



Food Bank Growers <fbg@foodbankgrowers.org>

FBG Forwarding: Food Bank Growers and PT Gleaners Newsletter - June 2026

1 message

Food Bank Growers FBG <contact@foodbankgrowers.org>
To: Contact <contact@foodbankgrowers.org>

Sun, May 31, 2026 at 10:17 PM

June 2026 Newsletter

GROWERS		PT GLEANERS
We grow Vegetables & Berries for Soups, Salads, Stews & Stir-Fry.	FOOD BANK GROWERS	We glean Apples, Pears, Plums & Figs from Backyard Orchards.

In this month's newsletter...

- Year-to-Date Statistics
- "Food For Thought" Lecture Series
- Events
- KPTZ "In The Garden" Podcast
- "The Big Drip" Fundraising Campaign
- FBG Merchandise!
- June Tasks for the Garden w/ Dianna



Year-to-Date Statistics

Produce Grown = 980
pounds

Volunteer Time = 1311
hours

Plant Starts = 115
seedlings

We're hard at work in
FBG Gardens all year
long!

Food For Thought:

Great Changes at the Jefferson County Food Bank Association

with Roland Faragher-Horwel, Board President of the Jefferson County Food Bank

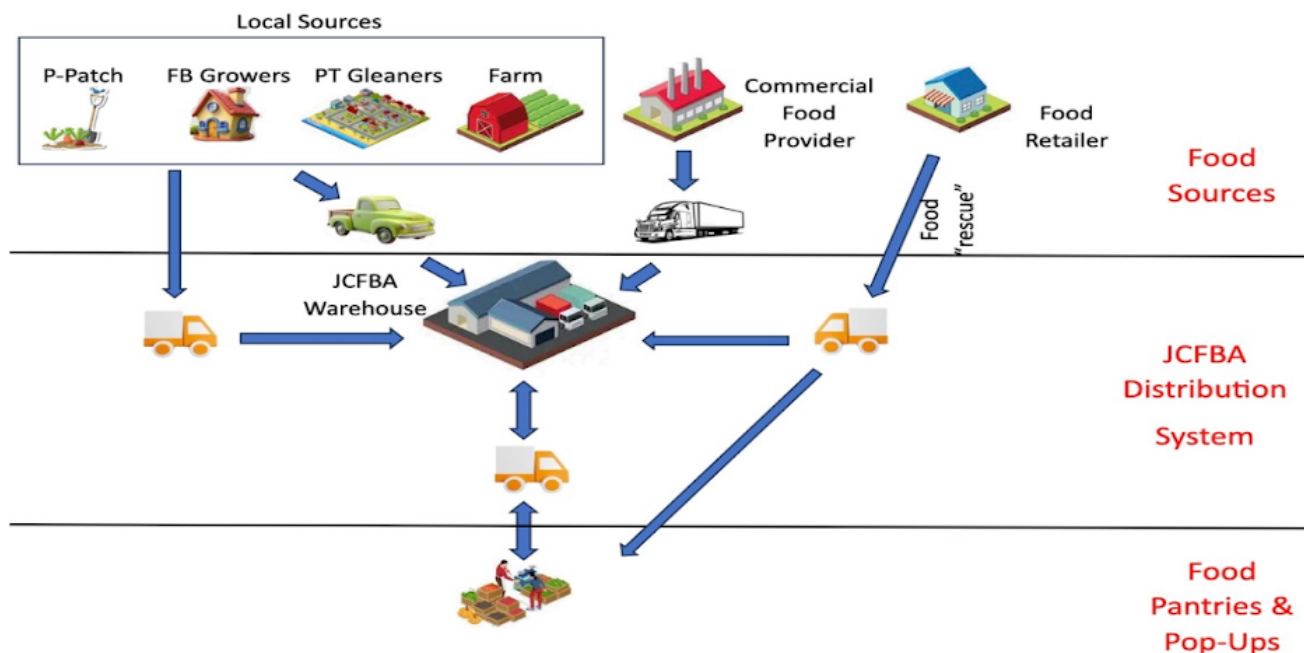
Tuesday, June 9th at 6:00 pm

Doors open at 5:45 pm

The Grange is located at 1219 Corona Avenue in Port Townsend.

