

NoCo Bloom

EARLY SPRING 2017



TREMENDOUS
trees

EDIBLES:
THE SEASON
FOR NEW
SEEDS

LOWER YOUR
SUMMER
**WATER
BILL**

TONY'S TURF
TIPS ON
**TREE-FRIENDLY
LAWNCARE**



Colorado State University
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
301 University Ave.
Fort Collins CO 80523-1173
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CSU Extension in Larimer County
1525 Blue Spruce Dr.
Fort Collins, CO 80524-2004
970-498-6000
larimer.org/ext



The Gardens on Spring Creek
and City of Fort Collins
2145 Centre Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80526
970-416-2486
fcgov.com/gardens

NoCo Bloom

Please note: If you are a gardener needing help and live in Weld County, visit the Weld Extension Office at weldgov.com/departments/csu_extension or call directly to 970-400-2066 for assistance.

We want to hear from you! For inquiries, please contact Korrie Johnston (kjohnston@fcgov.com) at the Gardens on Spring Creek.

Hello Fellow Gardeners!

As we begin to emerge from a cold, snowy winter, we are excited for the 2017 gardening season and another year of *NoCo Bloom!* This year, we are pleased to offer a bigger and brighter edition to bring you more relevant, local gardening content throughout the growing season. We have added new sections featuring edibles, water conservation, and Plant Select®. Reader favorites including turf tips, master gardener tips, and the garden calendar continue.

Brought to you by Colorado State University's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, the Gardens on Spring Creek, and CSU Extension in Larimer County, *NoCo Bloom* is a free guide for all things gardening in northern Colorado. Find us at nurseries and community centers in March, May, July and September.

Early spring is a great time to examine the role trees play in your garden and overall landscape. This issue takes a look at all things trees with a focus on some of our recommended favorites.

Dr. Jessica G. Davis
HLA Department Head
Colorado State University

Dr. Alison O'Connor
Horticulture Extension Agent
CSU Extension in Larimer County

Michelle Provaznik
Executive Director
The Gardens on Spring Creek



RUSSIAN HAWTHORN

march events

FORT COLLINS

Mar 11 - Compost: Buying It, Making It, Using It. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

Mar 11 - Growing Roses in Colorado. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$18. fcgov.com/gardens

Mar 11 - Design and Plant a Succulent Trio. Gulley Greenhouse, 6029 S. Shields St. \$30 reservation recommended. gulleygreenhouse.com

Mar 11 - Winter Market. Opera Galleria, 123 N. College Ave. Free admittance. nocofood.org/winter-market

Mar 15 - Build a Birdhouse. Gulley Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. \$15 reservation recommended. gulleygreenhouse.com

Mar 16 - Webinar: Native Plants for Every Landscape Situation. CSU Extension Native Plant Master Program. \$15 with reservation. eventbrite.com

Mar 18 - Seed Starting Made Simple. Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave. \$18. fcgov.com/gardens

Mar 18 - Digital Photography in the Gardens. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$40. fcgov.com/gardens

Mar 18 - Zwei Brewery with Kirk Lombardi. Gulley Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. \$15 reservation recommended. gulleygreenhouse.com

Mar 19 - Fairy Gardening Class. Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$40. fortcollinsnursery.com

Mar 25 - Grow Your Own Veggies. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$18. fcgov.com/gardens

Mar 25 - Scrupys Hard Cider Bar with Jen Seiwald. Gulley Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. \$15 reservation recommended. gulleygreenhouse.com

Mar 25 - Winter Market. Opera Galleria. 123 N. College Ave. Free admittance. nocofood.org/winter-market

Mar 27 - Gardening with Rain Barrels. Fort Collins Senior Center. 1200 Raintree Dr. \$10 register at 970-221-6655. fcgov.com/recreation/seniorcenter

Mar 31 - April 2 - Art in Bloom. Bath Garden Center. 2000 E. Prospect Rd. Free. bathgardencenter.com/whats-new/events

Mar 31 - April 2 - Perennial Padooza Sale. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free admittance. fortcollinsnursery.com



Plant Select® Trees

Beth Thiret, CSU Extension Master Gardener in Larimer County

Growing trees in Colorado is challenging. Limited rainfall, high altitudes and strong winds are a few of the difficulties trees face. For the past 20 years, Plant Select® has strived to take the guesswork out of finding reliable plants for our unique climate. Their research and testing of plant varieties results in five to seven winners each year. Here are a few past Plant Select® winners.

