



NW Fruit

February 2026

16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

in cooperation with the Northwest Washington Research & Extension Center (NWREC) of Washington State University



*A new tree, once it gets
taped, planted and cared for.*

From Kim Siebert, March 2, 2019

NWF Winter Field Day Saturday March 14, 2026

Northwest Fruit (nwfruit.org) will soon present Winter Field Day at the six-acre demonstration fruit garden. We are selling rootstocks and scionwood to help people make their own trees.

[Join or renew](#) your annual NWF membership [today](#) to attend: \$25 for individual membership or \$40 for family membership. Field days are free for members. Non-members pay \$15 for an individual day-of-event pass. (Membership fees will increase beginning April 1, 2026.)

◆ **Fruit Garden News & Education** ◆

- Activities**
- Registration begins at 9:00 am. All attendees register and hand stamp. Details p. 2.
 - Sales tables open 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for scionwood, rootstocks and grafting.
 - Apple Identification table open 10:00 am, Lori Brakken, expert in apple identification will be on hand to talk with you about apple trees you have found. Details p. 5.
 - Demonstration table for knife sharpening and grafting, starting at 10 a.m.

Class Schedule
in the Auditorium

9:20 — Orientation

10:00 — Grafting & Rootstocks: Expert volunteers demonstrate how to make a new tree with grafting techniques including whip & tongue, bark & side grafts. Learn which rootstocks to use and how to make your own rootstocks.

11:00 — Starting Your Home Fruit Orchard - Which fruits and varieties are best and easiest to succeed with. Tips on care for the first couple of years including planting, pruning, fertilizer, and more.

11:30 — Spring tasks in your fruit garden - Gary Moulton will discuss a calendar of what to do for your fruit in spring and summer. Learn when and how to deal with insect and fungus problems, pruning, irrigation and other techniques.

12:30 — Lunchtime: Bring your lunch and attend the brief but informative **NWF Membership Meeting** held annually on this field day.

1:00 — Learn fruit tree pruning - Gary Moulton's slide presentation explains how to prune different types of fruit trees. Gary's principles are easy to understand and applicable to your fruit trees.

more Field Day activities >>

March 14 ♦ Schedule, continued

Sales Tables:
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Rootstocks \$5 • Scionwood* \$3 • Custom Graft \$7

Please Note >> *Cash or check, no credit cards* <<

- Grafting supplies for sale: grafting knives, grafting bands, parafilm rolls.
- Our rootstocks average 1/4 inch in diameter, the best size for grafting the available scion wood.
- ★ Purchase our scionwood or bring your own. See **How To Collect Scionwood**, page 15.

Availability: We must limit the numbers of what can be purchased before noon to three of any one rootstock variety, and to three of any one scion variety except the cherry and peach, which are limited to one. This way everyone gets a better chance to buy their preference. Also, for grafting service, we limit to five grafted trees per person. After noon, people may circle back to buy what is remaining, or to purchase more graftings.

Class Schedule
in the Fruit Garden

2:00 pm Pruning and growing: How to prune mature fruit trees, where to cut and how much to remove. At our nursery area we will show you our new trees made from budding and grafting.

2:45 pm Guided tour of the Fruit Garden: We have about 700 different cultivars of fruiting trees and bushes growing in our six acre, 30-year-old garden. It is all maintained by NWF members. Bring questions about your home fruit garden to learn from our knowledgeable volunteers.

- Admission**
- **Free to NWF members.** Become a member by purchasing an annual \$25 individual membership or \$40 family membership, at the event or preferably now on our [website](#).
 - NWF offers a \$15 One Day Guest Pass for this event. You can pay for admission at the event, but by paying it [here now](#) the Registration line will move more quickly. Credit card capability on your phone thru PayPal, for Admission but not for other sales.

The proceeds fund our organization's garden maintenance and events.

- Weather:**
- Rain or shine – Dress for the weather. A large portion of the day's events take place in WSU Sakuma Auditorium or under shelter right outside the building. A bit of rain won't hinder our afternoon demo's in the garden.
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How To Find Your Membership Status

Go to app.glueup.com/membership/ to set up an account or to enter your username and password that you created last year when you set up your account. Look for Membership in left margin. Search for your name. Or send inquiry to membership@nwfruit.org.