What's been happening at the Food Bank this past year? Board President Roland Faragher-Horwell will discuss recent and upcoming changes to how JCFBA acquires, manages, and distributes food to its customers.

Appreciation for home gardeners' donations and the best way to bring them to the Food Bank will be highlighted.





Stay Involved *in the community*

Chimacum Farmers Mar...

Saturday, June 28th
from 10am - 2pm
in Chimacum



In the Garden *on KPTZ radio*

Listen Here

Join Julia Cordz, Barbara Faurot, Mary Beth Haralovich and Dianna Wiklund weekly on Thursdays from 6-6:30 pm.



The Big Drip *Fundraising Campaign*

Donate to the Big Drip F...

Little drops of cash add up so that we can support our volunteers, gardens and schools that feed our local community.



FBG Merchandise!

FBG has rebranded and we have a new logo!

Order a t-shirt and show off your support for the Food Bank Growers!

Buy FBG Merchandise!

June Tasks for the Garden

with Dianna

Weather: 62.8°F cool 50.9°F

El Nino summers are warmer and drier than average. And this can mean a lot for food gardens. The first one is mulch, Mulch, MULCH!!! I know I keep saying it, but it is one of the best ways to maintain soil moisture. If we reach the sad state of water rationing, it will be especially important in July and August, so getting it set up in June would be wise. Mulch can be many things: leaves, straw, grass clippings, cotton sheets, and more. Mulch over your irrigation system so all the water goes to the plant roots and does not evaporate or get lost to the hot dry air. Think of ways to get other water sources to your garden... like collecting water any time you are running water to heat it up before using, like in your shower. Think about whether the soaps and detergents you use are safe for your garden before you consider whether to use grey water or not. But any water that has not been already used is fine.

What to plant:

Start thinking about what you want to plant for your fall and winter gardens and how you can keep them cool and moist throughout the summer. Plant to the north of tall plants or plant down hill from something you are giving a lot of water to, like your onions. Your cool season crops won't germinate if they get too warm, like over 80 degrees. You can interplant root crops under the spreading leaves of larger plants like squash or cauliflower. Or plant to the north of perennials (like artichokes). Just things to consider with the weather heating up and changing.

Harvest:

Now is the time to harvest a lot of our spring crops. Keep cutting back the lettuce and spinach so they will keep growing. Keep picking the side shoots of broccoli so they will keep putting on. Peas are drawing to a close now, but if left alone will put on a small crop later in the summer.

Vertebrate Pests in the Garden

There are many ways to control vertebrate pests in the garden. Some of the most common are using physical barriers, such as fencing or netting, to keep pests out of the garden. Other methods include using traps or repellents to deter pests from entering the garden. It is important to choose a method that is effective and safe for the garden and the surrounding environment.

The other thing I would like to talk about this month are local critters and their effects on our gardens. Remember they will also be feeling the effects of the weather and may possibly be attracted to our lush green areas abundant with food and water.

Raccoons:

Raccoons are attracted to easy food. Smelly or slimy things in your compost or garden, like snails and slugs, are tasty treats. So one of the best ways to not attract raccoons is to not have these in or near your garden. Since we try to keep the slimy critters out anyway, this is just one more reason to remove them. Also, burying anything that is really sticky deep into your compost can also help.

The other thing that will attract raccoons is corn and grapes. They really love these and I have not found a way to discourage them other than keeping a big dog.

Cats:

Cats can be great for reducing the rodent population in the garden but they come with their own challenges. Cats love to lay in the sun on warm freshly turned, weeded or planted soil. They like to walk over and stretch out on floating row covers. And they really like to use exposed soil for a litter box. Grrr.

