

2018 Extension Master Gardener Plant Sale Highlights

SHARPENING OF TOOLS: Do you need any of your outdoor tools sharpened? Bring your garden and landscape tools when you come to the plant sale. There will be a mobile garden tool sharpening booth set up in the parking lot adjacent to the vegetable garden area. Bertrand's Mobile Sharpening Service will offer this service at the standard retail rates. Have your tools sharpened while you shop for your plants. You can pick them up when your shopping is done.

SEED SWAP: Want to save a little cash and have fun starting your own plants? Start with the basics – seeds, sunshine, water, and soil. You can get seeds at the Seed Swap table during the Arboretum's annual plant sale. Local garden centers, horticultural centers, and businesses will donate seeds that will be yours for the asking, or better yet, yours in exchange for seeds you collect elsewhere. We will have seeds for flowers, shrubs, trees, vegetables and herbs. Master Gardeners will offer advice and handouts on when and how to plant the seeds for the best results.

There will also be free seed catalogs available and lists of vendors who offer native and non-native plant seeds by mail order. Please label seeds you bring to swap with the common and botanical name of the plant from which you collected the seeds, the date of collection, and any tips on growing those plants. Put the seeds in an envelope or glass jar that is sealed shut, and make sure that the seeds are dry before packaging. Our goal is to spread the joy of starting plants with your seeds. We look forward to visiting with you at the Seed Swap table behind the gift shop building.

NATIVE PLANTS: By the end of 2017 the Master Gardeners completed the installation of a native plant garden at the Arboretum. Native Plants will be sold at the Plant Sale between April 19 and 22. The garden display will give people an idea about how to incorporate these type of plants into their own gardens. It is important to remember that we will not be able to make up for the loss of native plant habitat due to development in New Hanover County unless each homeowner make an effort to add native plants in their own landscape. All the big and small efforts will add up over time to protect and help birds and other wildlife and improve our local environment. Plants native to southeastern NC will be sold at each of the stations during the Plant Sale. This includes annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, herbs, and vegetables.