



# GROUNDED

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Grant/Adams Master Gardeners

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## ***Ephrata Pollinator Border Blooms Brightly. . .*** by Kris Nesse

Grant-Adams Master Gardeners and community members installed an insectary of native plants to attract pollinators to the Ephrata Community Garden (Corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW and C Street). Wintered-over plant stock was separated and planted in a narrow strip on the north side just inside the chain link fence surrounding the garden. In March 2013, a volunteer planting and border design crew assembled with Master Gardeners Barbara Guiland, Cynthia Calbick, Kris Nesse and Susan Chlarson and with help from Zach Knudsen and Travis Chlarson. Preceding planting, a Healthy Community Ephrata volunteer crew installed the perimeter cyclone fence. After planting, Zach Knudsen, with guidance from Kevin Danby, Health Community Ephrata Committee representative, and Kris Nesse, placed the drip irrigation system. Kris Nesse applied for funding and received it through the Grant County Conservation District.

Labeled plants are providing color, variety, and diversity and will (hopefully) bring native pollinators and other beneficial insects to the garden through the year. Plants appear small now and will take some time to become well established, but many have begun blooming this spring. Wood chip mulch graces the garden walkways and has been used on at least a portion of the border. Locally obtained broken basalt rock (donated by Tommer Construction) provides an attractive edge and makes a nice contrast to the border. Master Gardeners have committed ongoing assistance to provide maintenance to that part of the garden.

### **Pollinator Plants Featured in the Border:**

- Balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagitata*)
- Northern, Sulfur and Wyeth Buckwheat (*Erigonum compositum*, *Erogonum heracleoides*)
- Little Spires Blue and Blue Spires
- Russian Sage (*Pervovskia*, *Perovskia atriplicifolia*)
- Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium*)
- Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aristata*)
- Western Aster (*Aster occidentalis*)
- Little Lemon (*Solidago*)
- Thundercloud and Autumn Fire Sedum
- Valerian
- Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpureum*)
- Oregon Sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*)
- Saskatoon Serviceberry (*Amelanchier ainifolia*)
- Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*)
- Firecracker, Palmers, and Taper Leaf Penstemon (*penstemon eatonii*, *palmerii*, *attenuatus*)
- Gray and Low Green Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*)
- Missouri Goldenrod (*Solidago missouriensis*)
- Bee Balm (*Monarda*)
- Lady in Black Aster (*Aster laterifolius*)
- Garlic Chive

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***Ephrata Pollinator Garden Continued***

As the project progresses, educational materials will be developed and classes offered to help gardeners provide habitat for bees and other pollinator insects.



Front Row: Cynthia Calbick and Barbara Guiland. Back Row: Travis Chlarson, Zach Knudsen, Susan Chlarson, and Kris Nesse

To get started on your own pollinator garden, keep in mind the following tips:

**Use local native plants** as much as is possible. Research indicates that native plants are four times more attractive to native pollinators.

**Choose several colors of flowers.** Colors that particularly attract bees include blue, purple, violet, white and yellow.

**Plant flowers in clumps.** If possible make the clumps four feet or more in diameter.

**Include flowers of different shapes.** Bees are all different sizes, have different tongue lengths. So a range of flower shapes means more bees can benefit.

**Have a diversity of plants flowering all season.** A succession of plants provides pollen and nectar throughout the growing season, supporting pollinators.

**Avoid using pesticides.**

(For more information check out: Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org))



Ephrata Pollinator Garden consists of an attractive border with a diversity of plants

***Did you Know . . . It's Not Too Late To Plant a Garden in June***

We may all think that growing your own vegetables produces the best tasting vegetables, and, according to Washington State University Extension (WSUE) office, that is certainly true in many cases. If you haven't already started, there's still time in June or later to plant a garden in the Columbia Basin for many vegetables and even to plant several successive crops. Some like spinach, onions, peas, broccoli, cabbage, and lettuce planted from seed prefer an earlier start in the spring when the weather is cooler, and for some of them with a short growing season, you can sow them in the ground in early fall for later fall harvest.

Do you wonder how much of what you plant you'll be able to pick on average at harvest?

