

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 01-12-05) – Extension Open House and Native Plants  
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My fellow Master Gardener Dorothy Lindquist pointed out, “Your office must have a long lunch hour.” “What do you mean?” I said. She said, “Your column stated the Extension Office is closed for lunch from 11:30 until 4:30.” Wow, Dorothy, I goofed big time! However, once in a while five hours for lunch would be quite appealing especially with good friends and great food. So, dear readers, let me offer this correction of the WSU Extension Office hours. The office at 345 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 550, in Bremerton (in the Norm Dicks Government Center) is open for business Monday through Friday (except for holidays) from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., closed one hour for lunch, and then open again from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Our open house is on Tuesday, February 8, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Come check out our new facility. Office Staff and volunteers will help you tour the building, our new office area, and you can learn about the following programs and resources available to the citizens of Kitsap County: 4H, Master Gardeners, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Food Sense, Clothing and Textiles, and Food Safety. We’ve been begging our Interim-Director, Arno Bergstrom, to score some Cougar Gold Cheese for the open house. If you’d like driving directions or further information about the open house please call the Extension Office at 360-337-7157. I hope you’ll all come check out our new user-friendly facility.

This is also the time of year for me to remind readers about the Kitsap Conservation District’s “2005 Tree Sale.” It’s really a native plants sale with an abundance of native trees available. Trees are usually available in bundles of ten, as are the shrubs and ground covers. Some plants are available in containers. Orders are being taken now through January 21, on a first-come, first-serve basis so place your orders as soon as you can. Prices are very reasonable. If you’re on the District’s mailing list you should have received your newsletter and order form by now. If you’re new to the area or are just learning about our Conservation District, then either visit the website at [www.kitsapcd.org](http://www.kitsapcd.org) to download the order form and see the list of plants available, send an email to [KCD@wa.nacdnet.org](mailto:KCD@wa.nacdnet.org), phone 360-337-7171 or stop by their office in Port Orchard at 817 Sidney Avenue.

You’ll want to attend the free and informative class and workshop on native plants presented by the Conservation District on Saturday, January 15 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Eagle’s Nest at 1195 NW Fairgrounds Road. The Eagle’s Nest is on the top floor of the building. You’ll be able to order your plants on that day. Pick up day for the plants is Friday March 4, 2005 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. or Saturday, March 5, 2005, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds Sheep Barn.

If you order the trees (which come in bundles of ten) you’ll want to either pot them up into containers or put them in the ground the day you purchase them. These are bare root trees and seedlings and their roots dry out quite rapidly. Their survival is dependent upon

getting them planted as quickly as you can. Invite all your friends over for dinner and have a planting party. The Conservation District does not want any payment until the date of pickup.

If you're unfamiliar with native plants visit your local branch of the Kitsap Regional Library and check out "Gardening with Native Plants" by Arthur R. Kruckeberg or "Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast," by Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon. The websites <http://garening.wsu.edu/text/nwnative.htm> and [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org) (Washington Native Plant Society) have abundant information and photos on native plants to aid in your selection.

Another popular and much-appreciated-by-gardeners Conservation District event is "Doo for You." It's your opportunity to get free composted manure through the partnership of the Kitsap County Parks and Recreation and Kitsap Conservation District. Mark your calendars now. On Saturday March 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. stop by with your trucks and trailers at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds composting facility located in the northeast entrance to the fairgrounds off Nels Nelson Road. They'll load up the manure and you'll haul it away to enrich your garden. Contact Carla at [c-pizzano@wa.nacdnet.org](mailto:c-pizzano@wa.nacdnet.org) or 337-7171 Extension 12.