



MASTER GARDENER 2023

BY THE NUMBERS

- **56 active volunteers** - gave **5233** hours of service to Jefferson County.
- **341 questions** - Horticulture questions answered at our “Ask a Master Gardener” clinic and online form.
- **265+** Seed Library members.
- **75 presentations, workshop and activities** - delivered by Master Gardeners to community members.
- **1,000 hours** - time donated by volunteers to the Food Bank Gardens (FBG). The FBG donated 22,539 lbs of fresh fruit and produce.
- **60 residents** - attended Growing Groceries classes and workshops aimed to teach food resiliency and soil health care.

ISSUE

WSU Master Gardener Program provides research-based horticulture education to residents of Jefferson County through WSU-trained volunteers. In 2023 our program emphasized pollinator education throughout our outreach and education events across Jefferson County. Pollination is an essential ecological survival function. Almost 80% of food producing plants require pollination by animals like bees. Declines in insect pollinators worldwide present a challenge for food security. Pollination is also required for reproduction of flowering plants that help prevent erosion, filter water, sequester carbon, and add oxygen to the atmosphere. It is estimated that 90% of wild plants are pollinated by bees and according to the Center for Biological Diversity, more than half of the native bee species are declining, nearly 25% is imperiled and 40% of insect pollinators are highly threatened.

RESPONSE

Volunteers staffed outreach booths at local Farmers Markets, presented on attracting and supporting native bees at the libraries, local garden clubs and at our “Growing Groceries” and “Master Gardener Training” classes, and marched in the Rhody Parade dressed as native bees to raise awareness. At our “Ask a Master Gardener” clinics, where volunteers provide counseling on horticultural question, they offer advice using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles and best practices. This empowers individuals to make informed decisions that minimize pesticide usage when effectively managing pests. By reducing reliance on harmful chemicals, Master Gardener not only promote healthier gardens and landscapes but protect local ecosystems, wildlife, and pollinators.





PARTNERS

Food Bank Growers Association
 Chimacum & Port Townsend School Districts
 City of Port Townsend
 Habitat for Humanity
 Port Townsend Library
 Jefferson County Library
 Khul Kah Han Native Plant Garden
 Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board
 Port Townsend Leader

QUOTES

“After taking the Growing Groceries class in intend to make changes in my garden: start composting; increase the number of flowers to attract pollinators; and care for my soil through better soil practices ~ 2023 GG attendee

PROGRAMS

“Growing Groceries” classes and workshops
 Seed Library
 Community Seed Project
 Speaker’s Bureau
 “Garden Note” monthly article
 Sims Way Demonstration Garden
 “Ask a Master Gardener” Clinics
 Master Gardener Training
 Rain Garden Mentors

HIGHLIGHTED IMPACTS

- **SEED LIBRARY:** Through the exchange of seeds and knowledge, the WSU Master Gardener Seed Library empowers individuals to cultivate their own nutritious food, reducing dependence on commercial seed sources and promoting food security. Moreover, it serves as an educational resources, offering workshops, demonstrations, and resources on seed saving, gardening techniques, and environmental stewardship.
- **FOOD BANK GARDENS:** Master Gardeners volunteer at the Port Townsend High School production vegetable garden. The students working with volunteers gaining hands-on experience in planning, planting, and maintaining the garden. In doing so, students gain a deeper understanding of where their food comes from and the importance of sustainable food production practices. These connections also result in mentorship encouraging the students to explore new interests and develop a passion for gardening and horticulture.
- **GROWING GROCERIES:** By providing education and hands-on experience in our Growing Groceries classes, which focuses primarily on organic gardening, community members learn essential skills such as planting, harvesting, and preserving fruits and vegetables. This not only promotes food security and self-sufficiency but also reduces minimizes the environmental footprint associated with food production and transportation. Moreover, "Growing Groceries" classes foster a sense of community connection and resilience as participants come together to share knowledge, resources, and experiences.

