

Welcome New Trainees for 2022

We have **17 new trainees**, many whom have an amazing background that can bring so much to our Master Gardener Program. They have been busy:

December Meet & Greet

- January 12th 2-3 trainees were paired with their two mentors
- Diana Pieti provided a wonderful box lunch that was shared
- Photos were taken for the Directory
- Trainings on how to successfully complete the course and how to Claim their Account for GivePulse
- They received their Orientation Handbook to read to better acquaint themselves with our program

January 19th Orientation — The trainees were introduced to all the members, and their mentors helped them navigate through our in-class session.



Back Row L-R: Sara Holtzinger, Bernalyn McGaughey, Ritva Kinzel, Shellie Oshie, Janet Jones, Laura Willett, Linda Bradley, Gary Cox, Kelli Barton

Front Row: Marcie Chandler, Gabriella Spaeth, Patty Fendall, Norma Lemos, Julia Wood

Not pictured in group shot: Janet Roberts, Lisa Kane, Lucy Stevens



Please introduce yourself and welcome them into our 'family of gardeners'.

Thank you **Claudia**

And the Mentor Team

Grow Your Own Veggies By Gini Obert



When snow covers the ground and the temperature outside is a high of 33 degrees it's time to start planning the garden. There is never enough time during the heat of the summer to do this planning. In the summer you think of a vegetable garden as a lot of work. Your memories might be of weeding long rows of veggies on hot summer days or of back breaking labor that is suppose to build character. "Been there, done that, don't want to do that again". So let's grow what we want to eat, in an efficient fun way that produces mouth watering delicious food using fun techniques that minimizes those awful tasks we don't want to do. We need a plan. We need a plan that gives us what we want to eat, that meets our physical and time requirements, and that does not overwhelm us. The joy of a veggie garden can truly be yours.

In the book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen R. Covey, one of the habits is "Begin with the end in mind." Following that principal, here are a few activities to help you visualize your ideal food garden.

- ⇒ **List** all the vegetables, berries, and fruits you love to eat. Don't forget herbs. Your list should be pages long. I often use a seed catalog for all the possibilities. Don't include any of those yuck foods that don't interest your taste buds. (We'll narrow the list later after we gather more information)
- ⇒ **List** all the gardening activities you hate to do. Weeding is at the top of my list – yours might be dragging garden hoses to change water or double digging heavy compacted soil, or fighting the heat of the summer. Only things that make gardening miserable should go on this list.

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Grow Your Own Veggies (continued)

- ⇒ **List** your growing locations keeping in mind all those activities on your hate to do list. You might have a south facing fence that could be a trellis, or some large pots on a terrace, or just a south facing kitchen window sill. Do a mental walk about of your property thinking about light, water and growing conditions. Visualize all the possible growing spaces even if it is planting among your existing plants. Your garden doesn't have to be the standard square plot. (If summer heat is a problem for you check out the summer shade possibilities)
- ⇒ If you had a garden last year, evaluate your garden space and the results of your growing efforts. Make a good, bad and ugly list. Evaluate the planting locations, soil quality, temperature and light conditions and the availability and volume of water. If you had a garden journal and/or maps dust them off and make a list of things you want to change.
- ⇒ Your final task is to think about time, cost and quality of life items. Do you have physical limitations? How much time do you want to spend in the garden? Do your wants fit your budget? Be realistic so that your gardening experience is joyful rather than a pain in the patoot.



Now it is time to use your lists to create your perfect garden vision.

“Begin with the end in mind”.

Sketch a picture of your growing space with actual dimensions. If using pots list the size, location and number of containers. The lists you have made are the beginning of your garden journal. This garden journal is really a tool to make your envisioned growing space come to life. My garden journal is a three ring binder with two sets of tabs. The first set is a set of monthly tabs, Jan. – Dec. This has my monthly to-do lists and note paper for my thoughts and evaluations - you know, every day journal stuff. The second set of five tabs is for important information – crop list, maps, gardening secrets, projects and miscellaneous stuff.

We'll dig deeper into the garden journal next month.

