



NEWSLETTER FOR MG PROGRAM COORDINATORS

JANUARY 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday!

STATE REPORT

Please take the time to fill out the [Survey Monkey state report survey](#) by Friday, the 10th of January. A word copy is attached, but **please use the link to fill out the survey in Survey Monkey:**
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3KFFNWK>

JANUARY WEBINAR

Monday, January 6th, 11am-12pm (Note different date and time from our usual webinars)

Go to <http://breeze.wsu.edu/mg> and log in as a guest a few minutes before the meeting. Don't forget to run the Audio Wizard after entering the meeting to test your equipment.

Agenda

- **Guest Presenter:** WSU Extension Communications Department
- **Topic:** Communications, Question and Answer Session, Needs of MG Coordinators
- 2013 State Report
- Volunteer Satisfaction Survey

Please let me know what other items you'd like put on the agenda.

COORDINATORS' SURVEY

In an effort to insure I am supporting you as a MG Program Coordinator and/or MG Program Faculty Lead, I would appreciate it if you'd take a few minutes to fill out a quick survey here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z5MPTPV>

I value your opinion tremendously and will use your feedback to make necessary changes.

Please note that ALL coordinators are welcome to fill out the survey, even if there are two of you in the same county.

VOLUNTEER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Please let your MGs know that the Volunteer Satisfaction Survey is forthcoming. Please use the text below as an introduction to the survey. I'll be sending out the link early this month, but want to let the MGs know the survey is on its way. **Please let me know if you're not comfortable with allowing 30**

minutes of Program Support for your MGs to fill out the survey. I'm hoping for a very large response rate.

Dear WSU Extension Master Gardeners,

I want to personally thank each of you for your hard work toward, and your dedication to, the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. WSU Extension recognizes Master Gardeners as valued partners in extending WSU research to residents throughout Washington State and to that end, would appreciate you taking ten to fifteen minutes to fill out the upcoming survey (to be sent via email later in January). The purpose of the survey is to determine where there are opportunities for the MG Leadership to improve in supporting you as a volunteer, as well as, to know what we're doing right. Your opinion is so valuable that in return for your time, you may log 30 minutes of Program Support in the WSU Online Volunteer Database.

The survey results will be shared with everyone, but please note that your individual responses are anonymous.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to share your opinion with the WSU MG Program Leadership about the Master Gardener Program, your opinion matters to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program Leadership!

ONLINE TRAINING DVDs

Please remember to check with your students **within thirty days from the first day of training to confirm they've received their DVDs**. Please contact Steve Garl (sgarl@wsu.edu) about missing DVDs.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Growing Groceries 2014 Advanced Training in Everett on Saturday, January 18th 10am-2pm
Gardeners tend to be lifelong students, always seeking newer, better ways to improve their gardens and food gardeners are certainly no exception.

To help satisfy those inquiring minds, the WSU Snohomish County Extension Growing Groceries program will hold an advanced training for food gardeners looking to expand their knowledge beyond the basics. Join us Saturday, January 18, 2014 from 10:00am-2:00pm at WSU Snohomish County Extension's Cougar Auditorium in McCollum Park, 600 128th St SE, Everett for several presentations and discussions. Topics to be covered include:

Growing Heirloom Vegetables with Carol Bello, Master Gardener

Pest Prevention Techniques with Sharon Collman, Extension Horticulturist

What Varieties Grow Best in My Garden panel discussion with Growing Groceries mentors

How to Conduct Your Own Variety Trials with Sharon Collman, Extension Horticulturist.

Be sure to bring a brown bag lunch.

Cost is \$25 per person and pre-registration is required. Register online at brownpapertickets.org/event/546262/. You can also download the form at snohomish.wsu.edu/documents/GGAdvTraining2014.pdf and mail with your check.

For more information about the workshop, contact Sharon Collman, WSU Snohomish County Extension Educator, (425) 357-6025 or email collmans@wsu.edu.

For registration information, contact Karie Christensen at (425) 357-6039 or e-mail christensen4@wsu.edu.

Hardwood Biofuels Webinar – Wednesday January 8th, 10am-11am

Topics covered

- Impacts of converting agricultural fields to poplar biomass for biofuels on off-site leaching of ammonium, nitrate, and orthophosphate and the potential for degraded water quality.
- How greenhouse gas fluxes (CH₄ and N₂O) change when fields are converted to bioenergy crops as compared to nearby agricultural fields representing previous land use.
- Changes in soil respiration, composition of microbial guilds, and activity of extra-cellular enzymes produced by soil microbes in response to poplar bioenergy crops.

Please register for this webinar at <http://breeze.wsu.edu/e75cfwe3ukm/event/registration.html>

This webinar is part of the Hardwood Biofuels Webinar Series. Find the series including archived presentations online at: <http://hardwoodbiofuels.org/webinars/>

Register online at: <http://hardwoodbiofuels.org/about/connect-with-ahb/>

Green Gardening Winter Workshop

South Seattle Community College March 12th – Flier Attached

Cascadia Grains Conference

The Cascadia Grains Conference aims to strengthen the role of small grains (e.g. wheat, barley, oats, rye) and psuedo-grains (e.g. quinoa, buckwheat, amaranth) in our regional food economy by sharing the latest science, techniques, and developments, as well as by creating a space in which new business, policy and research relationships can form and existing ones can be strengthened.

REGISTER TODAY

When: Saturday, January 11, 2014

Where: STAR Center, 3873 S. 66th St., Tacoma, WA USA

Registration: Regular: \$95/person; Day of: \$115/person. Space is limited, so pre-registration is recommended. Included in the fee are morning refreshments, lunch, dinner, and a craft beer Tasting Tour. Register online today: <http://cascadiagrains.com/>.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The conference will feature the following exciting workshops with expert speakers from the U.S. and Canada:

- * Linking the Grain Producer to the Market
- * Designing Regional Food/Ag Businesses
- * The Development of the Gluten-Free Market
- * Grains in Eco-friendly Crop Rotations
- * Growing Small Grains West of the Cascades
- * Growing Quinoa and Buckwheat in the Pacific Northwest
- * The Bread Lab: Thinking Differently About Baking Quality
- * Handmade Soba Noodles
- * Grain Varieties and Malting: The Secret to Developing the New Cascadia Beer
- * Bringing the Malthouse Back: A New England Story
- * The Chickens Choose: Free Choice Feeding
- * Grassfed versus Grain-finished: Thinking about Meat Quality
- * Harvest Heritage: Puget Sound Agricultural Origins
- * Risk Management Options for Small Grains
- * Developing Producer Interest in Grain Infrastructure (Parts 1 & 2)
- * Establishing a Craft Distillery or Brewery

The conference is presented by Washington State University in partnership with Oregon State University.

BEST OF THE CASCADES TASTING TOUR

Are you a craft brewer or distiller in the Cascadia region? Showcase your products at the conference's Best of the Cascades Tasting Tour. Breweries & distilleries get reduced registration rates in addition to a showcase table. [Sign up today!](#)

For more information: go to <http://cascadiagrains.com/> or contact Lucas Patzek (lpatzek@wsu.edu; 360-867-2151) or Rose Burke (rosanne.burke@wsu.edu).

PEST SIGHTING (from Dave Pehling in Snohomish County)

We received our first two calls of the winter about aggregations of violet springtails that often emerge from the soil after a good thaw in our area.

Information on this interesting (and alarming, to non-entomology folks) phenomenon is at <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/garden/documents/SPRINGTAIL%20CLUSTERING.PDF>