Starkrimson pear - Listed on page 4
and described at nwfruit.org

Rootstocks Offered For Sale at Winter Field Day 2026

Rootstocks listed below are followed by the estimated size a tree can be easily maintained on that rootstock. Mature tree size varies due to many factors including the vigor of the cultivars grafted, as well as the climate, soil conditions and the pruning strategies used. Rootstocks average 1/4" diameter, best width for the available scionwood.

Apple

BUD 9 Maintain at 6 to 10 foot height and width. Great choice for containers or growing in the ground. Induces early heavy bearing. Used commercially for trees grown on trellises. It requires permanent staking. Thrives on a variety of soils. Long proven, reliable, very winter hardy. Often used as an interstem with EMLA 111 to make a very well rooted but very dwarfed tree.

EMLA 26 Maintain at 10 to 15 foot height. Makes a small tree that is well anchored, reliable and productive. If not maintained it can grow more than 15' tall in our area, but it is easily managed from the ground and produces bushels of apples. It doesn't sucker, grows well on a variety of soils, and usually doesn't require staking. Note: It is reported not to perform well as a replant where another apple tree was planted before.

EMLA 27 Maintain at 5 to 8 foot height and width. Great choice for containers or growing in the ground. Induces early heavy bearing. Because it's a mini dwarf, start its first branches one to two feet above the ground. Benefits from staking. Thrives on a variety of soils.

EMLA 111 Maintain at 16 to 20 feet in height. It has a great fibrous root system, excellent anchorage and does well on wetter soils. It makes a precocious, productive tree. The best candidate for the understock of an interstem tree. We can graft an EMLA 27 piece about six inches long on the EMLA 111 which can later be grafted to your chosen variety. This makes a dwarf tree maybe 10 feet tall, that can start bearing sooner, with the supportive roots of a much larger tree.

MARK Maintain at 10 to 16 foot height. Mark is a hardy, precocious dwarfing rootstock that makes a tree about the size of EMLA 26. It has grown well for years for many growers in our region. Note: Mark is no longer widely available nationwide because it is not drought resistant. It is well anchored, produces some burr knots at ground level but has heavy crops, in fact it shouldn't be allowed to overbear as a young tree. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to get Mark.

Quince

PROVENCE BA29C Maintain at 15 to 20 feet tall. Quince is compatible with some pears, including Comice, thus Comice can be used as an interstem.

Pear

OLD HOME X FARMINGDALE 87 (OHxF 87) Trees can be maintained at 15 to 20 feet tall or even smaller with pruning. Developed in Oregon, this rootstock is compatible with European and Asian Pears, also with Shipova and with medlars. It seems to be very productive and early bearing. It thrives on a variety of soils and does very well in our region.

Cherry

Note: We were unable to get dwarf cherry rootstock this year. Besides, grafting cherries on to rootstocks doesn't usually work. They can be top worked or summer budded more reliably. A dwarfing tart cherry interstem can be used to make a smaller tree.

MAZZARD Maintain at 16 to 30 foot height. It thrives in our region but this tree can grow to 30 feet or more; keep it smaller with pruning.

Plum

Apricots and most almonds are compatible with Mariana rootstock. Some peaches work well on Krymsk I.

MARIANA 2624 Maintain at 13 to 20 feet in height. An older rootstock, widely compatible with plums, apricots and most almonds, but not peaches. Makes an excellent tree in our area, best choice for wet soils. Usually more vigorous than the Krymsk 1, it produces root suckers that need to be cut back each year.

KRYMSK 1 Maintain at 10 to 15 feet in height. This newer rootstock from Gennady Eremin in Russia has proven reliable for stone fruit growers in the U.S. Widely compatible with plums, apricots and with some peaches, and it does well on a variety of soils. Produces some suckers.

Peach

Apricots and Peaches work well on Lovell peach rootstock. Bud grafting peaches onto peach rootstock is done in the summer, it's not practical in winter. The rootstock can be planted now, however, for bud grafting in summer.

LOVELL Maintain at 10 to 15 feet in height. A seedling rootstock that does best in well drained soils. Also compatible with Plums.