Master Gardeners At Home

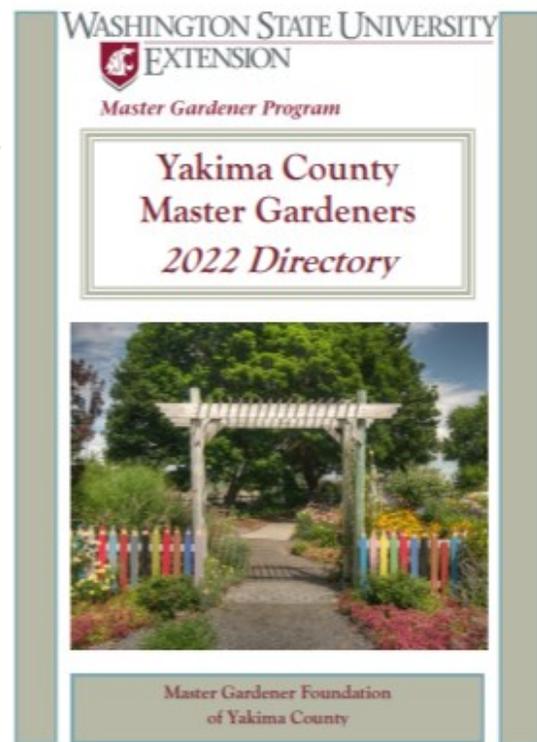


Love this lichen growing on one of my trees...beautiful.

Diana Pieti

It's Here!

The 2022 Master Gardener Directory is in and available for pickup on Wednesday, February 2 at the MG Classes from 11:30 to 1:00. If you cannot pick it up on Wednesday, there will be other opportunities. This is for the active members, trainees and emeritus. Please look for Debra Kroon on Wednesday to get your copy.



Reminder!

Foundation Meeting

February 9th and 23rd at 9:30

via Zoom

Meeting ID: 846 0764 1020

Passcode: 902437

Please submit articles, photos, comments and kudos for the newsletter no later than the 25th of the month to both Julie and Kim:

Jbhunziker@gmail.com and kimberlee@fairpoint.net

Art Team

ART TEAM WISHLIST

Art Team is looking for donations of:

- ◆ Bowling Balls
- ◆ Virginia Creeper Vines, long lengths recently cut and pliable
- ◆ 1" X 6" cedar fence boards (any length over 8" - new or used)
- ◆ 4 X 4 posts 3 feet or longer and 2 X 4's
- ◆ Orchard prop boards
- ◆ Old wood –handled shovels, hoes, rakes, pitchforks (rusty and weathered okay)
- ◆ Looking for a few people to sew feed bags into garden totes. Simple and easy—straight seams on bottom, tops and handles. Will already be cut for you to sew

Please feel free to contact me if you have other items you want to dispose of. We might be able to repurpose it, salvage it, or use it for future project. Please contact **Jenny Mansfield** @ ceeron19@comcast.net or **Sarah Judd** @ Sarahjudd01@charter.net Please leave items in the Art Team work area at the Green House any time a team is working.

Art Team will be meeting at 9:00 am on: Fridays:

February 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th from 9:00 am to noon

Thank you, Jenny

Master Gardener Mission Statement:

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

Social Media

Are you a member of Facebook? If so you might want to check out our 'Secret Yakima Master Gardener' spot where we can interact with one another. You might find a question by one of us, a request, a message, etc. To get to this spot you need to email the administrator and fellow master gardener member: Maia Mittelstaedt at christina_mitt@hotmail.com



Correction...

In the January newsletter, **Rita Kinder** was misidentified in the montage of photos from the Christmas Centerpiece class. My apologies to Rita. And my apologies to the MG membership for the confusion.

Julie Hunziker



This Is No Way to Be Human

Submitted by *Phyllis Pugnetti*

Most of the minutes of each day we spend in temperature-controlled structures made of wood, concrete, and steel, staring at an electronic screen. With all the many successes of technology, we've created a world without nature.

It's not always been this way. For more than 99% of human history, people lived, survived, and evolved in nature. Moving away from nature has occurred only in recent times. The first television appeared less than a century ago; home desk top computers 45 years ago; phones connected to the internet only about 30 years ago. Now there is a rush to create an all-encompassing virtual world of the metaverse—a digitized nature-less world.

We now spend more than half of all our waking hours in front of a screen. It requires more and more effort and planning just to step out of our crowded busy homes or offices and into nature. Most people no longer watch the sunrise, or look in awe at the star filled sky, or sit and listen to a river, or walk through the woods, or gaze out across pastures. We no longer understand our place among all the other animals in nature. It's become much harder to see that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

To be sure technology has improved our lives in many ways. But at what cost? Recent studies show that the more time we spend in nature the higher our level of happiness and wellbeing, while less time in nature increases stress, anxiety, and depression. This phenomena is so common that psychologists have coined the phrase *nature-deficient disorder*.

