

UC Master Gardeners of Orange County Expo and Plant Giveaway/Sale

Saturday April 12, 2025

Norman Murray Senior Center

24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92692

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Come to the first annual Master Gardeners of Orange County Expo on Saturday April 12 at the Mission Viejo Norman Murray Center. The Expo will have free/sale plants, gardening talks, and information tables on a huge number of gardening topics. This will be a fun, informative, and inspirational event that will kick your garden into high gear. Don't miss out!

Plant Giveaway and Sale

There will be over 1,400 plants for giveaway and sale. Come early for best selection.

- 1 FREE plant for each family, with ticket provided on entry:
 - 500 free plant tickets will be available, first come-first serve, while supply lasts
 - Choose from any of the \$2 plants- tomatoes, peppers, herbs, veggies, succulents, flowers
- Additional plants for sale at \$2 - \$25 each.
- Cash only sales, no bills larger than \$20, small bill greatly appreciated.
- Over 800 tomato plants, 28 varieties.
- Over 250 sweet and hot peppers, 8 varieties.
- Also herbs, veggies, succulents, houseplants, plumeria, milkweed, natives, and flowers.
- BOXES: please bring boxes to take your plants home, as our supply is limited.

30-Minute Gardening Talks

Join these top Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers at these fun and useful talks in the Jacaranda meeting rooms.

A = Jacaranda A, B = Jacaranda B

9:30 – 10:00

- A- Culinary Herbs** –Add home grown flavor to your cooking by starting an herb garden – outdoors or on your kitchen counter. Shelly Trainor will share how easy it is to grow and harvest herbs from your own garden.
- B- Terrific Tomatoes**- Home grown tomatoes are incredible, and easier to grow than you think. Come hear “Mr. Tomato”, Brian Hale share his tips to make this your best tomato year yet.

10:15 – 10:45

- A- Fire safe landscaping** – Fire safe landscaping is on everyone's mind. Hear Master Gardener Kathleen Dyke share information about this important topic.
- B- Warm season veggies** - Orange County is a great place to grow summer vegetables. Long time Master Gardener Joanne Byrd will share her experience in vegetable selection and care for a bountiful summer harvest.

11:00 – 11:30

A- 10 Easy California Natives – Looking for ways to have a beautiful garden that uses less water and takes less effort? Karen Newe will share ideas to add 10 easy California natives.

B- House Made Pickles Demonstration – Garden-to-table food is the best. Master Food Preserver Beth Renz will demonstrate how to make 3 different pickles from a mother brine and various herbs and spices.

11:45 – 12:15

A- Gardening Mini Bootcamp- New to gardening, not sure where to start, or just stuck? Shelly Trainor will get you going on gardening basics with this mini “bootcamp

B- Terrific Tomatoes- Home grown tomatoes are incredible, and easier to grow than you think. Come hear “Mr. Tomato”, Brian Hale share his tips to make this your best tomato year yet.

12:30 – 1:00

A- Fire safe landscaping – Fire safe landscaping is on everyone’s mind. Hear Master Gardener Kathleen Dyke share information about this important topic.

B- Mexican Paletas Demonstration - Master Food Preserver Beth Renz will demonstrate how to make these vibrant and refreshing frozen treats, using fresh seasonal ingredients.

Gardening Expo

Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers of Orange County will have information tables on a wide range of topics to improve your horticultural success and create beautiful, healthy gardens.

- Advice on growing - tomatoes, peppers, veggies, herbs, and more
- Ask-a-Master-Gardener - get answers to your tough gardening problems
- Succulents- succulent centerpiece demonstration/sale (cash), and make-and-take succulent-egg activity (limited quantities on both, come early)
- California natives, including milkweed
- Emerging tree pests- learn about new invasive pest threats to trees
- Bees and pollinators in your garden
- Hydroponics- learn about hydroponics, and do a make-and-take hydroponic lettuce (\$7 cash)
- Pest Management- learn how to manage mosquitoes, ants and other pests
- Kids/adults coloring fun
- Mission Viejo Library seed library – learn about this great source of free seeds
- Master Food Preservers – learn about transforming your garden bounty into delectable edibles
- Vermiculture – learn how to create your own worm bin, purchase red wiggler (cash \$)
- Composting, learn how to make your own fertilizer