

Weeder's Digest

All the dirt that's fit to print



Newsletter of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners

October 2004

Fall is here! Are you getting a bountiful Harvest from your garden? There are certainly many things that are ripe and ready now. We had a wonderful crop of pears this year. The pears were numerous, large and scab free, because of the very nice month of May. The Apple crop is also a good one this year. So enjoy the many fruits and veggies that are available in our area now.

Thanks to all of you who volunteered for the various summer activities. And, hopefully you will remember that we have on-going needs for volunteers during the winter. So, don't give up the good work, and don't give up the habit of volunteering.

The Ballot for the Foundation Officer elections is enclosed. Please vote and return the ballot to the extension office. If you want to vote for someone not listed on the ballot, write-in votes are welcome. We do wish to thank those gardeners who accepted nominations and ran for office. We realize that it takes time to perform the duties of an officer in the foundation, and we appreciate their commitment. There are no losers here, only winners.

November 11th will be the annual Graduation/ Potluck at the Ferndale Senior Center. Your spouse/companion and children are welcome. More information about what to bring, etc. will be in next month's newsletter. See you there.

Al McHenry

Hovander Happenings

~David Simonson

Believe it or not, another demonstration garden season is nearly over! By the time you get your newsletter much of the vegetable garden will be seeded to cover crop for winter. Everything considered, I'd say we had a very successful season.

We were very pleased with our corn maze which produced a huge crop of corn. For several weeks we had over 400 pounds of produce for the food bank.

September was wonderful for the dahlia garden and perennials. Now we're hoping our pumpkin patch produces a good crop for our annual pumpkin day on October 16. September saw the return of Dick Steele. We missed his expertise and humor all summer—welcome back!

For about the last 10 years we've thought we should prune our old currant and gooseberry bushes which had gotten to looking ugly. But procrastination always won and we never got around to doing it. Anyhow, I wanted to let you know that it got done this year! Linda Marrs pruned the gooseberry bush and Bruce McLeod did all the currants. A big "thanks" for doing this long overdue job!

We will continue Hovander workdays through October—so if you need hours or just want to come out to help, we would appreciate your efforts.

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

October has arrived and with it comes the season for the Boo Bugs. There are many ways of dealing with these pests, not the least of which is to have on hand a good supply of wrapped candy, a stock of patience and a ready smile. Be sure as you lay in your supplies that you choose a variety that is enjoyed by your spouse in the rare instance that your infestation is not as high as are expected.

We have had an exceptionally hot, dry summer. September brought some much needed rain. Now is the time for colder nights and still some sunny afternoons. Enjoy the milder weather as you go about the fall chores of raking leaves, pulling your annuals, putting your garden to sleep and caring for your winter garden. You need to make plans for covering you winter planting if you have not already done so.

October is the month of falling leaves and the work of removing them. They need to be raked up promptly to avoid having to work with a sodden mat that will smother the grass beneath. Fall planting is a good time for new improvements. Now is the time to look over your yard and decide if you need some color in one corner of your yard or other changes. New arrivals are coming into the nurseries. Plan a trip to go visit your favorite and survey the new offerings. A good place to start is with the heathers and heaths. Heathers bloom in the summer; heaths in the winter. Don't ignore heathers just because they are not in bloom. Several varieties show fiery winter plumage that will warm up your garden and brighten those uninteresting corners of your yard. Heathers prefer an acidic soil, so work in plenty of peat moss when planting.

Now is also the time to cut back your perennials to about 4" to 5". Ornamental grasses need grooming. Pull out the straw-colored grass so the plant looks good during the winter. Use your fingers to comb out the withered leaves. Do not cut your grasses back until spring.

October is also time for mums. You will find them in just about any color in the garden centers and the super markets. You can either toss the plants out when they finish blooming in November or you can turn your investment into a half-dozen new mums next spring. Should you choose to save your mums, plant them this fall in a sunny well-drained spot with moist, fertile soil. Next spring, just as the mum's new growth starts, dig it up and use a sharp shovel to cut the root ball into six equal pieces, each with a bit of stem and root. Replant the pieces in your garden and give them a drink of water. They should do just fine. Remember to pot any extras for the plant sale.

Of course, all gardeners have a compost operation going, and now all the taken up annuals, and the trimmings from perennials, can be added to the compost pile. However, if you noticed diseased plants or leaves on these plants, then it is better not to add it to the compost.

