

# Weeder's Digest

All the dirt that's fit to print



Newsletter of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners

June 2004

We had a beautiful day for the plant sale, and it was very successful. We want to thank Diane Rapoza, her assistants, and all the volunteers who made the sale a success. Thanks also to all the Master Gardeners who donated plants so that we would have something to sell. It all added up to a great day!

We also had a nice day for our annual walk-about. We just had a nice time, saw lots of bugs and plant problems. The walk was fun and educational, so thanks Craig and Todd.

Now is the time to plan your volunteer activities for this summer. To help you get on the lists, the following is a list of the volunteer coordinators. They are actively enlisting volunteers now, so calling them now will help them with a very difficult job.

*Al McHenry*

## Plant Sale Wrap-Up

Everyone deemed this year's plant sale a success! We all had a good time, made lots of money, and impressed the public with our gardening knowledge. Still, there are things that we can improve. From our "after the plant sale" evaluation meeting at Hovander, and May's foundation meeting, the following good ideas for next year's sale were noted. Please take note of these ideas and see if you might be able to help us with implementing them.

- 1) Higher informational signs, including alphabetical signs.
- 2) Have more shade and native plants.
- 3) Master Gardeners could shop the bargain tables now, pot up the bargains and sell these next year.
- 4) Take digital pictures of the plants you plan to donate when they are in bloom.
- 5) Pot more things up in the fall.
- 6) Propagate throughout the year.
- 7) Volunteer to be a foster home for plants that people want to donate but can not keep them at their house.
- 8) Volunteer to help recover plants from people who want to donate but can not do all the work themself.
- 9) Contact the ReStore to see if they will let us take the smaller plants when they recover the larger shrubs off a property.
- 10) Grow 3 flats of all the different tomatoes for a total of 1200.
- 11) Train the table managers better on bartering.
- 12) Do a better job hounding people to donate plants.

If you have more ideas for improvement to next year's sale, please contact me and I'll add them to the list. Thank you for your support. Diane 360/676-9563 or [r.rapoza@comcast.net](mailto:r.rapoza@comcast.net)

### **WSU Master Gardener Program Purpose Statement:**

To provide public education in gardening and home horticulture based on research-based information from WSU Extension.

### **WSU Master Gardener Program Slogan:**

"Cultivating Plants, People and Communities since 1973"

### **Newsletter Deadline:**

*Third Wednesday of every  
month.*

## Tis the Season



### By Faye Agner

It would seem that spring has sprung right into summer this year. We have had just a sprinkling of rain compared to previous years, and the early hot weather melted the snow packs too early, placing us again in a dry year. Keep water conservation in mind when planting and marinating your garden.

Right on time the spit bugs have shown up. One way of managing them is to wash them off the branches with a stream of water. The little guy that causes the mischief is a rather cute little oval bug with shiny red eyes and a face that some say resembles that of a frog. The adult of this insect is a little brown triangle-shaped leafhopper commonly known as a frog hopper. The adults do not make spit or cause much trouble, however, the nymph hiding under the spit does suck juice from the plant. They often cause distorted branches and are capable of weakening vegetable crops.

There is still time to thin apples. Wait until after the June drop, when trees spontaneously abort unpollinated fruit, then go through and break off excess fruit.

Speaking of fruit, I tried a little experiment last year and it worked so well I am going to do it again this year. I went to a cut rate fabric store, and when there was a sale on white tulle, I purchased some. I then draped it over my cherry tree. As a result, I lost two (2) cherries to the birds. After the cherries were all gone, I draped the tulle over my blueberries, holes and all and didn't lose any to birds. It works beautifully. As a result, I bought more tulle for this year. Any questions, I can be reached at 360/371-3177 of [rfagner@comcast.net](mailto:rfagner@comcast.net).

Here is a little exercise that may serve to interest the younger set in

gardens and growing things. Cucumbers produce heavily and are so easy to grow, try growing one in a bottle. Take a 1-or 2-liter plastic soda bottle and poke several ventilation holes in it. When tiny cucumbers are just starting to develop, gently insert them through the opening of the bottle. (Leave them attached to the vine, though!) Shade the bottle with some cucumber leaves so the small cukes won't cook in the sun. You might have to try this with several cucumbers before you get one to grow to full size, but the result is one of a ship in a bottle.

One way of conserving water and of putting it exactly where you want it, is to take a half gallon milk jug, and poke a few holes near the bottom of each side with an awl. Then bury the jug about six inches into the soil, right side up, with the holes facing the plants you want to water. During dry spells, fill up each jug about twice a week. This works especially well in vegetable gardens for plants like melons, squash, tomatoes and peppers.

