

April 11, 2018

Spring Hopes
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UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

What's a UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County to do on the first day of spring and it is snowing? Other than sigh and a "this won't last too long" thought, there is hope. **Hope** for true spring to begin, **hope** to find all the plants on the "wish list" and most importantly, **hope** that the UCCE Master Gardeners 2018 Spring Plant Sale is a big success on a sunny day at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden.

If you are a gardener and weary of the winter and looking forward to true spring, be sure to put the date of the Spring Plant Sale on your calendar. This year the sale will be held on Saturday, April 21, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Start making your list and then check it against the plant sale inventory that will be available online at least a week in advance of the sale and be available on several websites:

<https://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/>
<https://www.facebook.com/UCCEEIDoradoMG/>
https://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration_Garden

The gates at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden (SDG) will open for the sale at 8:00 a.m. sharp. We suggest that you plan on arriving early and get in line for a good chance to get the more rare items on your list. If you have never visited the SDG it is located at 6699 Campus Drive, behind the El Dorado Center of Folsom Lake College in Placerville. To assist you in locating the garden we will have volunteers and signs positioned at the intersection of Green Valley Road and Campus Drive.

We want your visit to the SDG to be a positive experience so we suggest that you bring your own cart or carton for your plants and remember to pay the \$2.00 parking fee that Folsom Lake College imposes for parking in their lot. We will have volunteers positioned in the parking lot and at the garden gate to answer any questions and point you towards your favorite plants.

The Information booth will be staffed by experienced Master Gardeners available to answer gardening related questions. Additionally, there will be an Integrated Pest Management station to help you with any pesky problems. If your interest is in "all things compost" we will have a knowledgeable group of MGs at our compost booth. Another booth will be staffed by members of the Backyard Beekeepers of El Dorado County.

The Master Gardeners do the propagation of all the plants we have for sale. Depending on the type of plant, we may have been carefully tending the plants for as long as two years. We have worked diligently since our first sale (held in September 2009) to establish a reputation for providing quality, well-tended plants for the sales.

We often get questions from visitors about whether we offer for sale any of the plants growing in the SDG. This year, it will be easier than ever to know which plants are available in the sale. All plants that we used to propagate for the sale are noted in the garden in which they are

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planted. Think about making plans to tour the SDG in advance of the sale! Our open days and hours are Friday - Saturday, from April through October, 9:00 a.m. to noon. And to whet your appetite be sure to check out the video from last year's sale at <https://youtu.be/AobzQcQzDq0>

The Sherwood Demonstration Garden has reopened for the season through October, but work in the Vegetable Garden did not stop. "2nd Saturdays with Barry" continues on April 14, 10:00 a.m. to noon. This month's emphasis is on cover crops, companion planting, and summer gardens. The SGD is located at 6699 Campus Drive, Placerville. Class is free. Parking is \$2.

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. 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. You can also find us on Facebook.