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Abundant August Activities Await. I hope I can fit them all into this column. Get out your pens or better yet grab scissors to clip and save this column.

Valley Nursery in Poulsbo and Bainbridge Gardens offer a plethora of five-dollar classes to entice, entertain and enthrall. Most of the classes are on Saturday and Sunday. Valley's phone number is 779-3806 and website is www.valleynurseryinc.com. Bainbridge Gardens' phone is 206-842-5888 and website is www.bainbridgegardens.com. You'll find complete class descriptions, dates and costs at the websites.

Valley Nursery has classes on Northwest Natives Sunday August 11 at 10 a.m. Valley is also opening the nursery to the community for a giant garage sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday August 10. Twenty dollars is the fee for a 10 by 10 foot space. Bring your own tables and chairs. Space is also available for non-profit groups. Call Paula Anderson at the nursery for details. The weekend of August 17 and 18 don't miss the Fuchsia Society Show and several classes on both hardy and non-hardy fuchsia selection, care and culture.

Bainbridge Gardens classes during August have a water theme: water gardening, creating both outside and tabletop fountains, and bog gardening. Newcomers to the Northwest will also find classes on using our native plants combined with other similar plants that thrive with winter wet and summer dry conditions.

Don't miss the RPM "Seattle Composter" Sale at Bainbridge Gardens Friday through Sunday, August 16 through 18. The event is sponsored by Kitsap County Public Works (Recycling), WSU Kitsap Extension Programs and Bainbridge Gardens. Master Composters and Master Gardeners will be present all three days to give talks on worm composting (vermicomposting), soil soup and offer compost tips and advice.

"Seattle Composters" are dark green cylinders with black lids for the top and bottom of the cylinder. The containers are made from recycled plastic and hold three cubic yards of compost materials. The process is very user friendly. Gardeners can make compost the fast way by filling the cylinder with equal parts of green and brown materials. Each week or two remove the black lid and turn it to become the bottom. Unbolt the green cylinder. Reassemble the tube in the newly moved bottom. Pitch all the materials into the cylinder (thus turning the compost) and put the old bottom on top as the new lid. By repeating this process every few weeks it takes anywhere from six weeks to three months for finished compost.

Or you can do it the really easy way and fill up the composter with browns and greens and let it all biodegrade until the following gardening season. Some gardeners use the "Seattle Composter" for weeds only. Others with small garden plots use it as their sole composter. Either way it's win-win for our environment. And very reasonably priced.

Rates for the Bainbridge Gardens sale and the sale at the Kitsap County Fair are below retail.

If you miss the “Seattle Composter” sale the weekend of August 16 through 18 stop at the Washington State University Display at the Kitsap County Fair Wednesday August 21 through Sunday August 25. You can also order the “Seattle Composter” delivered to your door. In addition WSU volunteers will have materials and displays plus demonstrations, and the opportunity for visitors to ask a myriad of questions about Extension Services (Extended Degree Programs, Nutrition, Family and Youth, 4-H, Master Gardeners, Weed Advisors and Master Composters). We’ll also be celebrating 100 years of 4-H. Stop by for a piece of cake decorated by the 4-H Youth.

If you’ve never seen the Master Gardener Demonstration Walled-Garden at the Northwest College of Arts in Poulsbo (entrance across from the George Fireworks Stand) you’ll want to visit on Sunday August 18 for a culinary herb class from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Laura Pittman-Hewitt will offer tips and advice on growing, harvesting and utilizing herbs for our eating pleasure. Recipes are included with the class. Master Gardeners will be present to give free tours of the completely organic garden featuring a working greenhouse, cold frames, espaliered fruit trees, figs, kiwis, boxwood hedges, numerous herbs and floral delights to help visitors learn more about creating and cultivating their own gardens.

Last but not least put Thursday August 8 on your calendar for a free compost class from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Raab Park Community Garden at Raab Park in Poulsbo. Raab Park is on the south end of Caldart Avenue (the cross street with Hostmark near NK High School). Call 337-5777 to reserve your space. You’ll learn how to compost and receive a folder full of materials to help you get started.