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News Release

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Release Date: December 17, 2008

Monster Tomato and Pepper Sale Returns to the Fullerton Arboretum, March 19-22, 2009

(Fullerton, CA) – The Fullerton Arboretum will be hosting its annual “Monster Tomato and Pepper Sale” at The Potting Shed, located on the grounds of the Arboretum, March 19-22, 2009. This is the largest annual plant sale in the region focusing exclusively on tomato and pepper plants.

Over 200 varieties of tomato plants will be for sale this year, including every size from currant to beefsteak and every color from white to black. Featured tomatoes include **Applause Hybrid**, an early maturing variety with a compact plant size and huge fruit with excellent flavor. These mouth watering treats are 8 to 12 oz. each, with a fresh, delicious taste. Exceptional yields can be expected and these plants are great for containers. Look for the **Earl of Edgecombe** variety. When the 7th Earl of Edgecombe traveled from New Zealand to England to claim his title, he brought this tomato with him. The smooth, great tasting, 3 to 4 inch round, uniformly ripening fruits are beautiful yellow-orange globes, typically borne in clusters of two or more. The fruit is defect free, and resistant to cracking, blossom end rot, and fruit diseases.

Another featured tomato is the **Sunset Red Horizon**. This outstanding heirloom tomato, named by tomato grower Gary Ibsen, for Sunset Magazine in 2003, is a native to Southern Russia. It features huge red, 4 to 6-inch meaty, heart-shaped fruit on big leafy plants. This variety is one of the first to produce. The delicious fruit has an excellent old world tomato flavor.

Over 90 varieties of peppers will be available this year; however the special featured pepper is the **Bhut Jolokia**. The rare Bhut Jolokia is the world's hottest chili and also known as Naga Jolokia or Ghost Chili. Bhut Jolokia is a deadly hot pepper and the Guinness World Record holder with an official Scoville heat rating of 1,001,304, blasting the previous record holder, the Red Savina Chili. This fiercely hot chili pepper grows primarily in Bangladesh and also in northeastern India and has just become scarcely available in the United States.

All tomatoes and peppers for this sale were carefully propagated and organically grown exclusively in the Arboretum nursery by skilled volunteers. Proceeds from this annual sale benefit the Fullerton Arboretum. Sales hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day and admission is free. A complete listing of all tomatoes and peppers available for sale can be found at www.fullertonarboretum.org.

Established in 1979, the Fullerton Arboretum has served the community as a premier resource for ecological, horticultural and historical education. The Fullerton Arboretum is the largest botanical garden in Orange County. Encompassing 26 lush acres, The Fullerton Arboretum has assembled a permanent collection of over 4,000 unique and unusual plant species from around the world. With its ponds, streams and wildlife, the Fullerton Arboretum offers a tranquil retreat from a fast-paced urban life.

The Fullerton Arboretum is located on the CSUF campus one block west of the 57 freeway at Yorba Linda Blvd. and Associated Road. For further information, contact the Fullerton Arboretum at (714) 278-3407 or visit our website at www.fullertonarboretum.org.

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