

Ask a Master Gardener

Guidelines for Article Writers

Updated 2-7-2023

Thank you for committing to write an article for the “Ask a Master Gardener” blog on the Skagit County Master Gardener Foundation website. As a master gardener, this is a great way to share your knowledge and educate the public on local gardening issues.



Purpose

The purpose of this column is to educate the public about gardening issues and to promote and enhance sound gardening practices. To best accomplish this goal, please follow these guidelines when writing your article.

- You must be a certified master gardener (i.e. interns who have completed the Master Gardener Program and met their volunteer requirements; or a currently active veteran master gardener in good standing.
- Submitted articles should be from 700 – 1,000 words.
- Subject matter will be approved by the editing team, and should not be changed without prior

approval.

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- Following WSU Master Gardener requirements, the article may not endorse products, companies or specific individuals and their work. Articles should not reference brand names, companies or political preferences.
- Articles must be **research and science based**. Articles should have at least two science based references **cited at the end of the article**. Footnotes are not necessary, so do not include them. References should be either WSU approved or other reputable and reliable science-based sources.

Please include:

Name / Date / Title / Publisher Or

Title of the article (if available) / Website / Web Address / Date (if available)

- References should be as up-to-date as possible, ideally within the last 10 years. Older references may be germane if they are definitive works in the field.
- Articles written by other master gardeners are not science-based sources, unless that master gardener has a valid credential as a scientific source.
- Articles should be neither biographical or autobiographical since they are intended to be purely informational.
- Articles should be Skagit County and Washington state specific whenever possible or have a compelling regional, national, or global focus.

It is important to work with the editorial team to find photos of your subject matter. If you have some photos that would be usable, please send them with captions to the MG Editor Contacts listed below. If you don't have photos, tell your MG editor contact as soon as possible and we will work with you to find photos suitable for your article. You may also contact Nancy Crowell, MG photographer at nkcrowell@hotmail.com. She may take them, or use images from her MG archives. Please consider seasonal issues which might prohibit capturing images on short notice. An example of this may be planting spring bulbs in fall.

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Articles are assigned a due date by the editorial team. This allows time for editing, photo selection and approval by Alex DuPont, MG Program Coordinator. If for some reason you will be unable to turn an article in when due, please contact the editorial team immediately. Articles turned in late risk not being posted.

Send finished articles to your contact on the editorial team by the due date. Your article will be reviewed and edited by the MG editorial team and the WSU MG Program Coordinator. The editors may edit your article for grammar, punctuation, organization and clarity, appropriate subject matter and referenced material. Questions regarding content will be directed back to you for clarification.

If you have additional questions feel free to contact any one of our editors. See contacts listed below:

“Ask the Master Gardener” Editorial Board:

Jennifer Eddleman

Anne Hays

Ginny Bode

Alex Dupont, Master Gardener Program Coordinator