

2026 Plant Sale After-Action Report

Chair: Susan Wilson Co-chair: Val Hutchinson, Robin McClellan

New in 2026:

1. Chair/Co-chair responsibilities

- Val – Promotion and PR, Garden Treasures, Victory Garden
- Robin – Set-up and Tear-down, Volunteer Check-in and Hospitality, Cashiers, Intern Involvement
- Susan – Liaison with Old Turtle Pond Farm, Plant Donations, Pricing

2. Planning Meeting with Team Leaders was held on 3/19/2026 at St. Martin's in the Field Episcopal Church, St. Luke's Room

Agenda: Discuss proposed calendar, provide sale site diagram, determine which areas need a Sign-Up Genius invitation and how many slots were needed.

Team Leaders were:

Team	Team Leaders	Sign-Up Genius	MG slots	Intern Slots
PR	Kay Roman, Lala Bowman	No	-	-
Victory Garden	Marilyn Hogan, Linda Bradley, Linda Olsen, Lawrence Haselden	No	-	-
OTPF Liaison	Nancy Maseng	No	-	-
Plant Receiving	Toni Hubbell, Regina Monteith	Yes	6	4
Plant Pricing	Susan Zourzoukis, Sandy Watson	Yes	3	2
Garden Treasures	Debbie Thomas, Ed Lyons	Yes	2-3	0
Set-up/Tear down	Jim Hightower, Rich Byer	Yes	7	0
Cashiers	Heidi McKinley, Cathy Beattie	Yes	2	0
Cashier Assistants	Heidi McKinley, Cathy Beattie	Yes	4	0
Sales & Education	Susan Wilson, Val Hutchinson, Robin McClellan	Yes	12	6
AAMG	Don McInnes, Lawrence Haselden	Yes	2	2
Hospitality	Mary Stover, Evelyn Abernathy	No***	-	-

*Include document: Agenda for 19 March Plant Sale Planning Meeting

**Sign-Up Genius invitations are archived, so the person doing SUG can simply move previous SUG invitations to active, and update them, rather than starting from scratch

***With a new Hospitality Director, it might be good to do a SUG invitation for Hospitality, so there is a tracking record for who is bringing food items. Coordinate with Nancy

3. Used new Hoop House area to receive plants and garden treasures, with assigned areas for each type of plant (vegetables, succulents, perennials, trees, shrubs, house plants, etc.). We

asked people volunteering to park in front of the Children's Garden, but we actually were able to park cars in the back, close to the Hoop House area. The Hoop House area was very hot, so it would be helpful to have multiple tents back there for plant accepting and pricing days.

Also, it is imperative that people prop open the gate into the Hoop House area when inside. The gate from the back into the Hoop House area locks from the outside, and the gate from the Children's Garden into the Hoop House area locks from the Children's Garden side, so there is potential for someone to accidentally get locked inside. Yes, it happened!

4. Used simplified Plant Donation form to reduce paper waste and conserve trees. This gave us better records of who donated plants and what kinds of plants we received.

5. Set-up Team set up tents and tables on Wednesday afternoon, to reduce workload on Thursday and Friday. It might be helpful to create an inventory form for things stored in the Quonset Hut, to keep better track of our items stored there.

6. The Plant Moving team used pickup trucks to move plants from Hoop House area to Plant Sale site on Thursday morning. Each category of plant was kept together, to avoid re-organizing plants at the sale site. Once plants were in place, volunteers made sure there were walkways for customers. We need to better communicate this plan to everyone, as there was slight confusion this year, and someone starting having people load up cars without understanding the plan.

7. We had a diagram to direct volunteers on where plants should be placed when they were moved to the Plant Sale site

8. We allowed Master Gardener Interns to volunteer in areas where their time could be counted for certification purposes

9. Thursday afternoon, we allowed Master Gardeners and Interns to shop for Garden Treasures, still located in the Hoop House area, then moved the remaining Garden Treasures to the Plant Sale site on Friday morning

10. Elaine Jeter functioned as our "Sheriff" on Friday morning, sitting by the entrance to the sale site, making sure no one entered until we were ready, and visiting with customers as they waited

11. We opened 5 minutes early – there was one person waiting in the parking lot at 7:30 am, and we probably had 20 or 30 people in line by the time we opened. The influx of people at 9:00 resulted in a long line at the Cashier table between 9:30 and 10:00

12. In 2025, we had 300 plants from Old Turtle Pond Farm, and ran out fairly early. For 2026, we doubled that to 600. We had some plants left over this year, so suggest 500 plants for next year. The new location for OTPF plants at the back of the sale area worked well and leaving plants on carts simplified things

13. The RCMGA Board approved \$800 so we could purchase tents, tables, wagons, buckets, and labeling supplies, thus reducing our reliance on borrowed items

14. We used the excellent PR plan put in place by Pam Robinson and Nancy Maseng in 2025. We were able to get extra time slots with WIS, which improved marketing
15. We sent out weekly updates to the membership, so they were aware of changes and plans. Our information papers went out to the membership on 9 March, 16 March, 23 March, 30 March, 6 April, and 13 April, as well as some email communications. We got a later start than the year before with member communication, but all worked out. We also presented information at the 7 April Membership Meeting
16. We gave suggestions and options for labeling plants (label that could be printed, blank labels that could be filled out by hand). This resulted in a lot of variability in labels. We had some problems with labels fading or getting wet and not being as legible as desired
17. We encouraged members to make monetary donations if digging and potting plants was more than they could handle this year. This worked well in 2025 and 2026
18. As in years past, volunteers arrived at the Plant Sale, but did not remember what they signed up for, so suggest a listing printed from Sign-Up Genius be kept somewhere so volunteers can check what they signed up for
19. It is critical that we have a number of Cashier Assistants or Human Calculators to add up customer purchases so the Cashiers can quickly cash them out
20. We tried to formalize the “borrowing” function by asking members to sign up to let us borrow tables, wagons, buckets, and canopy tents. This seemed to work well
21. We added extra slots for Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Interns in all the volunteer areas. Not all slots were filled, but we had plenty of help, so no one felt overwhelmed in the activities leading up to the sale and the sale itself. We switched from 2 shifts for the Sales and Education team to 3 shifts and shortened the time slots from 4-4.5 hours to 3 hours, and incorporated overlap. We provided information on how to report hours, and which tasks counted toward certification for Interns
22. Cathy Beattie sent out a couple listings of plant information (scientific name, sun/shade requirements, etc.) to assist Master Gardeners and Interns in labeling plants, thus reducing the need for everyone to research their plants
23. We requested a single gate code for the 2 weeks. We were given a consistent gate code, but not the one we requested
24. The cattle gate was a problem – it appeared to be locked, which confused people. Individuals with mobility issues had trouble navigating the terrain to open and close the gate
25. Plant Sale layout worked okay, but there was a lot of congestion around the AAMG Booth, Soil and Water Conservation tent, Victory Garden tables, Composting table, etc. This made

congestion at the Cashier area a problem. Suggest a modified layout for next year (See proposed layout at end of this document, courtesy of Pam Robinson)