RUSSIAN HAWTHORN

In 2011, the Russian Hawthorn became a Plant Select® winner. As a small tree or large bush (roughly a height of 20 feet and a width of 16 feet) it adds seasonal interest to a landscape with white flowers appearing in May. The ripened crimson red fruits hold on through the winter months and are a nutritious food source for large songbirds. Glossy green leaves will turn a golden color in the fall.

this evergreen remains only four feet wide, making it ideal for narrow areas. With no pruning required to maintain its shape, the branches have been able to withstand both heavy snow and strong winds. During the winter months, the foliage will change from dark green to a grey-blue.



CLEAR CREEK GOLDEN YELLOWHORN

The Clear Creek golden yellowhorn, developed at Green Acres Nursery in Golden, Colorado, is an especially cold hardy strain. A 2007 Plant

Select® winner, this small tree or large shrub erupts with masses of yellow to maroon-eyed white flowers in the spring. The resulting brown leathery fruit pods can last through winter. This is a quick growing tree reaching a height of 20 feet and a width of 15 feet.

All of these trees have been found to do well in clay, loam or sandy soils and have moderate to xeric watering requirements once established. More detailed information on these trees along with a complete list of Plant Select® plants can be found at plantselect.org.



WOODWARD COLUMNAR JUNIPER

In 2015, Plant Select® introduced the Woodward columnar juniper. Reaching a height of 20 feet,

april events

FORT COLLINS

Apr 1 - Designing, Building and Planting Raised Beds for Vegetables. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$18. fcgov.com/gardens

Apr 1 - Building Interlocking Concrete Paver Patios, Paths and Driveways: Traditional vs. Permeable. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

Apr 1 - Property Tour. Gulley Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. Free reservation recommended. gulleygreenhouse.com

Apr 6 - Co Native Plant Society: Challenges and Strategies of Prairie Restoration. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. Free. conps.org

Apr 7 - School's Out Day Camp at the Gardens. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$45. fcgov.com/gardens

Apr 8 - Orchid Care Basics. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$30. fcgov.com/gardens

Apr 8 - Turf Doctor: What is Your Lawn Saying? Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

Apr 8 - Easter Egg Fairy Garden Terrarium. Gulley Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. \$30 reservation recommended. gulleygreenhouse.com

Apr 8 - Winter Market. Opera Galleria. 123 N. College Ave. Free admittance. nocofood.org/winter-market

Apr 9 - Fairy Gardening Class. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$40. fortcollinsnursery.com

Apr 15 - Habitat Hero: Wildscaping 101 + Plant Walk. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

Apr 15 - Gentle Movement for Gardeners with EarthBeat Dance. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$15. fcgov.com/gardens

Apr 15 - Easter Eggstravaganza. Gulley Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. Free. Benefit for Pathways Children's Garden Project. gulleygreenhouse.com

Apr 22 - Earth Day Tree Sale & Giveaway. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free admittance. fortcollinsnursery.com

TREE-FRIENDLY LAWN CARE

Tony Koski, Turf Specialist, CSU Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture



In nature, you rarely find trees and grasses growing happily together. You have forests (minus grasses) and prairies (minus trees), and the less common (and ever-changing) mixture of trees and grasses – called savannas. In our home landscapes, we force trees and turf into a horticultural relationship that is often, to some degree, unhappy for one or both parties – with the trees often being injured by lawn care practices. Here are a few important things to remember when it comes to caring for your lawn and the trees growing there.



Use mulch circles to help prevent mower and string trimmer injury around trees.

First, when planting a new tree in an established lawn (or you are planting a brand new landscape), create a grass-free, mulched zone (two feet away from the tree's trunk – so a 4-foot circle) around that newly planted tree. Mulch circles make it much easier for young trees to form root systems when growing in a lawn.

