

# NoCo Bloom

SEPTEMBER 2025



LARIMER COUNTY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



THE GARDENS  
ON SPRING CREEK



City of  
Fort Collins

## THE ARTFUL GARDEN

NATIVE  
BUTTERFLIES

REPOTTING

DRYING  
FLOWERS





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**LARIMER COUNTY**

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION**

**CSU EXTENSION IN LARIMER COUNTY**

1525 Blue Spruce Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80524-2004  
970-498-6000 | [larimer.gov/extension](http://larimer.gov/extension)



**THE GARDENS  
ON SPRING CREEK**



**THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK  
CITY OF FORT COLLINS**

2145 Centre Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80526  
970-416-2486 | [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

**NoCo Bloom**

PLEASE NOTE: If you are a gardener living in Weld County and needing help, visit [www.WeldMasterGardeners.org](http://www.WeldMasterGardeners.org) or email the Weld Garden Help Desk directly at [weldmastergardeners@outlook.com](mailto:weldmastergardeners@outlook.com).



As we close out our 2025 *NoCo Bloom* series, we're ending on a note of serenity and creativity. In previous issues, we explored how gardening supports both physical and mental well-being—but its benefits don't stop there. Your garden can also be a canvas for artistic expression. From mowing patterns and flowers ideal for drying to using natural elements for garden-inspired art, this issue invites you to tap into the transformative and imaginative

potential of your outdoor space. Thank you for following along with us this year. We hope you've gained knowledge and found inspiration in the pages of each issue.

Gardening is a source of connection, rejuvenation, beauty—and yes, sometimes frustration—but the journey is always worth it.



# PRESERVING YOUR HARVEST

by Amber Webb, Family Consumer Sciences Extension Agent of Larimer County

Whether you are a beginning or experienced gardener, shopping the farmer's market or visiting the region's local farms stands, the seasonal bounty is upon us! With an abundance of fresh produce available, why not try preserving the harvest?

Learning how to preserve food can be a great skill to have to avoid food waste and to be able to utilize plenty. There are many delicious ways to preserve food, like freezing, dehydrating, pickling, fermenting and canning. And many types of fresh produce can be preserved in more than one way. For example, hot peppers can be great for canning or pickling, then used as a condiment. They can be dehydrated and ground, then used as chile flakes. Or, frozen roasted or blanched peppers make a delicious addition to chilis and soups. Having these ingredients in your freezer and pantry can spice up any meal and bring back the tastes of summer even in mid-winter.

The best way to determine which method is right for what you'll be preserving is to have a safe, tested recipe and to know what equipment you'll need to get started. A great place to find this information is through a website called *Preserve Smart*, developed by Colorado State University Extension. It was created to provide a trusted way to find and use tested food preservation recipes and instructions.

Just find the type of produce you want to preserve and safe detailed instructions are immediately available at your fingertips. It includes important considerations when choosing a preservation method and the steps you'll need to take for a successful final product. For example:

- Selection of Ingredients
- Equipment needed
- How to prepare the produce
- How to preserve safely for each method
- Researched and tested recipes
- How to store and use the final product

Following these guidelines will ensure a safe and delicious preservation project that you and your family will be able to enjoy for months to come! 🌶️

## RESOURCES:



Preserve Smart Colorado:  
[apps.chhs.colostate.edu/preservesmart](https://apps.chhs.colostate.edu/preservesmart)

Food Smart Colorado:  
[foodsmartcolorado.colostate.edu](https://foodsmartcolorado.colostate.edu)



## events 'n classes

### COMMUNITY-WIDE RESOURCES

**Grow and Give Program-Grow Food & Share The Harvest**  
Colorado State University Extension, [growgive.extension.colostate.edu](https://growgive.extension.colostate.edu) (includes vegetable growing tips)

**City of Loveland Farmers' Market Master Gardener Q&A Booth** Sept. 14, 700 S. Railroad Ave., 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Free, [lovgov.org/services/parks-recreation/events/farmers-market](https://lovgov.org/services/parks-recreation/events/farmers-market)

**Larimer County Colorado Master Gardener Q&A Booth at the Extension Office** Every Tuesday and Thursday to Oct. 16, [larimermg@gmail.com](mailto:larimermg@gmail.com) or 970-498-6000, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Free, [LarimerExtension.org](https://LarimerExtension.org)

**Larimer County Colorado Master Gardener Q&A Booth at the Larimer County Farmers' Market** Every Saturday to Oct. 25, 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Free, [LarimerCountyFM.org](https://LarimerCountyFM.org)

