

Scop o' Dirt

Yakima Co. Master Gardener News

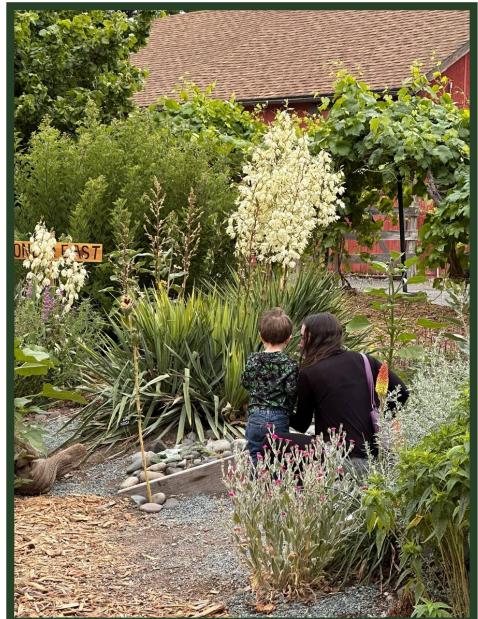
July 2025



Garden Party 20 Year Celebration



Scenes From the Day.
(Photos by Kelly K.)



Take Note! Meeting Change

July and August Program meetings will be held at the Extension Office. There will be no Foundation meeting. Both July 16th and August 20th meetings will be at 10:30 am. The August 20th meeting will be followed by the Meet and Greet, including interviews, with the new prospective trainees.

Garden Party



GivePulse Tip of the Month

by Julie Hunziker

We appreciate that **John** enters the GivePulse categories for each activity in the weekly emails. Please be cognizant of those categories. Lots of errors are being made in impact entries, even when the category has been correctly and clearly labeled in the list of activities.

Beware!! With the upcoming switch to “New View” in GivePulse, it is imperative that impacts be up to date. When the switch is made July 14th, impacts previous to that time will not be accepted, meaning the system will not be able to process those impacts. No, that does not mean that impacts already entered will be lost. Please enter all of your impacts asap. That’s a warning to those of you who like to wait until December to enter your year’s worth of impacts.

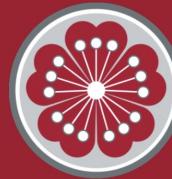


Reflection of the month: “*Pick up and delivery of 4 pallets to HG from Selah Naches Food Bank and Tractor Supply in Selah. Travel time not included*” listed under Demonstration Gardens/Wk at HG.

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

WSU Yakima County Extension – Master Gardener Program

Become a Master Gardener! 2025 REVISED SCHEDULE



APPLICATIONS OPEN JULY 1
[Contact Us](#) | [Yakima County](#) | [Washington State University](#)

with notice of acceptance/denial by end of August

MEET & GREET – required
Wed. August 20, 12:00 – 1:30
Includes info on Registration

ORIENTATION LUNCHEON
Wed. September 10, 12:00 – 2:00

ONLINE CLASS SCHEDULE & 6 IN-PERSON HANDS ON LABS
Oct. 1, 2025 – March 11, 2026

COST: \$275
Partial scholarships available

Meetings and most in-person county labs will be held at the Extension office:

WSU Extension

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



Contact Master Gardener Program Coordinator
Patty Ratzlaff
patty.ratzlaff@wsu.edu
for more information

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

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 (name of contact) at (address, telephone, email) at least (set a specific number of days, weeks) prior to the event.



WSU EXTENSION
Yakima County

Reminder! Program Meeting

Wednesday, July 16th @ 10:30
at the **Extension Office**

(There will be no Foundation meeting)

Guiding Principles

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

Master Gardener Yard Tour



Laura Willett's Oasis in the City

On Tuesday, June 17th, a couple dozen Master Gardeners visited the gardens of five of our members. Laura's garden has changed over the years and continues to morph with the changing climate. Meanwhile, Reggie has created her own corner of the world with a welcoming patio and a fun back yard. Diana works as hard at her own yard as she does at the Ahtanum Demonstration Garden and it shows. Amber and her husband have created their own homestead in Selah at Belleflower Farm, making many changes in a short seven years. Last, but not least, Marguerite's yard has flourished under her loving care following a disastrous fire in 2014.

