

BCMGA Plant Sale: Frequently Asked Questions---and Answers!

When is the sale? Always the first Saturday of May.

When should I get there? There is a rush at the beginning. By 8:30 usually more than 50 people are in line. By 9:00 when we open, there are usually several hundred divided between the Solar Building and the Floral Courtyard venues. In the first hour nearly a thousand shoppers come through the doors.

If you want to avoid crowds, it calms down about 10:00, as many have shopped and left. There are still plenty of great plants left.

What veg do you have? You will find these in the Floral Courtyard. We grow a few standard veg varieties, but we mostly have varieties not frequently available locally, all grown from seed. Varieties are chosen based on our trials. We have tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, tomatillos, squash (and more) as well as herbs. This inventory will be posted on our web site a week or two before the sale date. Most of the veg starts sell out by 11:00. We also offer some perennial edible plants such as grapes, figs, strawberries, and more. Fruit trees are in the Solar Building with other trees.

Are there native plants? We have a wide variety of native perennials, annuals, shrubs and trees in the Solar Barn. There are over 100 different species, totaling about 2000 pots. Included are all 10 of the plants OSU considers best for local pollinators. Our inventory changes depending upon what plants are ready to go at sale time, so we do not publish the inventory. As interest in native plants is currently high, they sell quickly.

What landscape plants? Perennials for sun and shade, vines, shrubs and trees--about 5000 plants fill the Solar Barn. Our inventory changes depending upon what plants are ready to go at sale time, so we do not publish the inventory. We will have 20 or more of some plants but only a couple of pots of others.

What houseplants? We have a small section of houseplants, changing every year.

Should I bring a wagon? Please don't. The space is crowded early on, and we are concerned about safety. We also discourage strollers when the space is crowded. Absolutely no dogs. We have a Holding Area where you can securely stash your armload of selected plants and then keep shopping. When you are ready to check out, you'll be able to drive to the Holding Area, and we'll help load them. We provide lots of boxes for carrying while you shop. If you are physically challenged, let us know a week ahead and we can arrange to have one of our youth volunteers help you carry plants while you shop.

Will it be very crowded? It is crowded for the first hour. We now rent both the Solar Building (landscape and native plants) and the Floral Courtyard (veg, herbs and other edibles), which has helped spread out the crowd. It opens up quite a bit after 10:00.

If I come later, can I get plants? After the first hour, the crowd thins out. Some plants may be sold out, but there are still many good plants available. The veg and herb starts and the native plants have a more limited selection by 10:30. We close from 12:30 to 1:00 to prepare for the half-price sale, which starts at 1:00.

Can someone advise me? Expert MGs are in every section to help you choose plants appropriate for your situation. Clinic table MGs in each building can answer general gardening questions and help with planting advice.

Can I donate plants? Thank you for offering. If we know by early April, we can accept healthy houseplants. We might share extra plants with other non-profits.

Where can I recycle pots? We can sanitize and reuse gallon pots and larger. You can leave them neatly stacked behind the yellow shed in our Demonstration Garden at the south end of the Fairgrounds. However, for the smaller pots, if it makes a crinkle sound when you squeeze it, we cannot reuse them; Habitat Re-Store will often take them, though, if neatly stacked.

Can I order plants? Sorry, no. We don't have enough volunteers to provide that service.

Can someone help load plants? Yes, we have youth volunteers who can do that. And the Holding Area always does help load plants stored there.

For answers to any other questions, contact the Plant Sale staff at bcmgplantsale@gmail.com.