Nature isn't a vague idea somewhere out there across the distant horizon. We are part of nature, just as nature is part of us. You don't need to plan a far off trip to visit nature. As gardeners we work hard in our gardens, but rarely take time to enjoy them. This spring make an effort to turn off the TV, shut down the computer, leave your cell phone behind, and go outside. Sit with a friend in the shade with glass of lemonade, listen to the birds and insects, watch the leaves shimmer in the breeze, smell the vine ripened tomatoes, marvel at all the colors in bloom, and make time to watch the sunset. Take a few minutes to enjoy your place in nature and you'll be happier for it!

Condensed from *This is No Way to Be Human* by Alan Lightman Published in *The Atlantic* online magazine, Jan 15 2022.

Floribunda

GROWING CITRUS INDOORS

By Carol Barany



In early February, frigid night skies over Yakima are filled with dreams of warm beaches. Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, I've got to admit that Yakima winters shouldn't give me all that much to complain about. After all, western New York "lake-effect" blizzards, where more than five feet of snow could fall in a single storm, howled through the city nearly every year. Buffalo winters are as bad as you've heard.

I stayed in Buffalo for college, where one thing I learned was that it's possible to drive to Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 22 hours if you have a decent car and a few friends to split the driving. I remember one trip down in early April. When we crossed the Florida-Georgia line, we may as well have landed in Oz. We rolled down the windows and, in an instant, the car filled with warm air infused with the most heavenly fragrance on earth, blooming citrus. I wanted to bottle that scent and bring it home with me.

Texas nurseryman Greg Gatlin recognizes that growing citrus provides gardeners with "a sense of escape". "People want to bring more of that vacation feel to their homes. If you can't take that trip to the islands, at least you can experience part of it by having the plants around."

If you're a gardener, February is a month when we get fidgety. An indoor project could be just the thing to satisfy an itchy green thumb, and bring a bit of the tropics into your home at the same time.

You can grow your own lemon, lime, orange, or grapefruit tree from seed. You'll need fresh seeds, straight from the fruit; potting soil, and a container with good drainage. Rinse a few of the very plump seeds, and plant them about one-half inch deep.

Move the pot to a warm spot and keep the soil as moist as a wrung out sponge. Within a month or two, the seeds should sprout. Pick the strongest one and pull out the rest. Move the pot to a window with bright light, and then move it outside in the spring.

I forgot to mention one more thing. Growing citrus fruit is not for the impatient. It could take a citrus tree grown from seed 15 years to produce fruit. If you don't have that much time on your hands, purchase a more mature tree.

I learned from several Yakima Master Gardeners that Meyer lemons are a favorite container grown-citrus fruit. Oregon State University Extension's Weston Miller agrees, calling self-pollinating Meyer lemons "a no-brainer for container gardening in the Northwest". Other citrus is available in dwarf form and can be grown in containers, but Miller considers Meyer lemons, which grow in the three to four feet range, by far the most popular.

Grown for indoor home use, these dwarf citrus varieties are cuttings either grown or grafted on a dwarfing rootstock. They tend to start flowering and fruiting after just two to three years. Widely available by mail order, you'll also find Meyer lemon trees in the garden departments of local nurseries beginning in the late spring.

If you buy one, or start one from seed, you'll want to grow it outside in the summer. Remember that plants that have been growing indoors or in greenhouses need time to adjust to Yakima's bright outdoor sunlight. Begin the process as soon as temperatures remain above 50 degrees.

(Continue on next page)

Floribunda (continued)



Start in a sheltered, partly shaded spot, gradually moving the plant to an out-of-the-wind, sunny site. Areas near the house, or where they can bask in reflected heat, are warmer microclimates that Meyer lemons love.

When moving your tree between the indoors and outdoors, avoid sudden temperature swings of more than fifteen degrees. The shock can cause it to lose leaves, and lemons.

As fall approaches and temperatures begin to drop, plants will need preparation for moving back into lower-light indoor life. About a month before our first predicted frost, leave the plant in direct sun during the morning, but move it to shade in the afternoon. Do this for two weeks. After growing it in complete shade for another two weeks, bring it inside.

