

While it can be very tempting to buy the pretty plants that are on display at local supermarkets and hardware stores, it is important to know what you are buying and to ask questions. Remember that Tuolumne County faces cold winters, dry summers, hungry deer, and drought (although we hope it is ending!). Do your research and avoid wasting money on plants that won't survive in our area. Be aware also that many of these catchy plants are "annuals". These are beautiful and tend to produce more flowers than "perennials", but they must be replanted each year. It comes down to what you are looking for. For looks, buy annuals; for low maintenance, get perennials.

Plants are classified by zone. The lower the number, the colder temperatures they can handle. We consider Sonora to be zone 7. Though it is rare, Sonora can reach temperatures in the teens, so it is best to be on the safe side. If you want your plant to be a perennial (comes back each year), you should check the tag or google the plant name for the zone. A plant that is listed for zones 5-8, for example, is fine because 7 is in the range. A plant listed for zones 9-11 would likely not survive winter in Sonora.

Go to https://www.solomonsgardens.net/quiz to be matched with plants for your space. All of the results are plants that thrive in our climate and are usually available at Solomon's Gardens!