



Local Gardening Resources & Events

Puget Sound has a wealth of local events and resources of interest to gardeners. Here are some to investigate.

Master Gardener Clinics, Demonstration Gardens, and Classes

We operate nearly 40 **plant clinics** and 12 **demonstration gardens** throughout King County. In a few locations each year we host **plant sales**. We offer **classes** to the public via our **Growing Groceries** program and our online Saturday Bellevue Demonstration Garden **workshops**. We offer **teaching kits** designed to bring environmental education to schools, community groups, youth programs, and senior centers. Master Gardeners are available to make presentations to garden or community groups on a variety of topics through our **speakers bureau**. Annually we train **new Master Gardeners** interested in serving the community through our **volunteer** work. More information on these topics and more at our website: extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening

Almost all **WSU gardening publications** are available as free downloads at pubs.extension.wsu.edu. For a recommended list of home gardening publications, see our "Gardening Publications" tip sheet: extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening/gardening-tip-sheets. For those residents without computer, WIFI or printer access, **King County and Seattle Public libraries** are a great resource — see their website for locations and additional information: kcls.org and www.spl.org

Plant Sales and Garden Tours

In addition to the Master Gardeners, many other horticulture and community groups host **plant sales**, including the UW Botanic Gardens, Northwest Horticultural Society, Arboretum Foundation, Northwest Perennial Alliance, Bellevue Botanical Garden and the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. Many of these sales include vendors from smaller specialty nurseries throughout Washington.

Garden tours are a great way to get new ideas for your own garden. Many communities and garden groups sponsor these primarily in spring through summer. The Washington Park Arboretum botanicgardens.uw.edu/washington-park-arboretum and other public gardens offer tours year-round.

The **Elisabeth C. Miller Library** has an extensive **event listing** posted at their website, including plant sales and garden tours throughout Puget Sound, as well as parts of Oregon and British Columbia: depts.washington.edu/hortlib. The Miller Library is a gem unto itself. It is open to the public and home to over 15,000 books and 400 periodicals on gardening. They also have many current mail order catalogs from the United States and Canada, with an emphasis on Pacific Northwest nurseries.

The website **Great Plant Picks**, www.greatplantpicks.org, is a valuable resource for Pacific

Northwest gardeners, where descriptions and pictures of nearly 1000 recommended plants that do well in our Northwest gardens can be found. *Great Plant Picks* is the primary educational program of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden.

For five days each February, the **Northwest Flower & Garden Festival** fills the Seattle Convention Center. The popular event has heralded the start of spring since 1989 and includes many display gardens, horticulture seminars and demonstrations, and exhibitors.

www.gardenshow.com

Garden-Related Organizations and Non-Profits

The Northwest is home to many organizations focused on horticulture. Some specialize (e.g., tree fruit, ferns, roses, native plants); some have a broader scope (e.g., Northwest Horticultural Society, Northwest Perennial Alliance, Washington Native Plant Society, Hardy Plant Society, Arboretum Foundation). An extensive list of these organizations is available at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library website: depts.washington.edu/hortlib

Workshops and Classes

Check with your local plant nursery; many offer free classes. More advanced classes are offered by the **UW Botanic Gardens**, colleges and horticulture organizations. The **Saving Water Partnership** (Seattle and participating local water utilities) also hosts free classes:

www.savingwater.org

Local Nurseries

Plant nurseries in the Seattle-area and the Eastside include Sky, Swanson's, Squak Mt., and West Seattle. In addition, there are numerous smaller and specialty nurseries to be discovered. Many of these smaller nurseries are vendors at spring and fall plant sales hosted by horticulture societies and the Master Gardeners.

County, Cities, Districts, Utilities

King County, as well as many Puget Sound cities and utilities have extensive natural lawn and yard care resources available to the public. This includes information on composting, mulch, noxious weeds, and 'waterwise' gardening. More information can be found at their websites. Please see our "Gardening Websites" tip sheet for many of these links.

Additional Master Gardener Tip Sheets, including "Gardening Websites" and "Gardening Publications" are available at kingcountymg.org. Also see WSU's "Gardening in Washington State" at mastergardener.wsu.edu/resources/gardening-in-washington-state and free downloads of WSU gardening publications at pubs.extension.wsu.edu

CLH 1/20/24