Scionwood For Sale at Winter Field Day 2026



<< NW Fruit offers scions from the esteemed * [Fort Vancouver Old Apple Tree](#), 100 years old in this 1926 photo. Read the story of the tree, planted in 1826, at [nps.gov](#), and look up Larry Crum's descriptions of this apple plus most of the following varieties at [nwfruit.org](#).

• photo from National Park Service

APPLE

Akane
Alkmene
Ashmead's Kernel
Belle de Boskoop
Belle Fille
Ben Davis
Braeburn
Bramley's Seedling
Brown Russet
Chehalis
Clifford
Crimson King
Daliest Elstar
Duchess of Oldenburg
Egremont Russet
Enterprise
Esophus Spitzenburg
Fall Pippin
Fameuse
Fillbarrel
Florina
Fort Vancouver *
Fuji Beni Shogun
Golden Russet
Grand Alexander
Gravenstein Candystripe
Gravenstein Rosebrook
Gravenstein Schwartz
Grimes Golden
Hatsuaki
Hudson's Golden Gem

Jonagold deCoster
Jonathan
Karmijn de Sonnaville
Liberty
Melrose
Mother
Newton Pippin
Niedzwetskyana
Northern Spy
Opalescent
Pink Delight
Pristine
Redfield
Reine des Hatives
Roxbury Russet
Rubinette
Silken
Spartan
Stoke Red
Tom Putt
Thompkins King
Tsugaru
Twenty Ounce
Virginia Crab
Wagener
Wealthy
Westfield Seek-No-Further
White Winter Pearmain
Wickson
Williams' Pride
Winter Banana
Wolf River
Yarlington Mill
Yellow Bellflower

PLUM

Beauty
Early Golden
Early Laxton
Ersinger German Prune
Hollywood
Imperial Epineuse
Italian Plum
Jubileum
Kuban Comet
Mount Royal Plum
Prune d'Ente
Seneca
Shiro
Valor

EUROPEAN PEAR

Atlantic Queen
Bosc
Comice
Conference
Onward
Orcas
Rescue
Russet Comice
Starkrimson (see page 2)
Stuttgarter Geishirtle

ASIAN PEAR

Atago
Chojuro
Hamese
Shinseiki

QUINCE

Karp's Sweet
Seker Gevrik

ALMOND

Nikita's Pride
Reliable

OTHER FRUIT

Breda Giant Medlar
Shipova (Pear x Mt. Ash)
Pluerry: Nadia
Pluerry: Sweet Treat

Fruit Garden Report ♦ Winter 2026

The **NW Fruit Winter Field Day** provides an introduction to the skills for growing fruit at home. While this day offers a great introduction, each of the skills and topics covered will take time and practice to maximize success. Volunteer to learn!

The **annual NWfruit membership meeting** will also take place at noon on the same day, followed by a brief board meeting. Perhaps you are motivated but you are unable to help Thursdays, there are still opportunities to help. Come to the meetings on the field day and find out more. This is a great opportunity for members to consider becoming involved with running NWfruit.

About scionwood and rootstocks for grafting: Before March 14, review the varieties of scionwood and read descriptions here: [Apple](#), [Pear](#), [Plum](#). Decide which varieties and rootstocks you want to buy and take home to graft. Or which you would like us to graft for you at the field day.

NOTE – Different This Year – Grafting Process

Organization of the scionwood, rootstocks and grafting tables will be somewhat different this year. We've planned it so you'll spend less time waiting in line! **At the start of the day**, fill out a sheet with the cashier with the names of the scionwood and rootstock you want, pay for it and we will gather them and make the trees for you. This way you have the opportunity to attend field day classes then pick up your trees after 1pm. Limit five grafted trees per person until noon, then you can circle back to purchase more.



Before & After Pruning, two Karmijn de Sonneville apple trees on a Thursday in January. • from Jonathan Wolman



Lori Brakken, apple sleuth

*from Sam Benowitz, Fruit Garden Committee Co-Chair
with Richard Fairfield, Fruit Garden Committee Co-Chair*

At Winter Field Day learn about identifying apple cultivars with Lori Brakken, expert in apple identification. Lori can tell you about the Northwest Heritage Apple project and how you might participate.

Blossom Time -- Let's Find Apples!

