

Plant Propagation - You can do it!

Patty Weeks, Master Gardener Program

When we first became gardeners, we rushed out in spring to plant a few seeds in the ground and transplant our six packs of annuals for some spots of color. As we became more knowledgeable, we ventured out more often to plant perennials, shrubs and vines. Our pocket books became lean from the expense of buying plants and so we began to explore how we could save money and still have a beautiful garden. One inexpensive way to obtain new flowers is by propagating them from existing plant materials.



Shasta Daisy

You will also see how beautiful and colorful a drought tolerant garden can be.

Fall is the best time to plant a variety of seeds that will show up as flowers in your garden in spring time. Master Gardeners will guide you in planting seeds in small containers to take home. You'll learn the proper depth to plant them and how to keep them moist without drowning them. We will share seed packets of Shasta daisy, California poppies and many other varieties with participants.

One of the easiest methods of propagation is cutting plant stems and placing them in water for a few weeks until the stem forms new roots. I use canning jars or beautiful vases to showcase them in my kitchen window during the process. At the garden we have a large purple Mexican Petunia that will root in just a few days in water and be ready to plant in your garden in 6-8 weeks. You

On Saturday Sept 22nd from 9am to noon the Tulare/Kings Master Gardeners will be holding a hands-on workshop to teach you five different common methods used by home gardeners to make new plants. You will pick up some free flower seeds, learn how to root plant stems in water, divide existing plants, propagate succulents, and root soft wood cuttings in soil. Please join us at our demonstration garden along Mill Creek at the northwest corner of West Main Street and Fairway Drive just west of downtown Visalia. Bring gloves and hand cutters and you will take home free plants.



Propagate cuttings in water



Stem cuttings

stems and then replant them. You will see beautiful samples of a variety of succulents, learn a few names, and even get to take some home.

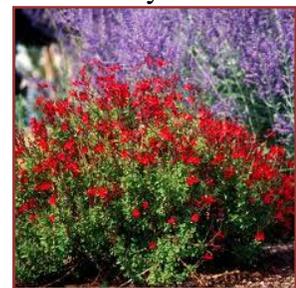
Iris need to be divided every 3-4 years to keep producing large beautiful blooms and we have white and purple iris ready to be split and replanted this year. Master Gardeners will show you the process of division - from digging up the clump to replanting them properly with the top of the rhizome just slightly above the ground



Douglas Iris

so it can absorb sunlight. There is also some California native Douglas Iris that need a new home. These iris take some shade and are lovely in a woodland garden.

Salvia, plumbago, lavender, and buckwheat are easy to propagate from soft wood cuttings. We will provide you with supplies to pot up cuttings and take them with you. If you keep them moist for four to six weeks they will be ready to put into the garden in November.



Salvias

Save the morning of Saturday September 22nd on your calendar and join Master Gardeners for a hands-on plant propagation workshop at our garden located just half a block west of the Ralph Moore Miniature Rose Garden in Visalia from 9am to noon. Our presenters will be Ken Vaughn, Suzan Starr, Shelley Kahl, Linda Day, Jill Worley and Jane Bodine from Tulare, Dianna Lucas from Exeter and Patty Weeks from Visalia. We should have a beautiful fall day to work outside.

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can take cuttings home in a bag of water and make your own window display. Other plants to root in water are flowering maple or abutilon, jasmine and many house plants.

If you've read the latest edition of Sunset magazine you will see that succulents are very popular again. We have Master Gardeners who are fast becoming experts on succulents and they will show you how to take cuttings from a plant, "harden off" or callus the



Succulent - Aeonium