26. We had too many plants left over, especially Charles Bartlett's tomato plants and other vegetable plants, due to giving away so many plants as part of the Victory Garden project

27. Electronic thank you notes were sent to all Master Gardeners, Interns, and friends who volunteered or donated plants. Good volunteer and donation records allowed these to be personalized. Remind Master Gardeners that a card from Jacquie Lawson Cards is actually a thank you card from Susan

28. Plant Sale date of 24 April seemed to work well, plants looked good. Easter in 2027 is early, 27 March, so similar date in 2027 would work. Friday 23 April 2027 would be preferred date

29. Continue to improve signage for plant types and to direct customers. Request and purchase new signs for different plant categories to display at the sale site. The old signs (concrete in plant pots) are looking quite bad, but could be used in Hoop House area. Look into options:

- Wooden signs (Rich Byer is a wood worker, and may have ideas for sourcing)
- Metal signs (Debbie Thomas has purchased some, and may have ideas for sourcing)
- Velvetex – gentleman from King's Grant who makes signs may be an option, if we go with plastic signs attached to metal holders that you put into the ground, similar to the political signs you see around town

Successes:

- 3 co-chairs worked well, would consider at least that many in the future
- Planning meeting with Team Leaders resulted in greater Team Leader engagement
- Use of Hoop House area to accept and price plant donations and accept Garden Treasures
- Simplified Plant Donation form facilitated completion and helped identify thank you note recipients, as well as reducing paper waste
- Schedule and process for set-up on Wednesday, plant moving on Thursday morning, Treasures sale for MGs on Thursday afternoon, and sale on Friday
- Plant moving plan
- “Sheriff” to manage gate and entertain customers while waiting in line, opening 5 minutes early
- Board authorization to purchase tents, tables, buckets, wagons, and other supplies. Suggest same purchases in 2027, which should give us close to the number we need for future sales
- PR plan
- Weekly up-dates
- Monetary donations in lieu of digging and potting plants
- Plenty of volunteer slots for each activity
- Different location for OTPF plants
- Cathy Beattie’s plant information documents
- Plant sale date, hours of 9-3, shorter and overlapping shifts for Sales and Education team
- Electronic thank you notes

Mixed:

- Plant sale set-up – diagram was helpful, suggest different lay-out for next year (See below)
- Information on what activities counted toward certification for interns – helped but not everyone understood
- Garden Treasures – we made money, ~\$500 from MG sale, plus more on sale day, but a lot of work and a lot of items were left over. Need to discuss whether to include in the future
- 300 plants from Old Turtle Pond Farm were not enough in 2025, 600 plants in 2026 were too many, consider 500 for 2027, would leave them on carts again
- Plant labeling plan resulted in much variability, some labels got wet and were not legible, consider tags that wrap around plant stem, available from Amazon
 - Advantages – consistency, avoids legibility problems
 - Disadvantages – all may need to be handwritten, could print off labels and affix, but may not be waterproof
- Formalized plan for borrowing items from members, but suggest continuing to purchase, so we are self-sufficient

- Val's request to Stan to make the gate code 8725 for the 2 weeks of sale activities would have worked, had Stan not decided to do his own thing, and give us a different code. This led to conflicting information sent out to members. Suggest working with his replacement to have a consistent gate code that is already in use, like 8725
- Victory Garden project – our Plant Sale is a fund-raising activity, so incorporating a plant give-away as part of the Plant Sale negatively impacted sales. One cashier (PR) felt that some people added extra plants to their “free” group of plants, so did not pay for all plants they should have paid for. We have plenty of time to re-think this for next year!
 - Advantages
 - Seed starting was a new and important skill for many of us
 - Plant Sale customers were thrilled to get free plants
 - Disadvantages
 - Because we gave away so many vegetable plants, we had a lot of vegetable plants and other plants left over
 - People don't always value what they are given for free, so may not have actually planted their seedlings
 - Potential solutions
 - Do Victory Garden project and plant give-away as a separate activity, not part of Plant Sale. Concern would be attracting the public to a smaller event and finding volunteers to cover two separate events
 - Charge a nominal fee for the grow bag and plants, like \$5-10
 - Charge the same amount for Victory Garden vegetables as we do for other vegetables, but add in a bonus (grow bag or extra seeds or some other freebie)
 - Focus more on the educational aspect, rather than on free plants, maybe educate on raised beds

Opportunities:

- Have more tents available for shade in the Hoop House area during the Plant Accepting and Pricing Days, and encourage people to hydrate. We do not want any ambulance interventions in the future!
- Remind people that they need to prop open the gate into the Hoop House area when inside. The gate from the back area into the Hoop House area locks from the outside, and the gate from the Children's Garden into the Hoop House area locks from the Children's Garden side, so there is potential for someone to accidentally get locked inside. Yes, it happened!
- Better communicate the plan for moving plants, to avoid duplicate work. Plants should be moved by category to avoid having to re-sort plants at the Sale site
- Add Inventory Sheet for the Quonset Hut so we can keep track of our belongings
- Revise Plant Sale map, location of activities

- Provide list of volunteers and their volunteer activities/assignments for the Plant Sale. Maybe put this at the AAMG Booth, if that gets located at the entrance area to the Sale.
- Maybe send email to each person who volunteered for Sale and Education Day, to remind them what they signed up for, in addition to list at AAMG Booth
- Cashier Assistants are critical, may need a different name for this activity, Pam R. suggests Human Calculators.
- Improve signage for plant categories and directional signs for the Plant Sale, need to replace old plant pot/concrete signs. Investigate cost of wooden signs, metal signs, and plastic signs. Request funds from RCMGA Board
- Cattle gate – have attendant there for specified hours to eliminate confusion and overcome challenges for those with mobility challenges. Ask for cattle gate to be left open during Plant Accepting and Pricing Days
- Consider staging entry into Plant Sale when we first open, to prevent massive line for cashiers at 9:30-10:00. For instance, Plant Sale opens at 9:00. However, we could have everything ready by 8:40, let 10 customers in at 8:40, 10 more in at 8:50, and the remainder in at 9:00

Potential Plant Sale Lay-out (Thanks to Pam Robinson!)