I'll be sitting at a table next to the scionwood at the NWfruit grafting sale and demonstrations on March 14th, looking forward to talking with you about apple trees you have questions about or that you have found, out and around our area. Seriously, let's make plans to visit trees in blossom, then keep an eye out later on for their fruit to identify.

Now is the time to be ready for visiting apples in fields, forests & brush. It's easier to see the flowers as they emerge before the woodland leaves. If you know of remnants of old orchards or an old tree to keep watch on and identify, please let me know and we can go out to visit the trees.

Telling the age of an apple tree in the woods is very challenging. It can look like a thicket of young apple seedlings but really be a large old apple that has fallen over, its trunk decomposing, and its branches are now reaching for the sky as a clump. Blossoms are easy markers for these old trees because leaves are not out yet to hide what's left of the tree.

Please contact me or drop by the table next to scionwood, to talk. Here are my [instructions](#) for bringing in samples to identify. Apples are not in season right now, but your observations year-round are appropriate clues.

Yours Fruitfully, [Lori Brakken](#)

Detail, Documentation, Process

NW Fruit - Our Purpose

To promote and support research and provide education for growing fruit in Western Washington State.

Mission Statement

NW Fruit exists to advance fruit horticultural practices for our unique Western Washington maritime climate through advocacy, research, education, and demonstration for the benefit of the general public and the small farmer.

Article III. Directors

Section 3. Election and Term of Office.

Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of members, or if Directors are not so elected, a special meeting of members shall be called for that purpose. Each Director shall hold office for a term of two (2) years, or until his/her successor is duly elected and qualified, or until his/her earlier resignation, removal from office, or death. To keep continuity on the Board, approximately one half (1/2) of the Board shall come up for election in any one year.



NWFruit has rounded another corner! Thursday volunteer participation has increased, bringing lots of useful talent. We said goodbye to some dedicated, long-serving leaders at the end of last year and had to re-examine our operations. Many things we had taken for granted *need* to be spelled out. Detail, documentation, process -- this is normal for organizations who endure, improve and stay strong.

With the new year, energetic newcomers and returning members have stepped forward to carry on and bring fresh administrative skills. You may have noticed.

As our organization, founded in 1993, continues to promote its mission the Board of Directors has placed more attention on planning and best practices for long term quality at the stately and informative Fruit Garden we maintain.

The financial statements from Dennis Davenport, NWFruit Treasurer since 2019, clearly show that membership dues and the nominal sales on Winter Field Day do not cover our annual expense budget. They amount to about one third of what we spend. The history of our “healthy but lucky” budget includes timely generosity from a very small number of donors. In fact, this small pedestal on which rests the whole show, this has been a topic of concern at every board meeting during my involvement since 2022.

Volunteer Bob Ness, who has a professional background as consultant to organizations, has helped persuade the NWFruit board of directors to look with courage at several important facts and opportunities. Primarily, NWFruit has a remarkably long survival for a volunteer organization that has conducted such small scale fund-raising.

This spring the board plans to convene an informal group of NWFruit board members and volunteers who have expressed an interest in fundraising. This group will discuss and assemble a plan of action. Many ideas and resources are on the agenda.

Succession Planning -- as Dennis Davenport said, this is not real easy but it is very normal.

Laura W. Wilson, NWF newsletter editor

“Frankly, we’re outdoors people! None of us wants to be on the board, much less be named an officer. But, realistically, for NWFruit to exist...”

Sam Benowitz

***NW Fruit Thanks
Raintree Nursery***

Morton, WA

800-391-8892 • raintreenursery.com

For continuing support

Not for the first time, and it won't be the last, but it is with heavy heart we acknowledge a passing along with good byes to other significant NWF friends and dedicated volunteers. With celebratory cake and speeches in November we gave our good Tom a send-off for his retirement from NWF obligations as he moved to Tacoma to be closer to family. Not anticipated was his funeral, only a few weeks later. Here are notes from the ceremony in Bow on January 17.

Things I learned from Tom Wake

- Better to lead by communicating what needs to be done, rather than telling people what to do.
- Leaders who are also doers have more credibility.
- Ground yourself by remembering how your family lived in your youth.
- The value in recycled materials, and where to find them locally.
- Appreciate the unusual fruits in the garden.
- Be generous.

