

**Marge Westphal, Master Gardener Class of 1997
Northwest Chapter**



My favorite area of gardening is vegetables, but I have always been interested in learning about all areas of gardening. I don't have a favorite pest to manage, because I just deal with Integrated Pest Management as I go along. Right now, I'm most pleased with a pink salvia annual that I can grow each year from saved seeds, and provide local bees and hummingbirds with a food source. My favorite resource for gardening is the Extension factsheets. Right now, YouTube has a lot of information if you are careful to find extension master gardener videos. I worked on the Helpline project from the get go, and loved it. What has changed in gardening, as far as I am impacted, is the extra effort needed to make sure what I buy in seeds or plants is organic, insect-friendly, and open pollinated. Someone gave me a six pack of sweet alyssum plants, and they grew to be huge and flowing and beautiful. But I saw the bees and butterflies land on them and leave immediately, never to return.