Volunteer Parking is to right of Plant Sale site, if looking from entrance

Children's Garden



2026 Plant Sale Promotions & Communications Calendar

March 2026

Green type indicates completed activity

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Plant Sale Posted on the Website Plant Sale Membership Pages Created	2	3	4	5 Plant Sale Flyer (pdf) listed on the Website	6 Plant Sale Listed on Event Sites (COLA Today, WIS, WOLO, Eventbrite, Free Times, Columbia Metropolitan Magazine) Submitted flyer to be included in the next SC	7
8	9 First Weekly Plant Sale Update Sent Flyer available at the Extension Office Emailed Garden Clubs and other MG Associations with flyer	10 Contacted WIS – Soda City Live Date Set Setting up Victory Garden Demo Date	11 Contact TV stations for personal appearance on local tv shows	12	13 Poster and Flyers posted at the Home & Garden Show	14 Poster and Flyers posted at the Home & Garden Show
15 Poster and Flyers posted at the Home & Garden Show Monthly DIGEST mailed with plant sale	16	17	18 Created Facebook Event Posted event on UpcomingEvents.com	19	20 Plant Sale Update sent to membership	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Plant Sale Update sent to membership	31				

April 2026

Green type indicates completed activity

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Save the Date Instagram & Facebook Press Release sent to media, etc.	2	3 Instagram & Facebook Posts Plant sale included in SC Master Gardener Newsletter	4
5 Plant Sale Update sent to membership	6 Instagram & Facebook Posts	7 Printed flyers available for membership at membership meeting	8 Instagram & Facebook Posts 2:45 p.m. Soda City Live Interview – Robin & Val	9	10 Instagram & Facebook Posts	11
12 Monthly DIGEST sent with plant sale information	13 Instagram & Facebook Posts	14	15 Instagram & Facebook Posts WIS – Segment 1 – General Tour, Children’s Garden Interview Segments WIS – Segment 2 – Small Space Gardening - Lawrence WIS – Segment 3 – Container Gardening - Linda Bradley	16	17 Instagram & Facebook Posts	18
19 Plant Sale Update sent to membership	20 Instagram & Facebook Posts	21	22 Instagram & Facebook Posts	23 Instagram & Facebook Posts Soda City Live Interview Replay	24 PLANT SALE Instagram & Facebook Posts	25

RCMG Plant Sale 2026

Press Release Contacts/Phone Calls/Event Listings

Organization		Contact Info	Method
Media Outlets			
Carolina Panorama		2346B Two Notch Road Columbia, SC 29204 Phone: 803-256-4015 Email: News@CarolinaPanorama.com https://www.carolinapanorama.com/news/	• Press Release
Free Times	✓	free-times.com 2101 Gervais Street Columbia, SC 29204. Phone: 803-765-0707. Email: webmaster@free-times.com	• Website Event Listing • Link to Free-Times Listing • Press Release
WOLO	✓	https://www.abccolumbia.com/local-events/ WOLO TV 1747 Cushman Drive Columbia, SC 29204 Phone: (803) 735-9605 News E-mail: news@abccolumbia.com	• Website Event Listing • Press Release/Phone Call
WIS	✓	https://www.wistv.com/community/calendar/ countonwis@wistv.com	• Website Event Listing • Isha sent a personal email requesting to be on Soda City Live • Press Release/Phone Call
WLTX/ColaToday	✓	https://colatoday.6amcity.com/events#/ btaylor@wltx.com or RRipp1@wltx.com	• Website Event Listing • Link to Cola Today Website Event Listing • SAME AS FREE TIMES • Press Release/Phone Call
WACH Fox		Send All Press Releases To: news@wach.com Media Inquiries: mediainquiries@sbgvtv.com 1400 Pickens Street, Suite 600 Columbia, SC 29201 Main Phone: 803.252.5757	• Press Release/Phone Call
State Newspaper		Contact? https://www.thestate.com/news/sunbmit-news/	• Press Release/Phone Call

RCMG Plant Sale 2026

Press Release Contacts/Phone Calls/Event Listings

The Voice of Blythewood & Fairfield County		Contact us: (803) 767-5711 P.O. Box 675, Blythewood, SC 29016 info@blythewoodonline.com	- Website Event Listing – could not figure out how to submit an event online - Press Release/Phone Call
Columbia Metropolitan Magazine Events Listing Online	✓	Columbia Metropolitan Magazine 3920 Forest Drive, Suite A Columbia, SC 29204 (803) 787-6501 Mailing address: PO Box 6666 Columbia, SC 29260 Email Henry Clay, Publisher: henry@columbiаметro.com Press Releases: pressreleases@columbiаметro.com	- Website Event Listing (<i>submitted 3/20/25</i>) - Press Release/Phone Call
Columbia Star		pams@thecolumbiastar.com P.O. Box 5955 Columbia, SC 29250 (803) 771-0219	Press Release/Phone Call
Columbia Chamber of Commerce		(803) 733.1110 1225 Lady Street, #100 Columbia, SC 29201	
Eventbrite	✓	https://www.eventbrite.com/b/sc--columbia/community/	
Upcoming Events.com	✓	upcomingevents.com	Linked with other event sites

Organization	Contact Info	Method
Other		
Columbia Green	Jennifer Young Columbia Green President 803-608-1834 JenniferYoung@columbiagreen.org	Monthly e-Newsletter
Native Plant Society	PO Box 20798 Charleston, SC 29413 Midlands Chapter President mnpresident@gmail.com Don McInnis	Monthly e-Newsletter to Members

