**Master Gardener Information Cheat Sheet**

**Tell people who we are**

* First and foremost, **WSU EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS are volunteer members of a SERVICE organization.** We volunteer our time and talents to support the community outreach programs offered by our organization.
* The MASTER GARDENER **FOUNDATION** of COWLITZ COUNTY is a **501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the programs offered by the WSU Master Gardener volunteers** .
* We are given **basic training by WSU Extension** in subjects such as botany and entomology; integrated pest management and pesticide safety; soils, fertilizers and composting; ornamental, herbaceous plants and woody plants; vegetable, indoor and container gardening; sustainable landscaping; and plant pathology.
* **This basic training does not make us experts,** but it allows us to be able to find reliable answers to questions and to share the practical knowledge we have. We all love the opportunity to both help our community and learn new things along with them! Think of us as gardening "librarians!"

**WSU MG Program that we all trained in, graduated from, and volunteer time to is completely separate from the MG Foundation.**

**And here’s why:**

* **WSU does NOT allow the MG programs to raise money** to support any community activities.
* **The MG Foundation is a completely independent nonprofit organization** whose function is to financially support all of our MG programs and other activities.

**Our Mission**

* To offer **research-based** gardening practices to Cowlitz County residents through volunteer-supported programs.

**Some of the programs we offer**

* FREE garden problem information and advice: Plant and Insect Clinic and Farmer's Market
* Raised Bed giveaway program
* Workshops for kids
* Master Gardener Volunteer Training
* Mason Bees
* Pruning
* Basic Gardening in Washington talks
* Composting, Rain Barrel, Hypertufa workshops
* Demo Gardens
* County Fair
* Earth Day
* STEM Family night LCC
* Working with troubled teens
* MG talks for your organization

**Some of our goals**

* One of our priorities is a greenhouse to use as a base for teaching gardening to our community. We need funds to build and maintain it. It will also be used to hold workshops for children and adults so they, too, can learn the joy of gardening—with sustainable, environmentally-friendly research-based practices

**Fundraisers-- --don't be afraid to ask for help for our organization!**

* Our Annual **Plant Sale**, in May --
* We happily **accept donations (which are TAX DEDUCTABLE**): Please make check payable to Master Gardener Foundation of Cowlitz County
* Let folks know that we appreciate any donations--money, property items that support our mission--such as soil, lumber, availability of equipment that we don't have, etc.,