

November 25, 2015

Perennial Garden - Sherwood Demonstration Garden
By Debbie Hagar
UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

The Sherwood Demonstration Garden is composed of sixteen individual gardens and is located at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville. The garden is currently closed for the winter but will reopen April 1, 2016. The mission of the garden is to provide a place where the latest University of California research is illustrated in the individual gardens. The focus of the research is on sustainable garden practices in a hands-on learning environment appropriate to our area.

The sixteen gardens were each designed by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County. The garden chair for each garden is as follows:

All Stars	Phyllis Lee
Bog	Charlie Peters
Butterfly	Kathy Pearson
Children's	Kathy Burke
Cottage	Suzi Jones
Japanese	Cheryl Turner
Mediterranean	Paul Brink
Native	Alice Cantelow
Orchard	Bill Curtaz
Ornamental Grasses	Sue McDavid
Perennial	Sheri Burke
Rock	Cheryl Turner
Rose	Eve Keener
Shade	Merry Campbell
Succulent	Bobbie Handen & Joanne Geggatt
Vegetable	Barry Wold

The Perennial Garden focuses on perennials, which are plants that grow for several to many years and flower at the same time of year. There are two basic types of perennial: woody and herbaceous. Woody perennials such as lavender and rosemary make small shrubs. Herbaceous perennials bloom on stems that grow from the ground each year. While they may have foliage during the winter, it is usually close to the ground. Some herbaceous plants have no foliage at all

November 25, 2015

in the winter. Woody perennials should not be pruned severely, preferably never more than twenty to twenty five percent of the plants height at one time. Herbaceous plants can be pruned to the ground or to low tufts of foliage that they have through winter.

The design of the perennial garden includes a variety of plantings that range from common to unusual. The intent is to test the ability of various species to survive and even thrive in El Dorado County climate and soil conditions. The goal of the garden is to determine how these plants perform overall in the foothills so that local gardeners can obtain ideas for plants and designs in their own gardens. The perennial garden includes ground covers, natives, ornamental grasses, perennial plants, trees and vines.

Plants in the garden have been started from seed, cuttings, divisions, and purchased in various sizes. There are plant choices for an amazing palette of colors and textures and garden design placements.

Perennials bloom year after year, multiply freely and generally require very little care once established. There will be future articles on each of the sixteen gardens within the Sherwood Demonstration Garden. The Sherwood Demonstration Garden is a place for learning, a place of beauty and a place for community that has a great future in El Dorado County.

There is no Master Gardener public education class scheduled for this weekend.

UCCE Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling (530) 621-5512. Walk-ins are welcome at our office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. For more information about our public education classes and activities, go to our UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County website at <http://ucanr.edu/edmg>. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at <http://ucanr.edu/mgenews/>. You can also find us on Facebook.