**Master Gardener Q&A Booth at Greeley Farmers' Market** Every Saturday to Oct. 25, Union Pacific Depot, 902 7th Ave., Greeley, 8 a.m.-noon, Free, [greeleygov.com/activities/fm](https://greeleygov.com/activities/fm)

**Town of Berthoud Farmers' Market Master Gardener Q&A Booth** Sept. 20, 200 N. 7th St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Free, [berthoud.org/1430/The-Berthoud-Market](https://berthoud.org/1430/The-Berthoud-Market)

**Weld County Master Gardeners Help Desk** Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until Oct. 31, Walk-ins welcome during Help Desk hours, 525 N 15th Ave., Greeley, [weldmastergardener@gmail.com](mailto:weldmastergardener@gmail.com), 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Free, [WeldMasterGardeners.org](https://WeldMasterGardeners.org)

### COMMUNITY-WIDE EDUCATION

**Extension Gardening Webinars Archive** Recordings of previous gardening webinars are available at any time, Free, [planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars](https://planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars)

**Sept. 10 » The Art of Insect Survival: Masters of Disguise and Flashy Warnings** Presented by Mel Schreiner from CSU Extension, noon-1 p.m., Free, registration required, [planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars](https://planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars)

**Sept. 12 » CSU Extension: Dehydrating Foods, Leathers & Jerkies** Extension Food Preservation Webinars via Zoom, noon-12:45 p.m., Free, registration available on website, [larimer.gov/foodpreservation](https://larimer.gov/foodpreservation)

**Oct. 3 » CSU Extension: Pressure Canning Extension Food Preservation** Webinars via Zoom, noon-12:45 p.m., Free, registration available on website, [larimer.gov/foodpreservation](https://larimer.gov/foodpreservation)

**Oct. 8 » Space Invaders: Garden Variety Monsters Presented by Dr. O'Connor from CSU Extension**, noon-1 p.m., Free, registration required, [planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars](https://planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars)

**Oct. 30 » CSU Extension: Sauerkraut & Fermented Vegetables** Extension Food Preservation Webinars via Zoom, noon-12:45 p.m., Free, registration available on website, [larimer.gov/foodpreservation](https://larimer.gov/foodpreservation)

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## events n' classes

**Nov. 12 » Basics of Tree Pruning: Keeping Your Urban Trees Healthy!** Presented by Rachel Durkan from CSU Extension, noon–1 p.m., Free, registration required, [planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars](http://planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars)

**Dec. 10 » Mindfulness in Nature: A Garden and Nature-Based Pilot Project** Presented by Jennifer Cook from Gilpin County Extension, noon–1 p.m., Free, registration required, [planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars](http://planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars)

### FORT COLLINS

#### Larimer County Farmers' Market

Every Saturday to Oct. 25, 200 W. Oak Street, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Free admission, [larimercountyfm.org](http://larimercountyfm.org)

#### Sept. 8 » Garden to Fork Rich and Robust Roots

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 5:30–8 p.m., \$80, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

#### Sept. 9 » Garden to Fork Rich and Robust Roots

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 5:30–8 p.m., \$80, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

#### Sept. 10 » Xeriscape Bike Tour South Fort Collins,

Meet at Twin Silos Park, 5–7 p.m., Free, sign up on website required, [fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events](http://fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events)

#### Sept. 10 » Garden to Fork Rich and Robust Roots

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 5:30–8 p.m., \$80, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

#### Sept. 11 » Daniel Rodriguez Concert (Benefit for The

**Matthews House)** Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 6:30–8:30 p.m., \$25ADV/\$30 Door/ Kids 12 & Under Free, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

#### Sept. 15 » Garden to Fork Brassicas: Brilliant and Bright

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 5:30–8 p.m., \$80, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

#### Sept. 16 » Garden to Fork Brassicas: Brilliant and Bright

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 5:30–8 p.m., \$80, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

#### Sept. 17 » Garden to Fork Brassicas: Brilliant and Bright

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 5:30–8 p.m., \$80, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

**Sept. 20 » Tai Chi** The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 8–9 a.m., \$15, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

**Sept. 27 » Tai Chi** The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 8–9 a.m., \$15, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

#### Sept. 27 » Yoga in the Gardens: Hatha Yoga

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:15–10 a.m., \$15, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

#### Sept. 27 » Exploring the Seasons with Meditation &

**Breathwork: Fall Equinox Workshop** The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30–11 a.m., \$50, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

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# LAWN AND ORDER: THE ART OF TURFGRASS LINES

*In loving memory of Dr. Tony Koski,  
CSU Turfgrass Specialist. In turf we trust.*

Have you ever been enjoying a ball game at Coors Field and wondered, “How do the groundskeepers get the lines in the grass? How are they so straight? Why are they different colors?” Those lines, stripes, or lasers as some industry folk might call them, have fascinated spectators through the years, and they hold a fascinating amount of science and artistry behind them.