RCMG Plant Sale 2026

Press Release Contacts/Phone Calls/Event Listings

Organization	Contact Info	Method
Other		
Neighborhood Newsletters	Individual RCMGA Members	• Event Listing/Flyer Posted
The Lourie Center	Lala to contact 1650 Park Circle Columbia, SC 29201 Phone // (803) 252-7734	• Event Listing/Flyer
Historic Columbia	https://www.historiccolumbia.org/ (803) 252-7742	•
SC Wildlife Federation	https://scwf.squarespace.com/ (803) 256-0670 General Email Inquiries - mail@scwf.org	• Email/Flyer
Dutch Fork Middle School	803-476-4800	•
Heathwood Hall	803.765.2309	•
Hammond	(803)-776-0295	•
The Other Store	(803) 787-4351	• Post a flyer

Garden Clubs	Contact Information
Garden Club Council	gardenclubofsc@gmail.com
Bay Blossom Garden Club	robinsdbkk@gmail.com alicetubley@icloud.com
Blythewood Garden Club	MKelly@blythewoodhistoricalsociety.org
Coldstream Garden Club	deborah.marowitz@gmail.com watsvm@gmail.com
Gay Gardeners	maryellenbarnwell@gmail.com
Hunting Creek Garden Club	bobbie.sonefeld@bwe.com
Iris Garden Club	ejtr850@gmail.com
Lilac Garden Club	pamelliott83@gmail.com pamh123@aol.com
Mimosa Garden Club	jpundt@sc.rr.com
Garden Club of South Carolina	gardenclubofsc@gmail.com
Garden Club of Aiken	https://thegardenclubofaiken.com/contact/
Petal Pushers	ssmith1951@sc.rr.com
Pine	pchapman@gmail.com

RCMG Plant Sale 2026

Press Release Contacts/Phone Calls/Event Listings

Quail Hollow	smoaksmom@gmail.com
Quail Valley	marion.haas@pm.me
Spring Valley	pjani1106@gmail.com
Whitehall	njmillerct@gmail.com
Lexington County	info!c!garden@gmail.com
Other Organizations	
Butterfly Monarchy Club	butterflymonarchyclub@gmail.com
Asia Cultural Society	linkosc@gmail.com
Mid Carolina Camellia Society	johnrobertsmaker@yahoo.com jlf_nos@hotmail.com
Dimensions In Art Study Club	pata@wctel.net
Mid Carolina Daylily Society	beverlybb1976@gmail.com
Greater Rose Society	sjbhi@yahoo.com
Ikebana International Chp.182	spait01@gmail.com
Sc Iris Society	sjbhi@yahoo.com
Sc Orchid Society	Jester0711@aol.com
Crape Myrtle	Max_field@msn.com
Cola Audubon Soc	clayparker@hotmail.com
Cola Audubon	bradmobrien@gmail.com
Master Gardener Organizations	
Aiken Master Gardener Association	aikenmastergardeners.org/ aikenmga@gmail.com
Anderson County Master Gardener Association	www.facebook.com/ AndersonCounty MasterGardeners rmassey316@gmail.com
Master Gardeners of the Foothills	1956patricia@earthlink.net
Clarendon County Master Gardeners Association	kennethphelps216@gmail.com
Conway Area Master Gardeners Association	ebh163@aol.com
Darlington County Master Gardeners Association	www.facebook.com/Darlington MasterGardeners hlprescott2@aol.com
Fairfield County Master Gardeners	arice242@aol.com
Florence County Master Gardeners Association	www.facebook.com/FlorenceCounty MasterGardeners mastergardenerflosc@gmail.com

RCMG Plant Sale 2026

Press Release Contacts/Phone Calls/Event Listings

Grand Strand Master Gardeners Association	http://grandstrandmga.org/ info@smga@gmail.com
Greater Greenville Master Gardener Association	http://www.ggmga.org/ president@ggmga.org
Kershaw County Master Gardener Association	www.kcmga.com/ kershawmg@gmail.com
Lakelands Master Gardeners Association	www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/ missylowery@pobox.com
Laurens County Master Gardener Association	laurenscountymastergardeners.org/ pamoberg@gmail.com
Lexington County Master Gardener Volunteers	lexingtonmastergardeners.org/
Lowcountry Master Gardeners Association	lowcountrymga.org/ info@lcmgv.org victoriabergesen@gmail.com
Master Gardener Association of the Piedmont	www.facebook.com/MstrGrdnr/
Richland County Master Gardener Association	www.richlandmastergardeners.com/ rcmgapresident@gmail.com
Sumter County Master Gardener Association	www.facebook.com/Sumter MasterGardeners shuttersorshades@yahoo.com
Tri-County Master Gardeners Association	www.facebook.com/ tricountyclemsonextension 2marianbennett@gmail.com
Master Gardeners of York County	www.yorkmg.org/

This Friday, April 24, 2026

RICHLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS'

Annual **PLANT SALE**

and
COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY

PLANT LIST ON
OUR WEBSITE



9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

1 PECAN GROVE ROAD

CLEMSON SANDHILL RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER



April 24, 2026

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Save the Date

RICHLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS'

Annual
**PLANT
SALE**
and

COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 | 9 AM - 3 PM



Want to Learn How to Grow Your Own Food

A "Victory Garden," or a small-scale garden, turns a patch of dirt, a raised bed, or a container into a powerhouse of health and flavor.

Come learn more about our Victory Garden project and small-scale gardening at our Annual Plant Sale.

Or visit our website for more information.

www.richlandmastergardeners.com



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**FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026
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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 | 9 AM - 3 PM
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CLEMSON SANDHILL RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER

ANNUAL PLANT SALE APRIL 24, 2026



April 24, 2026

RICHLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS'

Annual PLANT SALE *and* COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY



FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 | 9 AM - 3 PM

**1 PECAN GROVE ROAD
CLEMSON SANDHILL RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER**



April 24, 2026

RICHLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS'

Annual **PLANT SALE** *and*

COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

1 PECAN GROVE ROAD
CLEMSON SANDHILL RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER



April 24, 2026

RICHLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS'