Container gardens are becoming popular as a means of stretching your garden or adding more space for vegetables. Among the crops that thrive in pots are beans, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, potatoes, squash and tomatoes.

Containers for vegetables should be where they receive at least six (6) hours of full sun each day. Containers can help to overcome some of the problems of planting in the ground. Some of the problems are pests, such as gophers and soil-borne diseases such as fusarium wilt, nematodes, and verticillium wilt. Another advantage to containers is that the soil will warm more quickly and get your plants off to a quicker start.

When getting your containers ready for soil, make sure there are several holes in the bottom so that drainage can occur. Do not put stones or broken pieces of pottery or pots in the bottom of your container. It doesn't aid drainage, in fact, it hinders the process. Instead, before you put soil in your container, place a coffee filter in the bottom to keep the soil from coming out.

Using soil from the garden is a mistake. Soil in containers will gradually compact, squeezing out the air needed for the roots. Your soil must be able to drain with ease. A suggested mix might be 1/3

garden soil, 1/3 sand vermiculite or perlite and 1/3 organic matter, such as compost, or peat moss.

Watering is an important consideration. Pots will need watering more often than your garden will. Never allow the soil to dry out completely.

Pests are something else to watch out for and to control. Aphids, mites and whiteflies will often be controlled by a good strong blast of water from your garden hose. If that does not do the trick, contact your Washington State University Extension Service. The Master Gardeners' office is open year round to offer assistance with your garden problems. They may be contacted at 360/676-6736.

The plant sale this year was a success, but they were short of plants for the customers. Why not start to plan for next year now. Try starting new plants from your roses this summer. They can be propagated by rooting softwood cuttings from first flush of bloom to summer hardwood cuttings in autumn. Bud in summer and sow seed in containers in autumn. Hone your skills and help the plant sale at the same time.

### WHO AM I?

I am a genus of about 70 species of mostly clump-forming, occasionally rhizomatous perennials from sun-baked cliffs, rocky stream sides, woodlands and alpine meadows in China, Korea, Japan and East Russia. Numerous hybrids have also been raised, mainly in the U. S. I am grown primarily for my bold foliage, produced in dense mounds of overlapping ovate to heart shaped or lance shaped leaves. Leaves may be green, yellow, gray-blue or variegated, and are often glaucous. I am grown as accent plants or as groundcovers under deep-rooted deciduous trees, in a mixed or herbaceous border, or near water. In my smaller form I am used in rock gardens or in containers.

Last month was Poaceae grass.

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## President's Message

**Linda Bergquist, Fund Raising is Fun!**  
*MGF President*

Our Annual Plant Sale was an enormous success, partly due to the enthusiasm and just plain FUN we have setting up and participating in this event.

We receive Master Gardener hours for our efforts on Plant Sale Saturday but that's not why we participate in this event! Learning together what plants have been contributed, identifying them by botanical name, and placing them on sale tables is a good way to get to know each other and discover what a great group of people we have in our organization. And, it's fun! One of our goals is to sell all our plants without cutting our already wholesale prices. A fellow Master Gardener said to me, "I am really good at this. Who knew? This is such fun!" Our love of plants comes through to the public as we consult and help a vast number of people. They can see we are sincere and really want to sell them plants that will work well in their gardens. Our checkers and cashiers greet people with a smile and the whole atmosphere radiates FUN!

Due to many Master Gardeners and people from the Extension Office, our workshops at the Plant Sale this year were well received and enhanced the educational outreach we were trying to provide.

Thanks to Diane Rapoza, her Plant Sale Committee, and her merry group of Western Washington students, our Plant Sale was both very well organized and advertised (did you see those great Burma Shave-style signs?). Compared to recent years, we had more customers during the afternoon. While this was our goal, we needed more plants to sell. Because we ran out of plants early, some who came to the afternoon workshops were unable to make a purchase which means we also lost out on additional income.

Our reputation is growing, so we need all of you to be thinking about next year's Plant Sale, NOW! If you have something growing in your garden that is beautiful, consider dividing or propagating it for the sale next year. Also, take a picture of it now so, at the sale, we can show our customers what it will look like in full bloom.

