

# Scoop o' Dirt

## Yakima County Master Gardener News

July 2022



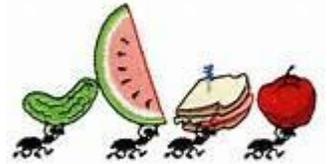
One of the quintessential experiences of summer is a picnic and Yakima Master Gardeners really do know how to picnic with a capital P.

I can hear the tiny, clapping hands of ants everywhere in anticipation of August 10, when we gather after our monthly Foundation meeting to dine al fresco at the Red Barn.

We mostly know the drill by now – Foundation will provide a protein, possibly chicken or ribs this year, and everyone else brings sides to fill out the menu. Here are suggested categories. If you want to switch up your category, consider swapping with another person.

If you have something you would like to donate towards door prizes, we won't turn you down! Let Patty Ferguson know ([pattyferg@aol.com](mailto:pattyferg@aol.com)). While you are at it. Let her know if you are able to attend and what you might be bringing. Foundation will provide plates, napkins, plastic table service and some serving utensils.

If your last name begins with...	Please bring ...
A through E	Main Dish
F through J	Side Dish
K through O	Salad
P through T	Dessert
U through Z	Beverage, chips, breads, relishes, condiments, etc.



### ***A Call for Pots!!***

It needs to be reminded that we need pots returned. Price has gone way up and we know our members have a lot because they bought a lot. Watch for John's weekly activity post for whether or not the greenhouse is open for the heirloom garden. Or communicate with Darrell. There is a goal of 1000 pots being returned to the greenhouse. Please remove labels and wash them out.

### ***Reminder!***

## ***Foundation Meeting***

***Wednesday, July 13th at 10:30 at the Red Barn***

***Newsletter submissions are due on the 25th of each month. Please send to Julie Hunziker at [jbhunziker@gmail.com](mailto:jbhunziker@gmail.com). Texting photos and brief descriptions are fine, as well. (530)209-4329. Note: for August and September newsletters, please include co-editor Debra Kroon in submissions: [debrakroon@gmail.com](mailto:debrakroon@gmail.com)/(509)834-9348.***

# Are YOU Going??

We are just over 12 weeks out from the 2022 Advanced Education Conference as I write this article. Coordinating a statewide conference takes a lot of work and many minds to get it done. From the venue to the instructors, from the food to the SWAG BAGS, from the Marketplace to the Raffle, there are myriad details to be worked through. Commitments made, contracts signed, products purchased, menus perused, the list goes on and on. There is no way I could face this task without the help of a great Planning Team—they truly are the folks that are making it happen.

We've got about 75 spots left and registration will be full. There are some great tours scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday prior to the opening of the event. Our keynote speaker will be Riz Reyes, a horticulturist based out of Seattle and currently the assistant director of Heronswood Garden in Kingston, WA. In addition to Mr. Reyes, we are offering over 30 interesting instructors for you to choose from (although some classes are already at capacity, most remain open for more folks to choose).

The beginning of August you should receive information about volunteer opportunities at the Conference—if you're planning to attend, I ask you to consider giving an hour or two in some fashion. There will also be a local opportunity to help. At the end of August there will be a work party to assemble the SWAG BAGS. Please reach out if you'd like to be a part of it. We could use the help!

If you haven't already, please consider registering for this event. You won't be sorry. MGLearns.org will get you to the registration site featuring detailed information about the schedule, the instructors, the tours, and much more.

Thanks much, **Melody Westmoreland**, State Conference Chair



## **Master Gardener Mission Statement:**

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

**Beatrice** makes good use out of the arbor **Jenny** made with cucumbers and growing up the sides.

# ***Demonstration Garden***

On June 11, **Rick Russell** demonstrated the how to of tool care cleaning and sharpening shovels, pruners, loppers and anything with a sharp edge used in our gardens. About 16 of us were also shown the numerous different files for sharpening every type of tool. I now know how to use all of my Dad's files and I'm ready to clean up my tools. (Photos provided by Dan Fortier)

*~Dan Fortier*



*Rick talked about the various tools and supplies needed for tool sharp-*



*Rick demonstrated how to sharpen a shov-*



*Rick demonstrated how to effectively sharpen a tool.*



*Annette and Angela ask questions about sharpening a shovel.*

# Demonstration Garden

~by Diana Pieti

Last year, to celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2020, we donated three trees to the youth park. We wanted to celebrate by giving, but we also wanted to try to begin to re-plant trees in a tiny way that were lost to the windstorm we had. We purchased three maples at the Park's request and the grounds crew planted them. They are doing so well and I hope when you next drive into the park you will take note. The first one is on your right just past the entry, the second on your left a short ways ahead of the first, and the last one is by the playground and that one has the sign on it to note our donation. We can be proud of our donation.