Just before you do, give the tree a blast of water with a garden hose to remove any unwanted insect pests. Before Yakima Master Gardeners bring container plants into their greenhouse for overwintering, they treat every plant to a dunk in an insecticidal soap tank to kill any bugs missed by the hose. Plants not usually prone to pests and diseases when grown outdoors can attract aphids, mites, scale, or mealy bugs when grown in an indoor environment with few natural predators.

Your coolest room, where temperatures range between 55 and 68 degrees, makes a perfect winter home for a Meyer lemon. Citrus trees don't go dormant in winter, and although their growth will slow, they still need adequate light and humidity.

Provide at least eight hours of bright light daily. A shallow saucer of pebbles, partially covered with water, and set under the lemon tree's pot, adds some Florida humidity to dry, indoor Yakima air. Keep the bottom of the pot from sitting in the water.

Water thoroughly when the soil is dry 2 to 3 inches deep, and just enough to keep the root ball from completely drying out. Avoid soggy soil.

Fertilize once a month when the plant is indoors and twice a month when outdoors. Use a citrus fertilizer, or one or one for rhododendrons and blueberries. Meyer lemons also love acidic soil. Follow label instructions for mixing.

Most Meyer lemons can be kept in 10-12 inch pots for several years. Larger containers will allow the tree to grow bigger and more productive, but are more difficult to haul in and out of the house. A deep pot will not tip over as easily as a shallow one, something to keep in mind as your tree grows and becomes top-heavy.

With good care, your Meyer lemon will eventually start blooming and bearing fruit. But it may be the flowers that thrill you the most, filling your home with the most heavenly fragrance on earth.



Shout Out...to Darrel Monroe for his dedication to the greenhouse. He is there daily checking on everything including the heat tables. You can also find him repairing the plastic, finding anything we need, sometimes before we even realize we need it, and working on leaky faucets. He recently took time out of his work load to clean the coffee bar and it sure looked nice.

Thank you. *Diana Pieti*

Perennials Want List

The Perennials Team will offer houseplants at the May Plant Sale. If any Master Gardeners have healthy houseplants that could use a haircut, or division, please let us know. We would be happy to have your cuttings to propagate in the greenhouse. Questions, or for pickup, call Carol Barany 901-9018.

Thank You

Today when I write this, there is more gloom and doom in the news over our current health issues, but I am not going to let this cloud dull my sunshine for this coming year. We had a nice group of new students to share lunch with all of us who are mentoring, and we also have a great group of veterans stepping up to handle the program and look after us also.

Thank you to **Ken Tolonen, Andrea Altmayer, Julie Hunziker, Margaret Morris and John Strong**. It is going to be a good year!
~*Diana Pieti*



Welcome!

A big welcome to fellow Master Gardener **Kim Foster** to the newsletter, Scoop o' Dirt, as a co-lead! Editor **Julie Hunziker** is excited to have some help and looks forward to collaborating with Kim in the monthly production.

February Classes at the Red Barn

- * **February 2nd** A Different Look at Growing Blueberries/Propagation Techniques
- * **February 9th** Nearby Nature/Vegetable Gardening
- * **February 16th** A New Kind of Wildfire at Schneider Springs/Protect Homes from Catastrophic Wildfire by Implementing Firewise Landscapes
- * **February 23rd** Awards Banquet

From the November 2021 Seeds for Thought

Donation to the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State

What is an Endowment? Once Master Gardeners complete intern training, how do we stay current and knowledgeable to continue to provide our communities with information they need and want? We continue to educate ourselves! If we didn't enjoy learning, we would not likely be Master Gardeners, but it is sometimes hard to find time and the classes, whether online or in person, to get educational hours that are required in areas that we find interesting and relevant to our individual communities.

The State Foundation to the rescue! In 2016, the State Foundation held Strategic Planning sessions that reinforced their role in providing high quality ongoing education for Master Gardeners across the state. An Advanced Education Conference hosted by the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State ensures that we volunteers have opportunity to learn current information on topics that are important and relevant to our communities. Since a state-wide conference with respected and knowledgeable educators is expensive to produce, how do we make it available to all Master Gardeners in Washington? We need a reliable source of income!

We know what it costs to produce the conference. We have data. We need to keep the cost to attend as low as possible so folks from across the state can participate. If we had about \$80,000 per year, we could do that! We need an endowment!