Second, create mulch circles around all trees in your landscape – even the mature, established ones – to prevent lawnmower and string trimmer damage to the very fragile bark at the base of your trees. While young trees are more susceptible to this injury, bark damage to the base of mature trees can create wounds that increase the potential for disease.



Herbicide injury can be prevented by following all directions on the label.

Third, be careful when using lawn weed control products around your trees. While crabgrass preventers used in the spring present no hazard to trees, products targeting dandelions and other broadleaf weeds can damage trees if not applied properly. Whenever possible, spot treat individual weeds, avoiding broadcast applications over the entire lawn. Follow directions regarding rate and frequency of application, and apply only on a calm day and when temperatures are lower than 80° F.

Most routine lawn care practices – watering, fertilizing, aerification – are beneficial to the trees growing in the landscape. Though they don't naturally like growing together in nature, practicing thoughtful lawn care can create a happy, healthy relationship for both trees and turf in your home landscape.

For answers to questions about all parts of your landscape, visit extension.colostate.edu/garden for research-based information on all aspects of home gardening. In Larimer County, Colorado Master Gardeners will answer your gardening questions by email, larimermg@gmail.com 🌱

EDIBLES

THE SEASON OF SEEDS

Michelle Provaznik, Director, The Gardens on Spring Creek



One of my favorite things to do each January is to peruse the pile of seed catalogs, dreaming of the many varieties I want to plant in my veggie garden. This year, my family is planning to add some new raised beds to our vegetable garden meaning I get to grow more of my favorites while trying some new varieties – yes!



Check out some of our tried and true favorites.

CHEROKEE PURPLE AND SUNGOLD TOMATOES

These are prolific varieties with excellent flavor. It wouldn't be summer without these in our garden.

SHISHITO PEPPERS

A new staple in our summer garden and backyard barbecues. This Asian pepper provides the occasional kick of a hot one. Grilled with olive oil and sea salt – yum!

FRENCH FILET BEANS

These are slender beans with a delicate flavor. I freeze them to enjoy all year.



New varieties I plan to try.

CHOCOLATE CHERRY TOMATO

Imagine a sweet cherry tomato that resists cracking. The name alone is hard to beat!

CARDINAL BASIL

This variety is both culinary and ornamental with large purple flower heads atop bright green, tasty leaves.

HOMEMADE PICKLES CUCUMBERS

The name says it all. My neighbor makes a great pickle relish which has inspired me to make pickles this year. 🌿

april events

FORT COLLINS

Apr 22 - Build a Worm Farm for Earth Day. Gully Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. \$10. reservation recommended. gullygreenhouse.com

Apr 27 - StorySprouts with EarthBeat Dance. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

Apr 29 - Spring Open House. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free admittance, fortcollinsnursery.com

Apr 29 - Not the Usual Suspects: Underused Perennials. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

Apr 29 - Beekeeping Through the Four Seasons: Spring, Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$18. fcgov.com/gardens

Apr 29 - Container Gardening for Small Spaces. Gully Greenhouse, 6029 S. Shields St. \$30 reservation recommended. gullygreenhouse.com

BERTHOUD, ESTES PARK, LOVELAND & WINDSOR

Apr 4 - Lawn Care. Clearview Library. 720 3rd St. Windsor. Free. clearviewlibrary.org

Apr 4 - Vegetable Pests and Disease. Estes Park Senior Center. 220 Fourth St. Estes Park, Free with registration. estes.org/seniorcenter

Apr 4 - Berthoud Historical Society Garden Group Meet and Greet. McCarty-Fickel Home Museum. 645 7th St. Berthoud. Free. berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup

Apr 19 - The Journey to Your Own Habitat Hero Haven. Loveland Garden Club. All Saints Episcopal Church. 3448 N. Taft Ave. Loveland. Free. lovelandgardenclub.com

Apr 22 - Windsor Arbor Day 5K Run/Walk. Boardwalk Park. 100 N. 5th St. Windsor. \$20 register at 970-674-3500. windsorgov.com

NoCo Bloom

TREMEMDIOUS TREES

at The Gardens on Spring Creek



Tim Buchanan, Forester, City of Fort Collins



KENTUCKY COFFEETREE

Start your tree tour at Coffeetree Island located in the Gardens' entry drive where you can see five Kentucky Coffeetrees. This species is often described as having few branches and with rough attractive bark. Some trees produce bean-like seed pods. This is a great shade tree growing to 60-70 feet tall with a spread of 40-50 feet. It becomes more and more attractive as it matures.



