GROUNDED

A Quarterly publication of WSUE
Grant-Adams Master Gardeners

Newsletter March 2018
Volume 7 Number 1

Grant-Adams Counties Master Gardeners, 1525 E. Wheeler Road, Moses Lake, WA 98837
http://county.wsu.edu/grant-adams/Pages/default.aspx · ga.mgvolunteers@ad.wsu.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Grant-Adams Master Gardener Program Regroups . . . *By the Newsletter staff*

Although there was some question late last year about the viability of the WSU Grant-Adams Master Gardener (MG) Program, MGs in Grant-Adams Counties report that it is as vital and vibrant as it was before. It will continue to operate using the science-based principles and practices that make it a credible program, providing the public with recommendations for sustainable gardening as well as good training for MG volunteers. The program will continue to depend on the Washington State University (WSU) Extension for oversight with assistance from support staff at the Moses Lake WSU Extension office. The primary change is that the WSU-supported Master Gardener coordinator position is no longer a paid position due to budget cuts. As is not unusual throughout the state, MG volunteers have assumed the duties of the coordinator: MGs Duane Pitts, Terry Rice, and Mark Amara are now serving as volunteer co-coordinators.

The public may continue to bring samples to the office at 1525 E. Wheeler Road in Moses Lake, call in their questions (509) 754-2011 x 4313, or request assistance through the online clinic (ga.mgvolunteers@ad.wsu.edu). Plant clinics will operate through the growing season on most Saturdays in Moses Lake, Ephrata, and occasionally in Othello.

4th Annual Columbia Basin Eco-Gardening Symposium . . . *by the Newsletter staff*

For the fourth year, the Grant-Adams MG Foundation/Master Gardener Program is co-sponsoring an annual free gardening symposium for the public with the Grant County Conservation District. This year's *Swing into Spring*, features three talks by gardening experts on pesticide use, gardening myths, and tree orchards in home gardens. The event will be held 9-1 pm Saturday, April 21, 2018, at the Columbia Basin Technical Skills Center on Yonezawa Blvd. in Moses Lake.

Three dynamic speakers are lined up to speak:

- **Allan Felsot**, WSU professor of Entomology & Environmental Toxicology, will discuss the applicability of using pesticides in the garden
- **Karen Lewis,** WSU **Regional Extension Tree Fruit Specialist,** will discuss managing home orchards
- **Linda Chalker-Scott**, author and WSU Horticulture professor, will dispel common garden myths.

The event, which provides free catered refreshments and door prizes, will also feature an exhibitor showcase, with several resource professionals displaying educational materials, answering questions, and offering their products for sale. Since the event is free and space is limited, participants are strongly encouraged to register early to guarantee a space by:

- Calling 509-765-9618, the Grant County Conservation District office number
- Filling out a paper copy of the registration form and either mailing it in or bringing it to the Conservation District office
- Registering online at www.columbiabasincds.org, and going to the symposium registration tab to sign up.

Master Gardener Interns Honored . . . *by the Newsletter staff*

In 2017 a dedicated group of selected individuals completed four months of rigorous online WSU coursework through the WSU Master Gardener Training Program. Those who completed that phase of the training successfully became interns and will now work 50+ hours in 2018 to become fully certified MGs and community educators in gardening and environmental stewardship.

Nine interns completed the written, lab and field trip phases of their WSU Grant-Adams Master Gardener training in 2017. This year the interns will gain valuable hands-on experience interacting with the communities in which MGs serve in Grant and Adams Counties. They will observe and help on plant clinics, write news articles, help with the annual gardening symposium, participate in trainings, work in the MG's greenhouse at Big Bend Community College and plant sale and other activities that support the Master Gardener program. Once their minimum number of hours is reached, each intern is awarded an official MG certification.

Four of the nine interns present at the last Grant-Adams Master Gardener Foundation meeting in February 2018, were awarded temporary name tags and a bag of goodies for their efforts. From left to right: Sandra Odell (Othello), Marylou Krautscheid (Quincy), Glenn Martin (Quincy), and Bettina Bradley (Moses Lake).