(Photos by Julie H)

Reggie's Cozy Abode

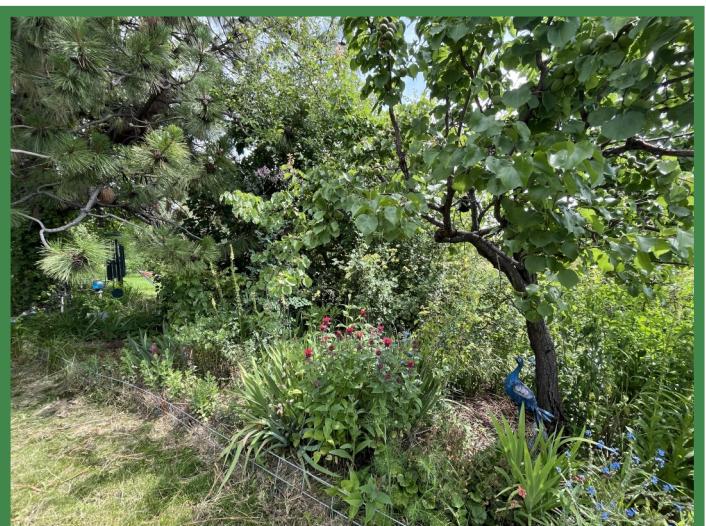


Yard Tour II

Diana's City Haven



Amber's Belleflower Farm



Marguerite's Resurgent Ranch

Yard Tour III



Such a lovely patio for the group to enjoy lunch and visiting.



Marguerite's fabulous kohlrabi. Quite tasty!

Alert!! GivePulse "New View" is set to launch July 14th. All 2025 impacts to date must be added before the switch. They won't be accepted following the launch.

Materials Needed

Dear Pressed Flower Enthusiasts,

We Master Gardeners who enjoy pressed flower art are low in material. Projects in the fall and winter include greeting cards for our sunshine committee and then to community outreach classes and demonstrations. Please take some time each week as you garden to collect and press material to include flowers, herbs, leaves, stems, etc. There are many techniques to press. However, simply sandwich material on paper towel and place a heavy book on top. Let dry for 2 weeks. Store in a dry place. It's that easy.

We can advise, help collect, and/or store your stuff. Just reach out.

Mary Kearney and Diana Pieti



Plant a Row

Did you buy extra plants at our big sale? Are your vegetables taking off with the heat? Are you beginning to wonder what you will do with all those peppers, squash, or zucchini? How many tomatoes do you really need? No need to fear being overtaken by your garden. Sarah Judd and Kelly Klingman are spearheading the Plant a Row project. If you have extra produce, donate to a local food bank. Use the form [here](#) to record your donations and then turn it in to Patty at the end of the season. Each 10 pounds of produce equates to 1 hour of time in GivePulse, with a maximum of 10 hours/year. A list of food banks can be found on our volunteer portal at <https://yakima.mastergardenerfoundation.org/volunteer-portal/>



Plant a Row For The Hungry

Plant a Row For Our Greater Yakima Community

"Plant Your Garden, Grow Your Community."



Join WSU Yakima County Master Gardeners and "Plant an extra row" of produce to donate and feed Yakima County families.



WSU EXTENSION
Yakima County

scan code to go direct to our volunteer website.

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

AEC Financial Aid

Planning to attend the annual Advanced Education Conference in the fall? The Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County is offering \$100 scholarships on a first-come, first served basis to Yakima County Master Gardeners who would like to participate in the 2025 AEC. If you are interested in receiving this financial benefit, email a copy of your proof of registration to [Gilbert Plascencia](#) to request the scholarship.

WSU Extension Master Gardener Advanced
Education Conference

Cultivating **RESILIENCE**

September 26-27, 2025

Registration opens June 1

Shared Learning Experience



You are Invited to our Regional AEC Shared Learning Experience!

WSU Yakima Extension Conference Room

Friday, September 26, 2025

9:00 am - 12:20 Annual Meeting,
State Awards & Keynote Speaker

12:20 Potluck*

1:00 Session 1

2:40 Session 2

You can stay for a portion or
all of the event

AEC Cost: \$109 June 1 - July 15

\$129 from July 16 - Sept. 25

There is **no additional cost for this gathering**. Please check the **Yakima Shared Learning Experience box** when signing up for the AEC.

