



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article April 19, 2016

HCMGA Plant Sale Saturday

by Lydia Holley

The annual Henderson County Master Gardeners Plant Sale will be held Saturday, April 23, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. inside the Senior Citizens Center, 3344 State Hwy 31E, Athens (next to the Rodeo Arena), come rain or shine.

What can you find at the HCMGA Plant Sale? A wide range of plants that grow in the gardens of local Master Gardeners. There will be numerous native plants, such as coneflowers (*Echinacea*), a perennial with colorful daisy-like petals; rock rose (*Pavonia*), a pretty pink perennial that opens up with the morning sun and blooms all summer long; oakleaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), a lovely shrub with large blooms, leaves that turn burgundy in the fall, and interesting displays of peeling bark in winter; and cinnamon ferns (*Osmunda*) with showy fronds and fabulous fall color.



Hard to find natives such as Henry and Augusta Duelberg salvias will also be available. Henry Duelberg salvia is a Texas Superstar®, while Augusta Duelberg salvia has white blooms, an unusual color for a salvia.

There will also be non-native plants that perform well in East Texas at the HCMGA Plant Sale, such as the sweetly-named and brightly-colored candy lily (*Pardancanda*); the extremely fragrant butterfly ginger (*Hedychium*); and the delicately petaled siberian iris (*Iris siberica*).

Foliage plants are great to have in the garden, too. Plants such as the spotted cast iron plant (*Aspidistra*), silvery aztec grass (*Liriope*), and several cultivars of hosta will be available. You may also want to pick up a few trees such as the spring blooming red bud (*Cercis*); shrubs such as the hummingbird-attracting *Vitex* and the beautiful red blooming Texas star hibiscus; or ground covers such as the bright yellow *Angelina* sedum for sunny areas or giant bugleweed (*Ajuga*) that grows well in shade.

Ornamental plants are a large part of the Plant Sale, but edibles will also be offered. If you are interested in growing a vegetable garden this year, you may want to check out the various types of tomatoes, peppers, squash and many other vegetables available. You could also pick up some herbs such as basil, fennel, rosemary or oregano to enhance the flavor of your cooking.

Want to help save the monarch butterflies? Be certain to pick up one or both of two types of milkweed available, the host plant for the monarch butterfly. If you want to attract other butterflies to your garden, there will be a large selection of butterfly nectar plants. A short program on butterfly host and nectar plants will be given at 9:00 a.m. before the doors open.

Whether you have one blank spot in your garden or are designing an entire bed, you will find what you need at the HCMGA Plant Sale. The plants listed above are just a small sampling. Not sure what you need? Come

anyway. There will be an information table with Master Gardeners that can answer all your plant and butterfly questions.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.