

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 6-27-07) Master Gardener Magazine & Other Garden Info
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There's a new magazine you'll want to find and order for home delivery. In the meantime you can visit the website to read through every page of the past issues of "Master Gardener" published by the Washington State Fruit Commission. The commission also publishes "Good Fruit Grower" magazine.

"Master Gardener" debuted in winter of 2006. You can see it online at www.MasterGardenerOnline.com. A few copies are available at the Kitsap County Extension Office at 345 6th Street Suite 550 in Bremerton. To order your subscription subscriptions@MasterGardenerOnline.com or call 1-800-487-9945 Extension 208. A year's subscription is \$20 and three years is \$50. Each issue features articles by Mary Robson for this side of the mountains along with Pat Muntz and Marianne Orphardt for the east side. All three writers cover other topics as well.

You'll also find information on the latest ways to combat plant problems. The photography and illustrations are eye appealing and informational. Having the magazine to read and use as a reference is almost as good as having a personal Master Gardener consultant.

In the last column I wrote about using compost in our gardens. WSU Extension Kitsap partners with Kitsap County Solid Waste to provide education on composting. Master Gardeners have taken additional course work on composting. You'll find them at the Raab Park Youth Garden on Mondays during the summer. Master Composter Becky Croston coordinates classes in Central and South Kitsap and the Master Gardeners and Composters at Anna Smith Garden on Tracyton Boulevard have volunteers onsite from 9:30 to 11:30 on every Wednesday from April through September. Visit both the Kitsap County Solid Waste website and the WSU Extension websites for a listing of upcoming classes. You'll also find instructions in printable formats at the websites: www.kitsapgov.com/sw/compost.htm and http://kitsap.wsu.edu/hort/mc_info.htm. There are no classes currently scheduled but you can contact either the Extension Office and a class can be arranged by appointment for groups of 10 or more.

It's not too early to start thinking about purchasing Bainbridge in Bloom tickets available at local nurseries and online www.artshum.org/oscommerce or begin your tour of the website with sound and flying hummingbirds at <http://gardentour.info>. The event this year begins with workshops with special celebrities on Thursday July 12, the special previews and dinner on Friday July 13, followed by the tour dates on Saturday and Sunday July 14 and 15.

On July 4th if you're on Bainbridge Island, stop by the educational table for the Bainbridge Island Shoreline Stewardship Program. City of Bainbridge Island and WSU Extension newly educated Shoreline Steward and Native Plant Advisors will be at an informational table from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 4 to answer questions about the Shoreline Stewardship Program on the Island.