Here’s a summary chart (Table 1) provided by WSUE to give you an idea of how many plants you could grow the quantity of produce it could yield, and on average how many pounds of each type of produce is consumed per adult per year.

**Table 1. Home-grown Vegetable Productivity and Consumption for Crops Commonly Grown in Washington**

Vegetable	Plants per 10-ft Row	Production per 10-ft Row	Average Pounds Consumed per Adult per Year		
			Fresh	Processed	Total
Asparagus	10	5-8 lbs	10	10	20
Bean, Green	35	6-8 lbs	15	25	40
Beet	50	10-12 lbs	3	4	7
Broccoli	10	10-12 lbs	5	6	11
Brussels Sprout	10	6-8 lbs	3	0	3
Cabbage	8	10-15 lbs	10	10	20
Carrot	60-80	12 lbs	8	8	16
Cauliflower	9	8-10 lbs	6	9	15
Celery	20	15 lbs	5	0	5
Chard, Swiss	20	30 lbs	3	5	8
Corn, Sweet	20	3 doz ears	17	33	50
Cucumber	5	2-3 doz	6	12	18
Eggplant	5	15 eggplants	2	3	5
Kohlrabi	30	7-8 lbs	4	2	6
Lettuce, Head	10	10 lbs	5	0	5
Lettuce, Leaf	30-60	5 lbs	5	0	5
Muskmelon (Cantaloupe)	3	10-15 melons	5	0	5
Onion, Bulb	40	10 lbs	10	0	10
Onion, Green	60-80	2 lbs	2	0	2
Parsnip	40	10-15 lbs	5	0	5
Pea	60-100	10-12 lbs	5	8	13
Pepper	6	20 lbs	3	7	10
Potato	10	20 lbs	70	0	70
Pumpkin	3	10 pumpkins	10	10	20
Radish	100-120	3 lbs	1	0	1
Rhubarb	3-4	15-20 lbs	5	5	10
Spinach	30-40	5 lbs	3	5	8
Squash, Summer	3	25 lbs	7	10	17
Squash, Winter	2	20-30 lbs	20	20	40
Tomato	8	30-50 lbs	35	50	85
Turnip	30-40	20 lbs	3	0	3
Watermelon	3	6-12 melons	10	0	10

If you’re wondering about the quality of the produce you grow versus what you can buy in the stores and their differences in cost, WSUE has also identified which crops are superior to those you find in the stores in terms of quality and relative price.

For home-grown vegetables that are considered far superior in food quality to the store-bought version, consider planting corn, edamame, Swiss chard, green onions, peas, summer squash, and tomatoes. Vegetables that are somewhat superior to the store-bought version include green beans, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrots, collards, cucumber, eggplant, kale, leeks, leaf lettuce, peppers, rhubarb, and spinach. Those that indicate little difference in quality between the home-grown and store-bought versions are bok choy, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kohlrabi, cantaloupe, parsnips, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, turnips, and watermelon.

As for cost savings regarding what you grow versus the cost at the stores, you get the best return on your money when you grow your own asparagus, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cauliflower, cucumbers, edamame, eggplant, kale, leeks, green onions, peas, peppers, rhubarb, summer squash, and tomatoes. Those that still beat the prices at the stores include green beans, bok choy, carrots, celery, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, cantaloupe, parsnips, radishes, spinach, and turnips.

If you're new to vegetable gardening and need some advice, stop by one of the Master Gardener plant clinics at your local Farmer's Market during the summer. We're here to help answer your questions. Or visit the WSUE website at [http://county.wsu.edu/grant-adams/gardening/Pages/Master\\_Gardeners.aspx](http://county.wsu.edu/grant-adams/gardening/Pages/Master_Gardeners.aspx) for further vegetable gardening information.

Sources: WSUE (Home Vegetable Gardening in Washington-Bulletin EM057E), adapted from Antonelli et al. 2004, 3 & 5.

