

2019 Monsoon Madness Plant and Yard Sale – Guidelines

Plants

- Just about any plants are accepted (perennials, herbs, annuals, houseplants, succulents, trees, **except for: pampas grass, scotch broom, Russian sage, Spanish broom and Mexican feather grass** due to aggressive growth habits. It will be too late to sell vegetables, unless it is something like a patio tomato (e.g. small, growing in a pot and producing). If you have a question about a specific plant donation contact Cathy Michener, caasam@cablone.net .
- **Pots** – Be sure to sanitize re-used pots before planting. You can wash with a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water. Also, remove all plant labels (bar codes, prices, plant names, etc.) or line through them.
- **Potting** - When potting plants, don't put rocks or chard in the bottom of the pot; you can cover the drainage hole with a piece of newspaper, coffee filter, or window screen.
- **Roots** - Plants should be established (i.e. have some anchoring roots) in their pots before the sale, so pot transplants, cuttings or seedlings as soon as possible.
- **Soil** - Use an appropriate planting mix, e.g. do not plant transplants or cuttings in pure mulch or native soil. If you are donating established landscape plants, like natives, and you do use native soil, be sure it is not from an area with soil-borne diseases.
- **Plant Density** - Make the pots look nice and full, e.g. instead of putting 1 cutting in a 3" pot, put 2 to 3 cuttings in the pot.
- **Plant Names** - If you don't know the names of the plants try to get an id before you bring the plants to the sale – it is really difficult to identify a lot of plants at the last minute. If you can't identify the plant, provide some information about the plant.
- **Plant Labels** - Please label all plants before bringing them to the sale. You may use craft sticks, and if you write with a fine point sharpie it will hold up when plants are watered and will be dark enough to read. Each label should contain the common name, scientific name, and the flower color if appropriate. Craft sticks will be available in both Extension offices.
- **Plant Photo** – If possible, provide a photo of the plant/flower. This is especially important for plants that can have different color flowers, e.g. day lilies. Iris, etc.
- **Water** - Water plants well before bringing them to the sale – perhaps the night before so they are not dripping. More details about the date/times to bring merchandise for the sale will be provided later.
- **"Plant sitters"**: Sometimes MGs who have plants for the sale go on vacation and need someone to take care of their plants for a short period of time. If you are available to do so, contact Cathy Michener, caasam@cablone.net .

Non-plant Donations

- We need yard and garden items, any kind of tools, pots, etc. If the item is high end (e.g. tiller) it is helpful if you provide the original price. Power tools, fountains, etc. should be functioning - have all parts bound together and labeled as “working” – be sure to test them at home first. Remove gas before donating. Think about it from the buyer’s perspective – if there are some obvious questions they will ask, it is helpful if you attach some written words with those answers.
- Pots must be clean and without cracks.
- No household items; no chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, opened bird seed.
- If you need help storing merchandise between now and July, please contact Cathy Michener – caasam@cablone.net ; if Cathy says to leave items at the Extension office please put your name on them so we know the source. If you can collect and/or store items for the sale, please let Cathy know. Also need people who can store items in Sedona and Verde areas.

Please send a list of items you plan to donate to Cathy Michener caasam@cablone.net (this includes plants; plant names are especially important.) If you don’t know for sure that the items will be donated, send the info anyway. It will be used to check retail prices and to print plant information sheets.

We will need a lot of shallow boxes, like the type you find at Costco. Please start collecting them.

Thank you for your efforts to help make this a very successful event. It is our only source of revenue to support our educational efforts in the community.

The Monsoon Madness Planning Committee