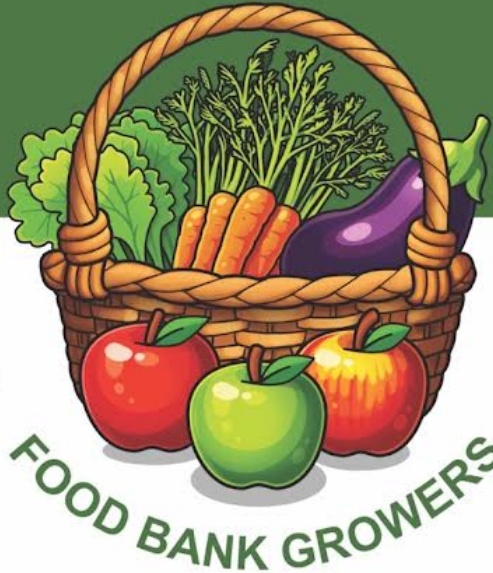


August 2026 Newsletter

GROWERS

We grow
Vegetables & Berries
for Soups, Salads,
Stews & Stir-Fry.



PT GLEANERS

We glean
Apples, Pears,
Plums & Figs from
Backyard Orchards.

Year-to-Date Statistics

Produce Grown = 4097
pounds

Volunteer Time = 3391
hours

Plant Starts = 153
seedlings

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

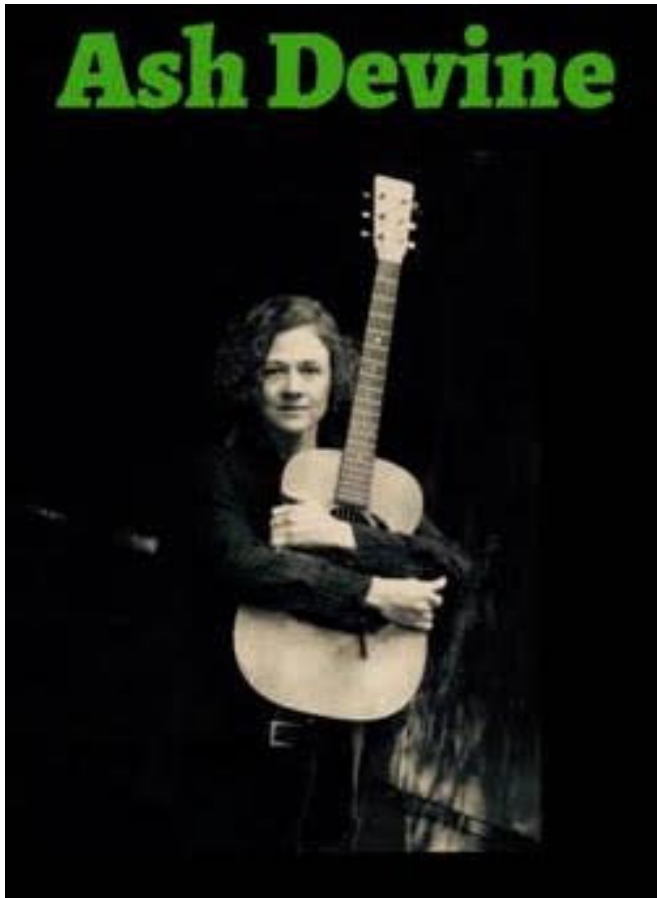


Grateful for Growers

A free concert to protect Port Townsend's growing spaces
and honor the people working the land

August 2nd at 6 pm

at the Quimper Grange - 1219 Corona Street



Ash Devine is an accomplished songwriter, ukulele and guitar player, performance artist, educator, and community-based arts facilitator whose work is influenced by her upbringing in the Blue Ridge mountains, and by her international travels to perform in health care facilities with Patch Adams M.D. Born and raised in the Appalachian region of southwestern VA, Ash Devine lived in Asheville, NC for over 17 years where she developed her songwriting career and delved into her roots in the Appalachian folk music traditions. She also has deep roots in Port Townsend, where she lived for years. The concert is free, but donations are appreciated. Please bring your instruments and join Ash for an old time Appalachian style folk jam.