Meg Pelke has adopted a tiny heart-shaped area located at our demonstration garden that Virginia created. Meg is inviting us to bring heart-shaped rocks, any size, to add to the border that Virginia Vorenkamp began. We would usually tell you to keep your head up, but for this request, look down as you do your walks and hikes and bring those hearts to add to this sweet spot.



**Look what was found blooming in the Demonstration Garden last week! The voodoo lily doesn't bloom long so the work party felt lucky to see it. (Photo by Kelli Barton)**

## 2022 Demonstration Garden Classes

Date	Presenter	Topic
July 9	Diana Pieti & Diane Berthon	Drying and Pressing Flowers
July 23	Debra Kroon	Using Native Plants to Benefit Wildlife & Pollinators
Aug 13	Claudia Steen	Growing & Care of Houseplants
Aug 27	Diana Pieti	Bulbs You Really Want, But Didn't Know You Did
Sept 10	Carol Barany	Flowers for a Cutting Garden
Sept 24	Sarah Judd	Planning Now for Starting Seeds
Oct 1	Jeff Kozma	Bird Seed Ornaments and Inviting Birds to Your Garden

# Heirloom Garden

By Judith McDonald

Spring was considerably wetter and cooler than average (check out the numbers here: <https://www.greencastonline.com/tools/soil-moisture>) and we were beginning to wonder if anything was going to grow. Would the soil temperature ever reach the magic number (70 deg.) for cucurbits? Fortunately, **Phyllis** has a coldframe setup and was able to harden off the sensitives at her home for a month before they were planted out. The magic temperature happened briefly on June 8 and then dropped 10 degrees again before climbing up again into the 10 year aver-

age. Everything's fine now, all is thriving, and we even have a zucchini to harvest next Thursday.

The peas were a big concern. Early last spring Phyllis had mentioned that the seed library was running low on pea seeds, but we didn't bother to act on this. I believe we were waiting for winter to be over. Anyone who has grown peas knows they hate hot weather; can't stand hot weather and last year was a killer (literally). And then, our spring weather didn't provide much opportunity to plant them "as soon as the ground is open." Heavy precipitation, snow and hail kept us out of the garden until after the plant sale. Phyllis finally planted peas during a torrential rain storm in May. Thankfully the weather has remained cooler than average, allowing them to grow and hopefully set bloom before 85 degrees. (See more: [When Do I Plant Peas?](#))



In the garden we had 2 talks in May to an enthusiastic audience, new gardeners and old. We've had good turnouts for work on Thursdays of both interns and veterans. And last Thursday **The Purple Picnic table was repaired!**

Last Thursday **Rick Russell (2020)** came equipped with tools. He removed the top boards affected by wood rot/termites and replaced them with new lumber donated by **Lori Fisk**. It was a beautiful thing to see! We'd already had two talks in the garden with those rotten boards exposed and I was reminding myself to bring an oilcloth next time!

Pointing out the weak points he had reinforced that would be too difficult to replace, Rick said, "It'll probably only last another 10 years or so." A pause for thought.

## 2022 Heirloom Garden Classes

Date	Presenter	Topic
July 16	Diana Pieti	Use and Preservation of Herbs
Aug 20	Beatrice Reiss	Planning Vegetables for Winter Gardens
Sept 17	Sally Mayo	Garden Clean-up/Preparing Beds for Winter

# When Do You Plant Peas?

By Judith McDonald

This was a question that got asked more than once at Farmers' Market this year. Seed packets say, "As soon as the ground is open," or "when the soil is workable," but the right answer is "It depends."

Growing peas seems to have more to do with understanding nuances of climate than calendar.

Peas are the quintessential right plant, right time, right place seeds and they don't vary much. Farmers like to say, "Just plant peas on Valentine's Day (or St. Paddy's Day) and they'll figure out when to come up." They seem to have a mind of their own, it's said. Plant them and forget them. They will do a reality check on the variables and appear when they'll have a good chance at survival, right?

Yeah. And that works well in climates with long, cool spring weather with moist air rising. The reality is that the window for growing peas is very small where winters freeze and the summers are hot. Peas germinate at a ground temp of 40-60 degrees. For the home gardener without a ground thermometer, this is somewhat difficult to ascertain, particularly under snow, so I've been using this site to help out: <https://www.greencastonline.com/tools/soil-temperature>). Once you get the seed to wake up (sprout), they will need 60 days of this nice cool soil to reach their potential. Frost, and even snow, is not a problem right up until bloom time, 60 days.

The most limiting factor for Yakima County, which neither the seed companies nor even the universities tell us, is that peas stop blooming when the ground temperature exceeds 85. In Yakima that is the number one thing we need remember. We need to have those persnickety pea plants germinated, up and growing 60 days before that 85 degree date if we want a good plant and even earlier if we intend to set a good crop. As I write this, the 24 hr ground temp average is 80. The ground reached 60 degrees, the upper growth temperature for peas, on May 4, before dipping down nearly 10 degrees for over a week.

