

PUT A PIN IN IT: Coming Soon in the Shade Garden
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Master Gardeners have patiently waited out this unprecedented winter of snow and rain, so we can welcome you to the Spring 2022 Sherwood Demonstration Garden. Master Gardener crews work to maintain the 16 themed gardens year-round. Check out the details below and consider adding these Shade Garden favorites to your must-see list.

Most showy leaves: Leopard plant (*Farfugium japonicum v. aureo-maculatum*)

Also named *Ligularia tussilaginea*, the leopard plant has large, glossy, yellow-speckled leaves. It dies back in winter at 20 degrees or lower, does best in bright, indirect light or some shade, and loves water.

Most nurturing: California Dutchman's Pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*)

A Coastal range and Sierra Nevada foothill native, this vine's foliage and its distinctive pipe bowl-shaped flowers are muted in color. Despite its quiet appearance, it's essential to the Pipevine swallowtail butterfly (*Battus philenor hirsuta*). The pipevine provides food for swallowtail adults, a secure overwintering site for eggs, and on-the-spot food for hatched black-blue caterpillars with orange spikes. The swallowtail is hued inky-black with bright blue wing edges and under-wing spots of bright orange. These striking colors are a warning—the swallowtail adult ingests a pipevine acid which is contained in the swallowtail eggs and caterpillar, an acid which is toxic to vertebrate predators.

Most unexpectedly cute: Toad Lily (*Tricyrtis*)

The toad lily is a petite woodland plant noted for heavily spotted, inch-long flowers formed on the plant's leaf joints and in a terminal cluster in late summer or early fall.

Most striking architecture: *Crinum*

A perennial born from a bulb, the crinum likes bright, filtered light and regular water. The strikingly thick stems, growing to 4 feet or more, sport impressively-sized flowers.

Most durable/invasive: *Houttuynia cordata*

Liking sun or shade and the gamut from regular to ample water, with spreading, underground growth, the Houttuynia is a durable ground cover with which we have a love-hate relationship. It sends up a 9-inch-high carpet along our creek bank. Best curbed with a wood, concrete, or metal barrier dug in 8 to 12 inches, the houttuynia may work for you, but beware. The Shade Garden Master Gardeners consider it borderline invasive, plus it has a dense, acrid odor when disturbed. Able to tunnel under rock, emerging white but durable, this plant leafs out and thrives in arid, stony soil or damp creek beds. One has to reluctantly admire this plant.

Most interesting newcomer: Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea*)

The evergreen flax lily has strikingly blue-green, swordlike leaves and blooms with black stemmed, dark-blue/black, yellow-accented flowers. Long-lasting purple berries follow. Our

inhabitant apparently birthed itself from the Australian sector of the Mediterranean Garden, as none of the Shade Garden crew remember planting it.

Enjoy a new Spring, come visit us, and discover these exceptional plants!

Master Gardener classes are offered monthly throughout the county. You can find our class schedule at: http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Public_Education_Classes/?calendar=yes&g=56698, and recorded classes on many gardening topics here: http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Public_Education/Classes/.

The Sherwood Demonstration Garden is open on the first and second Saturday's of the month from 9 a.m. -noon until March when we will offer expanded hours. Please check our website for more details https://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/Demonstration_Garden/

Mark your calendar for our annual plant sales in April! Edible plant sale; including fruit, veggies and herbs will be on Saturday, April 16, 2022 8:00AM · 2:00PM. Choose your favorite edibles and shop our incredible tomato selection grown cared for locally by Master Gardener volunteers! The ornamental plant sale will take place on Saturday, April 30, 2022 8:00AM · 2:00PM. We will have a huge selection of trees, shrubs, grasses, succulents, native and perennial plants. Location: Sherwood Demonstration Garden 6699 Campus Drive, Placerville. <http://ucanr.edu/edcsale>

Have a gardening question? Master Gardeners are working hard to answer your questions. Leave a message on our office telephone: 530-621-5512, or use the "Ask a Master Gardener" option on our website: mgeldorado.ucanr.edu. We'll get back to you! Master Gardeners are also on Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest.

For more information on the UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County, see our website at <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu>. To sign up for notices and newsletters, see http://ucanr.edu/master_gardener_e-news.