Sponsored by:

*Quimper Growers, the Quimper
Grange,
Accountable PT and Affordable
Hometown PT*

For more information, please email:

JudyKrebs23@gmail.com

Food Bank Successes are Worth Celebrating, Too

By Mark Paxton

I recently dropped in for a presentation about developments at the Jefferson County Food Bank Association (JCFBA), held as the latest in a Food for Thought series of programs presented by the Quimper Grange. I am very glad that I did.

Like many of you, I have followed developments and occasional controversies in our local food bank network with great interest, and at times, with some consternation. You see, I have a personal stake in JCFBA that goes beyond occasional feel-good donations. I volunteer with a separate nonprofit organization, Food Bank Growers of Jefferson County. While we operate separately, with separate boards and charters, we are linked by a common mission: a healthy, resilient Jefferson County. FBG is a network of gardens staffed by volunteers who work to grow food sustainably for our neighbors. Some of that produce goes into local school lunches. Some goes to the Recovery Café. Much goes onto the tables of those who shop at food banks in Port Townsend, the Tri Area, Quilcene and Brinnon.

It's hard work, but who does not like the feeling that goes with sharing good food?

So the program by JCFBA board President Roland Faragher-Horwell and Vice-President Sonja Mathews was received by me and, it would seem, all of the other few dozen people present with a measure of relief and enthusiasm for the future.

Rather than dwelling on the JCFBA's sometimes troubled past, the two board members made it clear that local food banks are on strong footing and in capable hands. Even as the board continues to search for an executive director, it has put into place comprehensive fiscal controls, installed meaningful sanitation improvements and centralized distribution to ensure food equity throughout its system. A new location has been found in Quilcene and a once-planned association-owned center there is back on the market.

Something Faragher-Horwell mentioned a few times during the presentation sticks with me. That is that when organizations seeking common outcomes can work together, the sum of their efforts can be multiplied in powerful and sometimes surprising ways. That philosophy is being borne out in its recent partnership with Food Bank Growers and with partner organizations throughout Jefferson County.

Please forgive me for saying so, but their talk left me with a good taste in my mouth. A thriving community can be measured by how it cares for its own. And what I learned that night at Quimper Grange only confirms what I already knew. Jefferson County is one of those rare places where we work hard to do just that.



Stay Involved *in the community*

Jefferson County Farm ...

Saturday, September
19th
*at FairWinds FBG Garden
and
at Salish Coast
Elementary*

Sunday, September 20th
at PT High School Garden



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.

Food For Thought Series at the Quimper Grange

On pause for summer. New lectures coming in September. Stay tuned for more details.

August Tasks for the Garden *with Dianna*

Weather:

August is likely to start off with a bit of rain but it is unlikely to continue. Average rainfall for August is 0.63” spread over 6.6 days. With high temperatures averaging 67.8°F to lows around 55.4°F, this year is looking to hit those averages and stay there; no heat wave in the forecast. In my cool garden, that does not bode well for ripening corn. 😞 On the other hand, it does bode well for getting a start on winter gardening. 😊 To that end, we can get planting more cool season crops earlier than normal and increase our harvest of the cool weather wonders.

Plant Now:

With many of these, the harvest can be extended by covering them in October.

- Salad greens - lettuce, spinach, corn salad, kale, mustards, pac choi, arugula, swiss chard
- Roots - radishes, carrots, turnips, leeks, over-wintered onions, scallions, beets
- Brassicas can still be transplanted the first week of August - sprouting broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, collards
- Peas! This might be a really good year for a fall pea crop.

Harvest:

Harvest continues with the abundant joy of all of summer's bounty. This is the biggest harvest month, so enjoy and remember to share any extra with those who didn't manage to get a garden going this year.

Amendments:

Phosphorus

I have been learning a lot from researching all these amendments. I hope others have been as well. This statement has been most impactful on me:

In native ecosystems nutrients are available in a balanced system for the plants that grow there but in our gardens we are trying to grow plants that are not always native to our environment. So the nutrients they need have to be added for them to be healthy and grow well. (University of Arizona extension - Back Yard Gardener #87)

I have always tried to grow with a minimum of additions, but much of what I grow doesn't occur naturally in this area, so I was doomed from the start. I finally understand that I truly need to add what our soil is lacking for my garden veggies to do their best. I guess I really needed this research.

With that said...

What is Phosphorus?

Phosphorus is a macronutrient that is essential to reproduction (fruit and flowers) and vigorous growth.