Bill Pierce

I've known Tom for over fifteen years. Over that time, I've come to know him as a good and giving man. I'm pretty sure many other worthy organizations have benefitted from his efforts, I can only speak to his time at our fruit garden. His knowledge, dedication and countless hours volunteering as garden manager helped make it the success it has become. Tom was the man we volunteers went to with questions. He was our center; he was the stable reference point in the garden.

Tom was a man of conviction. He was politically conservative. He had a deep and private faith. He operated on a "live and let live" attitude. He was a perfect fit as manager of our group of volunteers who shared enthusiasm for growing great fruit yet held differing world views.

I admired him for his love of family. He was immensely proud of their collective achievements and enjoyed sharing them with his friends and colleagues.

I will miss you dear Thomas. You were a gift to us all.
Hazel

I met Tom many years ago, while working as a photographer for the *Skagit Valley Herald*. We did a story about his home, its unique architecture that blends it into the landscape at the base of Blanchard Mountain. Over the years, while working, or traveling towards Bellingham along Chuckanut Drive, I would often be compelled to take a scenic photograph that included hang gliders and paragliders as they gradually drifted down to a soft landing on Tom's property. He provided a

parking area and landing space for those who wanted to jump off the overlook from Blanchard Mountain above.

Working with Tom at the Fruit Garden was always a pleasure. He ran the operation with a smoothness that belied the complexity of the duties he performed: scheduling sprays, meeting with the NWFruit board, meeting with WSU station research staff, keeping track of tools, supplies, netting and equipment, knowing the location each item, and in which shed it belonged. He knew the location of the fruit trees and bushes, helped prepare scionwood for the March field day, and knew how and where to set things up for our Apple and Pear Day in October.

Tom will never be replaced, and he will always be remembered. Especially his signoff with each weekly email he sent to the volunteers on Wednesday for the next morning's tasks:

*Sent from the base of the Chuckanuts where
the Cascade Mountains meet the Salish Sea.*

Scott Terrell

Tom was a very skilled manager of our six-acre fruit garden for more than two decades. It is painful to refer to him in the past tense.

In the last years Tom sat in a plastic chair by the shed, centrally located so we could ask him all we needed to know for the complex work of maintaining the garden. Sometimes he would drive in his trusty old brown truck or walk around with his impressive handmade staff that made him look like a royal sheep herder.

Each week Tom would send an email to about a hundred of us volunteers, tersely stating what needed to be accomplished on Thursday. And he would quietly prepare the way. To the untrained eye, Tom didn't seem to be doing much at all. During the week he would talk to the relevant people at the WSU station then, at businesses around the county, he would pick up the many supplies. Almost magically everything we needed would be at the sheds so we could all efficiently do the work.

In the weeks before Tom retired a few of us sat next to him for hours as we wrote down Tom's "job description," all so essential to keep the garden going. About a half dozen of us volunteers subsequently stepped forward to maintain over 17 aspects of management, because no one person was able to accomplish it all.

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I miss you Tom, you quiet, compassionate, brilliant man. We put up a plaque in the fruit garden in your honor when you retired, because we wanted you to know how much we all loved you. Now, too soon gone.

Sam Benowitz

Continuing the goodbyes: Tom had a lot in common career-wise with frequent Fruit Garden visitor Mike Kholghi, whose daughter Roxanna sent friendly greetings along with news of his passing, also in December.

“Several of the people my Dad enjoyed along with Tom were Hazel, Bill Davis, who came to our house to prune our Quince tree, Larry Hedgepeth, and Bill McCord with whom Dad talked about world politics, religion and Iran. Generous Larry and his wife Josie brought us some gorgeous Dahlia bulbs plus a stunning bouquet of Dahlias from their garden, back when we invited them to our house for lunch. We had a splendid time together. In Iran, after finishing his military service, Dad went to Karaj, a city in central Iran to work for Morrison Knudsen International Constructors Inc., a company that builds dams. As Project Manager Dad oversaw the construction of the Karaj Dam. After its completion, he took a vacation to the U.S. where he visited New York, Washington D.C., San Francisco and the Redwood Forest. When he returned to Iran, he became Director of Flight Services for Iran Air, Iran’s major airline.

We fled Iran in ‘79, once the Islamic Revolution started. We settled in Bellevue Washington and my Dad began his own business. He had his business until he sold it in 2016. It was after that, that we all discovered the Orchard and fell in love with it and everyone there!