Not pictured: Iris Fung (Moses Lake), RJ Lembcke (Othello), Micah Scanga (Ephrata) and Beverly Schroeder (Soap Lake).

Master Gardener of the Year Awarded . . .

By Newsletter staff

The Grant-Adams Master Gardener Foundation presents an award annually to an individual or individuals who have dedicated time and effort in meeting stringent detailed criteria/standards that may include community involvement, educational impact, MG program promotion, commitment, and legacy along with total volunteer hours.

At its February MG foundation meeting, the 2017 Master Gardener of the Year was awarded to Mark Amara, an individual considered to be vital to the MG Foundation. Mark has worked tirelessly to help keep the board functioning year after year, serving faithfully as secretary for multiple terms.

Mark has consistently helped the MG program in a year when the number of MG volunteers available had declined, making it hard at times to find enough volunteers to serve on plant clinics, mentor new MG

Mark Amara, recipient of the 2017 Master Gardener of the Year award

interns, work in demonstration gardens, and do needed research. Mark both writes for and edits the quarterly MG Foundation newsletter, reminding other MGs about article deadlines and ensuring that a useful newsletter is consistently published and available to the public. For the past couple of years, he has written a Master Gardener column published in area newspapers, alternating months during March-August with Mona Kaiser. Several articles were published in the State Master Gardener Foundation's ***Seeds for Thought*** newsletter this past year.

Mark has helped at the annual plant sale by watering at the greenhouse, hauling plants to and from the sale, and answering client questions. In 2017, he was the number one person to call for online clinic advice and to inspect plant and/or insect materials left for MGs at the WSU extension office. In addition, Mark was the alternate for answering client questions at the Moses Lake Farmers Market typically in weeks when other MG clinic participation was not available as well as for storing materials for the MG plant clinic at the market.

Since 2015, Mark has been the MG planning lead for the annual gardening symposium. In addition, when one of the other committee members stepped away from the program in late 2017, Amara assumed the responsibilities for organizing the vendor marketplace portion of the upcoming 2018 event. In addition, he chairs a committee studying the feasibility of a demonstration garden to be maintained and planned jointly by Grant-Adams Master Gardeners and Cloudview Farms of Ephrata.

Mark also played a significant role in making sure the Master Gardener program continues to operate in Grant-Adams Counties when its future appeared to be in jeopardy. He agreed to be a co-coordinator for the Master Gardener program to help ensure it is a viable, productive and functioning unit years into the future.

Looking at the Seeds Saved from Past Years: What to Use and When to Plant . . .

By Barbara Guilland

This article is for seed collecting dilettantes. On the other hand, if you want to get seriously involved in seed saving, check out the Facebook page for Ephrata Seed Savers. You'll find good sources and advice for collecting seeds from your own garden presented by Master Gardeners who know what they are talking about.

It has been a relatively warm winter but not warm enough to get much done outside. I have been looking at my box of seed packets that I've saved over the years and wondering what to do with them. Many of them are packets of seeds for the fantasy flower gardens I never plant. The planning and planting urge is on me again though, and I've already succumbed to the plant catalogs and ordered some new seeds that I haven't tried before. I've never taken very good care of extra seeds, just tossing them into a box along with the seeds I've collected from annual salvia, poppies, moonflowers, and hollyhocks that already grow in my yard. I've resolved to get them in order, decide what to plant in the vegetable garden, and learn how to dispose of the old seed in some useful way.

So naturally I went to the internet and the WSU MG Manual for some simple answers. However, if you want to get seriously involved in seed saving, check out the Facebook page for Ephrata Seed Savers. You'll find good sources and advice for collecting seeds from your own garden.

We all tend to have extra seeds at the end of the planting season, and I found a lot of advice from seed growers online about how to preserve them a little better and take the guesswork out of knowing what seeds will germinate and when to buy fresh seed. I have always been careless about checking the stamp on the back of the package that tells you what year the seeds were sold. From their articles, I did learn you can store seeds properly and extend their shelf life, although they don't last forever. I have packets from 1984 and 1997. I think I'll toss those!