According to the University of Arizona, *"Plant roots absorb phosphorus as phosphate ions. Phosphate ions are negatively charged and contain one or two hydrogen atoms and four oxygen atoms that surround a central atom of phosphorus. When a plant root hair encounters a phosphate ion, it is taken up by the plant... Among other things, phosphorus is a part of the cellular currency (adenosine triphosphate otherwise known as ATP) that fuels chemical reactions within the plant."*

The challenge is that many soil types have an abundance of phosphorous but it has fixated or bonded in ways that make it unavailable to plants. A lot of the phosphorus in our soil is not phosphate so there are no negative ions for the roots to take up.

Signs of Deficiency

The symptoms of phosphorus deficiency are reduced growth, dark green (darker than normal) or purplish foliage, thin stems, reduced lateral bud growth, loss of lower leaves, and reduced flowering and fruiting.

Where do I get Phosphorous?

Unlike nitrogen, phosphorous does not wash away so it can be built up in the soil for long term use. Similar to nitrogen, there are two basic types of phosphorous amendments: slow release (builds up over time) and fast release (can be accessed by the plants now).

Fast Release:

- Native phosphorus comes from the mineral apatite. This is the source of rock phosphate, an organic fertilizer; various other fertilizers are produced from it also. Apatite is mined in the southeastern United States. Various acids are reacted with treated apatite to produce ammonium phosphate (16-20-0), superphosphate (0-20-0), and triple super phosphate (0-45-0).
- Most of the commercial fertilizers labeled as phosphate are going to be the available fast acting or starter phosphorous. The exception is rock phosphate which takes many years to break down into accessible form.
- Manures are a great way to get phosphorus into your garden, but they are not as fast as the commercial fertilizers. On the other hand, they are more balanced and release the phosphorus over time.

Slow release (use for long term access):

- Bone Meal
- Rock Phosphate

When and How to apply?

This can become challenging and confusing because....

There is no specific "available" fraction of phosphorus in soils. The available phosphorus is what is in solution plus what can be expected to become soluble from minerals and organic matter over the growing season. Therefore, soil tests cannot extract the exact available amount from the soil, but rather an amount that reflects what might become available.

There are four types of application methods used for amendments:

1. **Broadcasting:** basically just scattering on the surface. Most often used in No-Till gardening since it does not disturb the soil. This can result in an accumulation of nutrients near the surface of the soil. If no method is mentioned, this is the method that should be used.
2. **Band:** cut/dig/hoe a furrow into the soil about 3" to 8" deep, depending on what crop is being planted. Sow seeds 1" to 2" above amendment; this allows the young plants quick access to the amendment. This is the most recommended method for phosphorus as it will build up a storage bank for years to come.
3. **Side Dress:** method for adding amendments once plants are up and growing. Apply a scattering around the plant but do not get it on the leaves (if there is nitrogen in the mix, they might burn). Water dry amendments so they can dissolve and work down into the soil.
4. **Liquid:** Some amendments come in concentrated liquid form and should be diluted to the correct level and then applied either by spraying on or side dressing.

What happens if I use too much?

The main problem with phosphorus pollution is eutrophication, resulting in excessive growth of plants and algae in the water. This can seriously limit the use of the water for drinking, industry, fishing, or recreation. (Think Anderson Lake.)

Most of the excess phosphorus in home gardens comes from the use of too much manure being applied for nitrogen. It is important to not overdo nitrogen which is very soluble and will easily run down stream. If we add manures in moderation and over time rather than all at once, it is unlikely we will have too much soluble phosphorus as it doesn't tend to run away very quickly.

Conclusion

By giving yearly phosphorus applications to a vegetable garden area, the need for added fertilizer will decrease over time. This can be monitored through periodic soil analysis. In these cases, a bank account of phosphorus is maintained in the soil. Excess phosphorus is not easily leached out of the soil by irrigation or rainfall.

So my small heads of broccoli could be from a lack of available phosphorus in my soil. I love learning new things. I hope you do too.

Happy Gardening, 🌻

Dianna Wiklund

Master Gardener



FBG Merchandise!

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

Check out our **NEW**
SHORT SLEEVED options!

[Buy FBG Merchandise!](#)



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!

Copyright (C) 2026 Food Bank Growers. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you may [opt-out here](#).

FoodBankGrowers.org

Our mailing address is:

Food Bank Growers

P.O. Box 1432

Port Townsend, WA 98368



2 attachments



image
180K



image
222K