It is time to stop deadheading your rose, and allow it to form seed-bearing hips. Your rose will know that it raised a family, and can kick back and begin to harden off for the long, cold winter.

Romance time for slugs mating and egg laying. Apply the safe new slug baits to eliminate the slugs before they lay hundreds of eggs that will keep you busy next spring.

October is also the month for garlic planting. It's easy to grow. Plant the biggest cloves, fat side down, 2 inches apart in well-composted soil, making sure to get it into the ground by the end of the month. Don't plant grocery store garlic; buy cloves from your local nursery to reduce the chance of fungus disease.

This is also the time to start new geraniums from cuttings. Mix together an equal amount of peat moss and perlite. Thoroughly wet the mix, and then put it in a strainer and shake out the excess water. Fill a gallon plastic freezer bag one-third full. Take 6-inch cuttings, remove the lowest three inches of leaves, dip the base in rooting hormone and

insert them into the peat mix, making sure no leaves touch the rooting medium. Zip the bag shut and keep it in a warm, bright location out of direct sunlight. Transplant into four-inch pots when the cuttings are well rooted, and plant the new plants outside in the spring, around Mother's Day.

To over-winter your tender perennials, they need to be protected from the harshness of a cold winter. Referring to Martha Washington Geraniums, fuchsias and the like, the easiest method is to put your tender perennials in an unheated garage for the winter. Leave fuchsias and geraniums in their pots or, if you dig them out of your garden, put the plants in a box and cover the roots with compost. Water just enough to keep the root balls from going totally dry. Cut the branches back to about 8 inches tall. That will remove most of the leaves, and keep your garage cleaner. Transplant and cut back farther in spring, and with a little luck, you'll have healthy geraniums and fuchsias to give you a head start on next year's garden.

Over seeding onto an established lawn can do a lot of good. A thicker lawn is less likely to be bothered with weed invasion, and fall is a good time of year to work on lawn renovation. If you can rake and mow your lawn before scattering the seed, you'll have better luck with the renovation process. Yard maintenance companies can be hired to aerate, thatch or overseed lawn and fall is a good time to get to the grass roots of lawn improvement.

WHO AM I?

I am native to central and eastern North America. I have bristly, oblong leaves 3 – 4 inches long and form a dense 2 foot wide foliage clump from which rise sparsely leafed flowering stems to 4 feet tall. I bloom over a long period of time in summer (may start in spring in mild winter climates), bearing showy, 4 inch flowers with drooping rosy purple rays and a central orange-brown cone that resembles a beehive. Flowering may continue until frost. If faded flowers are left in place, bristly seed heads hang on into winter, seeds are favored by finches. New colors of me have recently been developed.

Last month was dianthus.



President's Message

Linda Bergquist,
MGF President

Pumpkins and Prizes!

Fun for kids (of all ages)! The Pumpkin Harvest at Hovander Park will be Saturday, October 16th. We will begin preparing the pumpkin patch for harvest at 8:30am. At 9:00-10:30am some people from Adult Group Homes will be coming. Then, from 10:30am-noon, kids can pick their very own FREE pumpkin, so bring your children and/or grandchildren. We will harvest any remaining pumpkins and have them available at the plant sale table. And don't forget the Corn Maze - it's really a challenge and lots of fun.

Now, for prizes, two fellow Master Gardeners have done us proud! Karen Gilliam AGAIN won the most blue ribbons in agriculture at the NW Washington Fair. I think she needs to teach us her secret. JoAnne Roose and her husband, Elmer, tied for second place in the "Entire Garden-Residential, ½ Acre or Less" category in the Whatcom in Bloom competition. They also received a special award, the Harmonious Garden Artistry perpetual plaque, which read "Maintenance is Soul Work". In early December, JoAnne is going to have a Holiday Wreath class. Look for all the particulars in this issue of Weeder's Digest.

The members of each new Master Gardener class add to our organization in their own special ways. The 2004 class of trainees has been putting in a lot of hours doing some interesting and helpful projects. Wendy Wolfe is working on an electronic version of the "Intake Form" that is used at the Extension office when clients call with a problem. The goal of her project is to record this information and develop a history. This will help Master Gardeners in the office resolve similar problems when they occur in the future. Sidney Kohlmeier and Marilyn Boysen are docents at Big Rock Garden Park. Linda Marrs is creating wonderful sandwich board signage so our organization will be easily identified anywhere we have a clinic. Judy Boxx has been asked to be a candidate for a member at large on next year's Master Gardener Foundation Board. As always, we have another talented group of new Master Gardeners.

