

18. SMALL FRUITS Berries, Berries, Berries. This garden provides tastings of summer and fall-bearing raspberries, black caps, and three types of strawberries.

19. COTTAGE GARDEN This is a delightful and somewhat whimsical combination of ornamentals, vegetables, herbs, and fruit. This type of garden goes back as far as the 1300s when space was limited and families supplemented their diets from small garden spaces around their homes. Every available inch was planted and everything was mixed together.

20. FUCHSIA GARDEN This garden was originally planted by members of the North Cascade Fuchsia Society. All the varieties are hardy enough to survive our winters. Even in the shade of the pavilion, the garden blooms in beautiful colors from early summer until frost.

21. VEGETABLE GARDEN Each year, our vegetable gardeners use a different theme to highlight productive, fun ways to grow new varieties and old favorites in a home-style garden fit for our Pacific Northwest maritime climate. Past themes include an international garden, pathed potagers, and an experimental plot using plastic mulches and other heat enhancers.

22. HERB GARDEN Skagit Valley's climate is perfect for herbs. We interpreted the typical English herb garden's structure, history, purpose, and order for Northwest living. Different hedging materials surround the formal design creating a roomlike feel with themed gardens informally planted within.

23. CHILDREN'S GARDEN In this garden parents and children share the pleasure of gardening and get ideas for their own yards. Entry is through a weeping mulberry — a perfect place to play hide-and-seek. Enjoy a snack with Alice and the Queen of Hearts at the picnic table next to the giant's fork and spoon. Make faces at the Wizard of Oz flying monkeys.

24. JOE'S PLACE In 1973, WSU started the first Master Gardener training program in the U.S. in King County. Joe Dupre, a Navy Chief retiring in Anacortes, was in one of the first graduating classes. This garden honors Joe with plantings of his favorites — primroses, a fig tree, ferns, and fuchsias.

25. GREENHOUSE In the Greenhouse, Master Gardeners start seeds and propagate plants. Plants raised here are used in the Discovery Garden and sold at the Plant Fair. Public classes on plant propagation and seed starting are also held here.

26. NATURESCAPE Naturescape, the largest of the 27 gardens, was designed by Master Gardener and landscape architect Heidi Zeretzke. It is a quiet place to stroll, sit, observe, and contemplate the natural surroundings. There is a meadow and a pond. Perennial native and non-native plants that attract a variety of birds, butterflies, small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles are planted against treed windbreaks.

27. ENABLING GARDEN This accessible-to-all garden features containers, raised beds of various heights, espaliered trees, and resting benches. The gardeners here can demonstrate safe body postures and ergonomic tools to promote the joy of gardening, even with decreased strength or energy, or physical limitations.

28. THE PAVILION The Pavilion is a sheltered gathering place for garden visitors and Master Gardeners after a day of gardening. We also use the Pavilion for public seminars and workshops.

GARDEN NOTES

WSU SKAGIT COUNTY EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER MISSION STATEMENT

We are trained volunteers who work in partnership with WSU Extension to educate the public and enhance the quality of life in the community by promoting sound gardening practices.

The Skagit County Master Gardener Foundation is a nonprofit organization that supports the efforts of the WSU Skagit County Extension Master Gardener Program through various fund-raising activities. If you are interested in making a financial contribution to the program or donating time or materials, please contact us at

Skagit County Master Gardener Foundation

P.O. Box 2801

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Phone: 360-428-4270

Or visit our website:

<http://skagit.wsu.edu/MG/index.htm>



The WSU Discovery Garden is located at the WSU-Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research & Extension Center, 16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273



DISCOVERY GARDEN



WSU Discovery Garden

WSU-Northwestern Washington

Research & Extension Center

16650 State Route 536 (Memorial Highway)

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Sponsored by the

Skagit County Master Gardener Foundation

D I S C O V E R Y G A R D E N

Goals of the Garden:

The Discovery Garden is a result of ongoing efforts of WSU Master Gardeners and the community. The 1994 Master Gardener class visualized the garden and spent four more years planning. Donated trees, structures, and fences were installed in the fall of 1996. Most of the original gardens were completed by the end of 1998, but the garden continues to evolve. In 2008, the rose and children's gardens were renovated, the rhododendron garden was added, and the propagation area was expanded. The map below reflects the garden as of January 2009.

