



**Go “Hog Wild” and Show What You Grow at the El Dorado County Fair  
By Charlie Basham  
UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County**

The 2015 “Hog Days of Summer” El Dorado County Fair opens Thursday, June 18, for four-days of family fun and entertainment. There’s always lots of exciting things to see and do like the wheelbarrow races, consuming insane amounts of your favorite treats, Mutton Bustin’, and exploring the fair’s Agriculture/Horticulture exhibition coordinated by the UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County.

On display in the El Dorado Savings Floriculture Building (near the county history museum) will be all of the entries and the winners in the “Flowers and Plants” and “Fruits and Veggies” categories. But, this year, instead of just marveling at another’s entries, there’s still time for you to go “hog wild” with your garden genius, enter your flowers and veggies, and show what you grow!

The entry forms for “Fruits and Veggies” are due at the fair office this Friday, June 12, by 4:00 p.m. Your actual entry is due Wednesday, June 17 between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the Floriculture Building. This category includes fruits, vegetables, herbs, berries, nuts and other garden produce.

The forms for “Flowers and Plants” entries are due June 16 by 4:00 p.m. with the actual entries due the next day between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. This category includes cut flowers, fresh or miniature flower arrangements, potted plants, dry arrangements, fresh flower table settings, lavender and cut flowers.

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Judging for both categories takes place the morning of June 18. There are divisions for adults, teens, youth, and 4H/FFA in each category. Entry forms and detailed information can be downloaded from the fair's Website: <http://www.eldoradocountyfair.org/entry.html>.

The Master Gardener information desk, exhibits and educational programs will all be located in the Floriculture Building (Farm Building).

Every day of the fair the Master Gardeners will be giving brief "how-to" gardening talks and demonstrations. These talks will be presented free by local experts. Program topics include tips for safe gardening; raising bees in El Dorado County; pruning ornamental trees; worm composting; native plants, and; ways to attract hummingbirds to your garden. A complete schedule of the daily programs can be found on the fair's website.

Throughout the fair, a team of Master Gardeners will be in the Floriculture Building and available to answer your garden questions. Their task is to solve your problem by researching the issue and providing practical advice and scientific-based gardening information.

Your UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County are volunteers and extensively trained, tested and certified under the direction of the University of California Cooperative Extension. Plus, they receive year-round training on topics such as horticulture, soils, water, entomology, plant pathology, integrated pest management, plant problem diagnosis, sustainable landscape management practices, and plant propagation.

If you can't make it to the fair, Master Gardeners are available to answer your questions at local Farmers Markets and in their office every Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, by calling (530) 621-5512. Walk-ins are welcome at the office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. When you're at the office not only can you talk to a Master Gardener, you can check out the many free gardening information flyers, Pest Notes, and fact sheets we provide.

Join Master Gardeners today for a free class, Native Plants for Home Gardens. The three-hour class will cover beautiful, water-wise plants. Class starts at 9:00 a.m. in the Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive in Cameron Park.

There is no class scheduled for this Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. For more information about public education classes and activities, go to the Master Gardener website at <http://ucanr.edu/edmg>. Sign up to receive their online notices and e-newsletter at <http://ucanr.edu/mgenews/>. You can also find us on Facebook.