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Sherwood Demonstration Garden
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June's issue of the *Village Life* continued profiling four more themed gardens at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden in Placerville. As a reminder, the garden is located at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville, behind Folsom Lake College, El Dorado Center, and is maintained by the UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County. The garden is open to the public for touring every Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon, from April 1 through October 31. Parking is readily available; however, the college does charge a daily parking fee of \$2. In addition, formal, docent-led tours are available for organizations on other days, which can be scheduled through Carolyn Gravelle at 530-306-5153 or fort.cluck@gmail.com Profiled below are four more gardens to learn about:

The **Orchard Garden** features a variety of fruit trees that are planted widely apart to allow observers an easy view of how to prune, how to thin fruit, etc., when hands-on demonstrations are held. In addition, four 'Liberty' apple trees are trained on an espalier to demonstrate how this process is done. The orchard grounds are covered in a thick mulch to control weeds and allow for easy foot traffic without having to tramp through dirt and mud. Much of the fruit harvested is donated to various organizations around our county.

The **Ornamental Grasses** garden was the first garden officially planted in the demonstration garden, in October 2013, because the deer fence was not yet installed, and deer do not bother grasses much. Grasses have gained in popularity in the past several years due to being virtually pest-free and low in maintenance. Many are drought-tolerant, which is a huge benefit for our area, plus they are beautiful year-round. Grasses are so varied in size, texture and appearance that the only problem planting this garden was deciding which ones to use. The choices were narrowed down to what thrives in El Dorado County and included such things as low-growing

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Siskiyou Blue Idaho Fescue (*Festuca idahoensis* 'Siskiyou Blue') to the much larger Eulalia or Japanese Silver Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* var. *condensatus* 'Cosmopolitan').

The **Perennial Garden** offers a wide variety of plants in various colors, forms and textures. Perennial plants are those that normally live two years or more and are either woody or herbaceous; the former may lose leaves, but keep a woody form, and the latter die back to the ground in winter. This particular garden is more of a design feature that includes unusual plants as well as those that are more common. A lot of testing goes on here for educational purposes. For instance, plants that normally like clay soil are planted in the garden's very loamy soil to see if they will survive, and plants that vary widely in temperature fluctuation tolerance are included as well.

The **Rock garden** is planted with plants that look great growing in and amongst rock. The goal was to choose plants that thrive in the specific climates of El Dorado County. When selecting the plants, consideration was also given to keeping the sizes of most in proportion to the surrounding rocks and giving the entire garden the appearance of being one with Mother Nature. If planned correctly, rock gardens can add interest and variety to the landscape year-round.

We welcome one and all to visit this wonderful garden. Many hands-on classes are held in the garden also, which are free to the public and require no registration. For more information about our entire program, please visit our website at https://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/

For more information on the UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County, see our website at <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu>. Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling [\(530\) 621-5512](tel:5306215512), or send us an email using the Ask a Master Gardener option on our website. Walk-ins are welcome at our office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. We also encourage you to visit us at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, located at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville, behind Folsom Lake College, El Dorado Center. See http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration_Garden for more information and days and hours of operation, or call us to schedule a tour. To sign up for notices and newsletters, see http://ucanr.edu/master_gardener_e-news. Master Gardeners are also on Facebook and Instagram; we hope you enjoy our postings and will share them with your friends.