

Home Horticulture Training 2021

Topics and Instructors

All classes Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon via Zoom
See Home Horticulture Training FAQ for additional information

January 9

Welcome to Home Horticulture Training

Jennifer Marquis is Program Leader, WSU Extension Master Gardener Program, College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences. Jennifer has been a WSU Master Gardener program leader for 13 years. She accepted the statewide coordinator position in May of 2019 after serving in a county role for 12 years. She has 20 years of experience working with non-profit organizations and volunteers to deliver on organizational mission. Her experience coupled with a B.A.S. in Non-Profit Management and a M.S. in Management and Leadership, make her well skilled as the leader of the world's first Master Gardener Program. She is known for her strategic thinking and for her ability to engage with diverse teams to create trusting and durable community partnerships that lead to mission and vision success. She is a transformational leader who seeks to elevate the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program by engaging university-trained volunteers to empower and sustain diverse communities with relevant, unbiased, research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship education.

Botany

Paula Dinius, Urban Horticulturist, WSU Extension Chelan County, began her career with WSU in 2004 in urban horticulture. She is a botanist and plant pathologist who shares her urban horticulture expertise with the landscaping industry, local governments, and municipalities. Paula is also known for her work in educating the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program volunteers.

January 16

Pesticides

Dale Whaley, Assistant Professor for Integrated Weed Management/Agriculture, has been working for Washington State University Extension for 16 years. He is currently assisting Douglas, Chelan, Kittitas, and Okanogan County residents with their agriculture and integrated weed management needs. He has expertise in entomology (M.S., WSU), integrated pest management (IPM) (B.S., WSU), noxious weed control, invasive species, alternative cropping systems, and continues to work as a regional coordinator for the Washington State Integrated Weed Control Project.

January 23

Soil Nutrition and Soil Fertility

Deirdre Griffin LaHue is an Assistant Professor of Soil Quality and Sustainable Soil Management at the WSU Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU NWREC) in Mount Vernon, WA. Her

research interests focus on the impacts of agricultural practices on soil microbial communities and the functions they provide. She takes a systems approach to understanding dynamics of soil organic matter, microbes, and nutrients in agriculture to help improve the resilience of cropping systems. Deirdre received her M.S. and Ph.D. in Soils and Biogeochemistry from University of California, Davis, where she studied the effects of soil amendments (e.g. compost and biochar) and irrigation management on soil carbon and nitrogen dynamics, soil health, and system productivity and profitability. Originally from Maryland, Deirdre enjoyed a previous career in ballet before earning her B.S. at the University of Maryland, College Park in Environmental Science and Policy.

Gabriel (Gabe) LaHue is an Assistant Professor of Soil Science with the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Washington State University and based at Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU NWREC) in Mount Vernon, WA. His research focuses on soil moisture management and irrigation scheduling, managing soils to improve soil-water relationships, soil fertility, and water-nutrient interactions in diverse cropping systems, including blueberries, cider apples, forage crops, onions, and spinach seed.

January 30

Plant Health Care and IPM

Gwen Hoheisel is Regional Extension Specialist with Washington State University focusing on perennial fruit crops and more specifically sustainable pest management, blueberry horticulture, and application technologies. She has degrees in zoology from the University of Maryland and entomology from Pennsylvania State University focusing on IPM and insect diversity.

February 6

Diagnosing Plant Problems

Jenny Glass has managed the WSU Puyallup Plant & Insect Diagnostic Laboratory for the past 20 years where she has honed her diagnostics skills on a wide range of plant pathology and insect identification experiences. She spends hours under the microscope trying to find signs of fungal pathogens and scours the internet looking for plant and problem information. Her favorite part of the job is interacting with clients and helping them learn about the management solutions to their plant problems. She is known to quip “Take up another hobby other than your lawn –Western WA grows moss, moles, and annual bluegrass better than turf on many sites.” She loves vegetable gardening, reading books, and hiking. Some of her favorite plant diseases include the destructive power of late blight on potato and tomato, the sporulation of *Entomosporium* leaf spot on photinia, and the ring patterns that develop when snapdragons become infected with the fungal disease rust.

February 13 for Eastern Washington

Lawns and Weeds

Paula Dinius, Urban Horticulturist, WSU Extension Chelan County, began her career with WSU in 2004 in urban horticulture. She is a botanist and plant pathologist who shares her urban horticulture expertise with the landscaping industry, local governments, and municipalities. Paula is also known for her work in educating the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program volunteers.