Annual
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and

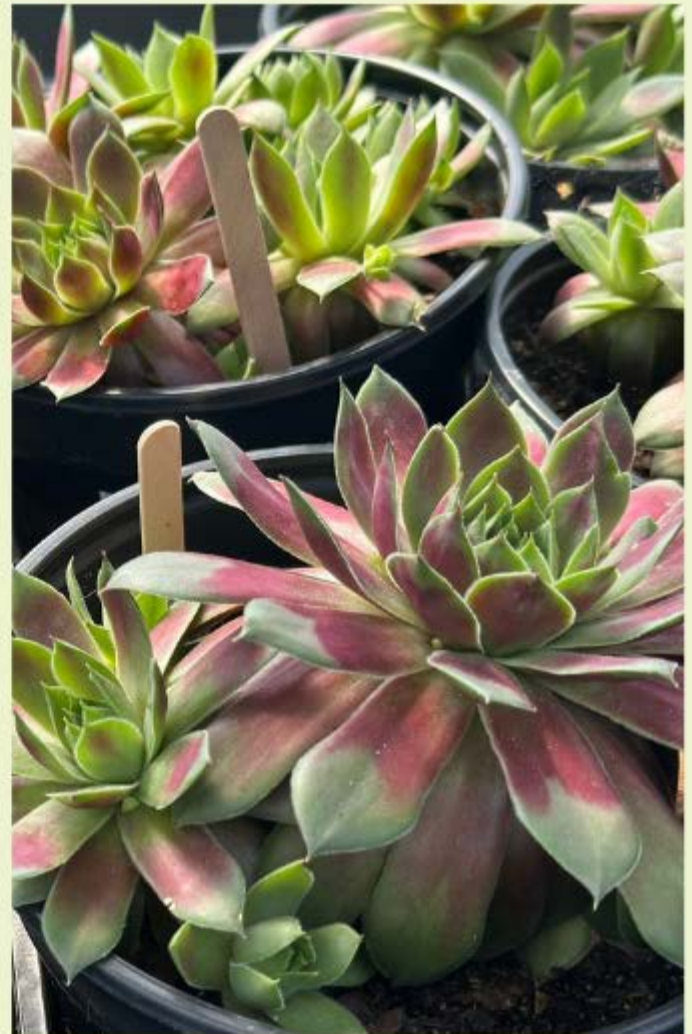
COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY

PLANT LIST ON OUR WEBSITE

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

1 PECAN GROVE ROAD

CLEMSON SANDHILL RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER



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April 24, 2026

RICHLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS'

Annual **PLANT SALE** *and*

**PLANT LIST ON
OUR WEBSITE**



COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY



FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 | 9 AM - 3 PM

1 PECAN GROVE ROAD CLEMSON SANDHILL RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER

FRI
24

April 24 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Richland County Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale & Community Education Day

Sandhill Research & Education Center 1 Pecan Grove, Columbia, SC, United States

Annual plant sale from the Richland Master Gardener Association includes annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, bulbs, vegetables, herbs, and houseplants....

Free



Ashburn

[Need to make some updates?](#)
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[Richland County Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale & Community Education Day](#)

By Richland Master Gardener Association
Follow

Sandhill Research and Education Center · Columbia, SC

Friday, Apr 24 from 9 am to 3 pm

Free
Fri, Apr 24 • 9 am

Reserve a spot

Overview

Annual plant sale includes annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, bulbs, vegetables, herbs, and houseplants.

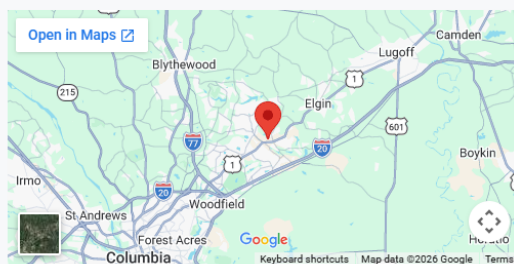


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Richland County Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale

Friday, April 24, 2026 , 9:00am-3:00pm

[Add to Calendar](#)

Location

[Clemson Sandhill Research & Education Center](#)

1 Pecan Grove

Columbia, SC

[Directions](#)

Price

Free

Description

Annual plant sale from the Richland Master Gardener Association includes annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, bulbs, vegetables, herbs, and houseplants. Proceeds benefit the RCMGA Scholarship Programs and Demonstration Projects. We will have our Ask-A-Master Gardener booth where you can ask your gardening questions. We will have a small gardening demonstration. And on a first come first serve basis, 25 customers will be provided with 10 vegetable and herb plants plus a selection of seeds to begin their own gardens. Instructions will be included and any questions answered to help you get started.

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Community Calendar

Events from Apr 24th

FREE Join Us Every Tuesday For **FREE**

FREE DINNER WITH THE ARK CHURCH

1230 SAINT ANDREWS RD
COLUMBIA, SC 29210
APOSTLE DEMARIO SAWYER, SR.

FREE 6PM TO 730 PM **FREE**

2025 Tue Dec 23rd 2025
6:00pm - Mon Jun 29th 2026
6:00pm

Free dinner every week for anyone

Free dinner for anyone to attend.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 9AM-3PM
The Richland County Master Gardener Association's

Annual PLANT SALE and COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY

1 PECAN GROVE ROAD @ CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
SANDHILL RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER

PROCEEDS BENEFIT RCMGA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, TREES & SHRUBS, BULBS, VEGETABLES, HERBS, AND HOUSEPLANTS.

Fri Apr 24th 9:00am - 3:00pm

Richland County Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale & Community Education Day

Annual plant sale from the

COCKY TROT 5K & FUN RUN/WALK
SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Sat Apr 25th 9:00am - 11:00am

2026 Cocky Trot 5K

Join us for the 5th annual Cocky Trot 5K & Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, April 25 at 9 a.m.! This spirited race will take participants through ...

Salem UMC Spring Bazaar Crafters, Artists & Small Businesses!

Saturday, April 25, from 9 am to 2 pm.

*Vendor Spots may still be available email FaithCircleSalemUMC@gmail.com

Sat Apr 25th 9:00am - 2:00pm

Salem UMC Annual Spring Bazaar

Get ready to enjoy the Salem UMC Spring Bazaar! This awesome in-person event is the perfect chance to browse unique finds, grab tasty ...

festival • arts-and-crafts • food • small-business

HORSE SENSE TACK & FEED

6TH ANNUAL SPRING

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Community Calendar

Richland County Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale & Community Education Day

Fri Apr 24th 9:00am - 3:00pm

plants • gardening • flowers • shrubs

Clemson Sandhill Research & Education Center, 1 Pecan Grove Road

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 9AM-3PM
The Richland County Master Gardener Association's

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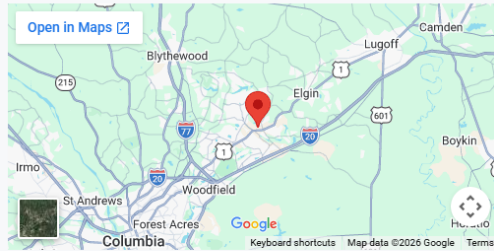
ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, TREES & SHRUBS, BULBS, VEGETABLES, HERBS, AND HOUSEPLANTS.

