



The Best Time of the Year!

By Barbara Finley

UCCE El Dorado County Master Gardener

Yes, it's that time again, the 5th annual Fall Master Gardener Plant Sale. And it promises to be a great one! The sale will be held on Saturday, September 28, from 8 am to 3 pm, in the Veterans Memorial Building Parking lot at 130 Placerville Drive, in Placerville.

As usual, Master Gardeners have been hard at work propagating a variety of plants. Fall is considered a prime time for planting. The warm soil, the shorter, milder days, plus the promise of rain encourage strong root growth before winter. As a result, we will be offering an excellent selection of perennials, as well as an abundant array of fall vegetables. Master Gardeners have been diligently tending to their "baby" plant starts such as broccoli, cauliflower, kale, cabbage, and many more of the now popular veggies we all hunger for. They will be ready *to be* planted, then grow and produce.

There will be an information booth to answer all your important gardening questions including "How to keep the deer from eating all your lovingly tended plants", or, "How to be rid of those pesky gophers?" Perhaps your questions are more about insects -- aphids, white flies or beetles. We can help answer your questions on the spot! Thinking about minimizing your lawn? A Master Gardener can help guide you with drought tolerant plants and/or ground cover replacement ideas.

Look for the latest in growing popularity -- succulents! Again knowledgeable Master Gardeners can share their expertise in the type of succulents, as well as how to plant and care for them. Interested in starting worm composting? You guessed it... worm bins and instructions will be available.

A complete list of the plants to be offered will be posted on the El Dorado County Master Gardener Facebook page and on the Master Gardener website at <http://ucanr.org/sites/EDCMasterGardeners>. Plan to come out to the Fall Plant Sale – you’ll be amazed with the wide selection of reasonably-priced plants, and can enjoy some of the other informational activities as well.

The funds raised from our plant sales go toward the construction of the Demonstration Garden. Work at the garden continued through the heat of the summer: a gazebo for the rose garden has been completed. Compost has been delivered, walkways are being laid and soon fencing will go in. Excitement is mounting as we hope to begin more planting this fall! There will be a cottage garden, a shade garden, a bog garden and a children’s garden just to name a few. The long range goal is to hold our public educational classes there, affording hands-on instruction opportunities.

Speaking of education, Saturday mornings the Master Gardeners offer our free public education classes on a variety of topics. Most classes are held at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Placerville, courtesy of the Veteran’s Hall Management, which holds a super breakfast open to the public on the first three Sundays of every month. There will not be a public education class on Saturday, September 28th due to the plant sale. In addition to the classes, Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9 am to noon by calling (530) 621-5512. Walk-ins are welcome. The office is located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. You can go to our website at http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at <http://ucanr.edu/mgenews/>. You can also find us on Facebook.