Next Meeting

On Thursday, October 14th, at 7 p.m., our monthly foundation meeting will welcome Linda Quintata, presenting a talk on *Using Herbs From Your Garden*.

For 26 years, she has provided Bellingham with information, herbs and teas as owner of Wonderland Tea and Spices on Railroad Avenue. Linda was raised in a farming family and is enthusiastic about discussing the rewards of using the herbs that you have spent time nurturing in your garden. She currently maintains an alpine herb farm in Deming and 2 acres of Mediterranean herbs in Ferndale.

Timesheets

Don't forget to turn in your hours. The end of the year is coming up and we need to have those timesheets. Life members are not required to turn in hours, but if they do it would be greatly appreciated!

If you would like to fill out a timesheet online, go to <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/volunteer>. The user name is whatco37 (note there is no M) and the password is 1Whatcom (this is case sensitive). If you use a pop-up stopper on your computer you will need to disable it before going to this website.

Thanks everyone for all of your hard work!

Plant of the Month By Cheryl Greenwood Kinsley

Nasturtiums [**Corrected!**]

Family: Tropaeolaceae
(Nasturtium family)
Genus: *Tropaeolum*
Species: *speciosum*
[really!]

Will the real *Tropaeolum speciosum* please stand up?

The plant I spotted at a local garden center, the one labeled by a commercial grower as *Tropaeolum speciosum* 'Red Wonder', the one that stole my heart and inspired my August 2004 column, will have to stay seated. 'Red Wonder' is a humble *T. majus* rather than a regal *T. speciosum*. It is an annual rather than a perennial. It has no tubers for life support. And aphids just love it.



Both the flowers and the foliage of 'Red Wonder' are eye-catching—they certainly caught mine and obliterated whatever modicum of good sense I can claim. I *wanted* that plant to be the carefree, rambling perennial I'd read about. I was excited about the widespread availability of a new-to-us, very attractive vine admirably suited to our Northwest gardens. My only concern was its possible invasiveness—it's become a pest plant in some areas around the world with similar climates. So while the form of the plant I held in my hand differed from the descriptions in my books, I discounted the difference and *trusted the tag*. At that very moment, I cast aside caution and forgot the advice I'm always passing along to others: Don't rely on common names, ever, and be consistently leary of tags. The most reputable growers can make mistakes. It's challenging even for experts to keep everything straight, with so many new varieties in constant development to keep our interest—and sales figures—up.

It's one thing to misstate a flower color or some minor aspect of form. But to confuse a low-growing annual with a vining perennial? That was a *majus* error on my part. You may recall I wrote of the "dark leaves that appear almost blue." Those leaves were the first clue. They didn't seem to match any descriptions I could find of the leaves of *T. speciosum*. Those were consistently described as "five-lobed"—which the leaves of the plant in my hand were most definitely not. Neither were the leaves of *T. speciosum* characterized as "blue-green." Hmmm. I continued to discount the absence of lobes and the discrepancy in color. Perhaps, I told myself, this is just a very young specimen and the leaves will "change" as it matures. *Ha!*

Using "perhaps" and giving in to wishful thinking won't in a zillion years change an annual into a perennial, or one species into another. There's just no way to wish a *majus* into a *speciosum*.

In front of me, I had an actual plant. On my desk, I had fine photographs, good descriptions, and one really detailed botanical illustration—none of which matched the plant. As I was pondering this after the column went to print, I was set straight by a local gardener who knows one nasturtium from another.

You may recall I sent out a call for an example of *T. speciosum* in situ—one growing in place in a local garden. I was given a lead by a Master Gardener and found the plant in Bellingham in quite an extraordinary garden on the south side of town. *T. speciosum* has been tended there now for eight years by a very accomplished gardener, who went to visit the garden center to take a look at the nasturtium I'd seen. She told me right away, "That's not the same plant." And of course, she is right. It is not.

The *T. speciosum* growing in her garden has the characteristic lobed leaves, the smaller and slightly more elegant flowers, the different form, and the vining habit I'd read about. The pictures I took in her garden don't do it justice. But thanks to a very accomplished photographer named John Crellin, I'm able to show you the true colors and form of *T. speciosum*. Note those leaves! Mr. Crellin, who lives and works in North Somerset, England, has graciously given me permission to use his copyrighted photograph for posting with this column *only*—because we are nonprofit and our purpose is education. I ask visiting readers to note that he is entitled to photo credit and to respect his intellectual property.