GINKGO BILOBA

A Ginkgo Biloba tree can be discovered just off the northwest side of the Visitor's Center across from the Outdoor Kitchen. Native to China, Ginkgo's are extinct in the wild and only preserved today in cultivation. This amazing tree at The Gardens has fan shaped leaves and beautiful yellow fall color. Ginkgo's are a little slow growing, but they are adaptable to our local conditions.



GIANT SEQUOIA

You can't miss the iconic Giant Sequoia that stands over 30 feet tall as you enter the main plaza of The Gardens. A wood sign by the tree records the name of this young giant. The tree is a horticultural variety called, "Hazel Smith." This cultivar is more cold hardy and has a blue cast to its needles. Giant Sequoias are native at high elevations in the Sierra Mountains of California, where some of these giants are over 200 feet tall and 25 feet in diameter.



BRISTLECONE PINES

Enjoy the Bristlecone Pines located along the walkway near the Greenroof Shelter in the Children's Garden. This pine is a Colorado native with some trees aged at over 2,000 years. Notice the needles that are in groups of five with white resin specks, which is a good way to identify this species.



GOLDEN YELLOWHORN

Clear Creek® Golden Yellowhorn, is a small multi-stem tree located just to the north of the Visitor's Center entrance door. In May, when the yellowhorn is in full flower, visitors continually ask what this beautiful plant is. The flowers are up to one inch in diameter, white in color with yellow and red blotches at the base. Another great quality of this plant is its excellent drought tolerance. This tree will grow to a mature height of 18-22 feet, a perfect choice for smaller garden areas.



HIMALAYAN WHITE PINE

Venturing into the Garden of Eatin,' you will find an outstanding Himalayan White Pine, dedicated by the Larimer County Conservation Corp in 2009. Take a close look at the needles on this gorgeous conifer to see how they are in groups of five, blue-green in color, and appear to droop gracefully. Cones can be up to 12 inches long. This is a nice spot in the gardens to take a picnic alongside this gorgeous tree.



march events

BERTHOUD, ESTES PARK & LOVELAND

Mar 1 - Rose Culture and Care. CSU Extension. Loveland Library. 300 N. Adams Ave. Loveland. Free. lovelandpubliclibrary.org

Mar 7 - Berthoud Historical Society Garden Group Meet and Greet. Berthoud Public Library. 236 Welch Ave. Berthoud. Free. berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup

Mar 7 - Secrets of Growing Tomatoes in Estes Park. Estes Park Senior Center. 220 Fourth St. Estes Park. Free with registration. estes.org/seniorcenter

Mar 3 - Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces. CSU Extension. Loveland Library. 300 N. Adams Ave. Loveland. Free. lovelandpubliclibrary.org

Mar 14 - LWP Community Stewardship Series: Growing Vegetables. Loveland Library. 300 N. Adams Ave. Loveland. Free with registration. cityofloveland.org/LWPLectures

Mar 15 - Beneficial Insects. CSU Extension. Loveland Library. 300 N. Adams Ave. Loveland. Free. lovelandpubliclibrary.org

Mar 15 - Hardy Roses. Loveland Garden Club. All Saints Episcopal Church. 3448 N. Taft Ave. Loveland. Free. lovelandgardenclub.com

Mar 18 - Small Acreage Workshop. The Ranch. 4-H McKee Bldg. Loveland. \$35/person or \$50/couple. larimer.colostate.edu

Mar 22 - Perennial Gardening. CSU Extension. Loveland Library. 300 N. Adams Ave. Loveland. Free. lovelandpubliclibrary.org

