

SPROUTIN' OFF

A Monthly Publication to Garden Managers

JANUARY 2026



TIME TO CHILL OUT

GARDENS IN PT

Brian's (Amber & Denny)

FairWinds (Gayle & Milly)

PT High School (Doug)

PT Co-Op (Kathy)

Quimper Grange (Barbara & MaryBeth)

Salish Elementary (Neil)

GARDENS IN CHIMACUM

Goosefoot (Lex & Lexi)

GARDENS IN PORT HADLOCK

Boat School (Mary)

Swan (Suzanne)

GARDEN COMMITTEE WORK

January is typically a quieter month in the gardens, and it has also been a slower period for Garden Committee (GCOMM) work. Our December meeting, however, was a highlight—it was the first in-person gathering in many months and gave us the chance to reflect on the past year and, even more excitingly, to look ahead to the work we've committed to in 2026. Below is an update on our efforts since the last edition of *Sproutin' Off*.

THANK YOU DUNDEE HILL

Our MOU with Dundee Hill Community Garden (DHCG) expired in November. As a result, Mary H., Judy Alexander, Rachel Dunn, and Noreen A. met to evaluate whether it made sense for DHCG, as a community garden, to continue its relationship with FBG. The group agreed that DHCG would move forward independently, without FBG support. DHCG has been—and will continue to be—an important asset to the local food sustainability system through the donation of excess harvest and plant starts.

CONTRACT WITH DIANNA'S GARDEN CONSULTING

An agreement with DGC has been signed with the following scope:

Dianna's Garden Consulting will provide up to 10 hours per month of advice and support related to garden planning and cultivation for FBG gardens. Support

must be requested by a FBG Garden Manager. Additional one-time support (such as consultations at group events) may be requested by the FBG Garden Committee Chair on an as-needed basis.

Translation: As a Garden Manager, you may contact Dianna directly for support with garden planning or cultivation issues. The 10 hours of support per month are shared among all gardens, but you should not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance. Overall usage will be tracked across the year (120 hours) which will be monitored by the Garden and Finance Committees. Garden Managers will be notified if any adjustments need to be made.

Dianna's contact information:

 1wildaster@gmail.com

 360-643-0090

PROPAGATION TEAM

The FBG seedling propagating enterprise is gearing up for starting January seedings. The team will begin by planting alliums in 1020 trays for distribution to those gardens who request seedlings.

January: Alliums including leeks and onions (bunching and bulb)

If you are interested in utilizing the propagation service, please contact Mado. This will help the team understand your needs and ensure adequate supplies are on hand. The most important details to include are **what** you need started, **how many**, and **when** they are needed.

Variety requests will be accommodated when possible; however, this may require additional time if seeds need to be sourced or purchased.

Mado's contact information:

 Mado madomost@gmail.com

 310-994-5834

GARDEN PLANNING

The December edition of *Sproutin' Off* included guidance on the GrowVeg garden planner tool. Some GMs are already creating their plans in GrowVeg and utilizing other embedded tools to help with logistics such as plant count and plant dates. Check out this [Plant List](#) that was generated automatically for one of our gardens! If you're just getting started—or want to go deeper—check out these excellent video tutorials:

[Overview video](#) with our friend Ben

[Quick Start video](#) covering a wide range of features

Once you're comfortable, check out the video on [Starting Next Year's Plan](#)

When you're ready to dive in, please reach out to Noreen. And remember — we also have experienced team members available for one-on-one mentoring if you need help along the way!

Noreen's contact information:

 andrewsnk76@gmail.com
 206-817-5019

If you prefer pencil and paper and would like support, you can contact Dianna's Garden Consulting using the contact information listed above.

PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT

GMs can reach out to Dianna's Garden Consulting for pest & disease support using the contact information listed above.

Additionally, Noreen (FBG Liaison to Master Gardeners) will meet with Bridget Gregg in January to discuss setting up a Plant Clinic(s) within a FBG Garden to assist with Pest & Disease identification and management.

Lastly, we will continue to review options to bring additional expert advice in the gardens.

COMMUNICATION IMPROVEMENTS

- GM -> GM communication: A survey has been sent to GMs to solicit input on schedule, venue and topics with a due date of Jan 9th. This year we will schedule meetings well in advance and send calendar invites via Google Calendar.
- GCOMM -> GM communication: Please contact Noreen Andrews if you have suggestions on how to improve this publication or better serve GMs using the contact information listed above.

BULK AMENDMENTS COORDINATION (NEW THIS YEAR!)

Each year, GMs act independently to purchase bulk amendments and coordinate deliveries, a process that has proven to be inefficient and frustrating. To address this, we will streamline the process by coordinating purchases, deliveries and offloading collectively. The GComm will review the amendment requests identified on the Garden Budgets and then survey the GMs to determine what support they need. Based on the responses, the Garden committee will work with the Finance Committee & Volunteer Coordinator to get the products to the people!

EXPENSE REPORTING CHANGES (NEW THIS YEAR!)

The December edition of *Sproutin' Off* included a section on Garden Budgets describing a new funding category for items that are common to all gardens and funded through the FBG general account. In connection with this change, the Expense Reimbursement Request form has been updated to include this new category for expense reporting. **Please be sure to use the new version of the Expense Reimbursement Request form when reporting expenses for 2026.** The updated Expense Reimbursement Request Form and additional guidance is available in the [GM Toolkit/Garden Finances](#) area.

ON YOUR RADAR IN JANUARY

Seed catalogs are arriving in our mail boxes providing ample opportunity to dream of the upcoming growing season. It's wonderful to keep those dreams alive, but please also take a few moments this month to address these important administrative tasks. They shouldn't take long, and remember: we're always just an email away if you need support at FBGGardenCoordinator@gmail.com.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports are the official communication to the property owner summarizing garden activity from the previous year. This is your opportunity to highlight everything your garden accomplished under your thoughtful leadership. It also provides a hard copy of the area that could be tax deductible for them. **Always include the square footage of the garden.**

The Garden Committee will load a draft report that includes your harvest and volunteer data in your garden folder on the FBG Drive. You will need to add supplemental information on these topics: 1) What was new last year, 2) What worked well, 3) What was challenging and/or needing change, 4) Significant projects planned for the upcoming year. **You will receive an email once your draft is ready for your input.** Additional guidance is available in the [GM Toolkit/Annual Reports](#) area.

ON YOUR RADAR FOR FEBRUARY

Garden Planning

Seed germination including the option of the FBG propagation service

Garden cleanup - let us know if you need help!

Kicking off bulk amendment purchases and deliveries.

*2025 FBG PRODUCE: **13 TONS**, PT GLEANERS: **4 TONS***

Respectfully Submitted by the Garden Committee