

# Master Gardener Class

WSU Extension Master Gardener Program:  
Cultivating plants, people, & communities since 1973



## Master Gardener Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

### Volunteering as Master Gardener Interns (*first year volunteers*)

After classroom training and successful completion the final exam, Master Gardening interns complete 60 hours of authorized training for certification as volunteer educators for Whatcom County. The 60 hours includes volunteer time on a variety of educational outreach projects, plant diagnostic clinic, hands-on gardening in specific garden projects, and other outreach and education activities. There are many areas of interest for Master Gardeners to specialize in and apply their unique skills. The volunteer commitment must be fulfilled by October of the year of training.

#### First Year Commitment

The **60 hours** roughly break down in the following way:

**10 Hours in the plant clinic.** Each intern schedules their own time in the clinic

**10 Hours** at Hovander Demonstration Gardens (April- October)

**20 Hours participation in any MG programs activities** (see attached list)

**20 Hours in development & participation in a MG project** (optional)

Interns need to consider the following when choosing an area of participation:

**How does your activity address critical issues?** As a public good supported by taxpayers, MG projects must be relevant to the larger issues facing our community. Protecting environmental quality, ending hunger, building strong and safe neighborhoods, and growing healthy children.

- **How will you educate the public and teach new skills?**
- **How will you demonstrate leadership?**
- **How will you serve diverse audiences?**

Because our communities represent a diverse population, so should our programs. The land-grant university system was built on the principle that all people should have access to education. MGs must continue the land-grant university tradition by ensuring that community education and the people who deliver it are available and applicable to all residents.

*The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program trains volunteers to be effective community educators in gardening and environmental stewardship. It is supported at the state level and administered in counties.*