He was very kind hearted, charismatic and he loved to bring a smile to peoples’ faces and make people laugh.”



And, this news concerning our good Colleen, who has moved to the Olymic Peninsula.

Nov. 25, 2025

Dear NW Fruit member,

Colleen Sanders, who has been a NW Fruit member since 2018 and a board of directors’ member since 2020, has resigned from the board as of Nov 21.

Since joining the board, Ms. Sanders has worked to foster a welcoming environment in the Fruit Garden and on the Fruit Garden Committee, helping to create a place where volunteers’ opinions could be shared and considered while coming to a consensus on planning work in the orchard.

She said she is also proud of the return to the model of using work groups to organize the Thursday volunteers.

Colleen said she plans on volunteering in the garden and wants to work with other former board members who continue to help with the tasks that keep the Fruit Garden running.

The NW Fruit board would like to thank Colleen for her service to the board and her contributions towards running the Fruit Garden. Her dedication and insight have helped make NW Fruit a better organization.

Scott Terrell, on behalf of the NW Fruit Board of Directors

<< “The construction team for the Karadj Dam in Iran. Dad is in the back row, in the middle with his arm across his stomach.

Thank you again, Jonathan, for your thoughtful condolence!” Roxanne

Benefits of Membership

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (WWFRF), aka NW Fruit is a 501(c) non-profit organization created thirty years ago. Your annual membership dues support the foundation that maintains the six-acre Fruit Garden, a collection of hundreds of varieties of fruit. It offers members and the community hands-on opportunities to learn about fruit growing in our region through advocacy, education and demonstration.

- Field Days and Workshops are free to members.
- Apple & Pear Sample-the-Harvest Day, second Saturday in October, offers garden tours and lectures on growing and harvesting fruit. Members are offered samples of apples, pears, grapes, and sometimes cider, to take home. Crop quantities vary from year to year.
- Winter Field Day, second Saturday in March, offers tours, lectures on fruit growing, grafting demonstrations, plus sale of scionwood and rootstocks for grafting apple, pear and other fruit trees.
- Workshops are held in Spring and Summer on learning to prune apple, pear, plum, and cherry trees, as well as blueberry bushes, grape and kiwi vines.
- Volunteers who help with maintaining the orchard are rewarded with formal and informal learning opportunities as well as fellowship with other people who are passionate about growing and tasting fruit.
- As a member you may volunteer to work in the Fruit Garden on designated days. Members receive instructions on maintaining the trees, safety, and growing conditions in the local climate. Membership is required for all volunteers to work in the garden.

Thank You to North Hill Resources

4600 651 N. Hill Blvd, Burlington 98233
360-757-1866 • NorthHillResources.com

**For landscaping materials and
continuing support**

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- A picnic for volunteers is held in the summer.
 - Members receive the NW Fruit newsletter three times a year with current information about the organization's activities and fruit growing.
 - Membership ensures your inclusion in occasional emails about Field Days, special events and workshops that occur through the year.
 - Membership helps NWF pay expenses for:
Events: auditorium, speakers & publicity
Garden Maintenance: tools & equipment
 - Members may attend board meetings, join committees and participate in committee planning.

Dues Increase Coming

After 30+ years NW Fruit will soon be increasing membership dues for the first time. All members should be made aware that annual membership dues do not cover the operating and administrative costs for the all-volunteer organization. The slight increase this year will still not cover all administrative cost but it will help. As you know there is great value in being a member, from access to the garden and the many expert volunteers who work there every Thursday, to our Winter Field Day in March and our Apple & Pear Field Day in October when members can come to sample and take home a big bag of ripe fruit from the trees. Our Saturday Classes, offered to members free of charge, have become a big draw, bringing in new members.

Please consider making a monetary donation to NW Fruit if you think dues are pretty inexpensive. Donation of your time is also greatly appreciated, because NW Fruit is an all volunteer organization.

from Sue Williams, NW Fruit Membership Chair

Changes effective April 1, 2026

Current Individual Membership \$25.	New \$30
Current Family Membership \$40.	New \$50
Corporate/Business Membership \$200.	No change
One day pass on Field Days Current \$15.	New \$25



Blooming young visitors to the Fruit Garden • April 2023

Northwest Fruit (aka Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation)

NWF Membership Form

Please check one box ONLY: [] Renewal [] New Member

>> Please write legibly so your membership is functional through the year.