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calendar by Tockify



Events Calendar



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Richland County Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale

Friday, April 24, 2026 , 9:00am-3:00pm

[Add to Calendar](#)

Location

[Clemson Sandhill Research & Education Center](#)

1 Pecan Grove

Columbia, SC

8036032967

[Directions](#)

Price

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Description

Annual plant sale from the Richland Master Gardener Association includes annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, bulbs, vegetables, herbs, and houseplants. Proceeds benefit the RCMGA Scholarship Programs and Demonstration Projects. We will have our Ask-A-Master Gardener booth where you can ask your gardening questions. We will have a small gardening demonstration. And on a first come first serve basis, 25 customers will be provided with 10 vegetable and herb plants plus a selection of seeds to begin their own gardens. Instructions will be included and any questions answered to help you get started.

[Visit Event Website](#)



Free

Name	1 Pecan Grove Rd
Address	1 Pecan Grove Road
Town / City	Columbia
State / Province	South Carolina
Zip Code / Post Code	29229
Country	United States

24



Friday, April 24, 2026 at 9 AM - 3 PM

Annual Plant Sale

Clemson University Sandhills Research Center

Boost event

About Discussion

Invite Edit Share More

Details

- 1 person responded
- Event by Richland County Master Gardener Association SC
- Clemson University Sandhills Research Center
- Duration: 6 hr
- Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

Annual plant sale from the Richland Master Gardener Association includes annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, bulbs, vegetables, herbs, and houseplants. Proceeds benefit the RCMG... See more

Gardening Pontiac, South Carolina

Promote your event

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0 of 3 steps completed

- Start discussion
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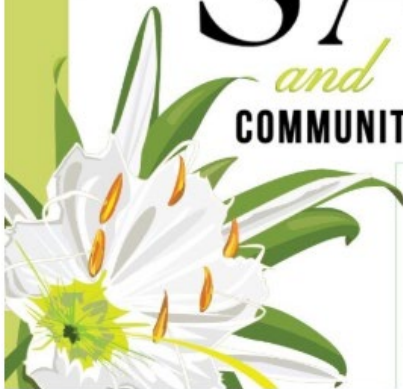
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SUBMIT AN EVENT

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 9AM-3PM

The Richland County Master Gardener Association's

Annual PLANT SALE and COMMUNITY EDUCATION DAY



1 PECAN GROVE ROAD @ CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
SANDHILL RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER

PROCEEDS BENEFIT RCMGA SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAMS AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, TREES & SHRUBS, BULBS,
VEGETABLES, HERBS, AND HOUSEPLANTS.

FOLLOW UPCOMING EVENTS



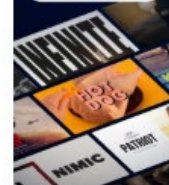
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ON

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FOR FREE



2026 Plant Sale Membership Update

Meet the Team

Chairman: Susan Wilson

Co-Chairs: Val Hutchinson, Robin McClellan

- **Logistics** (set up and tear down): Jim Hightower, Rich Byer
- **Ask A Master Gardener Booth:** Lawrence Haselden, Don McInnes
- **Volunteer Check-in/Hospitality:** Evelyn Abernathy, Mary Stover
- **Plant Donations:** Toni Goodwin, Regina Monteith
- **Pricing:** Sandy Watson, Susan Zourzoukis
- **Promotion/PR:** Kay Roman, Lala Bowman
- **Cashiers/Check Out:** Heidi McKinley, Cathy Beattie
- **Garden Treasures:** Debbie Thomas, Ed Lyons
- **Victory Garden:** Marilyn Hogan, Linda Bradley, Linda Olsen

Download a plant sale flier from the [website](#), and help us promote the event to the community.



All Things Plant Sale on the Website

You'll find everything you need to know about the plant sale on the [RCMGA website in the Members' Corner](#). (password: lilymg)

We'll be updating the information regularly so keep checking back for details. We will also be sending out a weekly update.

Plant Sale Details

Date: Friday, April 24, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Donation Dates: April 13, 15, 17, 20, & 22 from 9:00 am - 1:00 p.m.

Plant & Garden Treasures Donations:

Located in the Hoop House area behind the Children's Garden

You'll find an [updated calendar](#) on the RCMGA website in the Members' Corner. (password: lilymg)

Plant Donations

Begin preparing your plant donations now. The earlier you pot them, the better they will look for the sale. Plants should be potted, disease free, and not on the invasive species list. For more information, visit the [Plant Donations website page](#).

More information to come on labeling as we try to make that easier than ever.

Garden Treasures Donations

We're bringing back the Garden Treasures booth. Visit the [Garden Treasures at the Plant Sale website page](#) for a list of ideas of treasures you might donate. Get them out of the shed, clean them up and be ready to donate in April.



2026 Plant Sale Membership Update

Plan Where You'll Volunteer for the Plant Sale

We're gearing up for the Plant Sale and we need your help!

Soon you'll be receiving various Sign-up Genius emails for the many volunteer opportunities before and during the Plant Sale. You may sign up for as many activities, days, and shifts as your schedule allows.

This chart outlines where we need volunteers, so be on the lookout for the Sign-up Genius email with the area in which you want to volunteer.

Master Gardeners can record volunteer hours in the Clemson reporting system for any activity in which they participate. Master Gardener Interns are welcome to volunteer for any activity, but can count volunteer hours for certification purposes only for the activities indicated below.

Volunteer Area	Responsibilities	Dates & Shifts
Plant Donation Receiving	Accept plants, check for health, pots and/or labels, keep plant area tidy and plants watered until the sale.	April 13, 15, 17, 20, and 22 9:00 am - 1:00 pm <i>Master Gardeners & Interns</i>
Plant Pricing	Price plants once they have been received and cleared for sale.	April 13, 15, 17, 20, and 22 9:00 am - 1:00 pm <i>Master Gardeners & Interns</i>
Garden Treasures	Accept garden treasures. Prices items.	April 13, 15, 17, 20, and 22 9:00 am - 1:00 pm <i>Master Gardeners</i>
Plant Move	Move plants from the Hoop House area to the Plant sale area.	April 23 8-Noon <i>Master Gardeners</i>
Cashiers	Take payments from customers on the day of the sale or capture purchases for cashiers.	April 24 Shifts 8-11, 10:30-1, 1-4 <i>Master Gardeners</i>
Sales & Education	Assist customers during the sale in finding plants to meet their needs and explain care for the plants.	April 24 Shifts 8-11, 10:30-1, 1-4 <i>Master Gardeners & Interns</i>



See the website for up-to-date information on the Plant Sale behind the Members' Corner (password *lilymg*). Follow these links.

