

Why do leprechauns make great gardeners?



Because they have a lot of green thumbs and they're always after the roots of gold.

GARDENS IN PT

Blessings (Barbara & MaryBeth)

Brian's (Amber, Lindsay)

FairWinds (Gayle & Milly)

PT High School (Doug)

PT Co-Op (Kathy)

Quimper Grange (Barbara & MaryBeth)

Salish Elementary (Neil)

GARDENS IN CHIMACUM

Goosefoot (Lex H)

GARDENS IN PORT HADLOCK

Boat School (Mary)

Swan (Suzanne)

GARDEN UPDATES

We are fortunate to have the continued use of the Blessings Garden space for another growing season thanks to the creative minds at the Quimper Grange garden and Judith Johnson. The Grange will manage Blessings using their existing volunteer staff. Kathy and Herb will manage the Raspberries and Asparagus including harvests and Judith will cultivate flowers.

Goosefoot Farm is being relocated to The Commons in Chimicum (across from Cenex). We had an excellent site visit Alexa Heibling and are working on an MOU. We are hopeful that an agreement will be forthcoming.

BULK AMENDMENTS COORDINATION

Bagged Amendments (Fertilizers, Soil Mixers, Seedstarting mix)

We have processed two large bagged amendment orders through the Farmstand in Chimicum, which has helped us establish a clear process for the remainder of the season. The process for procuring bagged amendments is outlined below.

How Bagged Amendment Requests Are Initiated

Requests are triggered in two ways:

1. Early-Season Budget Review

The Garden Committee (GComm) reviews garden budgets for anticipated amendment needs and sends an email to GMs to solicit any additional requests.

AND

2. In-Season Requests

During the year, additional orders may be initiated when a GM contacts either the GComm or the FBGGardenCoordinator email to request bagged amendments. The GComm will then send a time-sensitive email (4–5 days) to all GMs to gather any additional requests.

Note: We will accommodate one combined order per month.

Ordering & Fulfillment Process for Bagged Amendments

- A combined order is prepared and submitted to Jenna Dern (or her designee) at the Chimacum Farmstand.
- Jenna responds via email with any questions and provides notification when the order is ready for pickup.
- A GComm member coordinates pickup from the Farmstand and delivery to the Gardens on a common date.
- GMs (or a designated representative) must be present at their garden to assist with offloading materials or identify an alternative garden to hold the items.
- The GComm handles all expense reporting and submission to Finance.

This coordinated process ensures efficiency, cost control, and clear communication throughout the season. **Please do not go directly to the Farmstand to purchase items.**

Loose Bulk Amendments (Compost, Hog Fuel, etc.)

The GComm and Finance teams haven't yet finalized a streamlined process for loose bulk amendment orders but we have plans to resume discussions in late March. Meanwhile, please place your order directly with Secret Gardens Northwest.

When ordering, let them know you're with Food Bank Growers, and provide your name and the garden you represent. The negotiated discount for 2026 is 10%. There is no discount for delivery fees, so please contact Mark Paxton for delivery support as outlined below.

Payment is required at the time the order is placed. Afterward, submit an expense reimbursement form to Finance for reimbursement.

Secret Gardens contact information:

 (360) 379-3900

You may either manage the pickup & delivery yourself or contact Mark Paxton, Volunteer Coordinator, to arrange a work team to assist. If you plan to request volunteer support,

please provide Mark with at least five days' advance notice to ensure sufficient time to coordinate schedules and logistics.

GERMINATION SERVICE

The Propagation Team (Mado, Seth, and Kim) reports that multiple gardens are utilizing this service. GMs should contact the team directly to submit a seedling order.

The Propagation Team works directly with GMs to clarify plant selections, timing, and any related questions, and will provide updates on the status of each order.

GMs are encouraged to reach out to the Propagation Team directly with any additional questions.

STATUS UPDATE ON ISSUES FROM THE GM SURVEY

The Garden Committee has actively addressed six key areas: **Pest & Disease Management, Garden Planning, Germinating/Propagating, Bulk Order Procurement, Improving structure GM/Grower meetings, and Enhancing Communications.**

Strategies have been implemented to help mitigate challenges in each of these areas. While additional effort may be required as the season progresses, these items will be tabled for now (except for the Loose Bulk Amendment ordering process). We will reconnect with GMs later this season to evaluate whether any adjustments or refinements are needed.

The References section below includes helpful links regarding the strategies in place.

ADDITIONAL GM SURVEY ITEMS

More Volunteers or Work Party Support

If you need additional volunteers or team support for a work party, please contact Mark Paxton, Volunteer Coordinator.

Cultivating Garden Leaders

This topic was discussed at both the February Grower Meeting and the Garden Committee meeting. Although it is considered the most challenging initiative, there was strong consensus that it offers the greatest long-term benefit to our organization. As a result, the committee will prioritize this effort, with work beginning in late March.

Managing Volunteers: The committee has not started work on this topic.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE MIGRATION

All Garden folders have been migrated to Google Workspace. Amber sent an email to GMs earlier this month explaining how to access our new Shared drives. Please contact Amber if you have questions or problems using the Shared Drives.

RESOURCES

Grower Meeting	3rd Thursday of each Month (for now) Next meeting March 19, 4-5:30 pm Zoom
Back issues of Sproutin' Off	Sproutin' Off
FBG Seed Bank	FBG Seeds - ALL SEEDS To coordinate pickup, contact:  Mary Beth Haralovich mbandjji@gmail.com  (520) 730-6439
Seed Propagation Support	Mado Most  MadoMost@gmail.com  (310) 994-5834
Pest & Disease Management	Dianna's Garden Consulting  1wildaster@gmail.com  360-643-0090 OR Jefferson County Master Gardeners Ask a Master Gardener Contact Page
Stored Soil Amendments	Stored Soil Amendments and Location
Bagged Amendment Request	Contact either: FBGGardenCoordinator@gmail.com OR andrewsnk76@gmail.com
Loose Bulk Amendment Delivery Support	Mark Paxton  mark.alphabetco@gmail.com  (360) 390-3001
Secret Gardens Northwest for Loose Bulk Amendments	 (360) 379-3900
Volunteers & Work Party Request	Mark Paxton  mark.alphabetco@gmail.com  (360) 390-3001

Respectfully Submitted by the Garden Committee