

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Get a Smart Start on Your Summer Vegetable Garden at the  
Master Gardener Tomato and Pepper Plant Sale, April 10, 2010 in San Mateo**

*Half Moon Bay, CA* – Get a healthy start on your summer vegetable garden by purchasing hand-grown seedlings at the upcoming Tomato and Pepper Plant Sale co-sponsored by the UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties, and the College of San Mateo.

The event will be held on April 10, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the greenhouse on the grounds of College of San Mateo, 1700 West Hillsdale Boulevard, San Mateo. Admission and parking are free.

Choose from popular and unusual varieties of tomatoes, and sweet and hot peppers, all selected for their ability to grow well in the San Francisco Bay Area, including varieties that tolerate the cool and foggy neighborhoods along the coast and in San Francisco. The plants are hand-grown from seed by UCCE Master Gardeners who live in San Mateo and San Francisco Counties.

In addition to plants, other gardening items will be for sale. They include gently used decorative pots, gardening books and tools; miniature succulent gardens held in bonsai pots; and herb seed discs ready to be planted in containers. In addition, students from the College of San Mateo Horticulture program will demonstrate how to make hand-tied fresh flower bouquets and offer bouquets for sale.

Proceeds from the event benefit the local Master Gardener program, one of 44 Master Gardener programs in the state of California, all of which are administered by the University of California Cooperative Extension.

“The Master Gardener program is dedicated to helping citizens become more knowledgeable and successful home gardeners, and to promote environmentally responsible and sustainable gardening,” says Shannon Gibbs, program coordinator, Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties. “We’re pleased to partner with CSM to help San Mateo and San Francisco residents grow delicious and nutritious vegetables right in their backyards.”

More information on the plant sale, including variety lists, directions, and parking information, is available on the local Master Gardeners website: <http://groups.ucanr.org/sanmateo>.

The UCCE Master Gardener Program brings the university’s research and expertise about home horticulture and pest management to the public. Certified Master Gardeners have completed training from UC. In exchange, they volunteer in their local communities in a number of ways, including staffing a gardening HelpLine, and providing educational programs about sustainable gardening and pest management.

To learn more about the programs of the UCCE Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties, visit <http://groups.ucanr.org/sanmateo>. The Garden HelpLine can be reached at 650-726-9059, ext. 107.

To learn about the statewide UCCE Master Gardener Program, visit <http://camastergardeners.ucdavis.edu/index.cfm>.

For information on the CSM Horticulture program, visit <http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/horticulture/program.asp>.

Photographs of tomato seedlings and Master Gardeners preparing for the plant sale are at <http://tiny.cc/MGphotos>.