Some seed companies (such as Burpee Seeds and Terroir Seeds) offer suggestions on storing seeds in their original packet (useful for that date on the back) in a container with a tight-fitting lid that protects them from light and moisture. Though WSU does not recommend any business over another, the following examples are representative of seed businesses across the country. Burpee suggests that seeds like spinach, lettuce, and parsnips are only good for about a year, beans a little longer. Of course, they want you to use the seed for extra planting or thick planting that you then thin. Terroir Seeds suggests putting the original packets into plastic baggies with the date you stored them on the baggie. Then put the baggies in a larger freezer bag and freeze them to make them last longer! Jim Myers, Oregon State University Extension vegetable breeder, quoted from an article by Carol Savonen, who says that seeds kept dry last longer than seeds kept in humid conditions. Myers suggested seed is optimally stored through the winter at 50°F with 50% humidity.

Seed	Storage Life (years)
Bush and pole beans	**2**
Beet	**2**
Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, and kohlrabi	**3 - 5**
Carrot	**3**
Collard, Kale	**3 - 5**
Sweet corn	**1**
Cucumber	**3**
Leek, onion	**2-3**
Lettuce	**3**
Melon	**3**
Oriental greens	**3**
Parsley	**2**
Parsnip	**1**
Peas	**2**
Pepper	**2**
Radish	**4**
Rutabaga	**3**
Spinach	**1 season**
Squash	**3-4**
Swiss Chard	**2**
Spinach	**1 season**
Squashes	**3-4**
Swiss Chard	**2**
Tomato	**3**
Turnip	**4**
Flower seed	**1 - 3 annuals** **2 - 4 perennials**

If you keep your seeds dry and cool, you can expect many of them to last longer than the time periods indicated above. I suspect that another year or more can be added to this estimate, especially with beans, peas, and corn. If so, and you have enough seed, try a test for seed germination before using them.

Test the Germination of your seeds before you plant:

- Moisten two or three layers of paper towels.
- Place 25 to 50 seeds on the towels and roll the towels loosely. Place them in a plastic bag.
- Keep the towels in a warm place such as on a kitchen counter or on top of a water heater.

- Some seeds take as much as 14 days. Observe every 2 days to see rate of germination. If they sprout, you can estimate the % of germination and plant more seed to compensate.

When to Start the Seed

2018 could be an unusual year for starting plants from seed. Plant growth depends upon soil temperature not just date. If you want to be very specific about when to plant, go to a site like The Western Regional Climate Center (http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/summary/climsmwa.html) that will give you planting temperatures for your area. On the other hand, I've given you some very general estimates: Read the seed packet for specific information about how to plant. It depends on the number of days the soil has reached a base temperature of 50°F. Here's some general planting dates for this area:

- Onions and Leeks – plant seeds in early February, grow inside 14 to 15 weeks.
- Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and head lettuce – plant seeds in early March, grow inside 10-11 weeks
- Peppers and eggplant – Plant seeds mid-March, grow inside for 9 weeks.
- Tomatoes – plant seeds in late March to early April, grow inside for 5 to 8 weeks.

References

Burpee Seed https://www.burpee.com/gardenadvicecenter/areas.../saving-seed.../article10846.html

Terroir Seeds https://garden.org/greenpages/view/100/Terroir-Seeds-Home-of-Underwood-Gardens/

Savonen, Carol, How long do Garden Seeds Last? 2/19/2003
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/node/487/print.

Chapter 6. Gardening, WSU Master Gardener Training Manual, Washington State University, Pullman, WA. 2010

https://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=15401

https://washingtondnr.wordpress.com/2010/12/03/new-washington-state-master-gardener-manual-now-available-for-order/.

