

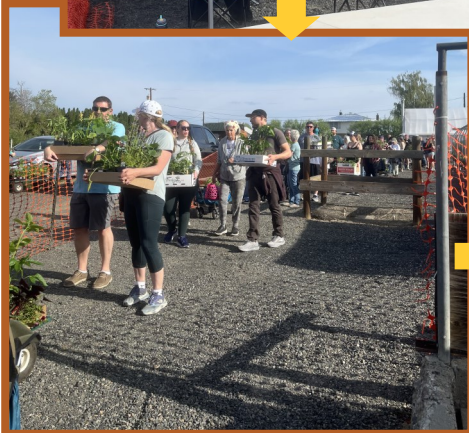
# *Scenes from the Plant Sale*

## *Such a Team Effort!*

Follow the trail: Security team and customers waiting for opening; eager shoppers; holding area (can you see the line of shoppers waiting for counting area?); waiting to be counted; counting area, cashier line; counting line had disappeared at 10:50 am.

May 2026

*Scoop o' Dirt*  
*Yakima County Master Gardener News*



10:53 am: We are efficient...counting line is nonexistent.

# *Sunday Funday at the Sale*



All smiles: Melody, Diana, & Rick



Don, Mike, & Ana take a breather



Barista Marj kept us happy



Sunday Counting Team



Holders Karen, Christina, & Debra



Kelli B washing the tables



Darrell moving boxes



Boxes restocked by Mary H & Mary K



Flagger Terry manning the gate

# ***MG Day at Plant Sale***

As they say, we are our best customers. There was a steady stream all day Thursday as Master Gardeners took advantage of the “Members Only” sale. Teams busied themselves watering, deadheading, grooming, and replenishing the beautiful plants while our members browsed the inventory, enjoyed chatting with each other, and loaded their boxes and carts. All areas were fine tuning their jobs in preparation for the public sale come Saturday morning. (Photos by **Kelli K.**)



The well-organized holding area is manned by experienced workers moving member selections to alphabetized tables.



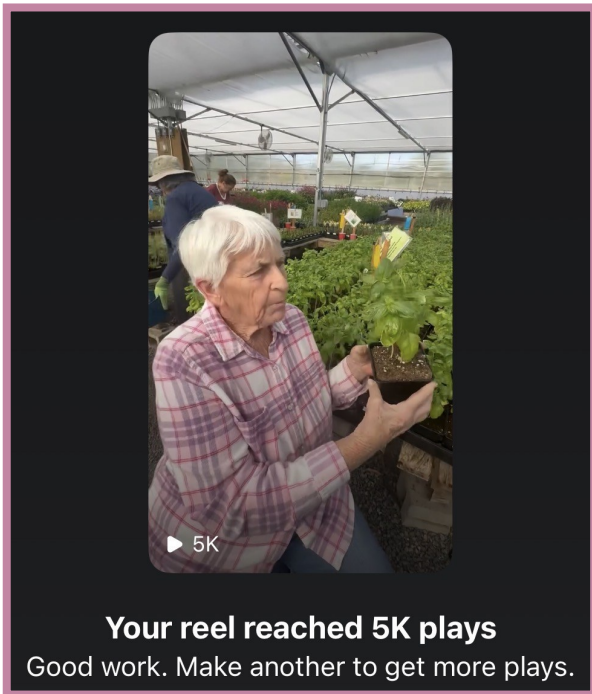
A steady stream of carts and boxes came through the counting area before moving on to the cashiers.

# 2026 Plant Sale

# It's a Wrap!

## By The Numbers:

	# of Transactions	Total Sales	Average Sale
Thursday	117	\$16,003	\$136.78
Saturday	836	\$54,696	\$65.43
Sunday	215	\$9,652	\$44.89
Total	1168	\$80,351	\$68.79



*By the editor's calculations, over 80 Master Gardeners, including certified, emeritus, and interns, worked the plant sale. What a team!*