I can hear you all asking where you might see an actual *T. speciosum* up close and personal. Right now, the only one I know of here is in that south-side garden. I'll plead for cuttings and keep you posted. I haven't found it available for sale at any of the usual—or unusual—garden centers in our area. In fact, they're calling me to find out where they can get it! Heronswood has *T. speciosum* listed in their 2004 catalog—under vines, where it belongs—but notes limited quantities, spring availability only, and no on-site sales. Please let me know if you spot any others and I'll pass that information along. In the meantime, I'll be spending any free moments this month reminding myself to be wary of tags bearing false names.

Garden Friends and Foes By Todd Murray

Cherry Bark Tortrix

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Tortricidae

Species: *Enarmonia formosana*

Life History: The Cherry Bark Tortrix (CBT) was first found in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, Canada in 1990. CBT was subsequently discovered in the United States during 1991 at Peace Arch Park in Whatcom County. Of course, the person responsible for this discovery was WSU Master Gardener, Joe Massett. Master Gardeners are almost always the first to identify exotic pests entering the country. Since its discovery, CBT has spread southward and can currently be found South of Portland, Oregon.

We believe that CBT came to North America from Europe and Eurasia. CBT is found throughout Europe, coastal North Africa and as far West as Siberia. Curiously, CBT is rarely a problem in these areas and rarely requires treatment. In its native homeland, CBT is controlled naturally by parasitic wasps and other predators.

If you are so lucky to run across the inch-long adult moths, they are rather beautiful. The forewings are mottled with dark and light browns. Along the front of the wing, there are strips of orange, dark purple, and silver. The larvae are typical caterpillar-shaped and are usually transparent, with a pinkish lining in the gut. Mature larvae reach the lengths of one to 1 ½ inches. The eggs are very small, oval and salmon pink.



Figure 1. Adult Cherry Bark Tortrix

There is one generation of CBT per year in the Northwest. Adults fly and lay eggs from April to September. Females deposit their eggs in cracks, crevices, wounds, crotches and lenticels (small natural opening of the bark) of your trees. Eggs hatch after a couple of weeks and the first caterpillar stage forages for entrance into the tree bark. Once the larva gains entrance through an opening in the bark, the caterpillar will burrow deeper into the living tissue of the bark down to the cambium. Here the larvae feed through out the season until next spring. The caterpillars mine out winding tunnels in the bark. During mining, the larvae are constantly constructing a 'frass tube.' The tube is built on the entrance to the tunnel and consists of frass (digested food) and silk. The frass tube is a unique adaptation that offers protection from predators gaining access to the tunnel, protects the caterpillars from the outside environment and finally offers a safe site to pupate.

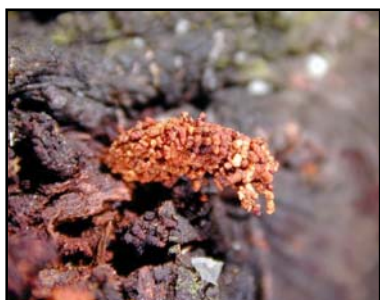


Figure 2. Frass tube.

Damage: CBT attacks practically all rosaceous trees in the Northwest. This includes apples, cherries, plums, apricots, almonds, peaches, laurels, quince, firethorns, photinia and hawthorns. In addition, CBT will threaten many of our native trees such as black hawthorn, bitter cherry and Oregon crab apple. Damage to the tree is noticeable by canopy dieback and premature wilting of the canopy. Very high populations can girdle and kill trees. More importantly, CBT damage opens up the tree to all sorts of dangerous mortality factors, leaving trees susceptible to bacterial and fungal diseases, frost damage, and other insect pests. All these factors can decrease the vigor, life span and fruit and flower production of infested trees.

Monitoring: You will notice CBT infestations by inspecting the trunks of your trees. The characteristic frass tube will be obvious due to its orange color. On heavily infested trees, you will see hundreds of these orange frass tubes along grafting sites and other wounds and openings. The tree, especially cherries, responds to the infestation by producing sap to flush out the larvae. Sometimes this is affective, but quite often I've seen CBT chew right through the rock-hard resin.

Management: Since the introduction of CBT to Western Washington, entomologist Dr. Lynell Tanigoshi has researched integrated pest management strategies for managing CBT.