Celebrate The Year Of The Bird! . . . *By Kris Nesse*

A couple years ago I was fascinated by a large flock of birds that kept returning to our Spartan Juniper hedge. We are not true birders, but love watching whatever species are around. I read my trusty *Audubon Society Field Guide to Birds of North America*, but could not identify these particular birds. Finally, I got a reasonable picture of an injured bird and sent it to a birder friend. He quickly replied: "Immature Cedar Waxwings." Of course! They were eating the juniper berries, had the characteristic mask and racing helmet head, as well as the yellow-tipped tail feathers, but were mostly grey. We also see a variety of raptors hunting the steep bank in front of our house or playing in updrafts. Huge families of adorable California quail often wander through, eating weed seeds. Later in the summer, goldfinches, grosbeaks, crossbills, and chickadees all cling to the millet and perch on spent sunflowers digging out the seeds.

One of my many goals is to get better at identifying birds, and to create a habitat that many species want to visit. Luckily, 2018 marks "the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed." In honor of this milestone, nature lovers around the world are joining forces to celebrate the "Year of the Bird" and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years." This initiative is sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, National Geographic, and BirdLife International. As part of the centennial celebration, these groups are disseminating tons of information that can help home gardeners learn about what birds require to thrive and about the kinds of plants that attract our flying friends.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that "a typical neighborhood in Washington has more than 25 species of birds and mammals." Each backyard is a habitat, and every homeowner is a habitat manager. Birds (and most other wildlife) require three essential elements:

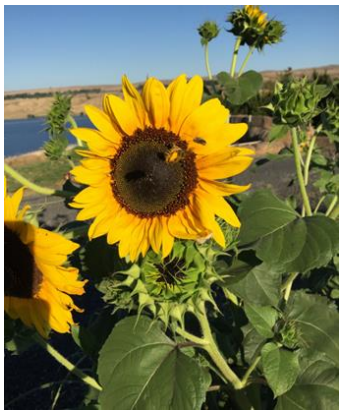
- **Shelter**
- **Food**
- **Water**

Shelter: Birds require shelter from harsh weather, safe places to escape predators, and reasonable nest building spaces. Gardeners can take stock of what their yards currently offer and consider adding additional plants or design elements that will nurture a variety of bird life. A mix of tall and smaller trees (most songbirds require trees) and evergreen and deciduous shrubs grouped together provide shelter. Dense shrubbery offers both protection and nesting sites. If possible, allow dead trees to stand for both food and nesting options for some bird species. Consider how nature "layers" plants. Various levels provide home for a wider variety of bird species. Shoot for natural "edges" with layers of vegetation and curved or irregular borders.

Food: Adult birds like variety—insects, worms, berries, seeds, nectar. Baby birds all require protein. Diversity is important! Consider both evergreen and deciduous trees, and different seed or fruit-bearing or nectar-producing plants. Minimize pesticide use. Baby birds need the food they often kill. Leaf litter provides great scratching areas for birds to seek bugs and other food. If you provide feeders, keep them filled year-round.

Some of the recommended native plants that we intend to utilize to provide food this year include:

- Purple Coneflowers (*Echinacea spp.)*
- Sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*)
- Milkweed (*Asclepias spp.)* with **caution** because with water they spread like crazy
- Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis),*
- Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens),*
- Elderberry *(Sambucus spp.)*
- possibly Oak (*Quercus spp.)*



Sunflower plants are good for cover and as bird food

Audobon has a terrific native plant database you can search for other ideas. https://www.audubon.org/native-plants

Water: Some form of water is essential for drinking and bathing. Birdbaths, ponds, dripping faucets, streams, puddles: Provide it and they will come.

We look forward to watching our feathered friends this year as we celebrate "The Year of the Bird".

"If you take care of birds, you take care of most of the environmental problems in the world."

-Thomas Lovejoy, Biologist and Godfather of Biodiversity

References

https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird/.

https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/chester/how-to-gardening-brochures/gardening-for-birds

https://wdfw.wa.gov/living/landscaping/

http://www.audubon.org/news/10-plants-bird-friendly-yard

http://putnam.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/create-a-pollinator-paradise

http://extension.wsu.edu/clark/2017/07/attract-wildlife-to-your-clark-county-backyard/

Get to Know Your Soils Better . . . *By Mark Amara*

Getting to know the soils in the yard or garden can provide insights into what their physical and chemical makeup is in terms of texture, color and organic content, depth, water holding capacity, and structure. Figuring out and knowing soil types can help us determine what they are capable of growing or are best suited for, how they should be managed to remain sustainable, and what their limitations are. Identifying soil types is a first step to understanding their potentials. Once the basic characteristics are known, it is easier to develop plans for managing them. For example, many of our Grant County and Adams County soils consist of sandy loam and silt loam textures, are

- relatively low in organic matter (1% or less in the native state)
- tend to be neutral to moderately alkaline (7-8+ pH range), and may not need to be watered as often as soils that consist entirely of sand.