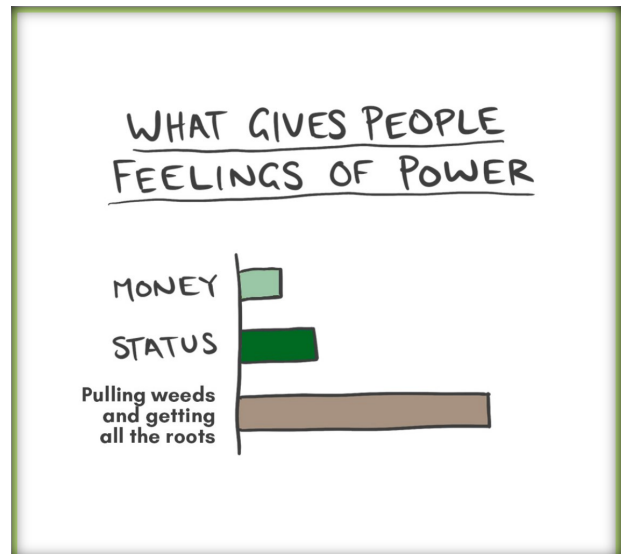


**Soil sterilization team of Steve, Darrell, and Kelli B got the job done! Photo by Kelly K.**

**Social Media:** Kelly K's Facebook video post of Diana talking about basil received over 5000 views! Kelly posted videos from each team in the week leading up to the plant sale. Additionally, on the Saturday of the plant sale, our Yakima County MG page reached the 4000 mark in terms of followers, meaning that 4000 people like to know what we are doing and will receive notification when something new is posted on the page.

**Happy Birthday!!**

- 5/9 Carol Barany
- 5/12 Skip Brockman
- 5/15 Kim Foster
- 5/16 Carrie Chicken



## **Understanding Our Roles: Program Responsibilities and Foundation Membership**

With this newsletter arriving just after our annual plant sale, many of us have been spending long days in the greenhouse, on sale preparation, or interacting with the public. As fundraising efforts are actively underway and momentum is high, this month's Foundation News picks up where April left off by focusing on the different roles we play within the Master Gardener Program and the Master Gardener Foundation, and why understanding those roles matters for how we work together.

### **Two Organizations, Two Roles**

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program and the Master Gardener Foundation of Yakima County work closely together, but they are separate organizations with distinct responsibilities.

The Program is part of Washington State University and is responsible for:

- Education and outreach delivered under the Master Gardener name,
- Volunteer activities, training, and supervision, and
- Ensuring compliance with university policies, safety requirements, and statewide program standards.

The Foundation is a separate nonprofit organization whose role is to:

- Raise and manage funds,
- Provide financial support for the Program, and
- Steward resources in support of long-term sustainability.

Each organization has a clear purpose, and neither replaces the other.

### **Wearing Different Hats**

As Master Gardeners, we often participate in both worlds, sometimes without realizing it.

When we are answering clinic questions, teaching classes, working in gardens, or representing Master Gardeners in the community, we are acting within the Program and follow Program guidance, policies, and expectations.

When we are voting on the Foundation budget, electing Foundation Board members, or helping guide

how Foundation resources are allocated, we are acting as Foundation members.

These roles are connected, but not interchangeable. Keeping them clear helps decisions get made at the right level and ensures both organizations function as intended.

### **Why This Matters**

Understanding these different roles helps prevent confusion and keeps our work running smoothly, especially during busy seasons. It clarifies:

- Why some decisions are Program decisions and others are Foundation decisions,
- Why different policies apply in different situations, and
- How shared goals are supported through distinct responsibilities.

Clear roles protect volunteers, support accountability, and ensure that both the Program and the Foundation remain strong and effective.

### **Looking Ahead**

With the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Program and the Foundation now fully signed, we are entering a new chapter in how the two organizations work together. The MOA provides clarity, structure, and shared expectations that strengthen the partnership at a time when our work is most visible and most demanding. It gives us a solid framework to build on and positions both the Program and the Foundation for long-term success.

In June, Foundation News will take a deeper dive into what the MOA actually does and why it matters in practice. From there, we will turn to the Foundation's Bylaws, which define how the Foundation governs itself and how members participate in leadership. That conversation will lead into an invitation for members to consider Board service, including how we are establishing staggered Board terms during this first cycle to create continuity and opportunity going forward. This is about building a strong leadership pipeline and ensuring the Foundation remains well-positioned to support the Program in the years ahead.