This year by the math, March 4 would have been the correct date to plant (ground temperature hit 60 degrees May 4, minus 60 days growing period=planting date). Last year's planting day would have been February 28, However, using the 10-year average ground temperatures for Yakima, March 4 would again be the correct date. Something to track is that although



we had that cooling dip in May, the average is a steady climb. I don't know how the seeds will store this information, but they will, I'm sure.

You won't be wrong if you tell people to plant on Valentine's Day or as soon thereafter as possible. And if asked why they can't be grown in summer, now you have an answer. One site advises to plant them 4-6 weeks before last frost, the same time as planting tomatoes. Convenient way to remember, if you plant tomatoes. But you could go way earlier if the original "as soon as soil can be worked" is used — and up to 60 days before the snow melts if the ground has warmed up to 40.

*Please share with me any stories you have on growing peas here in Yakima. I haven't had any success here with winter planting of peas. But then, it's hard to figure out winter seed failure in the field where there is not just weather, but many little mouths that delight in peas. More on Peaology later. [Photo: this year's peas from last year's seed that volunteered from the year before. I didn't plant this year until April 7. I'm lucky it stayed relatively cool.]*

Resources:

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scene9697.html#profile>

<https://extension.umn.edu/vegetables/growing-peas#starting-seeds-295510>

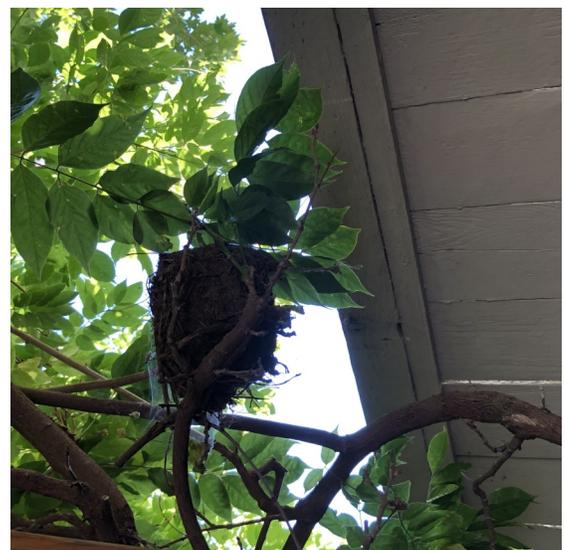
<https://extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/legumes/>

# *Master Gardeners at Home*

## MY GARDEN HAS GONE TO THE BIRDS

~Jenny Mansfield

Earlier this spring, I noticed a lot more birds in my garden making nests. I thought there were just a few but after my cat kept climbing the trees and large shrubs, I began to notice there was nearly a dozen nests in the trees, shrubs or in my many birdhouses. I saw birds making nests day by day, then sitting on the eggs, and then hearing many baby birds chirping and even a broken shell or two in the garden. My cat is still searching for a good catch but hasn't been successful. The birds wake me every morning around 4:15 am, sing their hearts out all day, and I just enjoy what nature has given me. Simple things in life surround me in my garden and I feel so blessed. It is not always about the flowers, plants and trees but how they attract other insects, animals and birds.



~Gini Obert

Our little food garden is becoming very well established at the Juvenile Justice Center. The sugar snap peas are waist high and have begun to bloom. We are looking forward to snacking on sweet green peas soon. The onions are looking healthy and well established. There is one very good looking cilantro plant. We thinned the radishes by harvesting the ones that are big enough to eat. Some of our pepper plants have small peppers on them. Our tomatoes are just about ready to attach to our twine trellis. The grass is green and the beds are well watered. Our watermelons are doing well on the compost heap. We should have some bloom on them by next week.