Turfgrass striping relies primarily on the species used and pressure applied while mowing or rolling. Stripes are created in the turf because of contrast between the upper and lower leaf surface. This contrast may be based on color, texture, or sheen differences that are unique to the turf species and conditions like drought or sun exposure.

All species possess some striping potential, so worry less about burning in the most brilliant stripes and more on the right species for your climate and available resources—primarily water, temperature, and sunlight.

The other component of stripes is the addition of pressure. This is commonly delivered through rollers attached to the rear of mowers.

These rollers bend the grass blades over in the direction of travel thus creating a stripe the width of the roller. Commercial mowers generally come with rollers attached, but traditional homeowner mowers can be easily modified with aftermarket striping kits.



Mowing a straight line is a critical skill for creating patterns in the lawn. Athletic fields have the advantage of being level, but good technique will go a long way over any terrain. Start by aligning yourself and the mower on the path of your first stripe. Find a fixed point at eye level in the distance that aligns perfectly with the center of your stripe. Let your eyes guide your body and focus on your point through the entire stripe. Rinse and repeat through the lawn, being sure to properly overlap and you'll have beautiful, laser-straight stripes in no time. 🌿



by Tony Koski, Extension Turfgrass Specialist, CSU Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Although the premier species for striping may be disputed, it is very difficult to top the cool season perennial ryegrass. The underside of the perennial ryegrass leaf is extraordinarily glossy and reflects large amounts of sunlight when laid down.



by Max Nikkari, Graduate Student in the CSU Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture



# Colorado's Native Butterflies:

## LOCAL STARS OF THE BUTTERFLY HOUSE

When visiting The Gardens on Spring Creek Butterfly House, you're stepping into a vibrant display of Colorado's native pollinators, many of which are struggling to survive in the wild. While tropical butterflies often steal the spotlight, our local species are equally dazzling—and critically important to our ecosystems.

We're shining a spotlight on just a few of Colorado's native butterflies that also call our Butterfly House home. These butterflies are more than just beautiful—they're vital pollinators, indicators of ecosystem health, and a reminder of the natural treasures found right in our own backyards.

### Native Butterflies in the House

**MONARCH** (*Danaus plexippus*)  
Famous for their epic migration, monarchs rely on milkweed not just for nectar, but as the sole host plant for their caterpillars. Without milkweed, there are no monarchs.

**PAINTED LADY** (*Vanessa cardui*)  
With soft orange and black patterns, the painted lady is a frequent visitor to thistles, red clover, and other so-called "weeds" that are vital nectar sources. A generalist feeder, it's adaptable, yet still affected by habitat loss.

**COMMON BUCKEYE** (*Junonia coenia*)  
Known for its striking eyespots, the buckeye prefers open, sunny areas with access to native host plants like plantain and snapdragons. You might spot them basking in the Butterfly House, soaking in the warmth.

**MOURNING CLOAK** (*Nymphalis antiopa*)  
These early-season fliers overwinter as adults and are often seen before spring flowers even bloom. Their caterpillars feed on native trees like willow and elm—reminding us that butterflies don't just rely on flowers, but on entire plant communities.

While many associate butterflies with nectar, not all flowers are created equal. Native butterflies have evolved to prefer specific, native nectar sources—like asters, thistles, and milkweed.

These plants are often labeled as "weeds," but they're some of the most beneficial nectar providers around.

In fact, butterflies also rely on non-nectar sources: tree sap, rotting fruit, and even moist soil or mud for minerals. Creating a successful butterfly garden means thinking beyond the bloom—offering shelter, moisture, and host plants for every stage of their life cycle.

### Urbanization & Habitat Loss

Urbanization is one of the greatest threats to local butterfly populations. As more native habitat disappears under pavement and lawns, butterflies lose the plants they need to survive. That's why it's so important to recreate native ecosystems in our own gardens, parks, and community spaces.

By planting host plants, you can support specific butterfly species right at home. Want Monarchs? Plant milkweed. Love Swallowtails? Try plants in the carrot family, like golden alexanders, or related kitchen herbs like parsley or fennel. Every native plant you add brings us one step closer to reversing habitat loss.