# ***Focus on Continuing Education***

## ***Our Own Demonstration Garden Classes***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Location</b>
May 9th	Soil Surprises: What Your Soil Can Tell You	MG Debra Kroon	Ahtanum Park Garden
June 6th	Beginning Gardeners' Trouble in the Veggie Garden	MG Gini Obert	Heirloom Garden
June 13th	Drip Irrigation	MG John Strong	Ahtanum Park Garden
June 27th	Great Trees and Woody Shrubs for Yakima	Garrett Brendon, Yakima Area Arboretum Education Director	Ahtanum Park Garden
July 11th	From Seed to Sensational: Easy Annuals You Can Start Yourself for Summer and Fall Bouquets	MG Carol Barany	Ahtanum Park Garden
July 18th	Knot Tying: How to Tie up Veggies Without Strangling Them	MG Darrell Monroe	Heirloom Garden
July 25th	Adopt a Monarch + Best Native Plants for Beneficial Insects and Pollinators	Dr. David James, WSU Associate Professor, Entomology	Ahtanum Park Garden
Aug 1st	Winter Tomatoes	MG Phyllis Pugnetti	Heirloom Garden
Aug 8th	Attracting Birds, Pollinators and Creatures to Your Native Garden	Mikki Boughton, Heritage Garden Coordinator	Ahtanum Park Garden
Sept 5th	Pollinators	MG Don Flyckt	Heirloom Garden
Oct 3rd	Fall Tool Maintenance	MG Rick Russell	Heirloom Garden

## ***Looking for Continuing Education?***

### Local Resources:

- \* **Arboretum Classes**
- \* Upcoming **Demonstration Garden classes**: May 9th at Ahtanum Park Demonstration Garden

### Online Resources:

- \* **Evergreen Thumb Podcast** (WSU Master Gardeners)
- \* **WSU Extension Master Gardeners Virtual AEC** (look for the next session coming fall 2027)
- \* **Oregon State University** (Free webinars the 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon) Click [here](#).
- \* **Oregon State University MG Short Course Series** (some free, most have a low cost). Click [here](#).
- \* **From Roots to Results: Exploring the Cooperative Extensions Role and Impact**. Click [here](#)
- \* **WSU Program Priority Videos and Literature**, "Discover What You Can Do about (Program Priority)": Click [here](#).

# *Heirloom Garden*

A small contingent of workers have cleaned up the Heirloom Garden, making room for the new tool shed built by a group of Job Corps students out of White Swan. What a great addition to the grounds! (Photos by *Kelli K.* and *Julie H.*)



Top Left: The cleared garden.

Top Right: A new tool shed!

Bottom, left to right: **Ana**, **Phyllis**, and **Janice** worked hard, bending, kneeling, pulling, raking, and lifting to clear the garden.



# Ahtanum Park Garden

The crew working at the Ahtanum Park Garden were happy to be back at it. Just look at those smiling faces! And it's time to welcome the interns, of which there was one.



Cleaning the park entry bed were **Shelly** and **Diana**.



Left to right: **Annette O.**, **Kelli B.**, **Sue S.**, **Shelly O.**, **Skip B.**, **Joan S.**, **Carol B.**, **Phyllis P.**, and **Diana P.**



**Phyllis** has become a master at dumpster diving in order to mash down all the debris.



The forsythia is masterfully tended to by **Sue S.**

**Plant Swap** Despite a rainy day, MG enthusiasts shared their wares under the protection of the nearby picnic shelter. What goodies did you find??



# West Valley Food Garden



The **West Valley Food Garden**, which grows fresh produce for the Highland Food Bank, has had a small contingent cleaning the garden and preparing the soil for seeds. Before long there will be peas, radishes, and carrots, followed by beans, squash, and tomatoes. Hard at work are **Darrell, Camille, Kelli, John, Mike, and Steve**.

Photos by **Kelly K.**

**Middle left:** Steve and Mike clear weeds.

**Middle right:** Steve and Darrell weed and prep bed for peas.

**Lower right:** Camille directs Kelli in the onion patch.



## ***Yakima County Master Gardener Garden Locations***

### **Ahtanum Park Garden:**

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



# ***Youth Team @ Selah M.S***



Grandma G (***Gini Obert***) holds the attention of the students.



The Selah Middle School class is going gangbusters and looks to ramp up to more days next year.

Thank you to ***Marguerite Kirby*** for her leadership and recruitment of interns and veteran help.