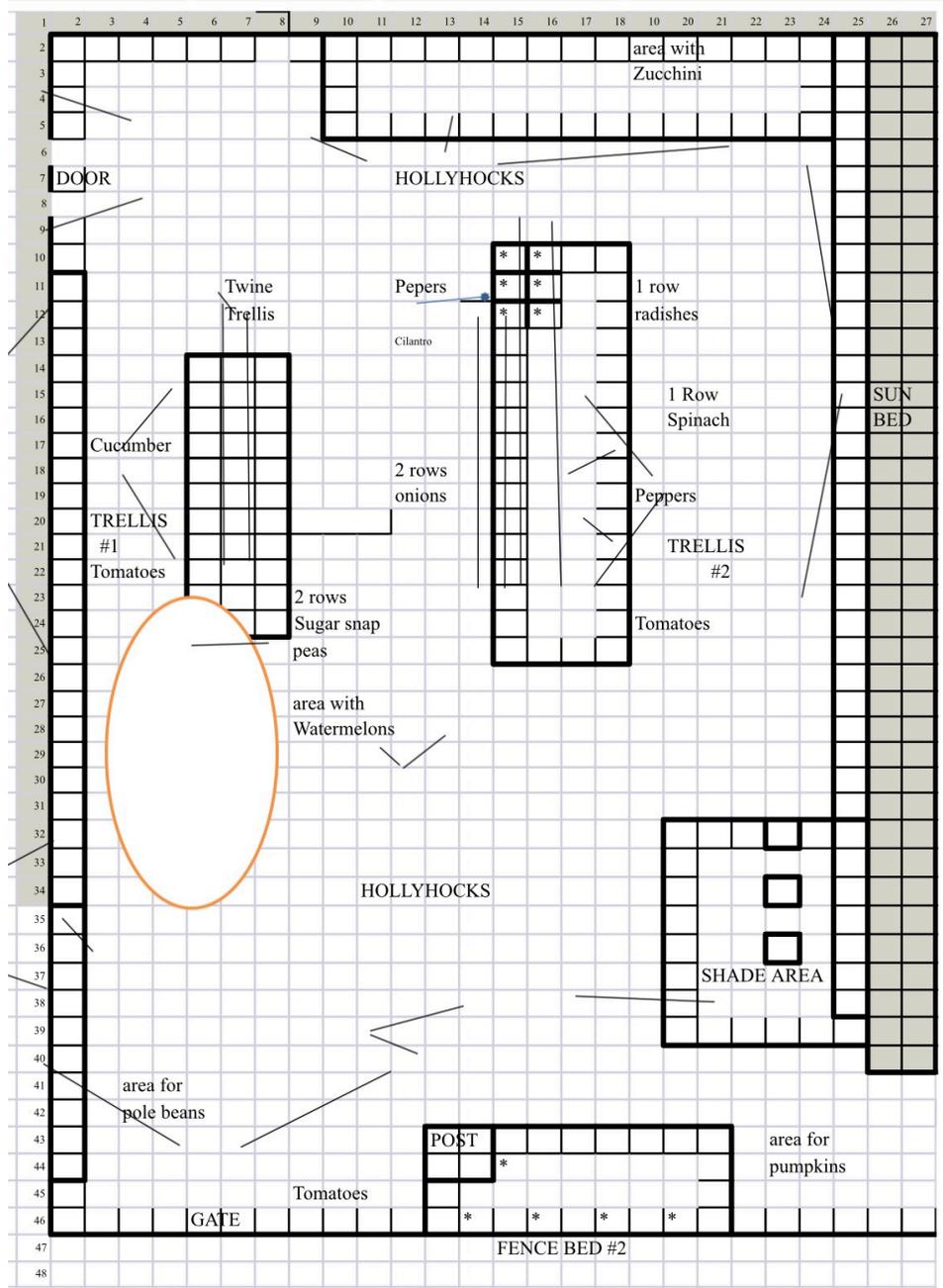
We were happy to see Xavier return to the garden. We talked about companion planting and succession planting. He guided pea vines up the trellis and put in stakes and twine to trellis the tomatoes. Cindy dug out grass along the west fence and we put in boards to contain compost to form a new bed. Once all was ready, Xavier and Cindy planted scarlet runner beans in this new bed. They also planted pumpkin seeds in the south raised bed. Xavier found slugs eating some of our spinach so we will try some baiting tactics next week.

Xavier gave his Mom a tour of the garden telling her all about the veggies and explaining that he was trellising the peas and tomatoes. We sent the harvested radishes home with them for their family to enjoy. It was a very good day in the garden.

**To do list:**

- Pull weeds from compost bed and from any garden plot area
- Continue regular watering to keep planted areas moist
- Continue to train pea vines up trellis
- Extend new west planting bed along west wall of the building
- As tomatoes grow attach them to the trellis twine using tomato clips
- Squish any slugs that you see
- If hollyhocks crowd out the zucchini remove some of them to provide sun light

As we experience hotter weather we should bring water to drink and think about a shade area.



Gini's map of the JJC garden.

# Clinic Conundrums

## What are the white maggots in walnut husks and what do I do about them?

~Gabriella Spaeth

### What are they?

Walnut husk fly, or *Rhagoletis Completa*, is similar in size to a house fly. They have a yellow spot on their back and dark triangular bands on their wing tips. WHF produce one generation per year, overwintering as pupae in the soil. They emerge as adult flies in early June through September.

After emergence, it takes a female about two weeks to mate, develop eggs, and start laying them into the walnut husks. The point of insertion is called a "sting." Once the eggs are deposited, they hatch into white maggots within five days. They feed on the husk for 3-5 weeks before dropping to the ground. Then they burrow into the soil where they pupate for up to 1-2 years until they emerge as flies. Such is the life cycle of the WHF.

### Walnut Husk Fly Damage?

Damage to the walnut is caused by the maggots. They feed on the husk; this feeding process releases a pigment which stains the shell, changing the taste of the walnut. Also, it can shrink the walnut, it can destroy the kernel, and it can also cause the walnut to become moldy.

