



## Master Gardener Newspaper Articles

Volunteer Program

Tulare/Kings Counties



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### Practice Your Propagation with Us on Saturday

by Patty Weeks, UC Master Gardener

When we first became gardeners we rushed out in spring to buy annuals in six packs and started a few seeds in the ground. As we became more knowledgeable, we ventured out more and planted perennials, shrubs and vines. Now we have come to realize that the best planting time of the year is in the fall. One inexpensive way to obtain new plants is by propagating from existing plants.

This Saturday, Oct 19th from 9 am to noon the Tulare/Kings Master Gardeners are hosting a hands-on workshop practicing common methods of propagation. You can learn five different methods. You will pick up some free seed packets, learn how to root plant stems in water, divide existing plants, propagate succulents, and how to take soft wood cuttings and root them in soil. You'll also learn how to properly prune a few types of perennials to keep them beautiful all year long. 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. You will see how beautiful and colorful a drought tolerant garden can be. Just bring some gloves and hand pruners, we'll have the rest of the supplies, and you can take home some free plant starts.

Fall is the best time to plant many seeds that will show up as vegetables, flowers or herbs in your spring garden. We 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 have a variety of seed packets that we can share with the 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 the garden in 6-8 weeks. You can take cuttings home in a bag of water and make your own window display. Other plants to root using just water are flowering maple or *abutilon*, jasmine and many house plants.

Succulents come in all different shapes and sizes and are making a big comeback in many California landscapes. 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 stems and then replant them. You will see beautiful samples of a variety of succulents 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 the bulbs up to replanting them properly with the top of the rhizome just slightly above the ground so it can absorb sunlight. There is also some California native Douglas Iris that needs a new home. These irises take some shade and are lovely in a woodland garden.

You will also learn how to take soft wood cuttings from plants such as salvia, plumbago, lavender and buckwheat. If you keep them moist for four to six weeks they will be ready to put into the garden in late November.

So circle Saturday October 19th on your calendar and join me and other Master Gardeners for a hands-on plant propagation workshop from 9am to noon at our demonstration garden in downtown Visalia. We should have a beautiful fall day to work outside.

Join the Master Gardeners on Saturday at their Drought Tolerant Garden in Visalia for a Hands-on Workshop.



Learn about composting, saving water, and choosing plants for your landscape in a garden setting.

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