Besides being fun, our Annual Plant Sale is our primary source of funds for everything we do; the Demonstration Garden and greenhouse at Hovander, instructors for our annual Master Gardener class, computers for the office clinic, educational workshops, support for the library, the Farmers Market and the NW Washington Fair Clinics. This year, I'm proud to report, we awarded our first scholarship at the May Foundation meeting. Our scholarship committee selected Ben Zylstra, a very personable student from Nooksack High School. Ben's scholarship was made possible because of the funds we raise at our Annual Plant Sale.

## June Garden Tours

Beginning in June we replace our monthly foundation meeting with garden tours. Thursday, June 10, at 6:30 p.m., we will tour three lovely gardens in Semiahmoo. First off is the European style garden of Karina Pratt, "The Gray Cottage" She is in the midst of changing her garden and replacing many perennials with shrubs and carefree plants. One special plant grouping contains a deer sculpture of moss and ferns. Next we will proceed to the more contemporary garden of Crystal and George Mills. It is also known as the "Karen Gilliam Memorial" as it contains many plants and garden art from Karen. You'll find lots of hydrangeas and rhodys in shades of purple, and little people and creatures peeking out from under their plantings. Lastly, we will finish our tour at the relaxing woodland garden of our president, Linda Berquist, that is if the tent caterpillars have not devoured it. A wonderful Eagle's nest is artfully placed at the front walk. Linda's garden boasts some wonderful deodora cedars, hostas, and woodland plants that lend peace to their view of a spouting fountain.

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# Plant of the Month ..... By Cheryll Greenwood Kinsley

## Lion's Ear

Family: Lamiaceae,  
sometimes called Labiatae  
(Mint family)  
Genus: *Leonotis*  
Species: *leonurus*

I think it's safe to say we all agree that plants are amazing in their seemingly infinite variety. Many of us find their flowers and foliage fascinating. We like to contrast their growth habits and hardiness, learn how they're pollinated and the ways we can propagate them. Some of us—okay, a few of us—enjoy learning about how they came to be identified by particular botanical names and where they fall among the hierarchical categories in the plant kingdom.

I can hear the groans now. *Cheryll is going to write about Linnaeus again, and binomial nomenclature, and try to trick us into caring about obscure terms in Latin and Greek!*

Well, not exactly. Proper names are important—one person's "daisy" is another person's "aster." Garden centers and catalogs typically organize their stock by botanical names; books to guide you in their care do the same. Proper labels are important, too. Anyone who's bought a seedling labeled *Arabis* and found it was *Aubrieta* instead, once it was planted and growing, can attest to that. A "white" petunia turns out to be hot pink and screams at the marigolds. A small *Rudbeckia* is tagged as an *Echinacea purpurea*. I won't even mention the possibilities of confusing *Sedum*, *Echeveria*, and *Sempervivum*.

When a commercial grower produces hundreds of thousands of starts every year, it's understandable that from time to time a tagger will sneeze and scatter the labels. It's hard to make things right after that, since all baby petunias tend to look alike. Growers choose taggers who aren't sneeze-prone and hope for the best—they do more than that, actually, and generally their systems work very well. But sometimes the problem is more, shall we say, academic. Every few years an international body of scientists convenes to review and update the nomenclature for all plants, including those newly discovered or recently developed. The sheer number of names and categories they examine is nothing to sneeze at. They don't always agree about either the names or the conventions used to express them. In addition to these disagreements—although they're ostensibly overcome in the conference proceedings—getting word out about changes to the nursery trade and updating reference books can be quite a challenge. So it's good to be prepared for a little uncertainty where plant names are concerned.

You'll not be surprised, then, when I tell you that some confusion exists in regard to this month's featured plant. In most reference works, *leonurus* is listed only as the name of one species of the genus *Leonotis*, and describes a robust shrub native to South Africa. Other, equally distinguished sources list *Leonurus* as a genus unto itself, with no more than four species, all native to a region that spans from the Mediterranean to central Asia. So just to be clear, the plant commonly known as lion's ear—and sometimes as lion's tail!—is *Leonotis leonurus*.

It is an interesting, mid-sized perennial shrub with either white or orange flowers grouped dramatically along upright stems. With its exotic good looks, it can hold its own with the likes of sea holly—particularly the *Eryngium giganteum* known as Miss Willmott's Ghost—and globe thistle—the common name given to several species and named varieties of the genus *Echinops*. The good news is, birds and butterflies and bees and hummingbirds love *L. leonurus*, and it makes quite a statement in the garden with a minimum of care. The bad news is, the idea that it will flourish in your own garden may be just wishful thinking. It doesn't much care for freezing temperatures and is officially hardy only to *Sunset* zone 8. But you can take a

look at lion's ear, and buy seeds to grow it, at VanDusen Botanical Gardens in Vancouver. If you want to try your luck with it, put your plant in a sheltered location and cover its base with a deep layer of insulating mulch every fall. Be prepared for it to die back to ground level and hope the roots survive. Or you can grow it in a big container that you plan to move indoors for the winter.

