

March 7, 2018



### ***Grow n' Show Your Plants at the Fair***

UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County  
Adapted by Tracy Celio

My son was six the first time he entered a plant in the El Dorado County Fair. He earned his first blue ribbon too which is displayed proudly at home. He learned the basics of growing plants and propagated a succulent from a cutting. He got to take his plant home and care for it and finally, enter it into the fair. The UCCE Master Gardeners provided all of the supplies, materials and even sent him home with a care booklet which he referred to weekly.

At the county fair, he walked us over to the floriculture building where we got to see fruits, vegetables, flowers, succulents and so much more. It was exciting for him to see the other entries and his own specimen on display. He was proud of his blue ribbon and we go back every year.

This year, “*Grow n' Show Your Plants at the Fair*” will be held at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden on March 10, from 10 – 11:00 a.m. and is designed for kids ages 5 to 12. After the budding young gardeners learn the fundamentals of growing a plant, they will be encouraged to demonstrate their new skills by entering their plants in peer competition at the upcoming county fair.

At the end of class Master Gardeners show kids how they can best prepare their plants for fair entry and even send kids home with fair entry forms for the competition! What could be easier? Did I mention this is a free community event? Campus Parking is \$2.00.

Interested? Please preregister online at: [http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC\\_Master\\_Gardeners/El\\_Dorado\\_County\\_Fair/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/El_Dorado_County_Fair/) or by calling the UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County office at [530-621-5512](tel:530-621-5512).

At the same time as “*Grow n' Show Your Plants at the Fair*,” and in the same location, Sherwood Demonstration Garden will be open to visitors. The vegetable garden will be teaching a hands-on class on how to build a straw bale garden. In addition, the succulent garden will be open to visitors! Join us, bring your questions or simply come and learn from your UC Master Gardeners.

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UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling [\(530\) 621-5512](tel:5306215512). 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://ucanr.edu/master\\_gardener\\_e-news](http://ucanr.edu/master_gardener_e-news). You can also find us on Facebook.

“Citrus Mania” is the subject of the upcoming class on Wednesday, March 14. Master Gardener Phyllis Lee will share with novice and experienced citrus growers what makes for successful growing in our county. This free public education class will be presented at 9:00am to noon at the Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Dr. Cameron Park.