(Photos by ***Marguerite K.***)



Intern ***Pam DeLaRosa*** assists the students in their task.

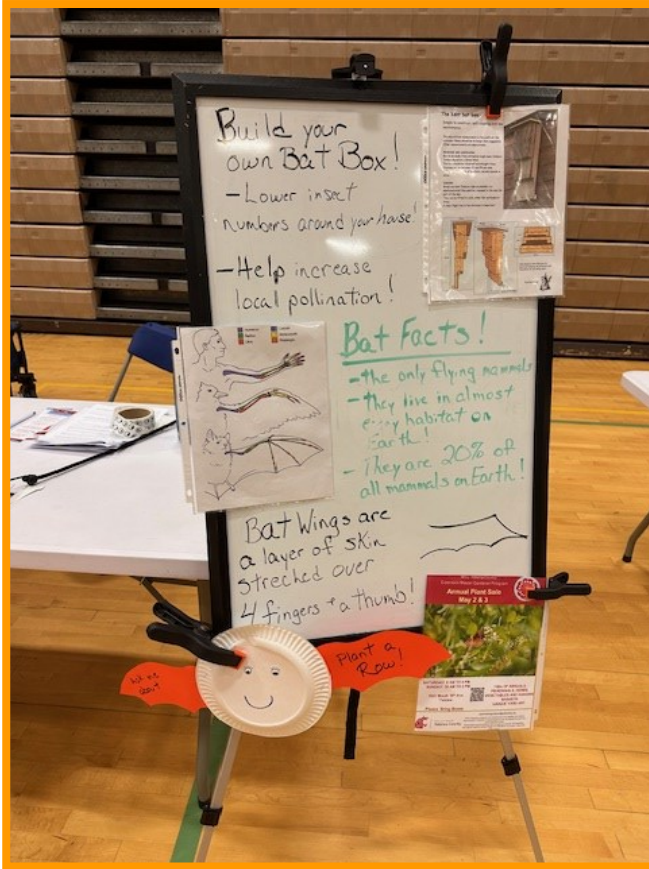


Intern ***Julie Rust*** returned to her old stomping ground to help the middle school students clear the gardens.



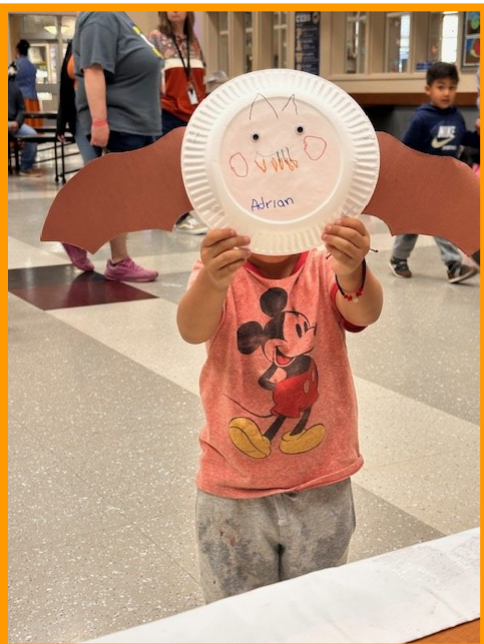
Students were happy to have MG intern ***PJ McGrath*** lead them in prepping the garden beds.

# Youth Team STEAM Nights



Veteran MGs **Dan and Karen Fortier** teamed up to help the Washington Middle School students learn about bats.

Students at Union Gap School also learned a lot about bats through the activity led by **Andrea A.** and **Kelly K.**



## Master Gardener Mission Statement:

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

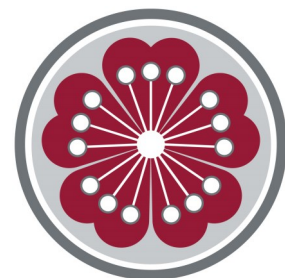
# ArborFest

The Youth Outreach team taught the kids how eggs and seeds of just one plant or insect can grow and grow. Kids love stickers and were encouraged to add them to the boards of murals hand-drawn by team co-lead **Jennifer Harris**. Interns and veterans enjoyed their time chatting with the youngsters.