February 13 for Western Washington

Lawns and Weeds

Jim Kropf is currently the Natural Resources Program Director for WSU Extension. He is also the Director of County Administration for the 40 extension offices across the state and the interim county Director for WSU Extension Pierce County. He has been a faculty member for WSU Extension for 41 years. He was the Area Agronomist in Chelan and Douglas Counties for 14 years followed by four years as the Area Horticulturalist for Pierce and King Counties. In addition to providing technical production skills for farmers, he focused on direct marketing, training new farmers, and on-farm research related to horticultural crops. He continues to provide training for the Master Gardener Program. Jim was raised on a small diversified farm in western Washington with a focus on small fruits. He has a B.S. and M.S. in Agronomy from Washington State University.

February 20

Entomology

Todd Murray, Entomologist and Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Director, is Director of the Washington State University Puyallup Research and Extension Center. Earning his master's degree in Entomology at WSU in 1996, Murray made his career in Extension, serving as a coordinator and educator in King and Whatcom counties, then director of Skamania and Klickitat County Extension. Since 2015, he has directed WSU Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resource Program Unit, helping thousands of Washingtonians learn how to improve farm productivity, conserve natural resources, and protect crops, forests, and streams.

February 27 for Eastern Washington

Home Orchards

Tianna DuPont is Tree Fruit Extension Specialist at the WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center (WSU TFREC) and supported by Douglas, Grant, and Chelan Counties. Her programs for tree fruit growers are an important tool that helps them continue to thrive in a constantly changing environment. Her current program areas include organic production; sustainable pest and disease management; soil and water management; next generation tree fruit network; and increase knowledge and application of tree fruit Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Bernardita Sallato is Tree Fruit Extension Specialist at the WSU Irrigated and Tree Fruit Extension Center (WSU-IAREC) in Prosser. Her program provides leadership in applied research, extension, and outreach for the PNW tree fruit industry. Her goal is improving orchard efficiency and fruit production through horticultural management practices and technology. Her main areas of interest are: 1) soils and plant nutrition; 2) tree fruit stress management; and 3) general horticultural practices for tree fruit production. Bernardita has a B.Sci. Agriculture Engineer, Horticulture and a M.Sci. Physiology and Fruit Production Area from PUC, Chile.

Small Fruits

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February 27 for Western Washington

Home Orchards

Travis Alexander is a Postdoctoral Researcher in WSU Cider Program at the Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU NWREC) in Mount Vernon, Washington. Travis grew up in Southern California, earned a B.S. in Biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego and an M.S. in Horticulture and Agronomy at the University of California, Davis. His masters' research was focused on chilling injury in peaches for the fresh and canned fruit markets. His doctorate work focuses on the postharvest implications, if any, of introducing mechanization in the harvesting of cider apples. Travis is fluent in English and Spanish and currently working on speaking Russian.

Small Fruits

Lisa Wasko DeVetter is an Assistant Professor at WSU Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (WSU NWREC) in Mount Vernon, Washington where she leads the state-wide Small Fruit Horticulture program. Originally from Iowa, Lisa developed her agricultural interests while spending summers on her family's farm and helping her grandmother cultivate a diverse farmyard garden. Her horticultural interests grew as she engaged in international development projects at Iowa State University (ISU), which is where she also earned her B.S. in biology and horticulture. She received her M.S. in both horticulture and soil science at ISU before continuing on to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for her Ph.D. Lisa joined WSU in 2014 and has developed a diverse research and extension program with an emphasis on maximizing productivity, fruit quality, and on-farm efficiencies, while ensuring the health of adjacent natural resources critical for small fruit crop production in the Pacific Northwest.

March 6 for Eastern Washington

Vegetables

Connie Mehmel was a Forest Entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Protection Division from 2000 to 2019. With a small team of forest entomologists and pathologists, she provided training and technical assistance to federal land managers in most of the State of Washington, including three national forests, three national parks, and the Yakama, Colville, Spokane, and Kalispell Indian Reservations. She retired from the Forest Service in August 2019 after a 42-year career. She is a Chelan County Master Gardener, Chair of the Wenatchee Valley Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society, and Superintendent of Floriculture for the Chelan County Fair. She is also an enthusiastic member of CrossFit 791 in Cashmere.

