



Master Gardener Demonstration Garden Coming in 2014
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UCCE El Dorado County Master Gardener

Are you someone who likes to learn by doing? Do you wish you could see gardens full of plants that are particularly well suited for our West Slope climate? Do you want to learn how to garden using sustainable methods? Would you like to teach your children (or yourself) about gardening, with the guidance of trained volunteers to support you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you will be excited to know that the El Dorado County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden will be opening before you know it! After five years of planning, negotiating, and building, we held our first "Open Garden and Planting Day" for Master Gardeners on July 18, 2013. We anticipate being ready to start the planting of the individual gardens this fall and look forward to holding our grand opening next year. We can't wait to be ready to invite the public to our garden!

If you are someone who regularly attends our free weekly public education classes, or if you have attended one of our bi-annual plant sales, you are probably already aware of the new Demonstration Garden that Master Gardeners have under construction on property owned by the El Dorado County Office of Education. In recent weeks, our classes have begun featuring a short presentation on the progress of the Demonstration Garden. We believe that the people we are already educating will be some of our biggest supporters.

Although the garden will be beautiful, more importantly, it will be a place where new ideas and cutting edge, research-based techniques will be featured. It will provide opportunities for the public to learn through hands-on experience, working and learning along with Master Gardeners. From vegetables, to native plants, to shade plants, to a kids' garden, our plan is to develop a collection of 14 gardens that will teach people from the West Slope, and similar foothill locations, how to create a garden and/or landscape that is beautiful, sustainable and affordable.

We are grateful that we have partnerships with the El Dorado County Office of Education, Folsom Lake College/El Dorado Center and the Community Observatory. Cameron Park Rotary contributed funding and labor for the construction of our Japanese Tea House. Sierra Greenhouses donated a greenhouse and Holt Industries has loaned heavy equipment. These, and other supporters and donors, will be listed on an attractive plaque at the entrance to the garden. Many local nurseries have donated plants for our semi-annual plant sales, the major source of

funding to date for the garden. In fact, last week's Mountain Democrat article about the plant sale (available on our website, listed at the end of this article) also provided lots of great information about the demonstration garden.

Want to learn more about our garden? Check out the link to the Demonstration Garden page on our website. If you would like to arrange a presentation for your group or club about our new Demonstration Garden, we would be happy to arrange that. Please call the Master Gardener office and leave a message for Joan Jenkins, our Public Outreach Coordinator.

Master Gardeners offer free public education classes on a variety of topics on most Saturday mornings. The Oct. 5 class, Starthistle Control, will be held from 9 am to noon at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Placerville. We appreciate the generosity of the Veterans Hall Management in sharing their space with us for most of our classes and we hope the public will support their wonderful breakfasts, open to the public, on the first three Sundays of every month.

In addition to our classes, Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9 am to noon by calling (530) 621-5512. Walk-ins are also welcome. The office is located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. You can also go to our website at http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at <http://ucanr.edu/mgenews/>. You can also find us on Facebook.