### Symptoms of WHF?

The first visible symptom is the "sting" on the husk where the eggs are deposited. The husk then turns black and soft as maggots eat the inside husk.

### Management

First, you must identify the insect. Yellow sticky traps with bait will trap the insect for identification. The traps are placed in the higher, north side of the canopy, preferably in a spot that is dense with foliage. Once trapped, you can make your identification. The traps should be in place early June.

### Treatment Timing

Treatment timing can be based on three monitoring methods:

- 1) After detection of eggs in the trapped females
- 2) When sharp increase of flies in the traps occurs.
- 3) The observation of "stings" has occurred. (This is the least desirable as the damage has already occurred.)

It is essential to continue to monitor for the presence of the WHF as treatment must continue as needed throughout the walnut growing season.

### Treatment

There are multiple products available to destroy the WHF. The treatments are applied along with bait. GF-120® is a product with bait included. Rotation of chemistries is critical to minimize "resistance development" for pests that are treated multiple times a year.

Proper aphid management can help limit movement of WHF within and between orchards by reducing honeydew accumulation, which is a food source for the WHF.

There are multiple products that can be used to treat the invasion of WHF and treatment must continue through the walnut growing season.



### After the Harvest

So, after the walnuts have been harvested, there will remain walnuts on the tree. Place a tarp on the ground under the canopy to catch any fallen walnuts that may be infested with the maggots. Place these walnuts in the trash. Also, rake up all fallen walnuts under the tree and place in the trash. In this way you will prevent the maggots from burrowing into soil to pupate, thus disrupting the lifecycle of the WHF.

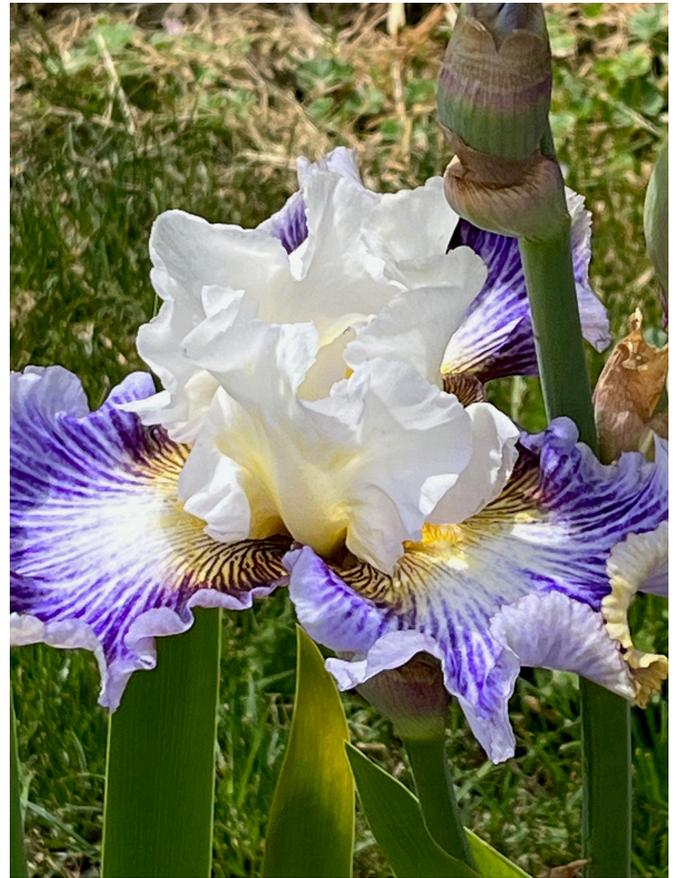
### References

WSU Hortsense  
[www.sacvalleyorchardsource.com](http://www.sacvalleyorchardsource.com)  
Gardenerspath.com  
[Pnwhandbooks.org](http://Pnwhandbooks.org)  
[Climate.usu.edu](http://Climate.usu.edu)

***Part of the required training to become a Master Gardener is to spend time at the Plant/Answer Clinic. During their first session, or orientation, the trainees receive a question to research and then present their findings, either orally during a class session or written, in which it is presented to the membership in the newsletter upon the trainee's approval.***

**Dee Adams** visited retired **MG Ken Kennedy** and took a stroll through his garden beds filled with a variety of irises and roses. Although busy caring for his wife, he welcomes visits to his West Valley home and phone calls from fellow MGs. (509)966-3416

**Clods**



# Pruning Tomatoes

By Gini Obert

Now that it is summer and our tomatoes are starting to grow we need to talk about pruning them. First let's talk about determinate and indeterminate. If you have determinate plants they will stop shoot production once flowers form on the shoot ends. If your plants are indeterminate the plants form flowers along the sides of shoots but then continue to grow until weather conditions are no longer favorable. I call these vining tomatoes. These are the ones you will need to prune and trellis on poles or twine to prevent them from spreading and taking over your whole garden.