## DROUGHT TOLERANT GARDEN BLOOMS . . . By Cynthia Calbick

The native plant section of the Moses Lake Demonstration Garden is in full bloom. Five types of *penstemon* from short to tall that include lavender, purple, red, and pale pinks were in their glory in May. The *Gaillardia* was brilliantly displayed while the *delphinium* had just peaked. The *purple sage* has been in full bloom and is also fragrant. And, if you rub the leaves and then sniff your hand, you will get a pleasing herbal scent.



Penstemon



Gaillardia

Two *buckweats* have bloomed. The *sticky geranium* and *rosy pussy toes* round out the

current blooms. The *golden currant* had tiny yellow blooms that were incredibly fragrant and now sports a few berries. One of the first early bloomers, *arrow leaf balsam root*, has gone to seed.



Purple Sage



Delphineum Buckwheat

The drought tolerant garden also had early blooms with *daffodils*, *crocus*, *tulips* and *glory in the snow* coming on early. Now they are just memories with a few browning stems. The yellow *verbascum* and the *golden caryopteris* are exhibiting gorgeous yellows while the apricot *dumulosum* poppies are a visual challenge to the larger poppies. The burgundy of the *purple smoke tree* and the fragrant familiar white contrasting blossoms of the *sambucus nigra* (elderberry) are the highlight of their



Verbascum

sections. The purple of the May Night *salvia* is a huge contrast to the dominant yellows nearby. Our Ohme Garden's *thyme* has begun its show of tiny lavender pink flowers. From summer into the fall, showy colors will grace the *gaura*, *purple cone flowers*, *mirabilis*, *sedum*, *chocolate flower*, *day lilies* and *zauschneria* in pink, yellow, peach and scarlet. Come and see these and other plants growing and blooming.



Sambucus Elderberry

## Giving Garden Established in Moses Lake with MG Assistance . . . By Jean Anderson

About a dozen volunteers assembled, designed, and planted a Giving Garden on Basin Street (off Broadway and Burress) in Moses Lake on May 18, 2013. The purpose of the Giving Garden is to alleviate hunger through programs that help empower communities to take up this challenge in their own backyards, educate them, and help people produce their own food.

The Giving Garden event was organized by Jeni Roberts, AmeriCorp VISTA Gleaning Coordinator (sponsored by Rotary First Harvest and their statewide grassroots program Harvest Against Hunger). Roberts arranged to have many people and organizations donate materials, hands-on help, expertise, and time. The project was a joint venture between Habitat for Humanity and Community Services of Moses Lake through the Food Bank. Volunteers who helped included Jean Anderson, Grant-Adams Master Gardener, who used her expertise to ensure proper planting, provide advice on the planting design, and added squash and tomatoes from the 2013 MG Plant Sale. Royal Organics contributed 75 yards of compost for the raised beds. The City of Moses Lake Parks and Recreation Department donated mulch. Cloudview Eco Farm, Royal City, donated a flat of tomato plants while



Wooden frame raised beds



Planting in progress

Triple H Berry Farm donated raspberry plants, and Mike Davidson donated 100 strawberry plants. Other community members contributed building materials and a local LDS youth service group helped with planting. Besides the berries, a variety of vegetables were planted. Community members are responsible for maintenance and harvest.

325 9th Ave Seattle, WA 98104 **WSU Extension Master Gardener Basic Training** begins September 11, 2013. (Note: You will need your own computer and email address.) Applications are due by August 1, 2013. The training, which is online from WSU, also includes local classroom work and field trips. The 18 topics range from Basic Botany and Entomology to Vegetable Gardening and Water Conservation:

- Basic Botany · Garden Management · Basic Entomology · Insect Identification & Management · Integrated Pest Management · Pesticide Safety & Use · Soil Management · Disease Identification & Management · Composting · Lawn Care & Management · Vegetables · Small Fruits · Tree Fruits · Weed Control · Landscape Plants · Pruning Principles · Water Quality Issues · Ornamental Plant Care · Plant Problem Diagnosis



*Master Gardener Program*

To apply to the Master Gardener Program, fill out an application and send it in by 8/1/13. To obtain a leaflet about the WSU program go to:

<http://county.wsu.edu/grant-adams/gardening/Documents/OMGBasicTrainingBrochure.pdf>