To pay membership dues by credit card go to: NWfruit.org/become-a-member. Date: _____

Name _____ 2nd Name _____ 2nd Email _____

Email _____ Address _____

Phone _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please check all applicable lines to designate type of membership:

- _____ \$25 FOR ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP (One person only)
_____ \$40 FOR ANNUAL FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (Parents with their minor children)
_____ \$ FOR GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR: (Please include For Whom, above at Name)
_____ \$200 FOR ANNUAL COMMERCIAL MEMBERSHIP (Includes 3 people, and includes a link from our website to your business website)

NWF Donor Form

To make a donation by credit card go to: NWfruit.org/Donate.

Enclosed is my gift of: ___\$5000 ___\$1000 ___\$500 ___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$25 \$_____

Please designate my monetary gift toward: ___ Where it is needed most! ___ Our Fruit Garden ___ WSU sponsored research ___ Field Days and other events

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make my gift: ___ In Honor of: ___ In Memory of:

(Name of person) _____

Address of person or person's family (So we can notify them) _____

Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax accountant for details.

Thank you!

I would like to volunteer!

(Membership is required for volunteering with NWF.)

___ In the Fruit Garden ___ On Field Days & events
___ By doing work that can be done from my home

Please make your check payable to >> and MAIL your completed form with check to this address:

NW Fruit or WWFRF PO Box 864 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

For those who prefer to pay by mail rather than through PayPal -- Print this page and send it!

NWF Saturday Classes ♦ Spring/Summer 2026

From our Education Committee - Saturday Classes, 9 to 11

Free with current membership. Each class has a separate registration, which must be completed 7 days in advance of the class date. [Use this Signup Genius link to register](#) for one or all the classes.

Note - Classes fill quickly, but sometimes there are cancellations. If a class is full and you want to be put on a wait list, send email to [Jake Jacobson](#). If demand warrants, we will attempt to schedule a second class.

March 28 - Introduction to Growing Your Own Fruit with Bill Pierce. What kinds of fruit can be grown in our maritime climate? What are some different ways to grow them? What's involved in keeping fruit trees, shrubs and vines and what kinds of tools will I need? Which pests and diseases are most common, and how are they controlled? This tour-based class for the beginning orchardist will use our experience in the Fruit Garden to answer some of these questions and raise new ones. Class size is **limited to 25 members**.

April 18 - Top Working with Larry Crum. Top Working is described as using bark grafting to add a scion of a different variety to an existing established tree. You will see a demonstration on how to perform this graft (different from a splice graft) and then practice doing the work yourself, under the team's guidance. Bring your grafting knife. *Important Note:* If you have plans to top work a tree at home after the class, you will need to secure your new scion wood earlier in the year and store it in the fridge (see Collecting Scions, page 13) until ready to graft. Do not bring it to the class. Class size is **limited to 20 members**.

June 6 - Apple Thinning Guide and Insect Pest Control in the Backyard Orchard with Scott Terrell and Colleen Sanders. We will demonstrate, with your participation, how to thin your fruit to improve fruit size and quality. Techniques for "organic" insect control in your home orchard will be discussed, focusing on sticky traps, fruit footies (maggot barriers) and tree netting. Class size is **limited to 25 members**.

June 27 - Annual Fruit Tree Pruning with Steve Gaber. We will discuss and demonstrate specific pruning cuts, where to cut and how much to remove. We will then move to the orchard for hands-on pruning practice. Review the study materials sent out one week before the class and bring your pruning tools. Steve is on our NW Fruit orchard pruning team and conducts maintenance pruning for three Whatcom County public agencies as a volunteer. Class size is **limited to 15 members**.

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<< *In the chip budding class last August Sam Benowitz encourages Saturday volunteer Karen Krub*
• *photo from Bob Ness*

Volunteer for March 14

Please consider putting in some time on Winter Field Day to assist. We can always use more hands on deck! Email info@nwfruit.org to volunteer, even for a limited period of time that day.

Thank you!!

