



WSU EXTENSION
Jefferson County



MASTER GARDENER 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

- **5327** volunteer hours donated in the service of the Master Gardener Program
- **Answered 200+** questions via our online community plant clinic form, via direct email or phone calls.
- **Taught 42** Jefferson County residents how to grow their own food in our Growing Groceries Class
- **870** volunteer hours donated to Food Bank Gardens, which yielded >16,300 lbs of food
- **534 middle school and high school** students throughout Jefferson County learned to grow and save seeds. Their efforts in 2022 .
- **53** gardening and environmental stewardship lectures, workshops, events and activities were offered throughout Jefferson County

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

ISSUE: Jefferson County Master Gardeners are on the forefront of addressing important sociologic and environmental issues by teaching our community research-based horticulture information. We want people to have the skills and abilities to help mitigate environmental and food security challenges. We also strive to empower our community by presenting education on landscape choices that promote sustainable, healthy and resilient communities. In 2021, our county program had an emphasis on food security and environmental stewardship, though we offer education on a variety of subjects.

RESPONSE:

Food Security: WSU Jefferson County Master Gardener volunteers taught community classes on food gardening, managed or supported Jefferson County Food Bank Gardens, and managed a Seed Library to provide community access to vegetable and flower seeds.

Environmental Stewardship: Volunteers staffed answer clinics via Zoom which taught gardening techniques aimed at reducing the need for pesticides. Monthly articles for the local newspaper focused on a variety of topics from importance of pollinators to healthy lawn alternatives to proper pruning techniques.

*cultivating plants, people, and
communities since 1973*

The WSU Master Gardener volunteers are a community resource, providing science-based environmental and horticultural education to Jefferson County residents through classes, outreach events, working in gardens, and in day-to-day interactions with neighbors and community members.



SHAPING & CHANGING LIVES BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

A couple who attended a Growing Groceries Program said:

"[We] attended the Growing Groceries Extension class sponsored by WSU two years ago. Prior to attending this class, we have not gardened. Let me describe what we and the good earth have done in two short years. Our freezer is full, our neighbor's cupboards are stocked, and the Food Bank shelves has some produce as well."

Jefferson County resident after receiving a response from our Plant Clinic:

"This is wonderfully detailed information (you provided) and I really appreciate you taking the time to give me these tips.... Great to have corroboration as I was afraid to trim it hard but it seems to bounce back when trimmed. The vinca is somewhat invasive, as you said. Good also to know that I can dig out the crowns without serious harm."

Impacts of teaching sustainable gardening for the health & wellness of Jefferson County residents.

Plant Clinics: Master Gardeners answered over **200** questions via our online community plant clinic form, via direct email or phone calls. Volunteers answered questions ranging from fungal disease care to septic system landscaping to best pruning practices.

Seed Library: For 2021, the Seed Library of Jefferson County pivoted from seed check-out to a **Community Seed Project (CSP)**. The goal of this project is to improve genetic seed diversity by creating a collection of seeds that are better adapted to the local climate and growing environment and inspire a network of gardeners and seed savers to share skills and resources. The Seed Library provided resources and tutorials online to its **125+** members and as well as in-person seed cleaning opportunity. The CSP engaged Quilcene, Chimacum and Port Townsend public schools participated in the project, as well as community gardens, and individual gardeners. to grow 1 or 2 locally developed seed varieties.

Educational Outreach: Master Gardeners directly reached over **1086** people in **53** gardening and environmental stewardship lectures, workshops, events and activities in 2021. These workshops included our Growing Groceries class where **42** Jefferson County residents were taught skills necessary to grow their own food. End of class survey showed a measurable increase in understanding in all subjects, most notably resulting in more tolerance of insects and a deepening understanding of soil health. Master Gardener, Barbara Fautot writes a gardening article once a month for the Port Townsend Leader. The topics focus.

Food Bank Gardens & Gleaning Program: Master Gardeners have a strong partnership with the Jefferson County Food Bank Farm & Garden Association (FBFG). In 2021, MGV donated over **870** hours in these gardens, which helped produced **>16,300** lbs of fresh fruit and vegetables food to Port Hadlock and Port Townsend Food Banks. Master Gardener also support the Local 20/20 Community Harvest Gleaners. Gleaners pick fruits from trees and gardens that are on private residential land throughout Jefferson County. This year, the Gleaners delivered **11796** pounds of fruit to **20** local organizations.



Master Gardener
Program

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