The Discovery Garden is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk. Signs throughout the garden introduce visitors to the plantings and growing techniques used.

WSU Discovery Garden



2009

To Interest, Inspire, and Educate the Public

1. ENTRANCE GARDEN The small gardens fronting the fountain and lining the path to the pavilion greet visitors with plants having year-round interest. Included are easy-care, layered plantings chosen for the Pacific Northwest climate.

2. SHADE GARDEN Does your garden have a "shady" personality? This garden suggests alternatives to sun-loving plants so even a shady garden can bask in color, texture, and smell.

3. COOL COLOR BORDER Need to feel cool? This border creates a cool-feeling border by including plants with texture and shades of blue, green, purple, lavender, and silver.

4. HOT COLOR BORDER This garden uses annuals, perennials, and bulbs in "hot" colors such as red, orange, and yellow. A hot border spices up any garden, even on a rainy day.

5. JAPANESE GARDEN There are five distinct types of Japanese gardens: hill and pond, dry landscape, tea, courtyard, and stroll. Ours is of the stroll design. Odd numbers of plants and stones are used in groupings and plants are spaced unevenly. Water features, such as the one here, are an integral part of Japanese gardens. Dry rock beds symbolize rushing rivers and large rocks resemble mountains.

6. WATER WISE GARDEN These low-maintenance plants need little water other than rainfall. We add mulch to retain water, keep down weeds, and improve drainage. We water once a month in dry weather. Older plants not known for drought tolerance have adapted to the low-water regimen thanks to their well-established root systems.

To Develop a Garden For Community Use and Enjoyment

7. FOUR SEASONS GARDEN The original garden along the east side of the Discovery Garden contains gifts from Wells Nursery. The border was expanded with new plantings of rhododendrons and shrubs in keeping with the original design of the garden. The evergreen shrubs are keepers -- undemanding beauties that provide year-round interest without much supplemental summer watering. Species bulbs, crocus, *Chionodoxa*, and tulips are planted at the feet of the conifers.

8. FALL AND WINTER GARDEN In our Northwest climate we can garden year round. This garden features plants that shine from September to March. Fall-blooming perennials, bright berries, and brilliant foliage give way to the forms of bare branches and the beauty of bark. Evergreen foliage, winter blooms, and very early bulbs take us through to the promise of spring.

9. DOC'S ARBOR This grape arbor was created in memory of Dr. Richard Hoag, affectionately known as "Doc." Doc was one of a small group of WSU Master Gardeners who shared a vision to start the Discovery Garden. Doc and his wife gave the first monetary donation to help fulfill this vision. Doc enjoyed growing grapes and making varieties of wine.

10. ORNAMENTAL GRASS Grasses mingle well with perennials and shrubs. The chosen varieties of grasses can screen an area, provide texture, or create a soothing spot as the wind rustles through them. The Ornamental Grass Garden also presents different grasses for different growing conditions.

11. ROSE GARDEN The Master Gardeners inherited this garden from the local rose society in spring 2006. The garden is in the process of being redesigned and was selected for the WWI monument placed on Memorial Highway.

To Enhance the Quality of the Environment of Skagit County

12. RHODODENDRON GARDEN This was begun in 2007. It is designed to provide a harmonious space in which to view the wide variety of rhododendrons that can be grown in the Pacific Northwest climate.

13. LLOYD EIGHME'S HEATHER GARDEN Our heather garden is a place of interest year round — something is in bloom every month. We chose a variety of heathers to show growth patterns from ground covers to tree forms.

14. IRIS GARDEN The iris plantings show many different species and their bloom cycles, from early spring throughout the winter. Rocks create "rooms" for companion plantings that provide interest while the iris are resting.

15. GROUND COVERS Need to cover an area or keep a hillside from eroding? Don't like to see bare dirt? Ground covers to the rescue! This garden presents some common and creative ideas using ground covers suitable for sun and shade gardens.

16. SCHOOL EDUCATION (DIG IT) WSU Master Gardeners work with teachers and students in local classrooms. After the curriculum is incorporated into lessons at school, students come to the garden for a day of hands-on "dirty" learning and planting.

17. COMPOSTING AREA Magic is done here! After a day of gardening, the sorted and chipped prunings, browns, and weedless greens are combined and turned. Mother Nature does her part, and we get great compost back in a year.