Why would I feature a plant that might not survive here? Because it's an interesting specimen. Biodiversity is key to our well-being, and it's important to know what's out there. Because its extracts have shown great potential in medical research, after centuries of folk use, particularly as an effective anticonvulsant. Because it supports and gives shelter to a variety of living creatures. And—you guessed it—because of its name. My June 2004 plant selection just had to have something to do with "Leon." My son graduates from high school this month and takes his first big step out of the garden where he's grown. So I want to salute him and all the other graduates who are busily celebrating this very important rite of passage and academic achievement. Way to go, members of the class of 2004!



Images courtesy of Herbaceous Plant Picture Pages, Texas A & M University

## Garden Friends and Foes ..... By Todd Murray

### Pest Alert: Viburnum Leaf Beetle

**Order:** Coleoptera (Beetles)

**Family:** Chrysomelidae (Leaf Beetles)

**Species:** *Pyrrhalta viburni*

150 different spp. usually shrubs or multi-stem trees



Eggs deposited on stems (Photo from <http://www.invasive.org>).



Newly hatched larvae feeding on *Viburnum* shrub.



Mature larvae on skeletonized *Viburnum* leaf.

Once again, Whatcom County Master Gardeners are on the frontline of the exotic pest invasion. Recently, a sample of *Viburnum* came into the MG clinic with the *Viburnum* Leaf Beetle, *Pyrrhalta viburni*. This beetle is native to Europe and most likely came to North America on nursery plants in the early 1900's. It was first found in 1947 in Ontario, Canada and later discovered in New York State in 1996. Interestingly, the beetle did not occur in very high numbers for many years; only in late 1970's it became a viable pest problem. In the Eastern US, the beetle has spread to neighboring states, including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and a small part of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

In 2001, British Columbian gardeners began to find *Viburnum* leaf beetles in southern Victoria Island and the Fraser Valley. It appears to be spreading rapidly southward. Our Washington State Department of Agriculture expected the eventual spread of *Viburnum* leaf beetle into Whatcom County and did a great job in making us aware of this pest.

**Description and History Life:** The *Viburnum* leaf beetle overwinters as eggs. Eggs hatch in spring and the small larvae begin to feed on the foliage. The leaf beetle larvae have a characteristic feeding habit of eating the foliage along the leaf veins. After the larvae are finished, all that's left is the skeletonized leaf. The newly hatched larvae are very small (about 1-2mm long) and greenish-yellow. Small larvae graze on the undersurface of the leaf. As the larvae mature, their bodies become covered in a pattern of dark spots and darken in color. Mature larvae are 10mm long and migrate to the soil to pupate. The pupal stage lasts for about ten days. The span from egg hatch to adult can be as quick as two months.

Beetles emerge from the soil and begin to feed on foliage of *Viburnum*. Adult beetles chew oblong shot holes into the leaves. Adults are about 5-6mm long, brown with filamentous antennae. Adult beetles can survive until the first frost. During this time, they migrate to new bushes, feed and lay eggs. An adult female can lay up to 500 eggs. The eggs are deposited in rows usually on the new growth stems; they appear as neatly arranged nodules. A hole is dug out from the stem and up to five eggs are deposited. The hole is capped with cement made from plant fiber, spit and a little excrement.

**Damage:** *Viburnum* leaf beetles feed on many species of *Viburnum* in both adult and larval stages. The beetles are very damaging because of this successive feeding by larvae followed by adults; bushes do not have time to re-vegetate between beetle stages. Two or three consecutive years of defoliation can cause significant die-back of the canopy and kill a bush.

The beetles appear to prefer some species and cultivars over others. New York State entomologists are developing a host preference list. *Viburnum dentatum* (arrowwood viburnums), *V. opulus* (European cranberrybush), *V. opulus* var. *americana* (American cranberrybush), *V. rafinesquianum* (Rafinesque Viburnum) and *V. sargentii* (Sargent Viburnum) are the most susceptible to infestations. A complete host list can be found at: <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/vlb/suscept.html>.