Mar 28 - Heirloom Seeds. Clearview Library. 720 3rd St. Windsor. Free. clearviewlibrary.org

Mar 29 - Butterfly Gardening. CSU Extension. Loveland Library. 300 N. Adams Ave. Loveland. Free. lovelandpubliclibrary.org

EVERY MONDAY & TUESDAY

Read and Seed. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. Fort Collins. \$3. fcgov.com/gardens

EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
Colorado Master Gardener Office Hours. Mornings.
CSU Extension in Larimer County. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. Fort Collins. Free. ext.colostate.edu

The Gardens on Spring Creek, our community botanic garden in Fort Collins, has some great tree diversity in its collection. If you are a tree lover like me, plan a trip to see these six amazing trees. You won't be disappointed to be in the midst of these tremendous trees at The Gardens, 2145 Centre Avenue.

NEED A HAND WITH TREES?



If you're looking to plant a new tree in your landscape this year, do your research and find a tree that meets your needs but could be considered unique. Diversity of our urban forest is an attainable goal, and it starts with thinking outside the box and planting something different. Help keep our cities and towns tree-rific! Here's a short list of options, but there are many other species you can consider.

Alison O'Connor, Larimer County Extension

LARGER SHADE TREES OVER 30 FEET AT MATURITY

ENGLISH OAK (*Quercus robur*)

Reaching a mature height of 50 feet, English oak is a white oak that is tolerant to northern Colorado's high pH soils. The dark glossy green leaves are attractive in summer and are retained on the tree during winter. If you need a narrower species, consider the fastigate form. 'Crimson Spire' is a cross between English and white oak, but has great red fall color.

CHINKAPIN OAK (*Quercus muhlenbergii*)

The "lasagna noodle" leaf of chinkapin oak makes it distinct from other oaks. This species is also tolerant to our high pH soils, urban conditions and will reach a mature height of 40 feet tall. Fall color varies from russet red to taupe. Though it's becoming more popular, it may be difficult to find at local nurseries.

KENTUCKY COFFEETREE (*Gymnocladus dioica*)

Known for its huge leaves (reaching up to two feet in length) and seed pods that look like coffee beans (don't attempt to make a cup), Kentucky coffeetree is a drought tolerant species that does well in northern Colorado. Mature height tops out at 50 feet. If you can patiently wait for the tree to outgrow the gangly "teenage years," you'll be impressed by the architecture it provides to your landscape. 'Espresso' is an available cultivar, with a more narrow form.

SENSATION BOXELDER (*Acer negundo* 'Sensation')

Don't cross this tree off your list for fear of attracting boxelder bugs! This is a male clone, so it doesn't get the samaras that boxelder bugs love to eat. Sensation boxelder reaches mature heights of 30-50 feet with leaves emerge red-orange in color, turning green in summer. Though it's a maple, it seems to be less prone to iron chlorosis.

OHIO BUCKEYE (*Aesculus*

A rounded tree with distinct leaves buckeye is a smaller shade tree, 35 feet. The rounded form and red- of the buckeye when it drops fruit in of squirrels, but are not edible to

glabra) of 5-7 leaflets, the Ohio reaching a mature height of orange-yellow fall color makes Plus, you can have the "luck" the fall. The seeds are a favorite humans.

GINKGO (*Ginkgo biloba*)

The ginkgo is a living fossil and has conditions, such as pollution and poor to become established, it's worth the bright yellow in fall. Fortunately all trees male clones, so there is no need to fruit. Buy a tree with a good

an amazing tolerance to urban soil. While this tree takes its time wait. The fan-shaped leaf turns available in the nursery trade are worry about the stinky root system.

SMALL ORNAMENTAL TREES UNDER 30 TALL AT MATURITY

JAPANESE TREE LILAC

(*Syringa reticulata*)

Though the blossoms aren't as fragrant as shrub lilacs, this tree provides outstanding ornamental value in the landscape. It reaches a mature height of 30 feet, has creamy white blooms in late spring and exfoliating bark that adds winter interest.

