

## Planning a Spring and Summer Vegetable Garden

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The dark, cold days of winter have warmed into spring and the time to start planning for spring and summer vegetables in the garden is now! Whether you have a large garden plot or just a few containers on the patio, you could be harvesting your own delicious healthy produce in a few short months. Spend some time now on planning and preparation for a successful and rewarding vegetable garden.

Pick locally grown vegetables and herbs at the annual Master Gardeners Plant Sale on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, 6699 Campus Drive, Placerville. The sale opens at 8:00 a.m. and closes at 2:00 p.m. The Demonstration Garden is located right behind the El Dorado Center/Folsom Lake college off Green Valley Road. This sale, featuring fruits, veggies, and herbs, is the first of two sales. The second sale will be held at the same location on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, where you can purchase trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, succulents, native and perennial plants. Preferred payment is cash or check, Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Location is one of the most important things to consider when planning a garden. For vegetables to thrive, most plants need six to eight hours of direct sunlight every day. Choose a sunny location with a water source nearby.

Here in El Dorado County, we are fortunate to have the right climate to grow a wide array of vegetables. When you think of a home garden, you might imagine crisp green peas, juicy red tomatoes, or giant zucchini. All of these fruits and vegetables grow well here, but there are many more possibilities! When planning your garden, take some time to make note of the vegetables and fruits that your family really enjoys eating, and also be sure to try something new. Sit down with a seed catalog or visit one of our local nurseries and see what interesting or special variety catches your eye. How about growing some giant red mustard greens, okra, Persian cucumbers, purple carts, or a Japanese turnip. Everything tastes better when it is freshly picked from your garden, so get creative!

Preparing the soil before planting seeds or vegetable starts is crucial to the health and vigor of the garden. Most vegetables do best in loose, well-drained soil that contains plenty of organic matter. Adding compost to the soil is a good way to increase nutrients and loosen up soil that tends to be clay-like and dense in many parts of our county. Building raised beds is another option in particularly difficult soil conditions.

Whether you have been growing vegetables for years, or are starting your first edible garden this year, you will find lots of resources, advice, and learning opportunities provided by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County. Our website is <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu>. You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram.

The Sherwood Demonstration Garden is open every Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon (except during the plant sales on April 16, and April 30) and is free to the public. Come visit our 16 themed gardens, including the vegetable garden, and get some ideas and inspiration before the plant sale.

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](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/](http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Public_Education/Classes/).

The Sherwood Demonstration Garden is open weekly on Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. -noon until March through October. We do close in case of rain, please check our website for details [https://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC\\_Master\\_Gardeners/Demonstration\\_Garden/](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](http://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](http://ucanr.edu/master_gardener_e-news).