**For those traveling from Benton-Franklin or Asotin Counties
please bring easy items to share for the potluck.*

Floribunda: Gardening Lessons

by Carol Barany

The xylem and phloem cells produced by the fusiform initials have their long axes oriented vertically and make up what is known as the axial system of the secondary vascular tissue. The ray initials produce horizontally oriented ray cells, which form the vascular rays or radial system. Composed largely of parenchyma cells, the vascular rays are variable in length.

GOTCHA!

The science behind gardening is fascinating, and I'm trying to understand it, but sometimes gardeners just want to have fun. The other night, I ran into a website posting a collection of gardening memes. A meme is an image or a piece of text, often humorous, that is copied and spread rapidly by internet users. Scrolling through those memes was like eating Extra-Crunchy Cheetos and not being able to stop myself until the whole party-size bag was gone. A search of one website led to another. And another. And another. Once you try them, gardening memes are irresistible. Let's take a week off from serious gardening concerns and have some fun instead. Besides, there is more wisdom in these little nuggets than in a year's worth of my columns. Here are a few of my favorites:

"Gardening season begins January 1 and ends December 31."

"One minute, you're young, hip, and carefree and the next minute you're photographing vegetables in your garden."

"Money can't buy happiness, but it can buy plants. Which is the same thing."

"It's not hoarding if it's plants."

"You know that tingly feeling you get when you walk into a nursery? It's your common sense leaving your body."

"Plants are the new pets."

"If you are not killing plants, you are not really stretching yourself as a gardener." J. C. Raulston

"You know you're a serious gardener when your neighbors don't recognize your face because that's usually not the end they see."

"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments."

"Some people want a big house, designer clothes, and an expensive car. Others create a garden where they can escape those people."

"Gardening is cheaper than therapy, and you get tomatoes."

"Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it."

"Hey Girl, let's spread all those seed catalogs you get in the mail all over the bed and just circle stuff we want, all night long....."

"Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a woman to garden and the whole neighborhood eats zucchini all summer."

"Housework is for people who don't know how to garden."

"Growing your own tomatoes is the best way to devote 3 months of your life to saving \$2.17."

"Always plant trees so the prevailing winds blow the autumn leaves next door."

"School is important but gardening is importanter."

"You can bury any number of headaches in a garden." Charles Barnard

"I'm in no rush for spring", said no gardener ever.

"A garden is always a series of losses set against a few triumphs, like life itself." Mary Sarton

"When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden." Minnie Aumonier

"The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness." Dalai Lama

"Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them." A. A. Milne

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in."

"The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago."

"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden." Thomas Jefferson

(continued next page)

(Floribunda, continued from previous page)

“I want it said of me by those who knew me best that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow.” Abraham Lincoln

“Life begins the day you start a garden.” Chinese proverb

“Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace.” May Sarton.

“A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust”. Gertrude Jekyll

“Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized.” Allan Armitage

Show me your garden and I shall tell you what you are.” Alfred Austin

“My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.” Claude Monet

“Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.” H. Jackson Brown Jr.

“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.” Marcus Tullius Cicero

“Plants want to grow. They are on your side as long as you are reasonably sensible.” Anne Wareham

WE WANT YOU—

To think about becoming a member of the Writer's Guild by contributing an article for submission to the Yakima Herald Republic. You do not have to be a professional writer; you just need to be willing to tell a story and put it down in writing. Well, it does have to have something to do with gardening here in Central Washington, but other than that it is your story to tell.

Some possible topics to write about are: what's happening in your garden right now; how did you design the layout of your garden; what are your favorite plants to grow; who got you into gardening in the first place; what challenges have you faced in the garden; what has been your most successful garden adventure; what is the best thing about gardening for you; and the list goes on and on. You are only limited by your imagination!

Each article needs to be about 700-750 words long and if you have a photo to go along with the article even better. If you are worried about things like punctuation and grammar, we can help you with that. If you think your writing is not polished enough, we can help with that too. You just need to be willing to try – and think about this, you will enjoy a bit of local fame when you see your name in print!

Please contact **Carol Barany** or **Melody Westmoreland** and we will help you get started; we would love to add you to our team.

