

October 10, 2018



Second Saturdays in the Garden with Barry
By Gail Fulbeck
UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

Have you been to the Sherwood Demonstration Garden lately? Located between Folsom Lake College's El Dorado Center and the Community Observatory, it is a gem of a spot to spend a morning. Thru the end of October, the SDG is open 9:00 a.m. to noon every Friday and Saturday. During November thru March, visit us on the second Saturday of the month.

Schedule a tour for your group here: http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration_Garden/ or visit us during open hours, when you can wander thru 16 individual themed gardens and chat with Master Gardener docents. The garden is reflective of a variety of environments and gardening experiences, using research-based, sustainable gardening practices specific to the west slope of El Dorado County. The venue is welcoming and appropriate for all ages.

In keeping with its goal of providing the public with a hands-on, interactive experience, organized educational events and classes are conducted at the garden. One such event is held in the Vegetable Garden each month, and we call it "Second Saturdays with Barry."

Barry Wold, co-chair of the Vegetable Garden, and a crew of knowledgeable Master Gardeners present information and demonstrations that help home vegetable gardeners manage such things as planting, harvesting, pest management, cover cropping, irrigation, and more. Each month's program is designed around activities in the vegetable garden that are appropriate for the time of year. Past Second Saturday programs in spring included seed starting, straw bale gardening, and irrigation. Summer second Saturdays included trellising, transplanting, and management of the various pests we might encounter. In late summer we will begin planting the beds with winter crops such as lettuces, cauliflower, broccoli, and cabbages. Winter programs will center around cold frames and other frost protection, winter crop maintenance, and planning for spring crops.

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Some of our worse failures provide the best learning opportunities! As is true with most gardening, we face challenges including too much and too little irrigation, too much and too little sunshine, insects, diseases, and vertebrate pests. That final category has been our most challenging, given the ground squirrel population on the property. While we love our beautiful and lively goldfinches, but they in turn love many of our crops. This past year they have dined on and nearly destroyed leaves on our beans, cucumbers, sunflowers, and watermelons. Those plants that were already well established were able to tolerate their feeding, however we lost our entire crop of beans as they sprouted, and only after erecting netting protection were we able to bring a second planting to fruition. A Peahen and her newly hatched chicks visited every morning for several weeks! They politely snacked on the occasional strawberry, but mostly just wandered thru on their way to the orchard, where the abundant peaches and nectarines were much enjoyed.

With vegetable gardening there is always something to do, and never a dull moment. Join us this month on October 13, 10:00 a.m. to noon where planting peas and winter cover crops will be the focus. Sherwood Demonstration Garden, 6699 Campus Drive, Placerville. The class is free. On-campus parking is \$2.

UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling [\(530\) 621-5512](tel:5306215512). Walk-ins are welcome at our office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. Visit us at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, located at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville, behind Folsom Lake College – El Dorado Center. The garden is open through October, Fridays and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

For more information about our public education classes and activities, go to our UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County website at <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu>. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at http://ucanr.edu/master_gardener_e-news. You can also find us on Facebook.