

SPROUTIN' OFF

A Monthly Publication to Garden Managers

DECEMBER 2025



HAPPY WINTER SOLSTICE!

GARDENS IN PT

Brian's (Amber & Denny)

Dundee Hill (Judy)

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

In October, the Garden Committee asked all GM's to complete a survey to help identify pain points affecting managers. Ten GMs responded and identified many areas for our committee and organization to focus on. Based on excellent feedback, work has already begun on these top issues. Please continue to provide suggestions on ways to improve our garden operations and communications.

GERMINATING & PROPAGATING

Many GMs have requested support with seedling production, and we're excited to share that a state-of-the-art germination facility is being planned at the Quimper Grange. This facility will be staffed by a highly qualified germination team, allowing GMs to request professional support instead of growing their own vegetable starts. Our goal is to have the facility operational in time to support January requests. The fearless leader of this initiative is Mado Most, who will share additional information as details come to fruition.

GARDEN PLANNING

Several GMs have asked for support with garden planning. FBG maintains a group subscription to GrowVeg, a planning tool that many GMs already use. Others have expressed interest but aren't yet familiar with the software.

GrowVeg offers excellent introductory and advanced video tutorials. Here are a few to get you started:

[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 (andrewsnk76@gmail.com)** for the group subscription login information. And remember — we also have experienced team members available for one-on-one mentoring if you need help along the way!

We are also working on a new contract with Dianna Wiklund for 2026 to provide support for pencil-and-paper planning.

PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Who has time to research pest and disease issues when there are so many competing tasks that are more fun and glamorous? We all need to improve in this area, so multiple options are being explored to provide support in the gardens.

One option is to use online databases such as: **GrowVeg, WSU Hortsense, or Linda Gilkeson** which have very helpful information on identification, and trouble shooting pests.

We are also working on a new contract with Dianna Wiklund for 2026 to provide support in this area.

We will continue to review options to get more expert advice in the gardens, so stay tuned!

COMMUNICATION IMPROVEMENTS

Several layers of insufficient communication were identified of which the Garden Committee will focus on two of them:

- Garden Committee → Garden Managers: "Sproutin' Off monthly publication is a start.
- Between Garden Managers: The committee will be working to improve the structure of Garden Manager meetings and will be sending a survey to identify the best days, times, desired frequency, and preferred venue.

These priorities are just the tip of the iceberg on our to-do list. As we move toward implementing improvements, we will continue working through the remaining items.

Use this link to view the [Garden Committee Presentation](#) from the Nov retreat

ON YOUR RADAR IN DECEMBER

December is a recovery month after long hours managing many tasks from dirt work to book work. Before you go into well-deserved hibernation, please take some time to complete these important administrative tasks.

2026 GARDEN BUDGET

The Garden Budget is the primary tool used to inform the Finance Committee of each garden's financial needs for the upcoming year. **This year, Finance is introducing a new funding category for items that are common to all gardens.** For example, amendments, soil, seeds, and harvest supplies will now be paid from the FBG general account rather than individual garden accounts. These items are clearly labeled on the Garden Budget worksheet and you will be asked to enter quantities instead of dollar amounts. For example, request "2 yards of compost" rather than "\$60 of compost."

You will receive an email with detailed instructions once the worksheets are ready for your input. Additional guidance is available in the [GM Toolkit/Garden Finances](#) area.

ON YOUR RADAR FOR JANUARY

Annual Reports

Garden Planning (review the GrowVeg tutorials listed above)

Respectfully Submitted by the Garden Committee

Noreen, LeeAnn, Kim, Milly & our adhoc attendees Barbara, Mary H and Lee