APHID PROCREATION

by Angela Galbreath

Found on a new rose leaf in early May.. Two rose aphid families. The two larger ones are the mother aphids who just gave birth. They just pop out live daughters. This time of year they don't mate as there are no males and the daughters are born pregnant. When the weather cools some will become males and mating will then occur. The females will deposit eggs in the soil for next season's population.

Numbers to astound you. There are more than 4000 types of aphids. About 250 of which are a problem for crops and ornamentals. Some of those are generalists and will feed on many kinds of plants, but others are plant specific.

Fortunately, besides ladybeetles, there are other insects that can help manage that aphid population. We used parasitoid wasps this season in the greenhouse. If you see lacewings and spiders, know that they are helping too. Even dragonflies will eat aphids.



WVFG Garden



Camille proudly shows off the first crop of peas from the WVFG. (Photo by Kelly K)



Beautiful peas in their pod. (Photo by Kelly K)



The sunlight brilliantly catches the baby peas in their pod. (Photo by Kelli B)



Look at all those beautiful peas! (Kelly K)

A Cautionary Tale: IPM at Work

by Annette Olson and Darrell Monroe

When you think that you have an infestation and your plants are looking poorly, then you have got to take action. And you do! Remove them!!! There may be more to consider.

On Tuesday, June 3rd, Native Bed 3 in the Ahtanum Demonstration Garden appeared to have unwelcome guests on the Solidago (Goldenrod). They were removed. Sharp-eyed Darrell Monroe observed three delicate, jewel-like oblong eggs hanging from three slender strands on a plant leaf. Lacewings had arrived to combat aphids! Darrell also found mummified aphids and Lady Beetle eggs on those removed plants. Darrell had been looking for lacewings for sale recently without finding any. All of the removed plant material was taken home by Darrell with hopes of a successful hatch of lacewings, wasps, and lady beetles. Wha a nursery! The mummified aphids contained wasp eggs that produce through the larval stage and ultimately emerge as a wasp. Aphids, beware!

The good news is that some of the Solidagos still have their now-welcomed guests residing on the plant leaves for future pest control. The slightly curled leaves take on a new fascination and understood purpose in this native bed planting, thanks to Darrell.

You can find a great deal of good information online regarding Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and these beneficial insects. WSU Hortsense has “Natural Enemies,” by Dr. David G. James, Associate Professor of Entomology, Department of Entomology, Washington State University, Prosser, Washington.



Solidago plant infested by aphids, then lacewings, at Ahtanum Demonstration Garden.
(Photo by Darrell Monroe)



Rays of Sunshine

We keep in mind several of our members who have some ongoing health issues:

- * ***Gini Obert*** continues her recovery from knee surgery. It was good to see her at the recent Foundation/Program meeting
- * Also, ***Jenny Mansfield*** is recovering at home from her back surgery and attending followup consultations with a cardiologist.
- * ***MaryLou Calhoon*** received news that her cancer has returned.

Master Gardeners at Home



Kelli B. was greeted by a morning visitor in her garden. She said he must have caught the early bus.

Picnic Time!!

Our annual picnic is planned for Tuesday, August 6th at noon at the Ahtanum Red Barn.

A-C: Bring chips, breads, relishes, condiments, etc.

D-G: Bring a dessert

H-M: Bring a main dish

N-Z: Bring a side dish

Master Gardener Mission Statement:

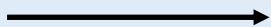
"Engaging university-trained volunteers to empower and sustain communities with relevant, unbiased, research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education."

Identified!!

Regarding the instar found at the Ahtanum Demonstration Garden last month:

From **Josh Milnes**: Good news Kelli, the molecular data clearly shows that the beetle is NOT Asiatic garden beetle, but a native species - ***Serica sericea* (June bug)**, not ***Maladera castanea***. Both are in the same tribe (apparently both easy to confuse). I am very happy to say we don't have to worry anymore. *Serica sericea* has a broad distribution.. On another note, thank you SO much for contacting me so we can get a better ID on the beetle, I appreciate the work you guys do! Keep looking!

From us: So we're happy it's the good cousin but we'll be diligent about any future critters we find in our garden.



