

April 6, 2016

Spring Plant Sale at Sherwood Demonstration Garden
By Merry Campbell
UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

The 12th plant sale being held by the UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County will be held at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden on April 23, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you haven't yet visited the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, this will be a wonderful opportunity to see the garden in all its spring beauty.

Regardless of whether you have been to the garden before or not, we invite you to attend the spring plant sale. This spring, we are highlighting many plants that are in place at the garden and many that we hope will be planted in the future.

Our emphasis will again be on edibles, primarily heirloom tomatoes, and herbs, natives, perennials, ornamental grasses, succulents, and trees and shrubs. As in prior years, we will have a significant number of heirloom tomatoes, all grown by the Master Gardeners. In fact, all the plants available have been grown by the Master Gardeners. Some have been grown from seed, and others have been propagated in various ways.

We use several methods of propagation including seed-sowing, division, softwood cuttings and hardwood cuttings. The length of time a propagated plant takes to reach a size that we will consider offering it for sale can range from a couple of months to a couple of years. Plants such as tomatoes and herbs are generally seed-sown in February for an April sale. Perennials often are divided or grown from cuttings starting in the preceding fall. Trees and shrubs most often take a year or more before they meet our approval for a sale.

In spite of the rain and snow we have gotten-, we are still concerned about the long-term prospects for drought. For that reason, we have marked the plants offered for sale with drought tolerant indicators if appropriate. We have also marked the plants in place in the various gardens that make up the Sherwood Demonstration Garden with rain drop indicators about the level of water needed to support the plant over time. We use WUCOLS (Water Use Classification of Landscape Species) which is an educational website offered by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS)

If you wish to visit the Sherwood Demonstration Garden before the plant sale, we will be opening the garden for the public starting April 1, 2016. Our open days are Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The garden is located behind Folsom Lake College – El Dorado Center, at 6699 Campus Drive, Placerville, CA.

We'll see you in APRIL!!

Join UCCE Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers for a free class this Saturday, April 9: Salsa Gardening. Participants will be shown how simple it is to grow and provide ingredients

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used in various types of salsas, as well as demonstrating the actual procedure of making fresh salsas. Recipes will be given to demonstrate creativity in making and using salsa. Class will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the El Dorado Hills Library, 7455 Silva Valley Pkwy, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762.

Next Wednesday, April 13, join UCCE Master Gardener Deborah Nicolls for a free Master Gardener class on Sustainable Gardening: What Is It, Why Should You Do It, And How Do You Do It? Come learn why you need to practice gardening sustainability to maintain your own little piece of the environment and maybe even improve it. Learn how to save resources, money and time as you garden. Class is from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive, in Cameron Park.

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://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu>. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/mgenews/>. You can also find us on Facebook.