

March 2, 2020

## Ultimate IPM Eat Your Weeds

How healthy are your dandelions?

They are completely edible



The above is not your salad type dandelion, but rather a fall plant harvested for its root, which will be dried and saved as tea. Look at the length of it! (photo: [NYTimes ad](#) for Traditional Medicinals)

What you want right now are the sweet & spicy little green leaves that are beginning to pop out all over (inset). Toss a few in your salad or steam a pot of them and eat like spinach. You'll add all sorts of [good things](#) to your body.

One gets committed to organic quickly when looking for food in places other than the supermarket. Those long tap roots pull nutrients from deep underground and make them available for you, your horses, sheep, chickens, children. See [more possible benefits here](#).

## THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST

TUESDAY Greenhouse 8-11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY Demo Garden 8:00

12:15-1:15 Good, Bad, Ugly Trees in Yakima

1:30-2:30 Gardening with Limited Mobility

CHECK IN: Put an X by your name, pick up any handouts on that table

CHECK OUT: What is on the other tables .

7:00 Symposium

RECORD: Your time at

<https://volunteers.cahnrs.wsu.edu/logon.aspx>

FRIDAY Art Committee work day 9:00-11:00

Greenhouse.

## This Week at Symposium The Intelligence of Trees

Presented by Yakima arborist Sean Tate , is a summary of groundbreaking new science that is changing our understanding of trees. Topics covered include plant senses, communication, travel, decision making, learning, and even memory. Come with an open mind and prepare to have it blown!

Remember Comfrey? The pyrrolizidine alkaloid it (and over 6,000 other plants) contains has uses in nature.

From [Wikipedia](#):

"Many plants contain pyrrolizidine alkaloids, and in turn there are many insects which consume the plants and build up the alkaloids in their bodies.<sup>[17]</sup> For example, male [queen butterflies](#) utilize pyrrolizidine alkaloids to produce [pheromones](#) useful for [mating](#).<sup>[18]</sup> The butterfly [Danaus chrysippus](#) is known to obtain pyrrolizidine alkaloids in their diet and store these chemicals, making them toxic and unpalatable to predators.<sup>[19]</sup> [Greta oto](#), the glasswing butterfly, uses pyrrolizidine alkaloids for both toxicity in the adult moth and [pheromone](#) production in the male butterfly. The [garden tiger moth](#) also stores these compounds as a caterpillar, using them for larval (through the use of spines) and adult defense (in the form of a spray and bad taste).<sup>[20]</sup> "

We have so much to learn.

FROM THE

## Coordinator's Corner Page

### Use of WSU Branding

The Master Gardener Program was created by WSU Extension in 1971 and began using the unique title for the volunteers that is derived from Germany's "Gartenmeisters" who are highly respected horticulturists in their communities.

Branding links the MG program to WSU, creates a consistent impression across the entire organization and enhances the credibility and validity of the gardening information we share with the public.

These WSU logos must be used on all official communication, no other representations may be used for this organization. Examples of official communication include: letters, emails, brochures, posters, flyers, bookmarks, signage at MG facilities, websites, Facebook etc.

Spirit marks may be used in conjunction with official logos, however, they cannot be used as stand-alone elements on communication - but can be used on apparel. The examples below are considered official logos:



## Master Gardener Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



## Yakima County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



Thank you for assuring that we are in compliance with WSU Extension Master Gardener standards.

# The Greenhouse Effect



Hands in the Greenhouse. Photo Collage by Rod Woolcox



With crazy spring-like weather in February, the greenhouses are heating up. Most afternoons last week, it was nearly 90 degrees under glass, thanks to all that sunshine. Tiny plants depend on daily watering, and that's where you come in. The watering team is looking for more members. If you work during the day, you could water before or after work. It's easy and peaceful, so please consider helping us. As we get closer to the sale, seedlings sometimes need watering twice a day to stay healthy.

Given all this water and sunshine, the plants are flourishing. Peppers have been transplanted, with thousands more vegetables to go in the coming weeks.

I've been a Master Gardener since 2007, and have never enjoyed a greenhouse season more than this one. Everyone is cheerful, productive, and so well organized. It's a pleasure to join the greenhouse crew each Tuesday morning. Won't you join us? We have jobs for everyone.

*Carol Barany*

Photo (right) taken on Feb. 22, shows two trapped (and dead) mice on the table beside the petunias. Note the feeding damage on the petunias, Darrel has been doing the trapping and removal.

I put on a Malathion cover spray on Saturday. Everyone, especially the interns, needs to become more aware that there are and will be more pests. The plants used for the MD baskets all had whiteflies, and were sprayed. Vigilance is needed.

*Marco Guske*

# Found in the Greenhouse

So good that we have some Saturdays in the greenhouse. We had a good crew including this new student,



**Rebecca Brown**, who works during the week.

Thank you for helping!



Participants in Jen alholm's STEP class, potting up Mother's Day baskets



**Grace** prepares an herb planter (left), **Carolyn** paints (above) while **Cathy** and **Claudia** clean up.



The Art Team meets every Friday: 8-11:00 a.m.



