

Volunteer Commitment

Upon completion of the training, each new WSU/Skagit County Master Gardener Intern is required to complete 60 hours of volunteer service in authorized program activities. Of those hours, 25 must be spent in the WSU Discovery Garden and 16 must be spent in the Plant Clinics. The remaining hours (and whatever additional time you are willing to contribute!) may be spent in any other WSU/Skagit County Master Gardener project areas that interest you.

In subsequent years, each veteran WSU/Skagit County Master Gardener is required to contribute a minimum of 25 hours to program volunteer work and spend 10 hours engaged in continuing education. Many continuing education opportunities are offered through the Skagit County Master Gardener Program.

How to Apply

For more information, or to receive a program application, contact the WSU/Skagit County Extension office or log on to <http://skagit.wsu.edu>.

The application deadline is October 15. Interviews will be held in November.

Plant Clinic Schedules

Mount Vernon (April – October)

Wednesdays,
10:00am – 2:00pm
WSU/Skagit County Extension Office
306 South First Street

Anacortes (April – September)

Thursdays
9:00am -12 noon
Anacortes Ace Hardware
1720 Q Avenue

WSU Extension programs and policies are available to all without discrimination. Persons with a disability requiring special accommodation while participating in this program may call WSU/Skagit County Extension at 360-428-4270. If accommodation is not requested at least 10 days in advance, we cannot guarantee the availability of accommodation on-site.



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



Skagit County Master Gardener Program

- **Pass on** gardening knowledge and experience to members of the community
- **Learn** about the care and management of plants from experts in the field
- **Network** with an energetic group of individuals who share an interest in promoting sound gardening practices in western Washington

**“Planting the Seed
of Knowledge”**



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

History

The WSU Master Gardener Program started in Washington State in 1973. The 120 WSU Master Gardeners were trained in the first class served more than 7,000 clients in their first year.

Today the WSU Master Gardener program operates in 46 states and four Canadian provinces. In Washington there are more than 3,000 Master Gardeners in 35 of 39 counties serving more than a quarter of a million clients a year.

The program in Skagit County was started in 1977 and now has approximately 110 active WSU Master Gardeners.



Education and Outreach

As trained and certified members of a volunteer program sponsored by Washington State University Extension, WSU Master Gardeners assist Extension in providing information to home gardeners about sound and sustainable gardening practices, including integrated pest management, efficient watering techniques, and recycling garden wastes. Volunteers reach out to the public through:

- **Speakers Bureau**
- **Plant Diagnostic Clinics in Anacortes and Mount Vernon**
- **The WSU Discovery Garden, 16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon**
- **The DIG-IT youth education program**
- **Articles in the *Skagit Valley Herald***
- **Public-education workshops**
- **Tulip Festival tours**
- **Annual Plant Faire**
- **Many other opportunities too!**

Training

All WSU/Skagit County Master Gardeners are required to attend a series of initial training workshops that cover such subjects as basic botany, basic entomology, weed/insect/disease management, pesticide safety, soils and fertilizers, vegetable and fruit production, pruning, water quality, and plant identification. The classes are taught by Washington State University plant pathologists, weed specialists and other experts. Trainees receive publications pertinent to the subject areas addressed.

Training sessions are held early in the year, two days per week for six weeks. There is a fee toward program costs, which may be waived or reduced for persons of limited financial means.