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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children and Gardening
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Over this past year I have worked with kids from 2nd grade through high school in gardening as a Master Gardener. They have enjoyed learning several things about gardening, from preparing the soil to planting seeds and plants. The enthusiasm of our younger generation is great. I feel it is important that they learn how to grow and prepare healthier food.

Republic High School Environmental Science class project this year was to rebuild the old green house, and start a program called “Growing Lunches from Lunches”. They worked on composting food from the school lunches, and planned this year to have a salad at the end of the school year. They planted carrots, tomatoes, green pepper, radishes, spinach, and lettuce. This project will be a continues project for years to come.

At one of the 4-H Day Camps I and Master Gardener, Pete Kauzlarich educated the group about soils, water and growth of seedlings. This group of 4-H’ers helped start the lettuce for the school project. The questions that were asked were “How long does it take before you can eat it? Can I start seeds and grow my own garden?”

The last group of children I worked with this year were the 2nd graders from Curlew and Republic schools. We met at the Fairgrounds and planted flowers in the flower beds around the grounds. Just watching and helping these children plant and their excitement about planting makes me wonder why we aren’t spending more time teaching our children about gardening?

If we spend time helping children learn about gardening by planting their own gardens, community garden, or a school project we are teaching them lifetime skills. These skills will bring them much joy and a happier and healthier life style. So take the time and grow a garden with your child. Your hard work will pay off!

To yield more information contact Ferry County WSU Master Gardeners with garden practice questions, 509-775-5225, x1116, jordant@wsu.edu , 350 E. Delaware Ave. #9 Republic, WA 99166 in the basement of the Courthouse. For Extension publications go to <https://pubs.wsu.edu/>.

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