## Wildlife and the Demonstration Garden

We all loved last week's class on attracting wildlife into our gardens and it was especially enjoyable to those of us who work and enjoy our demo garden. Many years ago we became part of the Washington State Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary program and have encouraged birds and other animals. Our serviceberries are very tall, perhaps 20 feet and they attract many birds, and like our speaker said, good luck getting to taste any of those berries. We plant for food and cover, put up nesting boxes and thistle feeders for the finches. We have constructed a pile of limbs for quail to hide and to nest, and leave many spent perennials, and leaves for winter. We have seen the actual animals or footprints of opossum, raccoons, rabbits and coyotes. Large hawks create a nest on the water tower each year. This past week, when I was the first to come to the garden I scared up a covey of 12 quail and two weeks ago I came face to face with a skunk. We are proud of the garden we have created for others beside humans.



Thanks this week for the wonderful workers who raked, and raked, and pruned too. Skip took charge of the Mock Orange and had the battle scars to prove it. Dan did some much needed pruning on the lilac. Thanks to Angela who moved a few plants, and got them off to a good start. And to Beatrice who is making such a difference in a much needed area, thank you. To the leaf rakers, Vivian, Grace, Ana, and Jenny, thank you so much; what a difference you made and all of you helped pay the rent. Thank you! *Diana Pieti*

### HERBAL MOMENTS

Borage Officinalis (Star Flower)

I have always been interested in establishing a tea garden. I chose to write about this herb because I didn't know anything about it. I have learned a lot during my research. It is an annual which can grow to about 3 feet tall with blue, 5 petaled, star shaped flowers. The grey-green leaves and flowers are covered in fine hairs. It is edible and has been used in salads, sauces garnishes, and tea. It has a mild cucumber



taste. It is used in a lot of Mediterranean foods. It can be started indoors or sown directly into the soil after the last frost. It prefers full sun. It is a great plant for pollinators, with flowers for the whole season.

[Eco Herb](#) web site has some recipes for using Borage

Resources:

Urban Program Resource Network, university of Illinois Extention <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/herbs/borage/cfm>



*Sally Mayo*



Kuan Yin, goddess of mercy and compassion, watching over snowdrops and a tiny Japanese maple. The snowdrops were brought from Denmark many years ago by an immigrant friend of mine. She gave me starts, and starts from them have come with me every time I've moved.

*Amber Knox*

# CLODS

## Are we all staying well ?

Did you attend the Northwest Flower & Garden? Yeah, at the same time the first USA death was announced and it was in Kirkland? Then you need to brush up on what to do to stay safe.

Even if you haven't been to Seattle, please be informed and be safe.

[Protection measures for persons who are in or have recently visited \(past 14 days\) areas where COVID-19 is spreading](#)

For more info:

[KUOW live blog](#) on coronavirus updates in Seattle area

The [World Health Organization](#) updates the world picture daily



**"A big shout out** to all our new trainees who have been invaluable in all areas of greenhouse production. Your enthusiasm and willingness to pitch in wherever you're needed is so inspiring.

Thank you!"

Carol Barany & All of Us

## Articles of Interest

From the Microsoft news feed this morning;

[USDA using AI to measure effects of cover crops.](#)

"We can't simply double our acreage to produce this food," says Dan Roberts, research leader at the Sustainable Agricultural Systems Research Laboratory, located at the Beltsville center. "There's a lot of competition for arable land with urbanization. What we need to do is develop more environmentally benign crop production systems — the new green revolution, if you will."

Let the [Dirt](#) know if you have perennial divisions or cuttings to share. Or let us know what you want.

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WANTED: Although I found a tiny climbing hydrangea at PNWFG, I'd still like to try a cutting this year if you have any.

OFFERED: forsythia. [Judith McDonald](#)

## Here Comes Spring!!



The [Weekly Dirt](#) welcomes submissions from all Master Gardeners. What is your interest, direction, specialty? I'd love to hear from you and it doesn't have to be *perfect*, I'm here to help! This is a great opportunity to improve your communication skills. Plus! Time spent can be added to your hours under either CE or Program Support. No, it's not always easy or fun meeting deadlines, but it *is* satisfying, knowing you are getting better at sharing your knowledge and skills with the community.

**Stand and Deliver!**



Yakima Master Gardeners



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# March 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|    |    |                                           |                                                                                                |    |                                                               |                                              |
|----|----|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 2  | 3<br>8:00 Greenhouse                      | 4<br>8:00 Demo Garden<br>10:30 Foundation<br>12:15 Hour One<br>1:30 Hour Two<br>7:00 Symposium | 5  | 6<br>10:00 Youth Comm<br>Extension office<br>9:00 Art Team GH | 7                                            |
| 8  | 9  | 10<br>8:00 Greenhouse<br>1:00 Clinic Team | 11<br>8:00 Demo Garden<br>12:15 Hour One<br>1:30 Hour Two<br>7:00 Symposium                    | 12 | 13<br>9:00 Art Team GH                                        | 14<br>8:00 Greenhouse                        |
| 15 | 16 | 17<br>8:00 Greenhouse                     | 18<br>8:00 Demo Garden<br>10:30 Foundation<br>12:15 Hour One<br>7:00 Symposium                 | 19 | 20<br>9:00 Art Team GH                                        | 21<br>10:00 Pulling of the Greens- Arboretum |
| 22 | 23 | 24<br>8:00 Greenhouse                     | 25<br>8:00 Demo Garden<br>12:15 Hour One<br>1:30 Hour Two<br>7:00 Symposium                    | 26 | 27<br>9:00 Art Team GH                                        | 28                                           |

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