**Preview of 2013 Fall Basic Master Gardener Workshop for Basic Training**

Date	Location	Subject	Speaker
Wed, Sept 11, Noon	Grant County Courthouse, upstairs	WSU Master Gardener Program Orientation	Christine Price, WSU Grant-Adams County Director, and Nicole Martini, MG State Program Director
Wed, Sept. 25	Grant County Public Works, 124 Enterprise SE, Ephrata	What to tell gardeners about soils of Columbia Basin	Andrew McGuire, WSU Crop Production and Soil Quality Specialist
Wed, Oct. 9	Time/Place to be announced	Orchard Field Tour	Karen Lewis, WSU Extension Regional Tree Fruit Specialist
Wed, Oct. 23, 1 pm	Moses Lake, TBA	Why Isn't fruit growing on my tree(s)	Paula Dinius, WSU Chelan County Extension Urban Horticulturist
		Insect Recognition	Dale Whaley, WSU Douglas County Agriculture & Integrated Weed Management
Wed, Nov. 6	Eco Farm Commercial Kitchen, Soap Lake	Vegetable Gardening	Jim McGreevy, Cloudview Eco Farm, Royal City
Wed, Nov. 20	Grant County Noxious Weed Board	Weed Identification and Control Options	TBA

## ***The When, What, and Whys of Watering . . .*** By Mark Amara

As the days get longer and the sun shines stronger, people start vigorously watering lawns, landscapes and gardens to produce lush greenery, food, and flowers. Watering practices indirectly impact our quality of life. The pesticides and fertilizers that sometimes run off in soil and/or leach into the ground water are the cumulative result of watering practices gardeners may use. By applying sound water management principles, gardeners can produce healthier crops and minimize water contamination and runoff and maximize water infiltration.

Overwatering (or under watering) can stress or kill plants and wash soil, pesticides, and fertilizers into surface or groundwater. Common watering techniques range from hand watering with hose or watering can on pots, containers or small beds to elaborate sprinkler systems or efficient drip irrigation systems for entire yard or gardens.

**Tips for responsible irrigation - Plants in general.** Water when plants need it by filling the entire root zone with water and then letting the area dry out before the next application. Avoid frequent light irrigations since they tend to encourage shallow rooting and increase susceptibility to drought. Do not water by the calendar since water requirements vary depending on the weather, soil type, and plant size, age, and species. In the spring and fall, water less frequently than in the heat of the summer. Gardeners can consider using plants that require minimal water. There are many drought tolerant and native plants which thrive in the Grant-Adams area. Many of these species require little, if any, supplemental irrigation.

### **Vegetables**

Raising vegetables in our dry climate is a challenge since crops are generally very shallow rooted and can dry out quickly making supplemental irrigation a requirement spring through fall. Don't allow seedlings to completely dry out because after they reach the wilting point, it is too often too late for them to recover and yield may suffer. Overhead watering using sprinklers is a common irrigation method. However, drip irrigation, which uses half as much water as sprinklers, can be considered. Drip systems provide a more precise and controlled way of watering while sprinklers keep soils moister, increase susceptibility to diseases, and promote weed growth unless unprotected areas are covered with mulch, fabric, or are regularly cultivated. Where water use is regulated, consider using short-season cultivars or those that can stand short periods of water stress. Avoid over irrigation which wastes water and helps leach fertilizer and pesticides. Monitoring soil moisture and maintaining fertility can keep plants from being over watered and maximize production.

### **Lawns**

Lawns in eastern Washington may require water every other day in the heat of the summer depending on the soil type. Apply no more than ½" per hour but adjust the amount according to soil type. Grant-Adams Master Gardeners provide free cans and a written procedure to help gardeners measure and determine the amount of water yard sprinklers apply. Turn off water at the first signs of saturated soil or runoff. Dividing the yard into areas that use generous amounts of water vs. less water can be effective. Utilizing a designed irrigation system with separate circuits for lawns, trees, and planting beds may work better in watering according to plant needs. Reducing the amount of lawn by planting more perennial ground covers can be a way to minimize water use since turf generally requires more frequent watering than established trees, shrubs or groundcovers. Following good soil management practices like regularly aerating, dethatching, soil testing and applying fertilizer, and mowing can help improve a lawn's drought tolerance. Follow pesticide and fertilizer labels. Adjust sprinklers to minimize runoff. Apply plant, plastic, bark, or fabric mulches to conserve soil moisture and control weeds. Try not to water lawn and landscape trees at the same time. Trees and shrubs require a different method of watering than lawns.