There are many reasons to prune your tomatoes. Pruning keeps the plant more compact so it does not outgrow its planting location. Pruning allows you to remove excess leaves so you get good air flow through your plant. It allows sun penetration to help ripen your tomatoes and it helps prevent disease by removing damaged or dying leaves.

Determinate tomatoes will grow 4-5 feet tall with flower buds at the top. These plants are more com-



*Tomatoes before pruning.*

compact in nature and are best contained in the round wire tomato trellises you see at the plant stores. If you have determinate tomato plants prune off lower leaves 6-8 inches from the ground to free up space. Be sure to leave no leaves that touch the ground. This will help prevent disease. When removing leaves make sure you don't damage the main stems. You can continue removing leaves up to the first blooms i.e. first fruit clusters. Determinate tomatoes stop shoot production once flowers form on their ends. Don't prune anything above the first fruit cluster or you will be reducing your tomato crop. Harvest your tomatoes when they are ripe and then remove the spent plant.

I like to grow indeterminate tomatoes because they continue to grow until a killing frost. This plant has a main stem leader. The flowers that grow on this main stem are your main tomatoes. These will be the biggest and best tomatoes. Where the main stem meets the leaf is an armpit. The shoot that is at a 45 degree angle to the main stem is a sucker. Remove this sucker. If you want to have a double leader plant just trellis one of the strongest suckers and treat it like a second main stem. Main stems and sucker stems will continue to produce more suckers so be diligent in your pruning to keep your plant under control. Your goal is to get rid of all the suckers. You can take off all the leaves below the first flowers to help with air flow and to prevent disease. Also take off any yellow or diseased leaves. As your plant travels up your pole or twine take off any extra leaves that are not needed to prevent sunscald. I use tomato clips that attach to the twine to hold the vine in place. These clips are less expensive when purchased in bulk on line through Growers Supply. If you don't want to buy clips just use knitting yarn or old rags torn into strips to tie your vine to the trellis. To keep your plant under control you will need to prune about every other day. It is well worth the effort when you see the size and quality of your tomatoes. At first frost, prune off the top of your plant and let the rest of the tomatoes ripen on the vine or pick them and let them ripen in the house.

If you are getting flowers but no fruit your flower is not pollinating. Just tap the closed flower and it will pollinate. The tomato flower is a perfect flower. That means it is both male and female so just tapping the closed flower will cause it to pollinate. Do this when

*(Continued on next page)*

***(Pruning tomatoes, continued)***

the flower is dry usually between 10 am to 4 pm. Flowers will drop when the temperature is above 90 degrees especially in heirloom tomatoes. They will also drop if you over water. Use 35% shade cloth from 12 noon to 6 pm to help cool the plants. Once the fruit is set, keep the soil moist to help control the heat. If you use fertilizer be sure to use slow release fertilizer that has more phosphorus and less nitrogen so your plant produces flowers and not so many leaves.

By the way, now that you have learned to prune tomatoes, step over to your cucumbers and prune them the same way as you pruned your indeterminate tomatoes.



***A row of pruned tomatoes in Gini's hoop house.***



***Beatrice planted radish as a groundcover in her flowers. It comes back every year.***

# ***Art Team***

The Art Team will be gearing up to began work on projects for next year. We are looking for:

- **Bowling balls**
- **Plastic gallon size bleach bottles**
- **Old leather lace up work boots, any condition**
- **Round glass light covers (old style/ball shape)**
- **Inflatable beach balls or inflatable exercise balls**

Please bring to Demonstration Garden on Tuesday, to Foundation Meeting or leave at Green House. Feel to contact Jenny Mansfield at [ceeron19@comcast.net](mailto:ceeron19@comcast.net).

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The Art Team has began collecting donations or un-used items for the Garden/Yard Sale this September. We are accepting garden-related items such as:

***shovels, hoes, rakes, pitchforks***  
***small hand garden tools such as shears, loppers, pruners***  
***pots and planters, but not plastic ones used for Green House Plant Sale***  
***landscape fabric***  
***birdhouses***  
***trellises***  
***outdoor patio furniture or cushions in good/clean condition***  
***wheel barrows***  
***compost bins***  
***decorative pavers***  
***and other misc. yard type items.***

NO CHEMICALS.

You may bring to the Demonstration Garden on Tuesday 8:00 am to 11:00 am or contact me via email at [ceeron19@comcast.net](mailto:ceeron19@comcast.net) to set time to meet at Green House. Thank you.

*WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension*

# Floribunda: Blueberries

by Carol Barany

It all starts in the spring when pearly white, bell-shaped flowers bedeck bare stems. Next comes the best part: thornless fruit, bursting with sweetness (only 80 calories a cupful) and packed with powerful antioxidants that even a child can harvest without a ladder. Insect pests and diseases are rarely a problem. And if this weren't enough, the plant's foliage and stems take on amazing colors in the fall, making the plants highly ornamental anywhere in the landscape, even the front yard. Blueberries, one of the few fruits native to the United States, seem to have everything going for them.

