



## Mariposa Library has a little-known gem for local gardeners

By Michele Nowak-Sharkey  
UC Master Gardener

Summer garden planning is in full swing as we approach planting time. Although the internet offers lots of information on garden prepping, sometimes getting away from the *screen* and sitting with a good gardening book is a welcome approach.

The Mariposa Library is a wonderful place to find books and pamphlets on all horticulture topics. But did you know they offer local gardeners another great resource for garden planning? The gardener's gem of the Mariposa Library is **the Seed Library**.

Think "little free library". The simple book exchange kiosks that people build in front of their homes where you can pick up a book to read and drop off a book for others to read.

A simple metal filing cabinet holds the Seed Library. In the drawers are seed packets of veggies, fruits, and herbs. As the little seed library sign states: "Seeds are provided for patrons to try something new in their gardens." Patrons can take a few seeds from the seed packets using the small plastic bags provided. At the end of the season, people are encouraged to contribute seeds to add to the collection.

The Seed Library is one of the educational programs of the UCCE Master Gardeners of Mariposa County. Mariposa Library has 5 staff members that are also master gardeners. Robn DeSandres is one of those



master gardeners and the staff member in charge of the Seed Library. In preparation for the season, Robn has cleared out expired seed packets and filled the drawers with new packets provided by the Mariposa Master Gardeners program. Not only does she enjoy adding the new seeds, but she also loves to see what local gardeners donate to the library.

"The idea is for it to be a community project," DeSandres said. "Often people buy a packet of seeds but only use a small portion. We are asking them to bring those extra seeds for the Seed Library."

Besides the seeds in the cabinet, on top are booklets from the *Storey County Wisdom Bulletin* on a variety of topics such as Easy Composters. In addition, there is a binder of UCIPM information cards addressing pest

management issues.

DeSandres stated another project is to provide a list of the seeds available and post it to the newly updated Mariposa Library website, <https://www.mariposalibrary.org/>. The list should be available soon.

DeSandres asked that when people donate seeds that they bring them in a paper envelope, marked on the front with the full name of the seed. The seed donations are then placed in the small container on the library cabinet marked *Place your seed donations here*.

Mariposa is fortunate to have this gardening resource! Come check out the Seed Library. Choose a few seeds to plant. If possible, take a photo of your plant growing and share it with the library.

The Mariposa Library is located at 4978 10th St, Mariposa. 209-966-2140.

*UC Master Gardeners of Mariposa County are located in Mariposa at 5009 Fairgrounds Rd. Visit our website at <http://cemariposa.ucanr.edu/MasterGardener/> and Facebook page (UC Master Gardeners of Mariposa County) for more gardening information and events. UC Master Gardeners staff a Helpline serving Mariposa County, including Greely Hill, Coulterville, and Lake Don Pedro (209)-966-7078 or [mgmariposa@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgmariposa@ucdavis.edu). Listen to us on the radio at KRYZ 98.5 Mariposa on Wednesdays at 2:00 and Saturdays at 5:00.*