Meanwhile, our dependable group of veteran/certified Master Gardeners, **Angela G, Annette O, Sue S, and Laura W**, worked at the tree give-away booth, talking about the span of 25 years: how a tree grows from seed to sapling. (Photos by **Kelly K.**)



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



# *Floribunda: Bodacious Bees* by Don Flyckt

As gardeners, we understand that many plants must be pollinated before they can form fruit or a seed. While some plants are self-pollinating, three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35% of the world's food crops depend on pollinators. A wide variety of pollinators provides this vital service to our gardens. Unfortunately, they are largely unnoticed and underappreciated.

Here's a simple technique for developing an appreciation of these hard-working pollinators that also provides an opportunity to spend time with the children in your life. All you need is a sunflower, a comfortable lawn chair, and a favorite beverage.

After the last spring frost, plant the seeds of an heirloom, open pollinated sunflower. Planting a few seeds each week, over several weeks, extends the blooming period. Choose a sunflower variety short enough to observe its blossom without a ladder. Giant blossoms with big, brightly colored pollen grains encourage longer pollinator visits. 'Silver Queen' sunflower would be an excellent choice. When blossoms appear, place your lawn chair near the sunflower and start consuming your beverage. During the time it takes to finish your drink, observe the insect visits to the sunflower. Perhaps you'll answer a few simple questions from your child companion about what you're seeing. Repeat this process whenever you feel a need to observe pollinators, or you want to take a break and enjoy your favorite beverage.

## **Which pollinators are visiting?**

Frequent pollinators in the Yakima area include honeybees, bumblebees, small bees, flies, wasps, butterflies, moths, and beetles. These insects are not visiting to pollinate your flowers. They've come to collect pollen and nectar for their offspring. Pollination is an accidental process. It happens when a pollinator brushes against the flower's reproductive parts and unknowingly deposits some pollen.

Bees are the most important group of pollinators. They are the only pollinators with four wings, a characteristic that may be difficult to see, and the only pollinators who deliberately gather pollen and carry it back to their nest. On a single foraging trip, a bee will visit hundreds of flowers, but incredibly, from a single flower species.

The butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, and beetles are visiting in search of nectar for food. They are not interested in pollen and only infrequently deposit pollen in



the flower's reproductive parts.

## **Which bees are visiting?**

An estimated 1000 bee species are native to the Pacific Northwest. To develop an appreciation of these wonderful creatures, it is important to recognize three: honey bees, bumblebees, and small bees.

A honey bee may be what most of us picture when we think of a bee. The honeybee you will notice most often is the female honeybee. They are about ½" long and covered with short, fuzzy hair and dull yellow and black bands across their abdomens.

Honeybees are social bees, living in a colony where they share responsibility for constructing and defending the nest, and feeding the young. Most honey bees live in man-made hives, and are moved by beekeepers from one crop to the next for pollination duties. Honey bees are not native to North America. They were brought here by colonists beginning in the 1600s. Only one species is found in the United States, the European honey bee. Honey bees play an important role in modern agriculture as pollinators, and equally as important, as producers of honey for commercial consumption.

Another bee visitor to your sunflower may be a bumblebee. These large, robust, hairy, and social bees nest in the ground. Most species are marked with black and yellow bands. Some may have distinctive orange or even reddish patches or stripes. Depending on the time of year, they may range in size from about ½" to over 1" in size. The Pacific Northwest is home to 25 species of bumblebees. Several of these species are in serious decline by as much as 90% over the last decade.

*{Continued on next page}*

# ***Clods of Dirt***

*(Floribunda continued from previous page)*

Much of the available information on protecting pollinators has been based on honeybee research, which may not apply to bumblebees and small bees.

You may also observe a large number of four-winged insects, covered in pollen. These are small bees, an incredibly important group of native pollinators with over 4,000 species in North America. These small bees lead solitary lives, and the female builds and constructs her nest without any help. Small bees have a wide variety of nesting locations, including underground, and holes in wood or hollow stems. Identification of small bees is difficult, but that's not necessary for developing an appreciation for their vital role in pollination. Observing their number and variety is sufficient.

That sunflower's job is not finished when pollination has occurred. The seeds that result will attract and feed finches, grosbeaks, and sparrows to your garden.

Looking forward, as summer turns to fall, you may thank the sunflowers that gave you a better understanding of pollinators and, hopefully, a desire to protect them.