Some soils have limiting features like

- high water tables
- shallow overlying basalt bedrock or caliche (a calcium carbonate cemented layer), or
- have high percentages of sand and gravel (2 mm-3 inches in diameter or cobbles, 3 -10 inches in diameter, stones, 10 - 24 inches in diameter or boulders, more than 24 inches in diameter) in the soil profile.

Examples of very sandy soils are primarily in the Black Sands area (Irrigation Block 89) near Dodson Road west of Moses Lake, peaty (organic) soils that occur near Wilson Creek in the Crab Creek floodplain, and deep windblown rock-free loess soils in the Hartline area, south of Coulee City, and in the Beezley Hills north of Ephrata. Fine-textured soils are present south of Lind Coulee, and there are gravelly and stony soils in the Moses Lake-Ephrata-Soap Lake areas.

Soil scientists from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service mapped the soils in Grant and Adams Counties using standardized nationally recognized principles which were correlated using a taxonomic system specifically designed for soils. Gardeners are encouraged to view hard copies of the Soil Survey of Grant County, Washington, published in 1984 or the Soil Survey of the Adams County, Washington, 1967, available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service or the public library. Alternatively, there are easy-to-access online resources to use to learn about soils throughout the United States. Simply, go to Web Soil survey on the internet (*http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm or Soil Web http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/soilweb-apps/)* to find out what the soils are on site specific locations and on individual properties. Master Gardeners can assist gardeners in determining what your soils are like, what they can best grow, and offer suggestions about what to do to improve them.

All America Winners: Proven Plants for your garden . . . *By Diane Escure*

As the weather slowly warms up and the days grow longer, we get more excited about the prospect of starting a vegetable garden and maybe planting some new flower varieties in our landscape. One organization called the All-America Selections (AAS), which is an 85-year-old nonprofit plant group, tests new plant varieties every year at its 80 private and public trial sites located around the United States and Canada to determine the best-performing plants in North America. Through this process, gardeners are offered reliable new varieties with proven superior garden performance.

AAS has announced 13 new AAS Winners for 2018: seven vegetables and six ornamental or flowering plants. Each of these varieties was trialed, comparing it to already considered "best in class" varieties that have been growing in the U.S. and Canada, and each was tested for garden performance by a panel of independent expert judges located in geographically diverse areas. They are horticulturalists representing universities and extension offices, seed growers, nurseries, plant farms, and botanical gardens. Two trial sites are located in Washington: Pure Line Seeds (Warden) and Floret Flower Farm (Mt. Vernon).

WSU Master Gardeners in Marysville, WA, have created, and continue to maintain, a demonstration garden of AAS winners over the years for public viewing at Jennings Park in Marysville, WA.

Overview of Selection Process

Varieties judged to perform best overall become AAS National Winners. Entries that performed particularly well in certain regions are named AAS Regional Winners. All AAS Winners are bred or produced without using genetic engineering, commonly referred to as genetic modification or GMO.

The independent AAS judges score each entry from 0 to 5 points to determine each year's AAS winners. They look for significantly improved qualities, such as earliness to bloom or harvest, disease or pest tolerance, novel colors or flavors, novel flower forms, total yield, the length of flowering or harvest, and overall performance. In the last ten years, an entry needs to have at least two significantly improved qualities to be considered by the judges for an AAS award. New, never-before-sold varieties with proven superior qualities are announced three times each year as AAS Winners.

