

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 03-12-03) , ©2005

Gardening season is upon us. **Be sure to stop up at the Northwest College of Arts in Poulsbo on Saturday March 15 starting at 1 p.m. to learn about pruning and grafting. On Sunday March 30 WSU Master Gardener Diana Lewis will walk you through everything you'll need to know about building a portable seed starting rack and will help you know what's the best seeds to grow and when. The entrance to the college is on Highway 305 near Milepost 9.**

Remember too this weekend is the Home and Garden Expo at the Fairgrounds. You'll be able to hear Chris Smith talk about vegetable gardening, Jan Bahr from Roadhouse Nursery will talk about water gardening and a host of others will have information and talks on a plethora of gardening topics. Don't forget to stop by the Native Plant Display sponsored by Kitsap County Solid Waste, Olympic Chapter Native Plant Society and WSU Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners. Kitsap County Solid Waste will be distributing a free Compact Disk with abundant information on composting, organic gardening, native plants, lawn care and a host of other useful topics.

My very dear editor had to omit a few items from last week's column. Here's the "rest of the story" about some of the community gardening happening in Kitsap County.

The Kitsap Community Garden Foundation has just celebrated its second anniversary. The KCGF is a private not-for-profit organization promoting and supporting community organic gardening in Kitsap County. The Foundation works in partnership with public agencies and private support. By planting the seeds of leadership, resources and education, the KCGF can provide individuals and families in Kitsap County an opportunity to enrich their lives and participate in the growth and stewardship of community gardening. You can contact the KCGF by calling 360-337-7224 or by sending correspondence to P.O. Box 2673 Poulsbo WA 98370.

Senior residents at Martha and Mary Care Center in Poulsbo donated 96 pounds of produce to Fishline Foodbank last year from their garden. The residents have created a wonderful space. To support their gardening expenses they've put together a great calendar showcasing photos of their beautiful garden. To purchase a calendar for ten dollars stop by Martha and Mary on Front Street in Poulsbo.

Kitsap County's WSU Cooperative Extension Office has numerous publications available for advice on growing your own fruits and vegetables. Stop in the office at 715 Sidney in Port Orchard or call 360-337-7157 for more information. Seattle Tilth's "The Maritime Northwest Garden Guide" available at local garden centers and nurseries and also through Tilth 206-633-0451 or [www.seattletilth.org](http://www.seattletilth.org) is the best month-by-month guide I've found for information on growing in our area.

A nationwide program called Plant a Row sponsored by the Garden Writers Association encourages everyone who gardens to plant at least one row of vegetables to donate to their local Foodbanks. For more information about Plant a Row visit [www.gwaa.org/par/](http://www.gwaa.org/par/) you'll find ideas on how to start your own Plant a Row campaign. Seniors at Martha and Mary Care Center, youth at the Raab Park Youth Garden and others throughout Kitsap County donated thousands of pounds of vegetables to local foodbanks last year through the Plant a Row campaign. Organic fresh produce is needed at our local foodbanks throughout the year. Plant extra rows in your garden, you'll be glad you did.

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