

May 22, 2019



### Wheelbarrows of Fun!

By Summer Brasuel

UCCE Master Gardener & Master Food Preserver of El Dorado County

Agricultural fairs have been part of our country's social fabric since its beginning, bringing communities together to buy, sell and trade. Always festive occasions, fairs evolved into social events combining commerce and lively competition. As time passed education and technology became important as well. County fairs are a part of Americana; a part of our tradition and our culture. Our El Dorado County Fair embodies all these qualities.

Fair competitions are fun and educational. Kids and adults bring their animals, plants, produce, and preserved foods, as well as various other home arts, like fiber arts, quilting, woodworking, and photography, to show them off and to compete.

This year's El Dorado County Fair will be held June 13-16. UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County invite you to participate in this year's horticulture competitions. Do you have a favorite houseplant that friends compliment and admire? Enter it in the fair! Do you have some early blooming cutting flowers? Enter a few stems in the fair! Maybe you have some early season produce from your garden, such as garlic, onions, herbs, strawberries, plums, or apricots. Enter them in the fair! Maybe have a friendly inter-family competition between parents and kids and see who brings home a ribbon!

For complete fair information, you can view and download the online fair entry guide and learn when, where and how to submit your forms, here: <http://eldoradocountyfair.org/entry.html>, under the Rules and Information tab. On the same page, click on the Exhibits (Non-Livestock) Sections and Forms tab, then on Flowers and Plants, or Fruits and Veggies, to see descriptions and rules for the many categories under each. Entry forms can be found further down the list on the same tab. Forms are due June 11, 2019 and entries must be delivered on June 12, 2019.

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UCCE Master Food Preservers also invite you to enter your home preserved foods in the fair competitions. Items canned or dehydrated after last year's fair are eligible, including jams and jellies, pickles, condiments, and cordials.

Many kids attended and enjoyed our Junior Jams and Jellies events this year, and all of them will have an entry for the fair. How much fun it would be for them if their parents also entered something in this category—another inter-family competition! Make it a family tradition! Most preserved food categories have a \$25 prize for 1st place.

For information on this competition, navigate again to the fair website (given above,), click again on the Exhibits (Non-Livestock) Sections and Forms tab, then on Food Items for a list of all the different categories of competition. The junior and adult entry forms are also under this tab. Forms must be submitted by May 23, 2019, but products are not due to be delivered until June 5, 2019. Judging Day, June 8, 2019, is open to the public and is always fun to watch, and educational as well!

Attending and competing in our fair is an American tradition. Family fun, family traditions, and family memories - and bragging rights! Wheelbarrows of fun!

There are no Master Gardeners classes scheduled this weekend, but on Saturday, June 8, from 9:00 to 11:00, Master Gardeners will be holding their Second Saturday Open Garden Day at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, 6699 Campus Dr. in Placerville. Staff will be on hand to discuss irrigation in the home garden. The Succulent Garden will be open as well for questions and plant diagnosis.

For more information on the UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County, see our website at <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu>. Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling [\(530\) 621-5512](tel:5306215512), or send us an email using the Ask a Master Gardener option on our website. Walk-ins are welcome at our office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. We also encourage you to visit us at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, located at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville, behind Folsom Lake College, El Dorado Center. See [http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration\\_Garden](http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration_Garden) for more information and days and hours of operation, or call us to schedule a tour. To sign up for notices and newsletters, see [http://ucanr.edu/master\\_gardener\\_e-news](http://ucanr.edu/master_gardener_e-news). Master Gardeners are also on Facebook and Instagram; we hope you enjoy our postings and will share them with your friends.