March 6 for Western Washington

Vegetables

Diane Decker-Ihle, Master Gardener in Snohomish County since 1990, has been an avid gardener most of her life. She helped establish the WSU Extension Snohomish County Growing Groceries Program in 2009 and has been teaching Growing Groceries classes ever since. She has also been an advisor for several community gardens and managed her church's food bank garden for eight years. With B.S. degrees in Biology and Medical Technology, Diane enjoys learning the science behind the sustainable gardening techniques she teaches.

March 13 for Eastern Washington

Plant Pathology

David Linnard Wheeler was born and raised in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. After being temporarily kicked out of secondary school for insubordination he graduated from Temple University with a B.S. in Horticulture and Fine Arts. Thereafter David received a M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Washington State University. To further quench his thirst for knowledge David obtained a minor in Statistics from WSU and a Master of Data Science from the University of California, Berkeley. For fun David enjoys walking his Newfoundland, Josh.

March 13 for Western Washington

Plant Pathology

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March 20

Fire Resistant Landscapes

Al Murphy, Master Gardener in Chelan/Douglas County, has worked for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as Chief of Community Assistance and Protection. He has over 37 years of experience with the Forest Service and BLM. Al worked in most of the western states as well as the national office. He graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in Forest Science. Al has worked in many different disciplines and spent most of his summer "vacations" working on fire suppression teams.

March 27

Vertebrate Pest Management

Dave Pehling is a retired WSU Extension Snohomish County Extension Assistant, Zoologist, and IT Technologist. He joined WSU Extension in Snohomish County for a six-month position in 1978, and remained until retirement 40+ years later in 2018. He has a B.Sc. in Zoology from the University of Washington and still occasionally teaches about entomology, plant diagnosis, and vertebrate pest management for the WSU Master Gardener and Livestock Advisor programs, as well as teaching the Washington State Beekeeper's "Beginner Master Beekeeper" course for WSU Extension Snohomish County. Special interests include mammalogy, insect pest management, parasitic arthropods, and pollinators.

April 3: No Class Scheduled (Easter Weekend)

April 10

Waterwise Landscaping

David Jackson is Program Manager for the Snohomish Conservation District's Community Conservation Team. His background is in environmental science and green infrastructure, with degrees and certifications from the University of Washington and Oregon State University. He has worked in green stormwater infrastructure for several years and in community-led urban green spaces projects. He has worked as a project manager and administrator for the majority of his career.

April 17

Pruning Trees and Woody Landscape Plants

Tim Kohlhauff is Urban Horticulture Coordinator for Washington State University Extension's office in Spokane County, where he assists with plant problem diagnosis, and has lead the local master gardener volunteer program since 2012. He is an adjunct instructor at Spokane Community College where he has taught arboriculture, advanced arboriculture, and plant problem diagnosis classes. For 10 years, Tim was the arborist at the Spokane Country Club golf course. He has been an ISA-certified arborist since 2004.

April 24

Invasive Species

Justin Bush has been Executive Coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council since 2016. Justin has been working on invasive species issues since 2008 with federal, state, regional, and local organizations including King County, Skamania County, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin where he managed the Texasinvasives.org statewide partnership. During these years, he has been involved in various projects to prevent, detect, and control both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species and is passionate about reducing the threat they pose to the economy, native species, and ecosystems. Justin is past president of the Washington State Weed Coordinators' Association, former co-chair of the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area, founding member of the Texas Gulf Region Cooperative Weed Management Area, and past Secretary of the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council.

Composting

Deborah Smeltzer, Skagit County Master Gardener since 2012, serves on the training team developing curriculum. She has been an instructor for soils, fertility, mosses, lichens, fungi, online tools, and presentation skills. Her work with the Master Gardener Program also includes supporting community outreach and education events and serving in leadership roles - four years as president of the SCMG Foundation Board and three years as chairperson of the annual SCMGF Plant Fair. Deborah has a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Medical Microbiology from the University of California, Irvine and an M.B.A. from Stanford University Graduate School of Business. She spent over 30 years in the biotechnology industry as a scientist, financier, corporate officer, business manager, and public spokesperson. She retired to the Skagit Valley where she enjoys gardening, wildlife viewing, and serving volunteer community organizations focused on education in sustainable environments and music.

WSU Extension Master Gardener Program

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Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin; physical, mental or sensory disability; marital status, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact Jennifer Marquis at 400 Washington St., Wenatchee, WA or 509 667-6540 or jgmarquis@wsu.edu at least three weeks prior to the start of the event.