



## UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

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### March 2017 update for Mediterranean Garden

Slight changes in the garden are occurring each year based on experimentation. As with each Mediterranean region in the world there are slight variations in temperature, amount of sun, soil conditions, and moisture needs, or even types of fauna (such as gophers) within each of these regions. For example, even though most the Sacramento and Placerville area is within a Mediterranean climate we know some area can grow citrus and others cannot. The same is with soils. Some are heavy clay, some are sandy, or some could be loam. And these changes can occur even within the Sherwood Demonstration Garden.

More than 80% of the garden plants originally planted in the Mediterranean Garden are the same today. However, you will notice some plants with (temporarily) no name tags or parts of the garden having empty spaces. As expected, some plants have died. We will be experimenting this spring with new plants or replanting the same plant and altering times for watering. A few exceptions are plants such as the Meyers lemon tree and the lavenders. Their roots were eaten by gophers and are being replaced. (Note: this has been partly resolved with traps.) As for the other issues, two Salvias, Anthony Parker and Pineapple sage could not handle the cold even though a few miles away another garden they are thriving. We will instead be planting different salvias more appropriate for this temperature zone. The Australian and Chilean portions of the Mediterranean Garden have been the most challenging. Both are very sensitive to the cool weather in the garden and the soils in the Australian and South African gardens have generally been too wet. They both need a much drier soil. The Athenasia and African daisy grow well but rot in the fall when the soils damp. The same is with the Acacia "Cousin Itt" in the Australian garden. The Acacia was replanted in the fall and is doing moderately better without watering.

Expect to see more small changes to the garden this spring. As with any garden, it is a fun experiment that will always provide challenges.