### Learn & See More

These are just a few of the native butterflies you can find in Colorado and right here in The Gardens on Spring Creek Butterfly House. To explore more about conserving our local species, the Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network (CBMN) is a great way for butterfly lovers, citizen scientists, and conservationists alike to become more involved in learning about and monitoring butterflies in Colorado. 🦋



by Kyla Flatley and Brionna McCumber



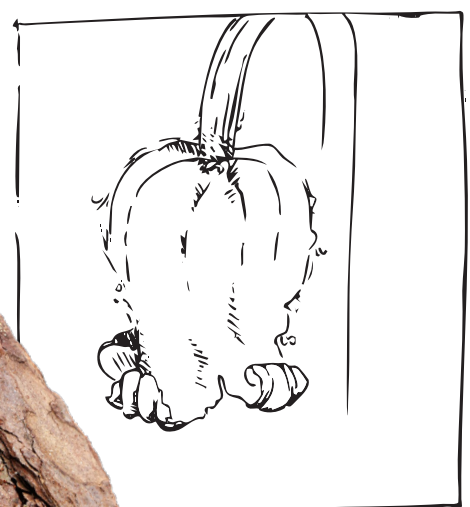
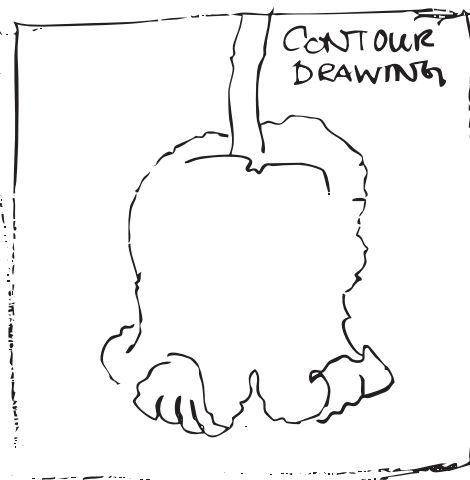
## events 'n classes

- Sept. 27 » Embodied Climate Action Workshops**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 1:30–3:30 p.m., \$10, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Sept. 27 » Forest Bathing** The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 1:30–3:30 p.m., \$30, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Oct. 11 » Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off and Fall Jamboree**  
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Free Event, [fortcollinsnursery.com](https://fortcollinsnursery.com)
- Oct. 11 » Gnocchi Making Workshop**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 4–7 p.m., \$60, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Oct. 11 » Garden Design Class**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30–11:30 a.m., \$35, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Oct. 17 » CSU Extension: Pressure Canning** Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr., 12:30–3:30 p.m., \$25, registration available on website, [larimer.gov/foodpreservation](https://larimer.gov/foodpreservation)
- Oct. 18 » Watercolor Journaling: Fall Gardens**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., \$70, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Oct. 18 » Mindfulness: An Approach to Life**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 1–3 p.m., \$25, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Oct. 18 » Dia de Muertos Family Memory Workshop**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 1:30–3:30 p.m., [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Oct. 24 » CSU Extension: Sauerkraut & Fermented Vegetables** Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr., 12:30–3:30 p.m., \$25, registration available on website, [larimer.gov/foodpreservation](https://larimer.gov/foodpreservation)
- Nov. 8, A Bee Bit of Sweetness Honey Tasting**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9 a.m.–noon, \$40, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Nov. 8 » Find Your Balance Insight + Sound Workshop**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30 a.m.–noon, \$55, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Nov. 8 » Fresh New Garden Myths-The Science Behind Why**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 1:30–3:30 p.m., \$23, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Nov. 8 » Garden to Glass Mocktails**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 2–3 p.m., \$35, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Nov. 15 » Watercolor Journaling: Holiday Inspiration**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., \$70, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- Nov. 15 » Holiday Plants: Winter's Bright Spot**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 12:30–2 p.m., \$10, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

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# Art in the Garden



A garden and art are a natural pairing—both invite us to slow down, observe, and create. Often called the slowest of the performing arts, a garden can be both muse and medium: a living work of art, and a source of inspiration for your own.

The following activities are fun for both kids and adults and will expand your connection to both your garden and your inner artist.

## Observation Drawing: Garden as Inspiration

A garden is full of diverse textures and shapes that even the avid gardener may miss in their daily meanderings. If you're looking to connect deeper to your plants, increase your wonder and awe, expand your biological understandings, and create a moment of mindfulness, consider close observation drawing.

