

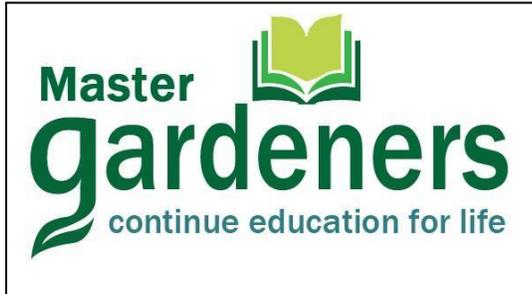


The Foundation Connection

A monthly e-newsletter from the Master Gardener Foundation of King County

2021 Master Gardener Advanced Training: *Reload, Refresh, Rekindle, Required*

...by the Master Gardener Clinic Leadership Team



Our lives have been disrupted these past 11 months, and Master Gardener Program activities have been no exception. While the path and timing are unclear, we hope to return to as much in-person engagement as possible in 2021 for our 600+ Master Gardeners in King County. We're aware that we all miss our relationships with one another and look forward to sharing our skills again with our communities.

It's no surprise that most of us feel a little disconnected from our tools, too, and even a bit rusty with skills and resources. The Clinic Leadership Team has been working to develop opportunities for refreshing and updating our skills as we near the start of the new gardening season.

In mid-February, we will launch an Advanced Training course that will be required for all King County Master Gardeners. Since WSU information and resources are continually updated, we'll review best practices for accessing the latest research-based gardening advice. We'll provide a deep dive into some online resources that you may only be partially aware of. We'll explore *Hortsense* and *Pestsense*, as well as the *Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Management Handbook* (that huge, text-heavy thing in your clinic bins and available weightlessly online). We'll aim to improve our skills in giving pesticide advice and help you find other useful resources. Since the Video and Email Clinics were launched this past spring, we've also realized how easy it is to access these materials online, so we'll train using the Video Clinic format.

The course will consist of two parts: first, an easily accessed video that you can review at a time that's best for you. This video is a prerequisite for the second part: a live program hosted on Zoom where we'll practice with our resources using the *Show Share* portions of *Say Show Share*. This live session will be offered at various times of day on multiple days, including weekdays and weekends, so everyone will have no trouble finding a time that works. At each session, we'll break out into several "rooms" of 4 or 5 Master Gardeners each, and a trained coach will support each room as we practice finding and sharing answers to typical questions.

You'll hear much more from us when Program Coordinator Mary Watts sends details shortly after February 1. We'll all look forward to seeing one another again.

The Clinic Leadership Team is composed of Program Coordinator Mary Watts, Gary Scheider, Carrie Hill, Jim Olson, Daryl Schlessler, Molly van der Burch, Brenda Spilker, Wendy Jordan and Marty Byrne.