Years ago, Jim Burley, a soil scientist, Master Gardener, the first commercial blueberry grower in the Valley, and friend of my husband's, taught us all we needed to know about growing blueberries. If there ever was a reason to get your soil tested, Jim said this was it, since blueberries demand an acid soil with an ideal pH in the 4.5- 5.5 range. Planting blueberries in typical eastern Washington soils (pH from 6.5-7.5) can trigger an iron deficiency, which yellows the foliage and then eventually kills the plants. That didn't stop Jim, who believed "if there's a will, there's a way." He knew it was possible to lower pH one point by mixing 2 pounds of sulphur powder per 100 square feet into the top 8 inches of soil. Depending on the pH of your site, soil tests may have to be repeated annually, and sulphur applications may be needed every few years. All that extra work was worth it, and our plants have never failed to gift us with gallons of berries each summer. But we had to be patient, since it takes a year for the pH to change. That means no planting

until then. Heavily compacted soils, or those low in organic matter, should be improved before planting by adding rotted manure, compost, sawdust, or peat moss. Blueberries are very picky about soil and it's not easy to revive them once they begin to fade.



Blueberries in the Barany garden.

Blueberries are self-fertile, but planting at least 2 different varieties results in better pollination and bigger, earlier fruit. Each cultivar ripens over a period of about a month, and many are available, but choose plants that are at least 2-3 years old to get a quick start. Highbush varieties, planted 5-6' apart, yield the

*(Continued on next page)*

## Blueberry Fertilization

Age of plants from transplant date	5-10-10 March 15 – April 15	Ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) May 20	Ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) June 15
Newly set	0	0	0
1 year	2 oz (1/4 cup)	1 oz (2 Tbs)	1 oz (2 Tbs)
2 years	4 oz (1/2 cup)	1-2 oz (2-4 Tbs)	1-2 oz (2-4 Tbs)
3 years	6 oz (3/4 cup)	1-2 oz (2-4 Tbs)	1-2 oz (2-4 Tbs)
4 years	8 oz (1 cup)	2-3 oz (1/4 cup + 1 Tbs)	1-2 oz (2-4 Tbs)
5 years	10 oz (1 1/4 cups)	2-3 oz (1/4 cup + 1 Tbs)	1-2 oz (2-4 Tbs)
6 years and older	12 oz (1 1/2 cups)	2-3 oz (1/4 cup + 1 Tbs)	1-2 oz (2-4 Tbs)

Source: *Berries for the Inland Northwest*, WSU Extension Publication, MISC0253

*(Blueberries, continued from previous page)*

most fruit, though some gardeners plant them closer together to create a gorgeous edible hedge. Half-highs are hybrids averaging about 3-4' tall and as wide and produce medium sized berries. 'Pink Lemonade' is a rabbiteye blueberry, unique because of its very sweet, pinkish-yellow fruit.

Give them full sun, though they won't mind some shade in the late afternoon. On planting day, dig a hole that's twice as wide but just as deep as the root ball, backfill, and flood with water to eliminate air pockets. Apply a 3-4" layer of organic mulch in a circle 2-3' around the plant. Blueberries are shallow rooted and will not tolerate drying out, and the mulch will preserve moisture and cool the soil. Composted sawdust or pine bark mulches are ideal, since they contribute to soil acidity as they break down. Irrigate 1-2 inches per week, preferably with a drip system, saturating the entire root zone.

In their first year, remove blossoms to encourage the plant to grow strong roots and stems. Just do it. Some simple pruning is necessary, and University of Maine Cooperative Extension will show you how at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=osQB7jWeNvs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osQB7jWeNvs). Consult the chart below from WSU Cooperative Extension for how and when to fertilize. The recommended ammonium sulphate not only fertilizes but contributes to soil acidity.

Birds love blueberries just as much as gardeners do, and you may have to protect your crop with netting as soon as the berries begin to turn blue. As luck will have it, we never lose many berries to the birds. They're simply too busy gorging on our cherries to even notice that the blueberries are ripe.

Bob Hennessy, scheduled to retire from Union Gap Parks at the end of July, has been a stalwart supporter and friend to us at Master Gardeners. He helps us so very much with both the Red Barn and the Demonstration Gardens. His wife, Sandra, passed away in May and her service is going to be July 23rd at 2 PM at the Red Barn. Our support for Bob during this difficult time would be appreciated.