NWF Saturday Classes, continued

From our Education Committee - More details to come:

As an NWFruit Member, you are on our mailing list for class updates, and also for notice when a '2nd class' is added to the schedule. Thank you for your interest in these classes.

NW Fruit Saturday Class Schedule 2026

Date	Time	Topic	Instructor
<i>Registration Opens July 1st</i>			
Aug 22	9:30 to 11:30	Bud Grafting Methods	Larry Crum
Sep 12	9:30 to 11:30	An Eating & Learning Tour	Sam Benowitz
Oct 10	9:00 to 2:30	Apple & Pear Day	Field Day!
Oct 17	9:30 to 11:30	Apple Cider Methods	TBD
Oct 24	9:30 to 11:30	Tool Care & Sharpening	TBD

🌀 Collecting Scionwood 🌀

Collect scionwood during winter dormancy. Select only new, one year growth that will be at the end of branches. Cut each growth stalk into about 10" to 12" lengths for useable scionwood. Try for pencil size wood to match the diameter of typical rootstocks.

Label the scionwood so you know the variety. It is good practise to seal both ends with parafin or other tree seal. Place in a plastic bag with a wet, wrung out, paper towel in the bag and seal it.

If you aren't ready to graft, store it in the refrigerator. Make sure fruit is not in the refrigerator because fruit gives off ethylene gas, which makes the scionwood come out of dormancy. Your scionwood can be kept dormant for a few weeks until you are ready to graft.



Pear blooms romance the pollen worker
• photo from Scott Terrell



You'll be glad! Thank you for your membership!

NWF Interest Groups

NW Fruit volunteers engage in interest groups to manage specific projects. Some administrative tasks could benefit from modernization. Your skills are welcome. We use the Work Group model to keep track of seasonal projects, and to coordinate with the Garden Manager and the Garden Committee. Inquire at info@nwfruit.org. These work groups offer experience accordingly:

In the Garden

- Blueberries, Cherries, Kiwi, Pears, Heritage Apples, Elderberries, Peaches, Persimmons & more
- Pollinator friendly plantings
- Espalier training
- Construction projects, Irrigation, Organic Growing

Or Administrative Support

- Website & Media Updates
- Volunteer Coordinating
- Membership/Mailing
- Communications
- Event Planning
- Publicity

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Many Hands Make Light Work

Please consider joining the **Membership Team**.

From home you can help NWF with database know-how. Or offer some time for our events

by helping at the Registration Tables.

Send a note of your availability to info@nwfruit.org.

Weekly Work Parties – Find Schedule at NWfruit.org

Thursdays 9 to 12

Saturdays 9 to 12, check website for Saturday dates

In spring we will continue Saturday work days, for aspiring volunteers who can't come on Thursdays. Dress for the weather and bring a pair of hand pruners. Come help with seasonal pruning and collecting scionwood for our March field day. Park in the parking area on the North end of the Garden. These workdays are great opportunities to learn about growing fruit, meet friends, and to contribute to caring for the Fruit Garden.

Note: NFW Membership is required for volunteering in the Fruit Garden.

Please contact Jonathan Wolman for details, at info@nwfruit.org.



Volunteer expert Bill Pierce pruning grapes along the neatly trimmed pear espalier • photo from Scott Terrell

Upcoming Events

- 9 to Noon Workdays — Fun and educational Thursday Work Days every week, plus frequently scheduled Saturday work days beginning in May, for willing volunteers who can't come on Thursdays. See all that's going on, plus new ideas being proposed. For more information contact Volunteer Manager Jonathan Wolman info@NWfruit.org
- Saturday workshop classes are offered in spring and summer, sometimes with fruit sampling, depending on the season. Free to Members.
- Apple and Pear Sample the Harvest Day second Saturday in October. This event centers around the harvest with educational classes on related garden techniques and information. Members are allowed to keep a portion of the harvested fruit.
- Cider Making - on one or two Thursday's after Apple and Pear Day in the fall.
- December Celebration with cookies and end-of-season farewells. Program may include informative classes to answer home gardeners' questions. Free to Members.
- Winter Field Day -- Second Saturday in March. Scions, rootstock and grafting services for sale plus indoor classes about seasonal garden topics for your home garden. Free admission with up-to-date membership. Details in February Newsletter.
- Annual Membership Meeting - March 14, 2026