The *Viburnum* leaf beetle may not only be a pest problem for gardeners and landscapers but may also cause problems for nurseries, growers, restoration programs and natural habitats.

**Management:** Begin monitoring for eggs after the first frost in fall and winter. Prune out or otherwise physically destroy the eggs. Begin monitoring for larvae when the first leaves begin to form in the spring. Pick off the small larvae as you find them. Continue to physically remove larvae when you regularly inspect bushes. While this management hasn't been tested, NY entomologists suggest applying a sticky barrier such as Tanglefoot® to the base of the bush stems. They found that the larvae do not drop directly to the soil to pupate but crawl down the stem. The application of Tanglefoot® will be identical to the methods you would use for foiling adult rootweevils. After the adults have emerged, regularly remove and destroy the adults. It is best to remove them in the morning before they become too active.

If you plan on planting *Viburnum* plants into your landscape, consider using a species or cultivar that shows some resistance. Known resistant species include *V. plicatum* var. *tomentosum* (doublefile viburnum), *V. carlesii* (Koreanspice viburnum), *V. burkwoodii* (Burkwood viburnum), *V. × juddii* (Judd viburnum), *V. × rhytidiophylloides* (lantaphyllum viburnum), and *V. rhytidiophyllum* (leatherleaf viburnum).

*Continued on next page*

Weed of the Month ..... By Laurel Shiner

Hoary Alyssum

Berteroa incana

THREAT: Hoary alyssum is an introduced member of the mustard family, native to Eurasia. It grows in pastures, road shoulders, railroads, agricultural fields and other disturbed areas; and, prefers dry, sandy, or gravelly soils. Hoary alyssum is toxic to horses, causing swollen legs, laminitis and severe lameness. Consumption of large quantities can cause diarrhea, leading to dehydration, and can cause abortions in pregnant mares. Death may result, although most treated horses recover. The plant remains toxic after it is dried, and most poisonings are due to contaminated hay. Hoary alyssum spreads by seeds. This plant is considered a noxious weed in Washington State, British Columbia, Michigan and Minnesota.



Photo credit: Richard Bauer, Wisconsin State Herbarium

DESCRIPTION: Hoary alyssum can be an annual, biennial or perennial. The tap-rooted plant emerges in early spring. It is an erect or spreading plant, growing up to three feet tall, with multiple stems arising from the base of the plant. The thin stems branch near the top of the plant, and leaves and stems are covered in whitish, star-shaped hairs. The 1/2 to 1 1/2 inch, gray green leaves are alternate and lance-shaped; upper leaves clasp the stem. Hoary alyssum produces small white flowers, borne in clusters at the end of the stems, from May to September. There are four petals, however, since each petal is deeply lobed, the flowers can appear to have 8 petals. The small, oblong, flattened fruit has a short beak and is often covered with star-shaped hairs.



Photo credit: Stephen L. Solheim, Wisconsin State Herbarium

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Hoary alyssum can be controlled through mechanical and chemical means. Hand-pulling is effective on small infestations; plants should be pulled before they can go to seed. Contact the weed control board for site-specific chemical recommendations

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board, 901 W. Smith Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, 360/354-3990

Garden Friends & Foes

Continued from previous page



Defoliated snowball bush from larval feeding.

There are no known natural enemies that are specific to Viburnum leaf beetle. New York has identified some bird species, ladybug larvae, green lacewing larvae and predatory bugs as good general predators of the beetle larvae. Perhaps when the beetles settle into Whatcom County, something will decide to eat them regularly.

WSU does not have a specific pesticide recommendation as of yet; physical controls previously mentioned are the best bet for managing this emerging pest. As we learn more about Viburnum leaf beetle, pesticide recommendations can be made. Entomologists at Cornell are currently researching 'softer' insecticides for managing this pest.

But don't feel helpless as this pest comes into town and munches our Viburnums! For those Master Gardeners who are computer savvy and expert Viburnum-philes, sign up as a "Citizen Scientist" and help to discover the solution to this pest problem. Cornell has organized a citizen science program and has enlisted a number of community members throughout the affected areas to research the Viburnum leaf beetle. Learn more about this great program at: <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/vlb/index.html>.



Adult Viburnum leaf beetles (Photo from Kent Loeffler, Cornell University).

## 2004 Master Gardener Scholarship Awarded

This year's recipient of our Master Gardener Foundation Scholarship is Benjamin Zylstra from Nooksack Valley High School. Ben will be attending The University of Idaho and will be majoring in Agriculture.