# Give Pulse Tip of the Month

by Julie Hunziker

## Editing an impact for verification

*If you receive a message saying there is an error with your impact entry:*

- ◆ After logging in to your account, click on "My Activity"
- ◆ In the pull-down menu, click on "Impacts"
- ◆ Find the needed impact and click on the **blue typeface**, which will take you to that impact
- ◆ Click on "Options" in the upper right corner
- ◆ From the pull-down menu, click on "Edit"
- ◆ Correct the error
- ◆ Scroll down, click on the green "Update Impact" (If you don't update, the impact will not be changed)

***\*\*Please note that Andrea has been verifying impacts recently. We are learning that it is easier to have a co-lead and Julie is training Andrea to assist for the future.***



*A potting bench **Melody** found at the plant sale has a nifty home in her back yard.*

# Program Coordinator's

Shared from the State Master Gardener Program Handbook. Each month we will include a page or section in the newsletter to share our guidance. ~Ken Tolonen, Andrea Altmayer, Julie Hunziker

Corner

## CHAPTER 1: Washington State University Extension

### WSU Extension

Extension is for Everyone! With 39 county offices and one tribal office across the state, WSU Extension is the front door to the University. Extension builds the capacity of individuals, organizations, businesses, and communities, empowering them to find solutions for local issues and to improve their quality of life. Extension collaborates with communities to create a culture of life-long learning and is recognized for its accessible, learner-centered, relevant, high-quality, unbiased educational programs.

The mission of WSU Extension is to engage people, organizations, and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being, and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.

Extension's close relationships within communities allow us to deliver personalized education that challenges and inspires individuals to achieve their highest goals. As part of WSU, we:

- Work in partnership with communities to identify issues that university research and knowledge bases can address.
- Provide unbiased, research-based information that gives people the knowledge to improve their health and livelihoods.
- Deliver educational programs that are adapted to the critical needs in the community.
- Enable community members to come to WSU directly with their issues.
- Leverage human and capital resources through partnerships in order to act on critical issues.

### Organizational Structure

#### *Statewide Leadership*

Leadership for the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is provided by a team of WSU faculty and staff. The statewide WSU Master Gardener Program Leader is responsible for developing and leading the team and for providing overall direction to local program coordinators and volunteers from a statewide perspective.

#### *Local County Leadership*

Local county program coordinators are responsible for leading and managing county-specific WSU Master Gardener programs. In general, WSU Extension offices supervise and support Master Gardener volunteers in various ways, depending on available resources. In some cases, the Statewide Program Leader supervises local program coordinators. One or more of the following may provide leadership for local WSU Master Gardener programs:

- County Extension Director—overall leadership for the office, in addition to maintaining a strong relationship with county government, budget development, civil rights, a county advisory system, and supervision of support staff and program staff;

(Continued on next page)

- County Extension Faculty—leadership for educational program(s) and supervision of the county staff and volunteers related to each program;
- Local Program Coordinator—coordination and management of a specific program and its volunteers. The title “program coordinator” is used to mean anyone who coordinates a local Master Gardener (MG) program. All faculty, staff, or volunteers charged with program leadership may be referred to as program coordinators.

### ***Local County Advisory Committees***

Master Gardener program coordinators should implement program advisory teams/committees comprised of a cross section of WSU Master Gardener Program volunteers who represent a variety of programs and projects and who have skill sets in organizational planning, program development and evaluation to support strategic planning, decision making, and program and project selection. The purpose of an advisory team is to assist the local program coordinator in determining and prioritizing the current needs of internal and external stakeholders as they relate to the WSU Master Gardener Program vision and mission, and to align educational needs with fund development opportunities and with foundation support.

### ***Supporting Organizations***

Volunteers in some counties have formed organizations called foundations or associations to work in partnership with the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. For more information about Master Gardener organizations that partner with the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program, refer to Chapter 6: Master Gardener Foundations.

### **Funding Sources**

- Washington State University;
- County government, as determined by county commissioners and council members;
- The United States Department of Agriculture through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA);
- Grants and contracts from both the public and private sectors;
- Fees for service; and
- Donor gifts and bequests.

# July 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 WVFG 8-11  Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	2
3 Farmer's Market 9-2 Yakima Herald MG Article	4 Independence Day	5 Demonstration Garden 8-11	6 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	7 Heirloom Garden 8-11	8 WVFG 8-11  Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	9 Demonstration Garden Class 10 am
10 Farmer's Market 9-2 Yakima Herald MG Article	11 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	12 Demonstration Garden 8-11	13 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4  Foundation Mtg@Red Barn 1030-11:30	14 Heirloom Garden 8-11	15 WVFG 8-11  Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	16 Heirloom Garden Class 10 am
17 Farmer's Market 9-2 Yakima Herald MG Article	18 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	19 Demonstration Garden 8-11	20 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	21 Heirloom Garden 8-11	22 WVFG 8-11  Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	23 Demo Garden Class 10 am  Hennessy Memorial 2 pm
24 Farmer's Market 9-2 Yakima Herald MG Article	25 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	26 Demonstration Garden 8-11	27 Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	28 Heirloom Garden 8-11	29 WVFG 8-11  Plant Clinic 9-12/1-4	30
31 Farmer's Market 9-2 (Youth Team) Yakima Herald MG Article						



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.