### **Trees**

Often stress seen in trees and shrubs is due to inadequate water. Since established trees have an extensive root system, the best policy is to water them deeply and infrequently. Using this philosophy can improve tree health and help prevent insect or disease infestations. Water at or just outside driplines (once or twice a month early and late in the season and once a week in the summer) to concentrate irrigation where most of the roots are located. Larger trees and shrubs are deeper rooted, so the soils may dry several inches deep before watering is needed. In loamy soils, water should percolate about 6 inches per hour. In sandy soils, the rate may be

accelerated. Monitor moisture using a probe or shovel; the goal is to get good moisture penetration to a depth of about three feet.

References: <http://spokanecounty.wsu.edu/spokane/eastside/mastergardener@spokanecounty.org>

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### ***What Master Gardeners Do.*** . By Barbara Guiland, Volunteer Co-Coordinator Grant-Adams Master Gardener Program

Master Gardeners are committed volunteers. They are dedicated to the mission of the Master Gardener Program, which is "to advance knowledge, economic well-being and quality of life in their communities by fostering learning and research ..."

Since 2004, Grant-Adams Master Gardeners have helped start community gardens in Othello, Royal City, Moses Lake, George, and Mattawa. They are supporting new community gardens in Ephrata and Soap Lake with labor, plants, and educational materials. They maintain demonstration gardens in Moses Lake, Othello, Soap Lake and Quincy. They provide volunteers and materials for plant clinics online from the extension office, and at Moses Lake, Ephrata, Grand Coulee, and Othello Farmers Markets. Those clinics answer close to 400 questions per year on gardening, conservation, and identification of plants and insects. They provide speakers on over 20 topics at the drop of a garden hat, and they write articles for this newsletter and all local papers.

The 23 Grant -Adams Counties Master Gardeners reported 2,721 volunteer hours to WSU last year (They probably could have reported double that number if they had recorded all of them.) If they were paid \$23 an hour—the average worth of the types of work they do—they have donated \$62,583.00 to our economy just for labor. That does not include the thousands of miles driven to accomplish those tasks, contributed in-kind, or the hundreds of plants donated to raise money for the Master Gardener Foundation. Nor does that include the value of that work to the individual clients who take their gardening and conservation advice.

Volunteers love to see changing attitudes towards the value of good gardening and care for the environment based on the research of WSU. This year the program is offering classes for new master gardeners. The commitment is heavy, but the rewards are great. I hope some of you reading this newsletter will consider the program a good use of your time and join these dedicated volunteers bringing it to you now.

## **COMPUTER TRAINING AIDS GRANT-ADAMS MASTER GARDENERS . . . By Cynthia Calbick**

Last February, 2013, Master Gardeners Barbara Guiland, Pat McAfee, and Cynthia Calbick attended computer training in Yakima. The training focused on using a generic plant clinic record keeping program designed to report our client's questions and recommendations, improve efficiency of effort, reduce paper records and more efficiently help with tracking.



Sue Ralls explains program details to Barbara Guiland and Pat McAfee

Following that training, additional work sessions were organized to introduce other master gardeners to the new system, which was slightly modified for the Grant-Adams area. Members also learned how to use new notebook computers Grant-Adams MGs purchased for help in using the new reporting system. The computer data will be most useful in compiling our reports to the state at the end of the year.



George Roper, Kris Nesse, and Susan Chlarson learn how to master the program

## **2013 MG PLANT SALE A SUCCESS**

Sunshine, a huge variety of quality plants, enthusiastic customers, and knowledgeable salespeople all contributed to Grant-Adams Master Gardener Foundation's successful 2013 plant sale. The sixth annual MG Plant Sale took place at the Moses Lake Farmers Market on May 11.