AAS Trial Grounds

An AAS trial ground plays a key part in the process of declaring AAS winners. Professional horticulturists work in their fields where the AAS entries are planted next to comparisons, or scientifically speaking, controls. Once the AAS entries are transplanted into a trial ground, the AAS judges observe and evaluate the garden performance. At the end of the trial season, the judges send their scores and evaluations to the AAS Office for tabulation. Only the best garden performers (best scores) become AAS Winners. Once new varieties are announced as AAS winners, they are available for immediate sale and distribution. Home gardeners will find seeds available from their favorite catalog, online seed source, or garden retailer.

2018 AAS Edible/Vegetable Winners

- **Corn, Sweet American Dream** (*Zea mays* var. American Dream): American Dream has super sweet bi-colored kernels, is very tender and has excellent germination, reaching maturity in 77 days. National Vegetable Winner.

- **Tomato (cocktail), Red Racer F1** (*Solanum lycopersicum* var. Red Racer F1): Red Racer is a compact determinate tomato, producing cocktail-sized (1.5 inches), uniform, red-clustered tomatoes with a good sweet/acid balance. Ideal for container gardens and available in conventional and organic seeds. National Vegetable Winner.

- **Asian Delight F1 Pak Choi (or Bok Choy)** is a Chinese cabbage that outperformed the comparisons by leaps and bounds. Judge after judge noted how this Pak Choi does not bolt like the comparisons, even weeks after other varieties went to seed. That means the yield from this AAS Winner can be double or even higher than that of other Pak Choi on the market. Asian Delight forms small to mid-size (5-7 inch) heads that have a tasty, tender white rib and dark green, textured leaves.

- **Pepper Red Cayenne Red Ember F1--** is earlier to mature than comparison varieties. Early maturity is an important feature for gardeners who live in climates with a shorter growing season. Red Ember produces a large number of rounded end fruits on durable, medium-sized plants. Judges described the thick-walled fruits as spicy, but tastier than the traditional cayenne, with just enough pungency for interest.

- **Pepper habanero Roulette F1--** resembles a traditional habanero pepper in every way (fruit shape, size and color, and plant type) but with no heat. One-ounce fruits are red with thick walls when it matures and a citrusy (no heat) habanero flavor. Earlier production of large, uniform fruit and a very high yield. One judge noted that each plant easily produces 10-11 fruits at one time and up to 100 per season.

- **Mexican Sunrise Hungarian Pepper F1**-- has a full spectrum of colors from lime green to yellow then orange and red as the fruit matures. These earlier maturing conical pendant shaped peppers produce a thick-walled fruit that can be eaten at any stage and are high yielding. The fruits are semi-hot, attractive peppers that can be used for ornamental purposes as well as for processing, pickling, and fresh preparations.

- **Mexican Sunset Pepper F1** is a compact, high-heat Hungarian hot wax pepper well-suited for traditional gardens as well as urban and container gardening. Fruit sets early then prolifically throughout the summer bringing a variety of colors to the garden as the fruits mature. These conically pointed peppers produce a thick-walled fruit that can be eaten at any stage.

2018 AAS Ornamental Vegetative Winners

- **Ornamental Pepper Onyx Red** (*Capsicum annuum* var. Onyx Red)--Onyx Red is a 6-12-inch compact annual with dark purple foliage with purple-red fruit. National Flower Winner.

2018 AAS Flower Winners

- **Canna South Pacific Orange F1**—Sister to 2013 AAS Winner South Pacific Scarlet, it is compact and well suited for both landscape and container use. This variety is more vigorous, more uniform, and has more basal branching than comparison cannas. It offers an outstanding bloom color in an attractive, vivid bright orange that contrasts nicely with the bright green foliage. Good for pollinator gardens, it has uniformly colored flowers over a long blooming period. Bonus: this canna is grown from seed, not tuber, meaning less chance of succumbing to disease.

- **Cuphea FloriGlory Diana--**Cuphea, commonly known as Mexican Heather, is an ideal plant for borders, mass plantings and containers. FloriGlory Diana was highly praised by the AAS Judges for its larger flowers, impressive number of flowers and the darker, more intensely colored magenta flowers. It has dark green and a compact (10-12 inch) size, longer flowering time, heat and weather tolerance.