Cultural Management- Do not purchase and plant susceptible trees. Mount Fuji oriental cherry trees (*Prunus serrulata*) are very susceptible to CBT damage, along with weeping cherry (*P. subhirtella*) and sweet cherry (*P. avium*). Pruning habits can also increase a tree's susceptibility to CBT. Do not prune living branches from flowering cherries. Only prune out dead wood. On fruiting trees make good pruning cuts to allow for the collars to heal closed properly. Using pruning paint is not effective. Avoid any wounds to the bark; be careful with your weed-eaters and lawn mowers. Control weeds and hedges at the base of the trunk and keep it exposed. CBT will often lay eggs at the base of the trunk, if no other opportunities are available.

Continued on next page



Figure 3. Canopy dieback and premature wilting in July.

Sinclair Island Garden Cruise

Looking for a hale and hardy group of Master Gardeners who are undaunted by our soggy autumn weather to join us for a unique cruise and garden tour. Here's the facts:

Destination: Boulder Reef Garden on Sinclair Island

Garden Description: Designed and built by summer resident Bob Shipp over a ten year period, the garden mingles native bush with a variety of shrubs and bushes that Bob has bought to the Island. On this self-guided tour part of the fun is discovering these imports, such as the Big Leaf Rhododendron from China and the Loderi Rhododendron.

Covering 20 acres, the garden has winding trails and numerous special spots of interest. Sculptures by local artists are dwarfed by one hundred year old Cottonwoods who stand like sentinels on the grounds. Thought provoking quotations are displayed in a variety of ways throughout the garden.

Transportation: State of the art high speed catamaran; the Mercury. This comfortable boat is designed to go topless in fine weather and has a clear plastic canopy for dry and comfortable cruising in wet weather. The Mercury cruises at a speed of 35 miles and gives an amazingly pleasant ride even in choppy water.

Departure Point: Bellingham Cruise Terminal

Departure Time: 1:00 p.m.

Return Time: 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40/per person plus 8.2% sales tax

Purpose of this E-mail: At this point we are looking for people who would be interested in this Island Garden Cruise. Our next step would be to choose a date for the trip. Please e-mail Pat Nelson a.s.a.p. if you would like to join us or would like additional information.

Who Are We: Great Orca Adventures, 355 Harris Ave. Suite 100 - Phone 734-4331

If you would like to check out our vessel, the Mercury, please visit our web site at www.orcawhales.com

Garden Friends & Foes *continued from previous page*

Chemical Management- When research began on managing CBT, little attention was given to chemical control. It would be impractical, expensive to try and manage the only free-living, exposed stages of CBT; adults and eggs are present from April until September. The larvae are protected underneath the bark and cannot be reached by insecticides. However, there is a weak link in the biology of CBT. The larvae of the CBT construct and visit their frass tubes with diligence in the spring and fall seasons. A well-timed insecticide applied in late September or early October can be very effective. The timing is import to insure that all live stages of CBT are inside the tree, adult flight and egg-laying is complete by late September. It only takes very little of mixed insecticides to control CBT. I use a liter-sized, cheap, hand-held atomizer sprayer. It only takes about a half liter to treat even the bigger cherry trees. Only treat areas of the bark with active frass tubes such as trunks and scaffold branches; do not treat the canopies. Apply insecticide until it runs off the bark. Visit Hortsense (<http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense>) for the most current insecticide recommendation. It is important to note that there are NO chemical recommendations for edible, fruiting trees. Currently, Dr. Lerry Lacey, of USDA-ARS in Yakima, is exploring the use of entomopathic nematodes for managing CBT, and it appears successful so far. This will be a likely option for persons who that do not want to use synthetic pesticides and persons with home orchards.

Biological Control- A native *Trichogramma* wasp (about the size of a pencil tip) is very effective at parasitizing CBT eggs. To conserve beneficial parasitoids, offer small flowers in your gardens and reduce the amount of insecticides used in your yard. In Bellingham, we have recorded up to 98% parasitization by *Trichogramma* wasps. Dr. Tanigoshi and graduate students at WSU have worked on biological control campaigns using the miniature *Trichogramma* wasps and have found success. Seattle Woodland Park Zoo and other areas of Seattle and Portland have been able to recover released wasps from parasitized CBT eggs. Parasitized CBT eggs will appear as little metallic black bubbles instead of the healthy salmon-pink color. Of course, using a hand lens, you can often see a little hole chewed out the top of the egg where the adult wasp emerged from. Other endemic wasps are appearing to exploit CBT as a food source. I imagine that as CBT establishes the Pacific Northwest as its home, many of our native critters will find it a tasty meal and we will soon experience natural control of CBT as in Europe.