TATARIAN MAPLE

(*Acer tataricum*)

One of the most popular introductions is 'Hot Wings,' introduced by the Plant Select® program. Tatarian maples reach 20 feet tall and are known for their bright red samaras ("helicopters"). This tree cannot tolerate wet feet, so plant appropriately. It seems to be less prone to iron chlorosis in high pH soils.

CRABAPPLES

(*Malus* sp.)

There are dozens of crabapple cultivars that do well in Colorado, so find one with the bloom color, fruit color and size you want (height ranges from 10-30 feet). It is important to plant a species resistant to fire blight. Some crabapples flower but don't bear fruit ('Spring Snow') and others retain their fruit during the winter. There are species that have purple foliage in the summer ('Royal Raindrops') and nice fall color.

GOLDENRAIN TREE

(*Koelreuteria paniculata*)

As the yellow blossoms fade, they "rain" below the tree, leading to the common name. The flowers develop into lantern-shaped seedpods. This tree is drought tolerant once established and most yards can accommodate the mature size of just 25 feet tall. ☘



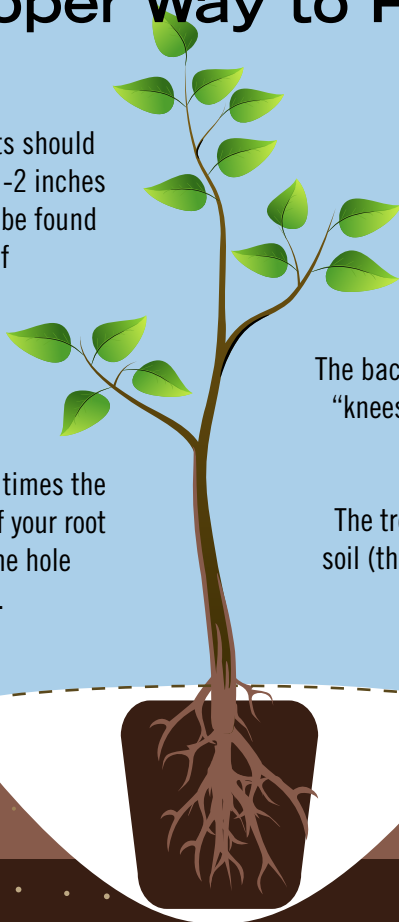
The Proper Way to Plant a Tree

FIND TWO ROOTS

At least two structural roots should be located within the top 1-2 inches of the root ball. These can be found by gently probing the top of the root ball with a slender screwdriver.

DIG A SAUCER-SHAPED HOLE

The hole needs to be three times the diameter of the root ball. If your root ball is 12 inches across, the hole should measure 36 inches.



DEPTH MATTERS

The top of the root ball should sit 1-2 inches above the grade. Do not put any backfill on top of the root ball during planting.

DON'T OVERFILL

The backfill soil should cover the root ball "knees" (but not on top of the root ball).

KEEP THE BOTTOM FIRM

The tree needs to sit on undug or firmed soil (the soil should not be loose or fluffy, which can lead to sinking).

may events

ALL AREAS

May 4 - StorySprouts with EarthBeat Dance. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

May 4 - Co Native Plant Society: Monitoring Vegetation in Natural Areas. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. Free. conps.org

May 6 - Gardening for Insects - or Not! Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$18. fcgov.com/gardens

May 6 - Introduction to Urban Homesteading. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$18. fcgov.com/gardens

May 6 - Photography Class with Michael Wilcox. Gully Greenhouse, 6029 S. Shields St. \$15 reservation recommended. gullygreenhouse.com

May 2 - Berthoud Historical Society Garden Group Meet and Greet. McCarty-Fickel Home Museum. 645 7th St. Berthoud. Free. berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup

May 9 - LWP & HPEC Community Lecture: Native Pollinators and Their Habitats. High Plains Environmental Center. 2968 Bluestem Willow Dr. Loveland. Free with registration. cityofloveland.org/LWPLectures

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Plant This, Not That

Sherry Fuller, Curator, The Gardens on Spring Creek

Everyone loves blueberries, but this fruit is best purchased at the grocery rather than grown in the garden at home. Blueberries need acidic soil and plenty of water to thrive – neither of which are available in Colorado.

