



The Friends of The Fullerton Arboretum

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News Release

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Monster Tomato and Pepper Sale Returns to the Fullerton Arboretum, March 13-16, 2008

(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 13-16, 2008. This is the largest annual plant sale in the local area focusing exclusively on tomatoes and peppers.

Over 200 varieties of tomato plants will be on sale this year, including every size from currant to beefsteak and every color from white to black. Featured varieties include **Big Zac Hybrid**, a prize winner bred by Minnie Zaccaria, a New Jersey gardener who tirelessly sought the perfect disease resistant cross-pollination of two heirlooms, finally creating this enormous tomato with fruits that repeatedly tip the scales at an amazing 4 to 6 lbs. Also available will be **Sweet Chelsea VFNT**, which is a large plant that yields high numbers of exceptionally early, super-sweet, tender-skinned fruits. Vines boast as many as 10 clusters of fruit at one time, each with 15 to 20 large cherries, 1 to 1-1/2" in diameter. Look for **Cherokee Chocolate**, which is a stabilized version of Cherokee Purple and produces 10 to 16oz. mahogany colored fruits. **Cherokee Chocolate** has excellent flavor and vigorous

plants produce large harvests of very beautiful fruit. Also featured will be **Margherita VF Hybrid**, which is elongated, with 5 to 6 ounce fruits that ripen uniformly, with polished, bright red exteriors, thin skins and juicy. This variety is tasty enough for fresh eating, but really comes into its own when roasted or broiled.

The pepper and chili selection will be huge this year with over 90 varieties of hot and sweet peppers. Featured will be the **Holy Mole'**, a hot 2007 All American Selection Winner and the first hybrid pasilla pepper. Best known for its distinctive nutty and spicy flavor in mole sauce, Holy Mole bears 7 to 9 inch long peppers that start out green and mature to a dark chocolate color. Also look for **Purple Beauty**, a sweet, rarely seen pepper that produces beautiful blocky, 3" by 3" emerald-green peppers that mature to eggplant-purple with thick, crunchy walls. These compact, 18" disease-resistant plants provide good foliage cover for the tasty, sweet fruit, and produce abundantly on each limb as well as on the crown.

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.

Sale hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day during the sale and admission is free. A complete listing of all tomatoes and peppers available for sale can be found on the Arboretum website at www.arboretum.fullerton.edu. The Fullerton Arboretum is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

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.

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