

Program Statistics

Total number of WSU/Skagit County Master Gardener Volunteers in 2006: **139**

Total volunteer hours contributed to WSU/Skagit County Master Gardener Program in 2006: **14,519**

Total number of clients served through WSU/Skagit County Master Gardener Program activities in 2006: **33,984**

Total number of individuals who opened the Master Gardener page on the WSU/Skagit County Extension website (<http://www.skagit.wsu.edu/MG>) in 2006: **12,929**

The website offers:

- WSU/Skagit Co. Extension Master Gardener Program information
- WSU Master Gardener newspaper column in the Skagit Valley Herald
- Extensive Insect Collection specific to Skagit County
- DIG-IT Youth Ed. materials
- Plant Clinic schedules, forms and guidelines
- WSU Know & Grow educational workshops calendar
- WSU Discovery Garden overview, including Skagit County Master Composter demonstration area
- WSU Gardening Links & Resources

Plant Clinic Schedules

Mt. Vernon (April – October)

Wednesdays, 10 am – 2 pm at WSU/Skagit County Extension Office (address below)

Anacortes (April – September)

Thursdays, 9 am -12 noon at Anacortes Ace Hardware, 1720 Q Ave., Anacortes.

WSU Extension information and programs are available to all without discrimination. Persons with a disability requiring special accommodation while participating in a WSU class or program may call our office as indicated below. If accommodation is not requested in advance, we cannot guarantee the availability of accommodation on-site.



306 South First
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 428-4270
FAX: (360) 428-4263
<http://skagit.wsu.edu>



WSU/Skagit County
**Master
Gardener**
program

Impacts
2006



Skagit County Master Gardeners: “Digging in and Making a Difference”

Eighty percent of U.S. households garden, according to a survey conducted by Gallup in 1990-91, and home gardeners are one of WSU Extension’s largest clientele groups. The WSU Master Gardener program originated in Washington State in 1972-73; the Skagit County Master Gardener program began in 1977, and has grown significantly. WSU Extension Master Gardener activities reach far beyond Plant Diagnostic Clinics and Extension offices to reach a diverse population including children, the elderly and physically & developmentally challenged individuals with a multitude of community enrichment programs.

Through our WSU Master Gardener Annual Training program, Skagit County Extension adds 25 Master Gardeners to its roster each year. WSU/Skagit County Master Gardener volunteers receive 60 hours of intensive training in home horticulture, integrated pest management and plant problem diagnosis from WSU faculty and other experts; in return for this training, volunteers provide the citizens of Skagit County with unbiased, research-based information relating to home horticulture.

ENABLING GARDEN

In 2002 the WSU/Skagit County Master Gardeners, funded by a donation from Harry and Judi Mullikin, completed and dedicated the “Harry and Judi Mullikin Enabling Garden” at the WSU Discovery Garden.

The Enabling Garden demonstrates garden structures and tools that help people with various physical limitations to continue to enjoy gardening. It features raised beds, arbors, a wheelchair accessible gazebo and a multi-sensory selection of plantings.

The 1.5 acre WSU Discovery Garden is open to the public dawn to dusk seven days per week, and is located at the WSU-Northwestern Washington Research & Extension Center, 16650 State Route 536, Mt. Vernon. It is estimated that the WSU Demonstration Garden draws over **7000** visitors each year.

PLANT CLINICS

In 2006, WSU/Skagit County Master Gardeners provided research-based information to **951** clients from throughout Skagit County via Plant Clinics.

Plant Clinics are held weekly in Anacortes and Mount Vernon. All non-commercial plant and insect questions and concerns are welcome. Please see the reverse of this brochure for Plant Clinic schedules.

YOUTH EDUCATION

In 2001, WSU/Skagit County Master Gardeners, funded by a donation from Washington Mutual and the Skagit County Farm Bureau, developed the **DIG-IT** (Discovery In Gardening-Is Terrific) project working with students from many area elementary schools. The EALR-focused curriculum, hands-on activities and 6:1 student to adult ratio ensure success in learning and a memorable introduction to the relationship among soil, plants, the environment and the food we eat. In 2006, **3753** children of diverse backgrounds benefited from DIG-IT.

In 2006, WSU Master Gardeners at the **Anacortes Kids’ Garden**, an outreach effort aimed at low-income youth in partnership with the Anacortes Housing Authority, provided hands-on education for **626** children.

TULIP TOURS

The Tulip Festival draws great numbers of tourists to the Skagit Valley, and provides them with a sense of the agricultural and aesthetic value of the area. WSU/Skagit County Master Gardeners act as step-on tour guides for these visitors, provide education regarding local history, and promote the bulb industry and agriculture in Skagit County. In 2006, WSU/Skagit County Master Gardeners provided tours to **1842** visitors.

NEWSPAPER COLUMN

Since 1992 the Master Gardener newspaper column has been reaching thousands of Skagit Valley Herald readers; subscriptions currently number **19,532**. The column appears three Sundays per month, and offers advice on plant culture; safe pesticide use; and management of diseases, insects, weeds and other topics of local interest.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

In 2006, WSU/Skagit County Master Gardeners shared their knowledge with approximately **500** clients via educational talks to service organizations, gardening clubs and other community groups.

WSU **Know & Grow** educational workshops for the public began in 2006, partnering WSU Master Gardeners with WSU NWREC scientists & staff, as well as other community resources.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Economically disadvantaged citizens of Skagit County were advised by WSU/Skagit County Master Gardeners on how to prepare soil, then choose, plant and maintain landscape plantings around their new homes, through our partnership with Habitat for Humanity.