Serica sericea ♂

More Garden Party Photos



Garden Classes

2025 Demonstration Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter
July 12th	Falling in Love with Herbs	MG Carol Barany
July 26th	Grasses: Build Habitat and Create Year-Round Interest	MG Debra Kroon
Aug 9th	Pruning, Tree ID, & Firewise	Arborist Sean Tait
Aug 23rd	Grow, Dye-Wearable Art From Plants	MG Renee Holwegner
Sept 13th	Winter Garden, Deciduous Forest, Tree & Shrub Data Project **A MG/Yakima Area Arboretum collaborative class, to be held at YAA	Karl Graf, YAA Board Member

2025 Heirloom Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter
July 5th	Mycology and Soil Health	MG Terry Travis
Aug 2nd	Planting for a Winter Garden	MG Phyllis Pugnetti
Sept 6th	Fall Tool Maintenance	MB Rick Russell

2025 WVFG Garden Classes

Date	Topic	Presenter
July 19th	Food Forests	MG Diana Pieti
Sept 20th	Gardening to Help Native Bees	MG Don Flyckt

Looking for Continuing Education?

Local Resources:

- * **Arboretum Classes**
- * **Master Gardener Demonstration Garden Classes** (Every Saturday in a different Garden)
- * **Master Gardener Yard Tours** (June)
- * **Enrichment Classes** (January and February...they've passed, but look for them in 2026)

Online Resources:

- * Evergreen Thumb Podcast (WSU Master Gardeners)
- * WSU Extension Master Gardeners Virtual AEC (Sept 26th-27th, recordings available online until 2/6/26) Register [here](#).
- * Oregon State University (Free webinars the 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon)
- * Cowlitz County Master Gardeners Online classes [here](#). Most Tuesdays at noon.

Yakima County MG Leaders

Answer/Plant Clinic: Andrea Altmayer/Kim Foster

Greenhouse: Camille Smith/Skip Brockman/Kelli Barton

Annuals: Lorie Harrison/Camille Smith/Deanna Husch

Perennials: Carol Barany/Melody Westmoreland

Herbs: Diana Pieti/Diane Berthon

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 **Classes:** Annette Olson/Sue Schauer

Heirloom Garden: Sally Mayo/Reggie Sanderson/Sarah Judd

West Valley: Camille Smith/Kelli Barton/John Strong

Youth Program: Kelly Klingman/Jennifer Harris

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

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

Social Media: Kelly Klingman

Garden Tour: Jenny Mansfield/Lucy Stevens/ Barbara Schmitt

Facilities: Reggie Sanderson/Mary Kearney

Advisory Board: Debra Kroon/John Strong/Melody Westmoreland/Michelle Murphy

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

MG Program Priorities

Local Food

Pollinators

Wildfire Preparedness

Water Conservation

Clean Water

Climate Change

Nearby Nature

Plant Biodiversity

Soil Health

Foundation Board

President: Rick Russell

Vice President: Dick Larson

Treasurer: Gilbert Plascencia

Secretary: Carrie Chicken

Members at Large: Beatrice Reiss/Steve Kuhn

Past President: Dan Fortier

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.



July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4 Demonstration Garden 8-11	3 WVFG 8-11 Heirloom Garden 8-11	4 Independence Day	5 Garden Class <i>Mycology/Soil Health</i> 10-11 Heirloom DG
6	Yakima Herald Article Farmer's Market 9-1	7 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	8	9 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4 Demonstration Garden 8-11	10 Heirloom Garden 8-11 Answer Clinic Mtg 1:30-3	11 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4
13	Yakima Herald Article Farmer's Market 9-1	14 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4 Foundation Meeting via Zoom 5 pm	15	16 Demo Garden Answer Clinic Program Mtg @ 10:30 Ext Office	17 WVFG 8-11 Heirloom Garden 8-11	18 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4
20	Yakima Herald Farmer's Market 9-1	21 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	22	23 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4 Demonstration Garden 8-11	24 WVFG 8-11 Heirloom Garden 8-11	25 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4
29	Yakima Herald Article Farmer's Market/ Youth Team 9-1	28 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	29	30 Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4 Demonstration Garden 8-11	31 WVFG 8-11 Heirloom Garden 8-11	26 Garden Class <i>Grasses</i> 10-11 Ahtanum DG



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.