Using hoops to hold up your floating row cover can help, so long as the cat can not get into it. If a cat gets in, it will often have a great time running back and forth on new plants and digging them up.

I have found that cats dislike moist soil, so keeping your soil moist and covered with mulch helps. I have also started putting sand over cardboard in my pathways. The cats seem to prefer this over the soil for a litter box; it helps some.

Rodents:

Rats - Will dig down and eat your root veggies. They will climb up and eat corn and apples. They will burrow in the compost pile looking for anything edible. They are not easy or pleasant to get rid of.

Eliminating their habitat and food source is one way to get rid of them, but since some of us like root veggies and apples, traps may help... but they must be set-up correctly and continue to be monitored.

1. Place trap(s) against the edge of structures or fences so they won't catch birds. You will likely have to cover them with something so the birds don't go for the bait.
2. Keep changing the type of bait used. If you catch/kill a rat, the others won't go for that bait again. Baits can include peanut butter, cheese, lemon drops, pet food, etc...
3. If there is blood on the trap, the next rat won't go near it as they have a great sense of smell.
4. The only secure way to store grains, seeds and pet foods is in glass or metal containers which the rats won't be able to chew through.
5. Try to have minimal places that rats can hang out. Keep them out of sheds and storage structures as best as you can, even though these are often good places to set traps.
6. I discourage the use of poisons because there is too much risk of pets or other wildlife getting into it.

Mice - Can be trapped like rats, only with smaller traps. While there are live traps for mice, if you catch them alive you will have to figure out what to do with them once you have trapped them.

Voles/Shrews - These are the ones that get in and eat your bulbs, roots, tubers, etc. They follow mole tunnels and also create their own. These are one of the biggest pests in my garden.

You can also keep mice/shrews/voles out by lining the bottom and sides of raised beds with hardware cloth. I have lined the bottom of my greenhouse completely with hardware cloth and it seems to be helping.

In my potato bins, in really bad years, I have made a complete cube of hardware cloth and grown my potatoes inside it. It helped, but was a pain to deal with.

Moles - They don't tend to be much of a problem in my garden. They burrow through the soil (aerating it) and eat some of the worms. Moles are carnivores and get blamed for the damage caused by voles and shrews.

Birds:

Birds can also be garden pests. I have had them pull up new starts and plant labels.

They will get into fruit trees and eat almost ripe cherries, blueberries and other fruit.

For smaller fruits, like blueberries, building an area completely enclosed with bird mesh or wire smaller than what the birds can get through will help. Remember that it has to go over the top and be tall enough for you to stand up in and pick your fruits.

They also make something called bird netting to put over fruit trees. This is a royal pain to do... both putting on and taking it back off. If you don't take it off, then the tree will grow through it and the netting will choke off the new branches.

Stationary owls in trees may work for a while, but if they don't move, the birds get used to them and ignore them. The ones with motion sensors that shoot water may work better for some birds. I have tried hanging reflective stuff in the trees, but it doesn't work for long.

Covering your starts with a floating row cover or cloche helps keep the birds from pulling up new starts and labels. Make sure to record where you have planted things so that even if your labels go away you still know what is where. This is most important when you are trying new varieties of the same thing (like planting two or three different varieties of carrots), otherwise how will you know which will grow best?

All in all I find that I like most of the animal visitors to my garden and don't mind sharing part of my produce... just not all of it. I love it when the hummingbirds come trumpeting through the garden when I seed. I love watching the eagles overhead, as long as they leave my ducks alone. I love the douglas squirrels running up and down the trees around the outside of my garden. It all reminds me I am a part of a whole big community of life on the planet. We all deserve space and freedom to grow our food and live our lives in peace and harmony with each other.

Happy Gardening 🥕🥕🥕

Dianna Wiklund

WSU Master Gardener

Everyone is Welcome!

We're so grateful for our volunteers! Feel free to join us and explore opportunities to grow, glean, or help remotely. Just let us know what interests you, and we'd love to get you involved!

Volunteer Sign-Up

Thank you FBG Community!

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