An endowment is a donation to a nonprofit organization, which uses the resulting investment income for a specific purpose. Endowments typically keep principal intact while using the investment income for the organization's efforts. We determined that we need a \$2 million endowment to generate approximately \$80,000 per year. It will be managed by the Endowment / Financial Department at WSU. With this amount, we will be able hold an annual educational conference that is more affordable for attendees and managed by the state foundation (MGFWS).

Good news! We are making great progress toward this lofty goal! We are ahead of our plan and working hard to exceed that progress. We hope that you have a better understanding of this important fund and might consider helping out. For ideas, please visit our web page by clicking [here](#) and stay tuned for other opportunities!

[Endowment | Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State \(mgfws.org\)](https://mgfws.org)

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Please Read

Sign in person :)

WSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer
Pest Management Recommendations Agreement

Protection of the environment and human health concerns everyone. To reduce the misuse of pesticides and promote safe and effective pest management methods, Washington State University (WSU) Extension Master Gardeners are required to subscribe to the following policies.

1. I understand that as a WSU Extension Master Gardener my pest management recommendations must be limited to home gardeners. Questions concerning commercial crops, municipal parks or pesticide regulation should be directed to responsible authorities within Extension.
2. I understand that as a WSU Extension Master Gardener, I may only recommend a chemical for home and garden pest management if that use has been approved and recommended by WSU. WSU recommendations of chemicals registered for home and garden use are contained in Hortsense and other current reviewed and approved WSU Extension publications.
3. I understand that as a WSU Extension Master Gardener, I will provide both chemical and non-chemical pest management recommendations allowing the client a choice of strategies. I further understand that Master Gardeners do not recommend the use of 'home remedies' for pest management.
4. I understand that as a WSU Extension Master Gardener, I am considered a volunteer representative of WSU. Therefore, WSU will assume liability for my pest management recommendations, but **only** if my recommendations are limited to management measures that are both recommended by WSU for home and garden use and listed in the reviewed and approved WSU Extension publications or other WSU-approved pest management references.
5. I understand that the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program Handbook outlines the above and other policies that govern my work as a volunteer. A current copy of this handbook is available online at the state program website and through county program coordinators. Further guidance on approved pest references is also available on the state program website and from county program coordinators.

_____ **Yes, as a WSU Extension Master Gardener, I will subscribe to the above requirements.**

_____ **No, I cannot subscribe to the above policy, and I understand that I therefore cannot be certified as a WSU Extension Master Gardener.**

Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Your Name

County _____

Program Coordinators: Please retain electronic or hardcopies of signed agreements.



Feb 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Annuals Team 8-11</i>	2 <i>Class @ Red Barn 12:15 – 2:30</i>	3 <i>Hanging Basket Team 9-11</i> <i>Herbs Team 8-11</i>	4 <i>Art Team 9-12</i> <i>Veggie Team 9-12</i> <i>WVFG 10 am</i>	5
6 <i>Yakima Herald Article</i>	7 <i>Perennials Team 8-11</i>	8 <i>Annuals Team 8-11</i>	9 <i>Foundation Mtg via Zoom 9:30</i> <i>Class @ Red Barn 12:15 – 2:30</i>	10 <i>Hanging Basket Team 9-11</i> <i>Herbs Team 8-11</i>	11 <i>Art Team 9-12</i> <i>Veggie Team 9-12</i>	12
13 <i>Yakima Herald Article</i>	14 <i>Perennials Team 8-11</i>	15 <i>Annuals Team 8-11</i>	16 <i>Class @ Red Barn 12:15 – 2:30</i>	17 <i>Hanging Basket Team 9-11</i> <i>Herbs Team 8-11</i>	18 <i>Art Team 9-12</i> <i>Veggie Team 9-12</i>	19
20 <i>Yakima Herald Article</i>	21 <i>Perennials Team 8-11</i>	22 <i>Annuals Team 8-11</i>	23 <i>Foundation Mtg via Zoom 9:30</i> <i>Class @ Red Barn 12:15 – 2:30</i>	24 <i>Hanging Basket Team 9-11</i> <i>Herbs Team 8-11</i> <i>Newsletter Articles Due to Editor</i>	25 <i>Art Team 9-12</i> <i>Veggie Team 9-12</i>	26
27 <i>Yakima Herald Article</i>	28 <i>Perennials Team 8-11</i>					

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact: WSU Extension/2403 South 18th Street/Union Gap, WA 98903/509-574-1600.
 For accommodation please call at least two weeks prior to the event. WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. *Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension Office.*