

## A GARDEN INVENTORY

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When we first moved into our home in Beaver Valley in 2003, I had no idea what the name of some of the trees and shrubs were. I'm sure this has happened to many of you. This is how I solved our dilemma.

After becoming a Master Gardener in 2006, I took pictures of the trees and put a sample of each tree's foliage or needles/cones into a plastic bag. At that time, I volunteered at the Jefferson County Master Gardener Plant Clinic. When we had a slow day at the clinic, I started researching tree identities using books available at the Clinic along with the knowledge of other Master Gardeners. We actually identified 14 trees. I matched the tree names with the pictures and put them in a three-ring binder. Being a senior citizen, I often forget trees and shrub names, so when a visitor asks me about a particular plant I haul out the "book". This actually impresses some people because they think I'm organized, but now you know it's strictly for memory purposes.

The other problem has to do with new plantings. I would very carefully put the plastic identification tag in the ground when adding new items to the garden. Before you know it, the crows and robins would pull them out and scatter them throughout the garden. As a result, I had lots of "mystery" plants. The lesson here is to divide your garden into areas (e.g. north, south, etc.) and then have a section in your book for each area. Then as you plant, put the plant tags into the appropriate section of the book. Don't forget to update your book as you remove, transplant or plant new things!

Master Gardener Plant Clinics are a great place to identify plants. If you have a plant ID or other question, take pictures of the plant and get a large sample of the plant, diseased area, insect, etc. and take them to the clinic. Plant clinics are held at WSU/Port Hadlock on Tuesdays, 1-4 pm, and at the Port Townsend Co-op on Fridays, 2-5 pm (through September 2011). You can also write to plant clinic master gardeners at [plantclinic@jefferson.wsu.edu](mailto:plantclinic@jefferson.wsu.edu). Take advantage of their knowledge and enthusiasm now!