Ben's academic record at Nooksack Valley has been outstanding. He is, with few exceptions, a straight A student. He has been involved in student government serving on the student council. He was president and treasurer of his FFA chapter as well as president and vice president of 4-H. He has also involved himself in football, track, and band.

As one of his teachers said in a letter of recommendation, "It is due to Ben's work-ethic, and desire to step outside his comfort zone that he has accomplished a great deal at Nooksack Valley High School and in his greater community".

Ben attended the May Master Gardener's meeting where he thanked us for the scholarship and indeed made a very good impression.

### Just a Reminder:

Our July bus/ferry trip will be on Thursday, July 22. We will leave Civic Field at 7:00 a.m. and return to Bellingham by 5:00 p.m. We will be visiting DIG Floral and Garden on Vashon Island, City People's Garden Store and the Volunteer Park Conservatory in Seattle. Bring your lunch and lots to drink. For details on these three locations, please refer back to your May issue of the Weeder's Digest. For other questions, you can contact Jean Powell or Chris Hurst.  
. Cost is \$20 for Master Gardeners and \$25 for guests.

### Could it be true...

that Master Gardeners grow the finest fruits, vegetables, herbs, nuts and honey? One way to find out is to enter your agricultural exhibit at the Northwest Washington Fair, August 16 – 21. Judging will be done by our own John VanMiert and Craig MacConnell.

For more information about entering your exhibit or for judging information you can visit the Whatcom County agriculture fact sheets

The premium book may be picked up after June 1 at the Lynden fair office or online at <http://northwestwashingtonfair.org>. For more information call Kate Nash.

### Northwest Washington Fair Premium Book Online

The 2004 premium book is available online at the Northwest Washington Fair website. <http://northwestwashingtonfair.org>, Click on "premium book" in the navigation menu.

### 4-H Gardening Superintendent Wanted:

Are you interested in working with youth gardening programs? Our current 4-H gardening superintendent has decided that this will be her last year coordinating this program for the Northwest Washington Fair. If you are interested in learning more about this position please call Craig Fenske at 360/676-6736.

### Hovander Update

~David Simonson

Every year is a little different! We have certainly noticed this at the demonstration garden this spring. We have been trying to begin our garden preparation and plantings in near dusty conditions.

As we go into June we will have most projects under way and ready for park visitors. We are trying to do better with our signs this year. This year each vegetable bed will have a number so that you can locate plantings from a master list posted on the bulletin board.

Veterans are invited to join volunteers from the class of 2004 Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. till noon. Check out our newest veggie, *oca*—have you heard of it before?

### Volunteer Opportunities

~Pat Nelson

Cascade Cuts asked for a few MGs to staff an information table at their annual plant sale. These enthusiastic volunteers did a great job and had a good time while surrounded by a fantastic array of plants and gardeners—Sue Kenney, Chris Tawes, and Jill Cotton—Thanks! Then to fill a request from the Bellingham Senior Center, Mary Spencer, Mary-Pat McLane, Kate Nash and Bill Baldwin staffed a table at their annual plant sale—Thanks! There will be an opportunity to help at 'Sustainable Connections' home tours on July 10 and 11 from 10 to 5pm. We will be offering an educational orientation prior to this event—so those of you who have a special interest in sustainable gardening, give me a call at Thanks,  
Pat



Weeder's Digest is the monthly newsletter for the Whatcom County Master Gardener Program. Guest articles are encouraged. Please submit typewritten articles by the third Wednesday of each month to Karri at the Master Gardener Office. Articles can also be submitted by e-mail to: [karrimac@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu](mailto:karrimac@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu). Editor uses MS Word for Windows and PageMaker 6.5. Any articles prepared on other programs or platforms should be saved as Text Files or Rich Text Files. Editor reserves the right to edit for space considerations, grammar, spelling and syntax.



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### Dates to Remember:

- June 3 ..... 10 a.m. to noon ..... Monthly Foundation Board Meeting  
Extension Office
- June 10 ..... 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. .... Monthly Foundation Meeting/Garden Tour  
See article for details
- June 22 ..... All Day ..... Heronswood Nursery Bus Trip
- Wednesdays ..... 8 to 9 a.m. .... Master Gardener breakfasts  
Babe's in Ferndale
- Wed. & Sat. .... 9 a.m. to noon ..... Hovander Work Parties
- Wednesday ..... 1 to 4 p.m. .... Bellingham Library Clinic
- Thursday ..... 3 to 6 p.m. .... Everson Library Clinic