## ***Save the Date: June 16th Annual MG Yard Tour***

Four of our Yakima County Master Gardeners are opening their gardens to fellow Master Gardeners on Tuesday, June 16, 2026. Be sure to add this inspiring summer event to your calendar.

Plan to meet 9 am in the parking lot at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 4105 Richey Rd., Yakima.

We will begin the tour at Laura Gaviglio's garden, move on to visit Angela Galbreath's, Patty Dion's and end the tour at Julie Hunziker's garden. Julie has graciously invited us to linger and enjoy a sack lunch on her patio. More details and information on carpooling to come.

## ***GivePulse App Update***

It has been a couple of years since the introduction of the GivePulse app. It seemed so easy to use on one's phone. However, early on it was discovered that it didn't live up to its expectations and we discouraged members from using it. I recently reached out to our King County GivePulse guru who confirmed that there are still too many glitches with the app. Event categories are missing or mislabeled. Entered times are off. As people are trying to use the app it is adding to the frustration of the verifiers. We know that people are not working in the greenhouse at 4:30 pm or at 6:00 am (unless you are a team lead). It could become an issue with L&I. Please remove the app from your mobile device until further notice.

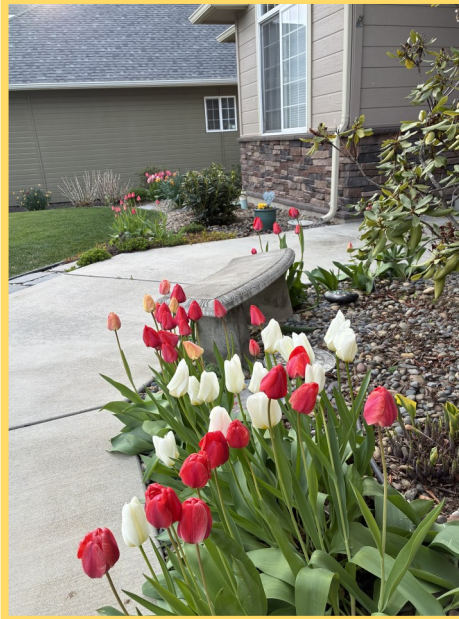
~ Julie Hunziker

## ***Picnic in the Park***



Mark your calendars for **August 5th** for our annual Master Gardeners summer picnic. We're looking for a co-lead for this fun event, someone who enjoys planning & helping with a large group event. I need some new ideas for games & activities. Call Patty Ferguson @ (509)952-2551.

# *Master Gardeners at Home*



**Dan and Karen Fortier** have planted over 200 tulip bulbs they have purchased at Oregon and Washington Tulip Festivals. (Photos by Dan F.)

## *If You Give a Dog some Dirt...*

Intern **Sandy Roscelli** shares these photos of her beautiful tomato seedlings she recently potted up. She left the house for 20 minutes to grab dinner and came back to her dog, Eddie, trying to help, or sabotage - She guesses we'll never know for certain. Most of the seedlings have recovered and are safe in their new home in the garage. They should make for the strongest tomato plants this side of the Mississippi!

Photos (clockwise): Beautifully potted tomato seedlings; The culprit, Eddie, on one of his better days; Sandy can't believe her eyes; Sandy is determined to save her seedlings. (Photos by **Sandy R.**)



# Greenhouse Activities

## **Perennials:**

Such a selection! And so beautiful!!  
**Carol B.** and **Melody W.** and team  
have been so resourceful in finding  
the plants. (All photos by **Kelly K**)



**Annuals:** Several thousand plugs planted by the team lead  
by Lorie and Camille have come to fruition. So colorful and healthy!



**Herbs:** Just walk by those  
herbs and take a whiff! Don't you want those culinary delights? Thanks  
to Diana P. and Diane B. for nurturing the plants and the team.



# ***More Greenhouse Activities***

## **Hanging Baskets:**

*Shelly O.* and *Mary H.* have led a group of gals who have planned, potted, and groomed these baskets to peak condition just in time for the sale.