Collecting, Saving and Exchanging Seed

~Sheila Gray, WSU Extension Faculty Lewis County

Saving seeds from your own flower, vegetable and herb gardens brings a feeling of great satisfaction. Knowing an individual plant is going to perform well in your growing area and conditions make choosing which plant to propagate through seed saving a snap. Look for good performance in the garden, along with beauty and ease of care when selecting plants.

Collecting the bounty

As fall approaches, watch for seedpods to form on the plants from which to save seed. If the weather is nice, spending an afternoon collecting pods is enjoyable. If time is short or the weather is less than pleasant, consider harvesting entire branches of the plant bearing ripe seedpods. Put your collections in paper shopping bags, label them and put them on the top shelf of the greenhouse, or in another warm, dry spot to allow them to continue drying. Then set aside some time on a stormy winter day, the rare day when no other gardening chores need to be done, and the seed catalogs have not yet arrived. Bring in your shopping bags, put on some good music and start sorting seeds.

Cleaning and storing

Use two sieves, a larger one to remove most of the crushed pods and any leaves or stem parts that may have mixed in with the seed. Then put them through a smaller sieve that retains the seed and lets any soil fall away. When the seed is as clean as possible, put it in a labeled paper envelope and leave to dry a bit longer. Once thoroughly dry, place them in resealable plastic bags and put in the refrigerator to store. Some seeds require chilling to germinate. When dried and stored properly, many flower and

vegetable seeds remain viable for two to three years. For my purposes, I prefer to use seed from the previous season and those are what I offer through the seed exchange.

Important seed saving points to remember:

If you want the seed sown to look like the plant that produced the seeds, don't try to save seed from hybrid species. They are the result of crosspollination of two different parent plants to achieve a desired color or other growth trait. Seeds from hybrid crosses may not resemble the plant from which it came. Also, keep in mind that different varieties of the same plant will produce different offspring than that of the parents. Columbines, *Aquilegia sp.*, in particular are known for not coming back true to color. In any color or form they are beautiful: you might not mind the color differences.

Seed exchanges

Several seed exchanges are operating in the United States and many more around the world. Australia is particularly active in sating heirloom seeds and exchanging them. Many folks feel that saving non-hybrid seeds helps to retain seed biodiversity of our plant food supply and reduce the reliance on the new hybrids marketed by many major seed companies.

The best known of the exchanges is the Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, Iowa. Founded in 1975, its members have been working to save heirloom seeds and endangered vegetable and fruit varieties from extinction. Their yearbook lists more than 11,000 unique vegetables and fruits. As a service to the flower gardener, they also operate a Flower and Herb Seed Exchange. Membership in the

latter is \$10 per year. They ask that members list what seed they have available to exchange with fellow gardeners. Listed members pay only \$1 per packet of seeds to cover the cost of postage. The fee for unlisted members is \$2. To receive a free four-page color brochure describing Seed Savers Exchanges, projects and publications, send your name and address to Seed Savers Exchange, 3076 North Winn Road, Decorah Iowa 52101.

A little closer to home is the Abundant Life Seed Foundation based in Port Townsend. While they are not a seed exchange, they carry rare and unusual heirloom species, especially those native to the northwest. A catalog is available for \$2 by mail. Their address is PO Box 772, Port Townsend WA 98368.

With growing interest in heirloom varieties, some gardeners may want to contact the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, Monticello, PO Box 316, Charlottesville VA 229032. A catalog listing varieties grown by one of our most admired presidents is available for \$1.

Whether growing and collecting plants to save seed as your own heirlooms to plant again year after year or exchanging with other enthusiasts across the street or across the globe, the satisfaction of completing the seed to seed cycle is always heart warming.

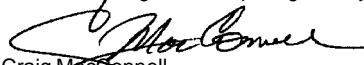
For more information on starting seeds, contact your local WSU Extension Office.



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. 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:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| October 7 | 10 a.m. to noon | Monthly Foundation Board Meeting
Extension Office |
| October 14 | 7 to 9:30 p.m. | Monthly Foundation Meeting
Extension Office |
| October 14 - 16 | All Day | WA State MG Conference
Olympia, WA |
| November 11 | 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. | Annual MG Graduation Potluck
Ferndale Senior Center |
| Wednesdays | 8 to 9 a.m. | Master Gardener breakfasts
Babe's in Ferndale |
| Wed. & Sat. | 9 a.m. to noon | Hovander Work Parties |