

Plant Sale Extraordinaire

By Merry Campbell

UCCE/ El Dorado County Master Gardener

The Master Gardeners of El Dorado County have made good use of the milder-than-normal winter and have been busily preparing for the 3rd Annual Spring Plant Sale. This spring, the sale is being held on Saturday, April 28th, 2012, the same time as the Home and Garden Show. The sale will be held in the parking lot of the Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville.

If you plan on attending the H&G Show on Saturday, be sure to include time to shop for plants. Whether your interest is in annuals, vegetables, natives, perennials, or shrubs and trees, the Master Gardeners have something to capture your attention. You can view the complete list of plants being offered at the Master Gardener web site http://ucanr.org/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/. The list will be posted at least two weeks prior to the sale. If you have signed up for e-mail notice of special events, the plant list will be e-mailed to you.

Last year at the spring sale, the big seller was tomatoes, mainly heirlooms but also hybrids. This year we have upped our inventory considerably, but even so, we recommend getting to the sale early to ensure you get your favorite tomato. At last count, there were 50+ varieties of heirlooms growing. Experienced Master Gardener tomato growers will be at the tomato booth to answer any questions you might have about “all things tomato.”

But tomatoes won't be the only thing offered. We will lead presentations during the sale on the following topics:

- Tomato Growing Tips & Tricks by Master Gardener Zack Dowell
- Worm Composting by Master Gardener Cindy Young & Trainee Jeff Ellis
- Composting by Master Gardeners Kate Halvorson & Cindy Young
- Growing Giant Pumpkins (& other veggies) by Master Gardener Albert Stevenson

With Mother's Day just around the corner, shopping for something special will be made easier with the delightful wire basket planters that several talented Master Gardeners have arranged. If you think Mom would prefer a succulent bowl, we have those also, each one unique.

If one of your pet peeves is dull blades on gardening tools, bring them to the sale. Experienced tool sharpeners will be available to hone your tools for a small fee.

Questions about all things gardening? Visit the Information Booth, staffed by experienced Master Gardeners, and get some valuable assistance on whatever aspect of home gardening you need.

To ensure that plant sale shoppers will be able to park, shop, and get their purchases loaded into their vehicles, the Veterans parking lot will not be available for H&G Show parking. If you want to both shop and attend the show, please plan on parking in the Fairground lot. When you are ready to shop, we will assist you with getting your purchases to your vehicle.

The Master Gardeners are excited about the sale and want to share the excitement with you. SEE YOU ON THE 28TH!!!!

The next Master Gardener class will be on Saturday, May 12 and will cover Container Gardening. There is no charge for this 3-hour class which starts at 9 a.m. The class is held in the Veterans Memorial Building.

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