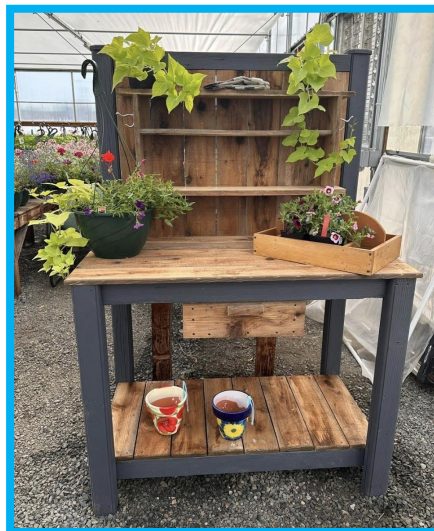


**Veggies:** *Don F.* and *Kelly K* teamed up to put an inventory of over 7000 plants together that will be in high demand. (Photo on far right shows the obvious signs of being missed during the application of fertilizer. Fortunately, they caught up quickly.)



## **Arts:**

This team, led by *Jenny M.* and *Debbie S.*, work tirelessly year round to produce beautiful garden art.



# GivePulse 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>

Click on the link, then bookmark it on your computer, tablet, or phone.

- As we start up our classes in the Gardens (Ahtanum and Heirloom), please make a note that the veterans/certified members enter them as **Continuing Education**. Interns enter them as **MG Basic Training**.
- When entering any type of class, you will need the topic of the class and the name of the instructor.

## Reflections of the month:

“Plants look great. Team keeping busy and making notes already for next year” entered under Program Support/Working in the greenhouse

“Getting to know more veteran MGs is always a good thing” entered under Demonstration Gardens/Ahtanum.

Total number of impacts entered in April: **515**

Total number of hours volunteered in April: **1131**

**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.**



**Newsletter submissions are due on the 25th of each month. Please send to Julie at [jbhunziker@gmail.com](mailto: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:** 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

## MG Program Priorities

**Local Food**

**Pollinators**

**Wildfire Preparedness**

**Water Conservation**

**Clean Water**

**Climate Change**

**Nearby Nature**

**Plant Biodiversity**

**Soil Health**

## **Program Meeting**

**Wednesday May 20th @ 11:00**

**at the Red Barn**

**(Note the time change)**

## Guiding Principles

**Act Respectfully**

**Lead Supportively**

**Adaptability**

**Work Together**

**Always Learning**

**Emphasize Quality**

**Communicate Effectively**

**Be Honest**

**Take Responsibility**



# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <b>Plant Sale</b> Restocking and Spruce up Day  Answer Clinic 9-12/1-4	2 <b>Plant Sale</b> <b>Open to the</b> <b>Public</b> <b>8-4</b>
3 <b>Plant Sale</b> <b>10-2</b>  Yakima Herald Article	4 <b>Answer Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4	5	6 <b>Answer Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4 <b>Demonstration</b> <b>Garden</b> 9-11	7 <b>Heirloom</b> <b>Garden</b> 9-11  <b>WVFG</b> 9-11	8 <b>Answer Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4	9 <b>Garden Class:</b> <b>Soil Surprises</b> <b>10 am</b> <b>Ahtanum</b>
10 <b>Farmer's</b> <b>Market</b> 9-1  Yakima Herald Article	11 <b>Answer Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4	12	13 <b>Answer</b> <b>Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4  <b>Demonstration</b> <b>Garden</b> 9-11	14 <b>Heirloom</b> <b>Garden</b> 9-11  <b>WVFG</b> 9-11	15 <b>Answer Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4	16d
17 <b>Farmer's</b> <b>Market</b> 9-1  Yakima Herald Article	18 <b>Answer Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4	19	20 <b>Answer</b> <b>Clinic</b>  <b>Demo Garden</b> <b>Program</b> <b>Mtg @ 11:00</b> <b>Red Barn</b> <b>Plant Sale Mtg</b>	21 <b>Heirloom</b> <b>Garden</b> 8-11  <b>WVFG</b> 9-11	22 <b>Answer Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4	23
24 <b>Farmer's</b> <b>Market</b> 9-1  Yakima Herald Article	25 <b>Answer Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4	26	27 <b>Answer Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4  <b>Demonstration</b> <b>Garden</b> 9-11	28 <b>Heirloom</b> <b>Garden</b> 8-11  <b>Clinic Mtg @</b> <b>Ext 1:30-3</b>	29 <b>Answer Clinic</b> 9-12/1-4	30
31 <b>Farmer's</b> <b>Market/</b> <b>Youth Team</b>  Yakima Herald Article						

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.

Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.