- **Gypsophila Gypsy White Improved (Baby's Breath)--**Semi-double blossoms, larger in size, and produces more flowers per plant, resulting in a fluffy white mound. Gypsy White Improved has better branching and a better growth habit than its predecessor, good for containers, small spaces and garden beds. A much longer bloom season and better heat tolerance than Gypsy Compact White. NOTE: This is NOT the invasive perennial Gypsophila paniculata but instead, the non-invasive Gypsophila muralis.

- **Marigold Super Hero Spry--** compact (10-12 inches) French marigold with dark maroon lower petals and golden yellow upper petals perched on top of the dark green foliage. It has a more uniform and stable color pattern, earlier to bloom and no deadheading required.

- **Zinnia Queeny Lime Orange--** large, dahlia-like blooms on a sturdy, compact plant. The unique color evolves from dark coral/peach/orange to a light peach with a dark center as the flowers age. Good for cut flower gardens as each uniform plant produces prolific deeply fluted blooms that last about 3 weeks without preservatives or feed.

References

https://news.aces.illinois.edu/news/2018-all-america-selection-winners
https://all-americaselections.org/product-category/year/2018/

Master Gardener Plant Clinics

WSU Master Gardener Volunteers are available to address your home gardening questions. Our counties have undergone many budget/personnel changes in the past couple years, which has impacted how our Master Gardener Volunteers communicate with the public. You may contact a WSU Master Gardener Volunteer with your home gardening questions through the following e-mail address: ga.mgvolunteers@ad.wsu.edu. Messages sent to this address will be answered by the Master Gardener volunteers in a timely manner. For face-to-face contact, or if you have a plant or insect sample that you would like to have identified, please see the Master Gardener volunteers at one of the following locations:

- **Ephrata Farmers Market:** Grant County Courthouse, 35 C St. NW. First and Third Saturdays. June through September 8 am – Noon
- **Othello Ace Hardware:** 420 E. Main Street, Last Saturday of each month, May through August, 9-11 am
- **Moses Lake Farmers Market:** McCosh Park – Dogwood Street Side, Saturdays, May through October 8 am – Noon.
- **WSU Grant-Adams Extension Office:** 1525 E. Wheeler Rd., Moses Lake. Open 8 am– 5 pm Monday – Thursday.

Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale and Raffle . . . *By Trudie Walsh and Newsletter Staff*

The annual Master Gardener Plant Sale takes center stage at the Moses Lake Farmers Market in McCosh Park, May 5, 2018, from 8 am to 12 noon, as the primary fundraiser for the Master Gardener Foundation of Grant-Adams Counties. Funds support MG horticultural and environmental advocacy activities, including demonstration gardens, presentations and classes, an annual public symposium, plus educational materials and references for plant clinics.

Big Bend Community College allows the Grant-Adams Master Gardeners use of its on-campus greenhouse, which consists of two rooms. This year the group has permission to use both rooms, increasing the growing area. The MGs greenhouse crew started getting some perennials going in December 2017, which is earlier than in other years. The majority of the effort in the greenhouse in 2018 is to concentrate on herbs, annuals, and perennials with a good selection of vegetables, of course.

Plants are started, tagged, and watered daily

Our focus is to stay as organic as possible so we are making our own soil-less mixtures to grow while using organic fertilizer. As in prior years, besides what is being grown in the greenhouse, individual MGs are providing an array of crop specialties including peppers, heirloom tomatoes, and much, much more.

Sandra Odell tends plants

A variety of reasonably priced annual and perennial plants will be available.

Need tomatoes? Numerous varieties, both heirloom and hybrid, most from organic seed, can be found at this once-a-year event. Customers will find other seasonal vegetables, herbs, annual flowers, *locally adapted* perennial trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses. Master gardeners will be available with care and planting information.

The plant sale also includes a raffle fundraiser with a variety of items. Both fundraisers support MG programs. Ticket buyers select the package(s) they want to win! Tickets are available from any MG, or at the plant sale, with the drawing at noon on May 5. You do not need to be present to win!