



WSU EXTENSION
Jefferson County



Master Gardener Program 2022

BY THE NUMBERS

- 4,660 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, and outreach events
- 870 volunteer hours donated to Food Bank Gardens
- 398 middle school and high school students throughout Jefferson County learned to grow and save seeds.
- 100+ gardening and environmental stewardship lectures, workshops, events and activities were offered throughout Jefferson County



ISSUE

Jefferson County residents are facing **environmental and food security challenges**. Jefferson County Master Gardeners are on the forefront of addressing these important challenges by teaching our community research-based horticulture information to equip residents with skills and abilities.

We strive to empower our community by presenting education on landscape choices that promote sustainable, healthy and resilient communities. In 2022, our county program had an emphasis on food security and environmental stewardship, although 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.

"I was inspired... with Nita's information and will plant some winter vegetables in my SW-facing beds in the next couple of days!"
~ Participant from "Start Your Winter Garden Today"

Noxious Weed identification guided tours and presentations were delivered to educate the public about the impact noxious and invasive weeds on native flora and fauna. The attendees learned to identify 5-10 noxious plants and 5-10 common native plants; the difference between the legal definition of noxious versus the common term "invasive"; and tools for controlling and reporting sightings of noxious weeds.



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PARTNERS

Food Bank Growers Association
Chimacum and Port
Townsend School District
Habitat for Humanity
Port Townsend Library
Jefferson County Library
Khul Kah Han Native Plant Garden
Jefferson County Noxious Weeds
Port Townsend Leader

QUOTES

“Our partners [new Habitat home owners] really appreciated the opportunity to get the information [on natural yard care]. In fact, I would love to have [MG] back next summer.”

~ Habitat for Humanity
Education Coordinator

“A big thank you for a very detailed, thoughtful plan of options. I cannot tell you how “revitalized” I feel. I was thinking it [rhododendron] had to go, which was hard to imagine, although I am usually a practical person.”

~ Response from a
community member who
attended an “Ask a Master
Gardener” clinic.

IMPACTS

- Growing Groceries Classes: This year a team of Master Gardener Volunteers taught 119 Jefferson County residents how 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.
- School Gardens: Master Gardeners teach Port Townsend 9th graders how to grow, tend, and manage an organic vegetable and small fruit garden every Friday throughout the active growing season.
- Monthly “Garden Notes” Articles: Each month, Master Gardener Barbara Faurot draws on fellow Master Gardeners’ expertise, local professionals, and stellar research skills to educate our community through science-based articles on gardening topics relevant to our county.
- Food Bank Gardens: Master Gardeners partner with the Food Bank Growers and donated 870+ volunteer hours donated to Food Bank Gardens and gleaning effort, which yielded >27,000 lbs of food
- Community Education: Master Gardeners offered gardening and environmental stewardship lectures, workshops, events and activities were offered throughout Jefferson County
- Program Support: Master Gardeners also volunteer hours to support the efforts required to provide the outreach events described above. Other programs that Master Gardeners supported were the WSU Water and Natural Resources department’s Rain Garden Program, Jefferson County Noxious Weed outreach, as well as in-office support at WSU Jefferson County Extension.