[Plant Sale Info](#)

[Plant Donations](#)

[Garden Treasures](#)

[Plant Sale Calendar](#)

2026 Plant Sale Membership Update

Plant Sale Calendar

Monday April 13	Tuesday April 14	Wednesday April 15	Thursday April 15	Friday April 16
Plant & Garden Treasures Donations 9:00 - 1:00		Plant & Garden Treasures Donations 9:00 - 1:00		Plant & Garden Treasures Donations 9:00 - 1:00
Monday April 20	Tuesday April 21	Wednesday April 22	Thursday April 23	Friday April 24
Plant & Garden Treasures Donations 9:00 - 1:00		Plant & Garden Treasures Donations 9:00 - 1:00	Move Plants from Hoop House 8:00 - Noon	Receive Flowers from Old Turtle Pond Farm 7:30
Victory Garden Seedlings Donations 9:00 - 1:00		Victory Garden Seedling Donations 9:00 - 1:00	Master Gardeners shop Garden Treasures 1:00 - 3:00	Move remaining Garden Treasures 8:00
		Set up tents and tables. Time TBD		Sale Starts 9:00
				Gate Closes 3:00
				Tear down 3:30 - 4:30

Plant Donations

Begin preparing your plant donations now. The earlier you pot them, the better they will look for the sale. Plants should be potted, disease free, and not on the invasive species list. For more information, visit the [Plant Donations](#) website page.

Empty pots are available for your plant donations and can be picked up during work day hours behind the hoop house.

Garden Treasures Donations

Visit the [Garden Treasures at the Plant Sale website page](#) for a list of ideas of treasures you might donate. Get them out of the shed, clean them up and be ready to donate in April.

Victory Garden Seedlings

Keep those seedlings watered and fertilized so they will be ready for drop off on Monday, April 20 and Wednesday, April 22 from 9:00 to 1:00 in the Hoop House behind the Children's Garden. If you have questions, contact Marilyn Hogan, 803-360-3647, or mdhogan23@gmail.com.



2026 Plant Sale Membership Update

Sign Up for Your Plant Sale Shifts

We have had a great response to all the volunteer opportunities for this year's Plant Sale. If you signed up already, thanks so much! If you are still thinking about signing up, we welcome your help. The Plant Sale supports our RCMGA mission – we provide beautiful plants for community members at a reasonable price, we educate them on gardening topics, and we generate income for our scholarship program.

Click on the links below to access SignUpGenius for each of the areas in which volunteers will be needed.

<u>PLANT DONATION RECEIVING</u>	<u>SET UP AND TEAR DOWN</u>
<u>PLANT DONATION PRICING</u>	<u>PLANT MOVERS DAY BEFORE SALE</u>
<u>GARDEN TREASURES</u>	<u>CASHIERS AND ASSISTANTS</u>
<u>SALES & EDUCATION DAY OF SALE</u>	<u>ASK-A-MASTER GARDENER BOOTH</u>

If SignUpGenius is giving you a challenge, we will be happy to assist. Simply email Susan Wilson, susanlwwilson@hotmail.com with your name, the Plant Sale activity, and the time slot you desire. She will enter your name as a volunteer, and send an email via SignUpGenius, so you can put it on your calendar.

Help with Labelling Your Plant Donations

Labeling your plants is critical to help us organize and place the plants correctly for the sale.

To help you label your plants, we have new informational documents on the website on the [Plant Donations page](#).

We have one document that includes a [complete list of the plants](#). Then we have multiple documents broken down by category. Each of these documents includes common names, scientific names, whether plant is native, plant category, and other critical information.

To find these documents, go to Member's Corner (password is lilymg), click on the [Plant Donations](#) button, and then click on the document you want. You also will find the [Invasive Species](#) list on this page.



Victory Garden Reminders from Marilyn Hogan

I hope you all are doing great with your seedlings. I've enjoyed seeing pictures and answering your questions. Here are a couple of reminders:

- Lettuce seeds should be sown by now.
- Start hardening off all other plants.

You can move them outside to a part sunny location during the daylight hours. Since we're having such nice weather, I've moved mine outside day and night. I also started the lettuce seeds outside. My house sits facing south so they get nice light and my concrete porch keeps them warm. I do have a tree that blocks the late hot afternoon sun.

- Don't forget to fertilize and keep them growing.
- I will provide instructions on labeling in the next newsletter.



**We will start accepting the seedlings
Monday, April 20 and again on
Wednesday, April 22.**

More Help for Labeling Your Plants

Following is more help for labeling your plants for the sale. More information is found on the website [here](#).

If you have a printer, click here for a [Word Document 2026 Plant Label for Printers](#) to use as an example for your labels.

If you do not have a printer, but have a computer, a flash drive, and a Richland County library card, type your labels as shown above and load them onto a flash drive and take the flash drive to your Richland Library branch, and print copies at the library.

If you do not have a computer, printer, or library card, etc., at the April meeting, we will have hard copies of a document that can be used to easily handwrite your plant information.

We will also have copies you can use in the Hoop House area where we will be receiving plant donations on April 13, 15, 17, 20, and 22.

We will have a labeling station with a table, chairs, permanent markers and heavy-duty packaging tape available for your use.

Help us Promote the Plant Sale
Download a [Flyer](#) to Send by Email or Print and Distribute
We will have printed copies at the April meeting.