The sale offered over 300 tomatoes, a variety of other vegetables, herbs, annual ornamentals, locally adapted perennial trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses, as well as garden gift items and books. Hundreds of customers took plants home along with descriptions and cultural information.

Master gardeners spent many hours in the BBCC and home greenhouses growing plants. In addition, plants from MG homes and demonstration gardens were propagated, dug and nurtured to offer at the sale. These WSU-trained experts were also on hand to describe plants and help customers with growing information.

The sale earned more than \$2,200 to help support MG demonstration and community gardens, educational presentations, and training.

## **WSU Grant-Adams Master Gardener Foundation Garden Glove Fundraiser**

Grant-Adams Master Gardeners are continuing their year-around Atlas garden glove fundraiser. Atlas garden gloves are light-weight and feature a 100% seamless nylon liner for a smooth comfortable fit. The thin nitrile palm coating on the gloves is extraordinarily tough for greater hand protection, yet flexible, allowing gardeners to perform precise tasks with ease. Gloves can be purchased for \$5.40 a pair (including tax) at:

- WSU Extension Office, Grant-Adams Area, Courthouse, Ephrata
- Dog-Eared Books, 17 Basin Street, Ephrata
- ARTGARDEN POTTERY, 104 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Moses Lake
- Moses Lake Farmers Market Plant Clinics, Saturdays through October, McCosh Park

Funds raised are used to promote education and advocacy for the improvement of horticultural practices in our communities. Proceeds are used to help pay for training and speakers, maintain demonstration and drought tolerant gardens, purchase fair ribbons, print educational materials, and acquire plant clinic literature and references.

**Quincy Native Plant Garden . . . By Mona Kaiser**

Anyone who drives through Quincy should consider stopping at the Reiman- Simons House (north of State Highway 28). The grounds have several well organized garden beds; one of them was put in as the Quincy Valley Native Garden and planted a few years ago by WSU Grant-Adams Master Gardeners.

The garden is well established, giving the viewer excellent examples of more than two dozen plants native to our area. The plants represented in this garden may be useful for homeowners who are interested in developing their own native garden or just to enjoy during a visit to Reiman-Simons House.



Check out the desert purple sage or the blanket flower now in bloom. Other blooms will come shortly and through the fall.

**Save These Dates and Mark Your Calendars for Selected Events, Activities, and Festivals**

<b>June to October</b>	First Fridays	Educational Presentations at Ephrata, Soap Lake, and Moses Lake Community Gardens, with Master Gardeners on hand to answer season appropriate gardening tips and answers to questions
<b>July</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> 10 am - 11:30 am	Pre-Grant County Fair Produce Training for Youth (5-18) at Fuller (Grange) Building at Grant County Fairgrounds, Moses Lake
<b>August</b>	13-17	Grant County Fair, Grant County Fairgrounds, Moses Lake
<b>Sept</b>	10-13 11 26-28	Adams County Fair, Adams County Fairgrounds, Othello Master Gardener Training, starting Sept 11 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesdays through December 2013. Recruitment Deadline, August 31 <sup>st</sup> WSU Education Master Gardener Conference, Everett

**Master Gardener Plant Clinics**

- Moses Lake Farmers Market, Every Saturday, May – October, 2013, 8-12 noon in McCosh Park, Moses Lake
- Grand Coulee Farmers Market, First Saturdays:, July 6, August 3 and September 7, 2013, 9-1 pm, on Morrison Street across from Safeway, Grand Coulee
- Ephrata Farmers Market, Every Saturday, June-September, 2013, 8-12 noon in front of the Courthouse on C Street, Ephrata
- Othello Farmers Market, First Saturdays on July 6, 2013, August 3, 2013 and September 7, 2013 in Pioneer Park, 9 am – 1 pm, Othello

<b>Grant-Adams Counties Foundation Officers:</b> Barbara Guiland, President, 765-3219 Kris Nesse, Vice President, 509-690-8542 Jean Anderson, Treasurer, 764-8186 Pat McAfee, Secretary, 509-237-3717 Cynthia Calbick, At Large, 765-5474	<b>Grounded Staff</b> Mark Amara Diane Escure Barbara Guiland Kris Nesse
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