

# Alaska Master Gardener Blog Style Guide

**Title:** Choose a title that is descriptive of the blog post and, ideally, catchy. For example, the title, “My First Year Gardening” is too vague. Think about what the main focus of your blog post is. Is it site selection, landscaping, fencing, irrigation? Then include that in the title. Also, think about whether or not Alaska fits into your title. This is a blog for Alaskans so if you could include Alaska in the title, or even what region in Alaska you are from.

**Authorship:** by, Your name, comma, an Alaska Master Gardener

**What to write about?** A blog post should be focused, interesting, and relatively short (No more than 2 pages long and 1 page is probably best). Choosing a specific topic is better than choosing a very general subject, such as, general gardening. Also, you should think about how it will specifically help gardeners in Alaska.

**Here are some ideas for blog posts:**

- What grew really well this summer? What was a complete failure this summer?
- Growing unique crops—garlic, artichokes, kiwis, grapes, corn, bell peppers. What varieties worked well? Was it worth the effort?
- Regionally specific topics: If you live on coastal Alaska, how do you deal with the weather? What about slugs?
- Did you develop a unique, low-tech tool to solve a problem? Then please share with other gardeners!

*These are just some ideas to get you started. The sky is the limit!*

**Here are the five most popular blog posts on the Alaska Master Gardener Blog:**

1. Got Gravity? 10 Steps to set-up a low-tech drip-irrigation system using gravity and rain.
2. Growing Garlic in Alaska
3. Growing Broccoli and Cauliflower in a Greenhouse in Tok, Alaska to Extend the Season
4. Building a Greenhouse in Tok, Alaska
5. How Tall is your Sunflower?

**Sections and Subheadings:** Sections and subheadings guide the blog reader through your post. Think about dividing your blog post into 3-5 sections with appropriate titles for the sections.

**Links:** Links to other websites are excellent to include especially if they are research-based. Include the title of the link, i.e. “Cooperative Extension Service” and in parenthesis, the actual website address ([www.uaf.edu/ces](http://www.uaf.edu/ces))

**Research-based Information:** In the Alaska Master Gardener Online course, you learned about the importance of research based information. In your blog post, please make sure your information is based on research, in addition to your own personal experience.

Here are some suggestions for including and referencing research-based information:

1. UAF Cooperative Extension Service  
<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/pubs/catalog/>
2. One Search 1088 Cooperative Extension Sites  
<http://www.extension.org/search>
3. America's Research-based Learning Network  
<http://www.extension.org/>

**Grammar and Spelling Check:** Please check your blog post for errors before submitting it. Ask at least one other person to check for errors as well.

**Keywords:** Choose up to 5, descriptive keywords, ideally with Alaska. Here are some keywords already in use. Please choose from this list, or add new ones, if needed:

- Helpful Hints for the Alaskan Gardener
- beneficial insects in Alaska
- botany in Alaska
- composting in Alaska
- drip-irrigation in Alaska
- eating local foods in Alaska
- edible flowers in Alaska
- Gardening in Interior Alaska
- gardening with kids in Alaska
- Growing flowers in Alaska
- insect pests in Alaska
- recycle waste for your Alaskan Garden
- School Gardening in Alaska
- seed starting in Alaska

**Photos:** Include 2-5 high quality, descriptive photos of your blog post. Include captions and label the captions "Photo 1: describe photo", then send photos separately as .jpg files.

**When you're finished:** Email your blog post as a word document to [master.gardener@alaska.edu](mailto:master.gardener@alaska.edu) with your photos as .jpg files. If you attach more than one blog post, be sure to label the blog posts and photos so that they can be distinguished from one another.