LAST 2026 Plant Sale Membership Update

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
20	21	22	23	24
DROP OFF DAY		DROP OFF DAY	PLANT MOVE	PLANT SALE
9:00 am to 1:00 pm Drop off plants and Garden Treasures behind the Children's Garden near the Hoop House. Drop off Victory Garden Seedlings		9:00 am to 1:00 pm Drop off plants and Garden Treasures behind the Children's Garden near the Hoop House. Drop off Victory Garden Seedlings SET-UP 10:00 am to 2 pm Logistics moves tents and tables to site and sets up. Inspector assesses plants.	8:00 am to Noon Move Plants from Hoop House to Sale Area MG GARDEN TREASURES SALE 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Master Gardeners & Interns shop Garden Treasures	7:30 am The Old Turtle Pond plants delivered 8:00 Move remaining Garden Treasures 9:00 am Plant sale opens to the public. 3:00 pm Gate Closes 3:30 to 4:30 pm Tear Down

IMPORTANT CLEMSON PROPERTY ENTRANCE INFORMATION

GATE CODE 8254

After entering the property, proceed to the Children's Garden.
The cattle gates will be closed, but not locked. Please remove the chain, enter, and then close the gates and drape the chain.

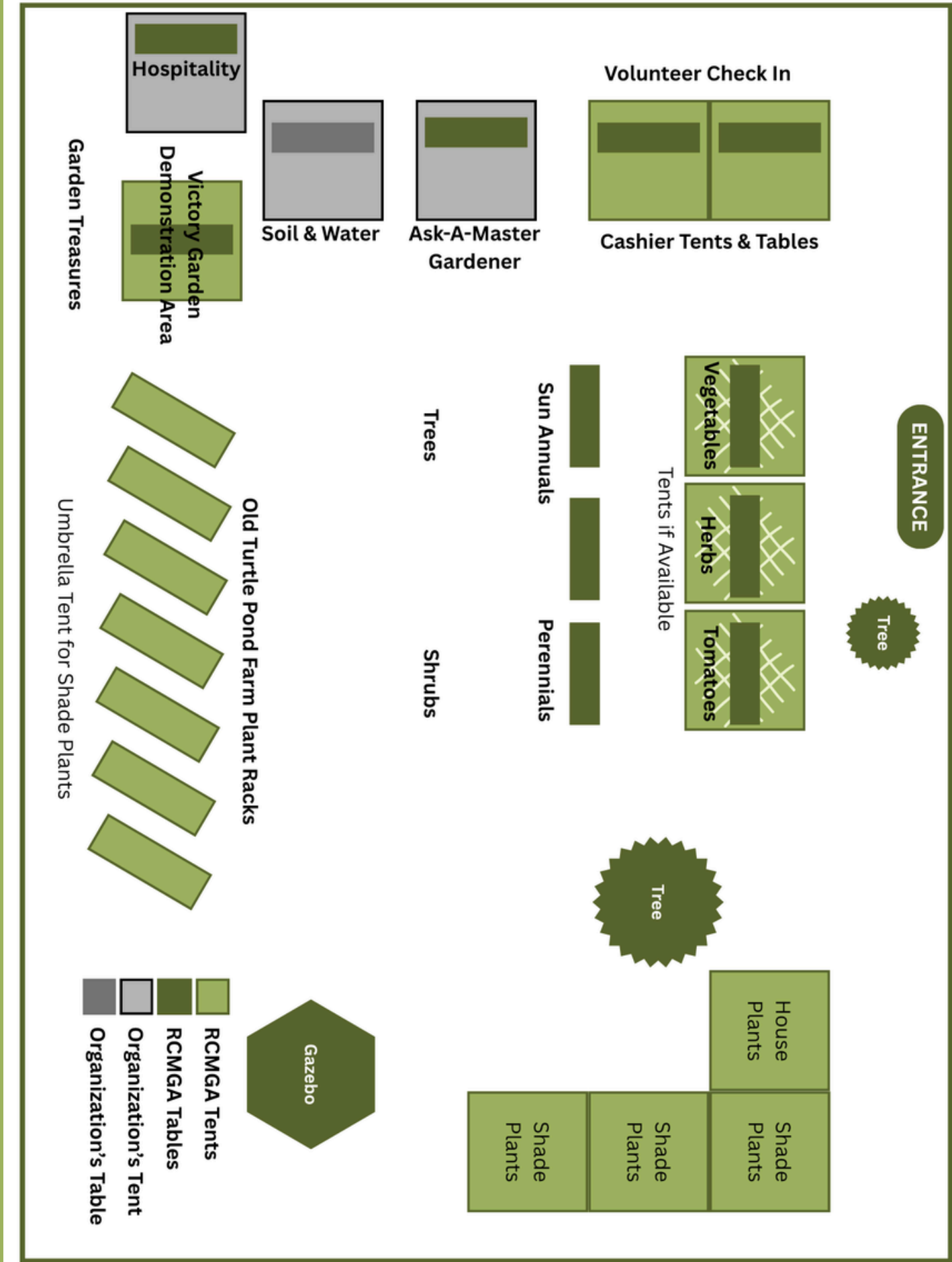
VOLUNTEER CHECKLIST

- ☐ Comfortable clothes
- ☐ Comfortable shoes
- ☐ Sunscreen & Bug Spray
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Hat & Sunglasses
- ☐ Water



ALL THINGS PLANT SALE ON THE WEBSITE

You'll find everything you need to know about the plant sale on the RCMGA website in the Members' Corner. (password: lilymg)



Small-Scale Gardening

Small-scale gardening turns a patch of dirt, raised bed, or pot into a powerhouse of health and flavor.

By growing your own vegetables and herbs, you gain instant access to produce that is significantly more nutrient-dense and flavorful than store-bought options.

Small-scale gardening consists of a few simple steps. See the information below for details to help you create your home garden. Follow the QR codes for even more information from the Clemson Home & Garden Information Center.



Build a raised bed

Begin with the construction of a 4-foot x 4-foot raised bed. Follow the QR code for more information and information on alternate-sized beds.



Fill with appropriate growing medium

Line the bottom of the raised bed with cardboard for weed control and fill with growing medium. Consider using a commercial raised bed planting mix or see information regarding soil mixture. Lasagna gardening is another option.



Plot your grid to your garden scale

Mark the grid by measuring at 1, 2, and 3-foot intervals along the frame in one direction and then again in a perpendicular direction.



Select, organize, and plant at the proper time

Diagram & organize plantings by type and proper planting time. If planting a vegetable that climbs, place a trellis at the north side of the raised bed and orient those crops in that location. Now plant!



Maintain your garden by fertilizing and watering

Fertilize plants according to a soil test report as needed. Irrigate as needed, and use a rain gauge to monitor rainfall.



Harvest

Enjoy the fresh foods from your garden by harvesting at the right time of day. Eat or preserve your harvest through canning, drying, or freezing.



RICHLAND COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

www.richlandmastergardeners.com