

**For more information:
Contact the Master Gardener
Diagnostic Clinic
May through September**

Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

WSU Extension Office
901 E 7th Avenue, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Phone: (509) 962-7507

www.kittitas.wsu.edu

Plant Diagnostic Clinic

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WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of non-compliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office. Trade names may have been used to simplify the presentation of information. No endorsement of products is intended.

What is a Master Gardener?

A Master Gardener is a volunteer who has completed a training program which includes botany, entomology, plant pathology, integrated pest management, soil management, vegetable and small fruit production, and plant diagnosis. All Master Gardeners pass a screening process.

Master Gardeners volunteer their time in various educational activities in Kittitas County, including Plant Diagnostic Clinics. This helps reduce the workload of the Extension agents.



What can a Master Gardener do?

Master Gardeners specialize in education for the garden and home landscape. They conduct workshops for and provide horticultural information to the public. **They cannot answer questions regarding commercial operations.**

The Plant Diagnostic Clinic is one of the Master Gardener Program's most visible educational activities. At these clinics, Master Gardeners provide plant problem diagnosis and management recommendations.

They use reference materials approved by WSU Extension to make a diagnosis and for management recommendations.

Master Gardeners are bound by a WSU Pesticide Recommendation Contract which prohibits them from making recommendations that have not been approved by the WSU Extension. That means that they will not recommend unproven or "folk remedies." In addition, recommendations are free of commercial bias. Recommendations will generally include an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solution, which coordinates mechanical, biological, and cultural control solutions with pesticide use.

Why do I have to fill out these forms?

When you come in for a diagnosis or identification, you will be given a form to fill out. This form fills several functions. First, it gives the Master Gardener the information needed to make an accurate diagnosis and recommendation. Often, factors which seem to be unrelated have a direct bearing on the situation, and need to be considered in recommending solutions. Second, it provides a means of tracking requests and providing quality control. All diagnoses are checked for accuracy and completion; detailed information is crucial to this process.

Master Gardeners will not diagnose or make recommendations over the phone or without completed paperwork

What do Master Gardeners need?

As mentioned above, Master Gardeners need the completed paperwork. They also need a fresh sample in order to make an accurate determination of the problem. An adequate sample contains material showing the progression of the problem, including unaffected material, the transition zone from unaffected to affected, and the most affected area. This applies to diseased plants as well as insect infestations. Samples of the host plant should be included with all insect samples. If possible, try to include different stages of the insect--egg, larva, adults.

You may leave a sample at any time at the Extension Office during regular business hours or bring your sample to the Plant Diagnostic Clinic. A Master Gardener will try to help you as soon as possible. If there is a backlog of requests, you may be asked to leave your sample and to return later. If it isn't convenient for you to return later, we can mail the diagnosis and management recommendations to the address on your paperwork.

Remember that Master Gardeners are volunteers, and that our goal is to give you the most accurate, unbiased information that we can. If you follow these guidelines, you will help ensure that we attain that goal.