/Cathy Penny

Vegetables: Don Flyckt/ Beatrice Reiss

Art: Jenny Mansfield/Mary Hewitt/Debbie Sundlee

Plant Sale: Laura Willet, Reggie Sanderson

Demonstration Gardens:

Ahtanum: Sue Schauer/Skip Brockman/Kelli Barton

Demonstration Garden Classes: Annette Olson

Heirloom Garden: Sally Mayo/Janice Miller

West Valley: Camille Smith/Kelli Barton/John Strong

Youth Program: Kelly Klingman/Jennifer Harris

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

Publications: Julie Hunziker/Debra Kroon/Rhonda Gardinier/Steve Kuhn

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 lead. They are often willing to work with you to help you fulfill your requirements.*

Yakima County Master Gardener Garden Locations

Demonstration Garden (Ahtanum):

1000 Ahtanum Road, Union Gap
(by Red Barn)

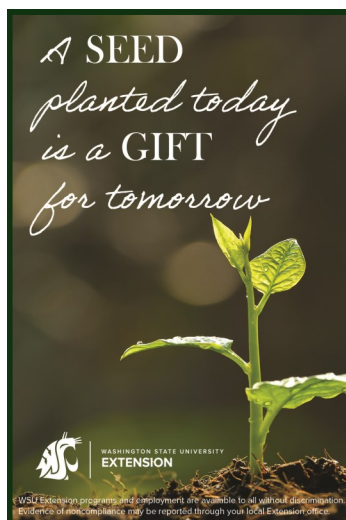
Heirloom Garden:

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

West Valley Food Garden:

602 South 123rd Ave, Yakima

Kamiakin Gardens:



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

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.

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

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

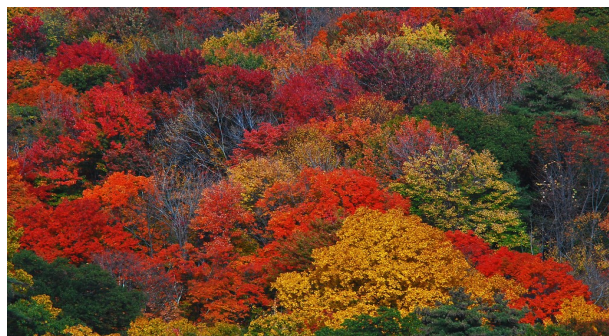
Emeritus:

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



Master Gardener Venue Work Seasons

[illegible]



November 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 Art 9-11 Veteran Reapplication Opens | 2 |
| 3 Yakima Herald Article | 4 Perennials 9-11 | 5 Annuals 9-11 | 6 | 7 Herbs 9-11 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Yakima Herald Article | 11 | 12 Annuals 9-11 | 13 Foundation/ Program Mtg @ 10:30 | 14 Herbs 9-11 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Yakima Herald Article | 18 | 19 Annuals 9-11 | 20 | 21 Herbs 9-11 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Yakima Herald Article | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Thanksgiving Day | 29 | 30 Veteran Reapplication Closes |



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.