Instead, try one of the improved varieties of our native currants. Crandall Clove and Gwen's Buffalo currants are both hardy fruiting shrubs, easy to grow, and beautiful in three seasons. Their berries are large, tasty, and excellent in desserts or jam. Crandall Clove grows 3-4' tall and wide, while Gwen's Buffalo is larger at 5-6' tall and wide.



easy care
CURRENTS



These currants have masses of fragrant, yellow flowers in spring that attract pollinators. They have large, purple-black fruits in summer and a beautiful display of orange to deep red fall color. They are both quite drought tolerant and well adapted to our soil and climate.

Forget fighting with blueberries in the garden and give currants a try – you will be so happy you did! 🌿



MAY 12-14
GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK

The sale of the year is back! We have just what you need to grow a beautiful landscape, bountiful veggie garden, and lively containers. Since January, our staff, volunteers, and students from CSU and Front Range Community College have cultivated thousands of annuals, herbs, perennials, and veggie starts ready for you. Proceeds benefit all three organizations. Remember to bring your own box for carrying your favorite plants home! Watch our websites for a complete list of available plants.

MEMBERS-ONLY: FRIDAY, MAY 12, 3 - 6 P.M.
PUBLIC HOURS: SATURDAY, MAY 13, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.
AND SUNDAY, MAY 14, NOON - 5 P.M.



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LAWN CARE

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- 5 applications from early spring to late fall
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SPRING Q&A



Water you doing about those summer water bills?

Liesel Hans, Ph.D., Water Conservation Manager, Fort Collins Utilities

DID YOU KNOW?

The average Fort Collins home uses about 90,000 gallons of treated water each year. 45 percent is used outdoors, which translates to paying for 3.5 times more water in a summer month than a winter month. Sprinkler systems use the most water and since the average system is only 50 percent efficient, half of the water ends up wasted.

Q: HOW DO I KNOW HOW MUCH WATER IS USED OUTDOORS?

A: Compare your August water bill to your February bill. You can also dive into the details by looking at last summer's daily and hourly water use. Check out a day that you know your sprinkler system was on to see how much it uses each time. Learn more about the free Monitor My Use tool at fcgov.com/monitor-my-use.

Q: HOW DO I KNOW IF MY SPRINKLER SYSTEM IS WASTING WATER?

A: Get to know your system. Walk your system while it is running (yes, you'll get a little wet) and look for breaks, leaks and obstructions. Fences, siding, driveways and sidewalks don't need water; check if these are wet after your system runs. Review your controller settings - anything more than 3 days a week is too much. A free audit can help you get started; learn more at fcgov.com/sprinkler-audit.

Q: I KNOW I HAVE AN OLD SPRINKLER SYSTEM, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

A: Upgrade your equipment. Look for pressure-regulating, high-efficiency nozzles and heads. Consider a switch to drip systems, which are efficient, adaptable, and easy to install yourself. For \$25-50, a new drip system can be hooked up to your outdoor spigot, or you can retrofit an existing spray or rotor zone. Finally, consider installing a smart controller, which adjusts your watering schedule based on plant type and weather. Bonus! You can easily manage the controller from your smartphone.

Learn more about water-wise practices, visit fcgov.com/save-water. ♻️



Northern Water Conservation Gardens Fair

Saturday, May 20 (rain or shine)

FREE • 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. • 220 Water Ave., Berthoud

Seminars
Expert advice
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Updates on technology
and more



Visit www.northernwater.org



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SUMMER

14,000

GALLONS/MONTH

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WINTER

4,000

GALLONS/MONTH



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Save money.

FOUR WAYS TO SAVE

on your summer water bill

- Use a hose nozzle
- Inspect your sprinkler system
- Use low-water plants
- Monitor your water use

Learn more at fcgov.com/summer-water-bill,
970-212-2900 or V/TDD 711.

Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities.