

August 5, 2015



Plant an Herb or Veggie Garden
By Dave Hale
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Are you looking for ideas for starting and maintaining an herb or vegetable garden? Well, the UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County have a deal for you!

Perched in the Sherwood Demonstration Garden at the El Dorado Center of Folsom Lake College, 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville (off Green Valley Road) is an Herb and Vegetable Garden constructed by Master Gardeners to showcase growing options -- most notably in raised beds and containers.

Save the date! The Sherwood Demonstration Garden Grand Opening is October 3, 2015, where the public will be treated to 16 themed gardens, to include the Herb and Veggie garden. Many of the public education classes that are currently held in a classroom setting will be held at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden to give attendees a hands-on learning experience. Master Gardener classes cover various home gardening topics and gardening tips and tricks.

As a teaching venue, the herb and veggie garden will highlight planter box construction, best irrigation practices, timing for planting, and shade and support requirements.

With a focus on the current critical drought, watering schedules and techniques will be demonstrated to the public on how to optimize the amount and frequency of watering.

The Herb and Veggie garden has season-appropriate annuals now. As the Sherwood Demonstration Garden is opening in October, the Herb and Veggie garden will be planted in fall with annual veggies, to include onions, garlic, carrots, cabbage, radishes, lettuce and various herbs. Currently, there are summertime tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers that will be near the end of their growing season when the garden opens to the public. Crops produced by the garden will be harvested by the Master Gardeners and donated to local food banks.

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We hope you can join us for the grand opening on October 3, 2015; we look forward to sharing this beautiful space with you! Prepare to be impressed.

Would you like to continue to harvest luscious, home-grown vegetables even after the heat of summer subsides? If so, now is the time to plant for a Fall and Winter harvest. Learn how to grow a successful Fall and Winter vegetable garden from UCCE Master Gardener Zack Dowell at this Saturday's free public education class. The three hour class begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, Aug 8th, at the Government Center Hearing Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court in Placerville.

The UCCE Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County invite you to a fun class, Tons of Tomatoes and Zillions of Zucchini's on Wed, August 12th in Cameron Park. If your friends avoid you in August and September, because you bring bags of surplus tomatoes and zucchinis, this class will help you learn how to EASILY harvest, store and preserve those tomatoes and zucchini. You and your family can enjoy your bountiful crop all year long, and not have to sweat over the stove to do it. This free class is from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park.

UCCE 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. For more information about our public education classes and activities throughout the county, go to our Master Gardener website at <http://ucanr.edu/edmg>. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter. You can also find us on Facebook.