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Paper or sketchbook
- Pencil, charcoal, or pen
- Eraser (optional)

### HOW TO:

Find a subject. Any will do. A flower, stem, leaf, or the bark of your favorite tree.

Take your time. Sit, look closely, and zoom in your vision even closer. Our mind has a habit of telling us what a leaf, flower, or tree should look like, but we want to see the actual beautiful imperfections of the subject in front of us.

Warm up your tools: Do not worry about mistakes, we're just warming up our drawing muscles, connecting our eyes to our hands.



***Gesture drawing:*** set a timer on your phone or watch for 30 seconds. With loose quick movements focusing on shapes, angles, and patterns. These drawings are messy and quick, but they get your eye moving all over the plant and capturing its general shape.

***Contour drawing:*** This is a slower activity. Focus on a small part of the plant, a flower petal, leaf, or bud. Place your pencil on the paper and focus your eyes on your subject. Without looking at the paper, let your eye pass along the edges, hairs, ribs and veins, letting your pencil draw every small detail on the paper. Do not worry about proportions or the bigger picture but instead focus on the practice of connecting your eye to your hand.

Now that you've warmed up your artistic skills, let's bring it all together. Choose one part of your plant to focus on. Using pencil or charcoal, begin with a light gesture drawing—capturing the overall shapes and angles. Then, with pencil or pen, apply the same careful attention you used in your contour drawing. This time, look at your paper as you work, and begin adding the details you observe.

## Natural Pigments: Making Your Own Paint

The color spectrum found in nature is rich and diverse. A forest is not all one color and every rose on a single bush has a slightly different hue. When we think about color we might consider using paints, pencils, or oils; all these mediums rely on pigments.

Anything that produces a color can be called a pigment and may be used in paint, ink, fabric, food, and other materials. Most pigments are ground into a fine powder then added to a binder like glue, milk, egg, or gum Arabic. Natural pigments, which have been used throughout history, come from a variety of sources, including berries, bugs, plants and minerals. Note: Natural pigments are sometimes not light-fast, and often not as permanent as man-made pigments.

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Mortar and pestle
- Sifter or small screen
- Small bowls
- Water
- Paint brushes

### SAFETY:

When foraging for earth pigments, be mindful of your surroundings and avoid areas that may have chemicals or prohibit harvesting.

If using materials that could stain, wear gloves and protect your workspace. If using a mortar and pestle, be sure to clean it thoroughly, especially if it's also used for food preparation.



## Some favorite natural pigment plants:

- |  |                                |                      |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Elderberries – Deep Purple (can be used fresh or dried)<br>Note: Do not eat; these are toxic if not cooked | • Clay – Brown/Reds            | • Beets – Red/Purple |
| • Blackberries – Purple/Red (can be used fresh or dried)   | • Terracotta pots – Rich Brown | • Spinach – Green 🌱  |
| • Charcoal – Black   | • Paprika – Orange             |                      |
|  | • Turmeric – Yellow            |                      |
|  | • Raspberry – Pink             |                      |



by Ashley Kreuger, Education and Community Engagement Coordinator, Education Lead Specialist at The Gardens on Spring Creek



## events 'n classes

### Nov. 15 » Embodied Climate Action Workshops

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 1:30–3:30 p.m., \$10, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### Nov. 16 » NoCo Native Seed Swap

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Free event, Seed donations encouraged, [vhub.at/noconative](https://vhub.at/noconative)

### Nov. 22 » Tree Pruning

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30–11:30 a.m., \$23, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### Nov. 22 » Bioactive Terrarium Workshop

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., noon–1:30 p.m., \$50, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### Dec. 4 » Private Wreath Making Classes

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30–11:30 a.m., \$50, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### Dec. 4 » Private Wreath Making Classes

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 12:30–2:30 p.m., \$50, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### Dec. 5, Private Wreath Making Classes

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30–11:30 a.m., \$50, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### Dec. 5 » Private Wreath Making Classes

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 12:30–2:30 pm, \$50, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### Dec. 6 » Holiday Wreath Making

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9–11 a.m., \$50, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### Dec. 6 » Holiday Wreath Making

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., noon–2 p.m., \$50, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### Dec. 7 » Family Holiday Wreath Making

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30–11:30 a.m., \$50, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### Dec. 7 » Family Holiday Wreath Making

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 12:30–2:30 p.m., \$50, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

## GREELY

### Sept. 18 » Master Gardener Presentation: Harvesting Your

**Veggies** Hosted by LINC Library, 501 8th Ave., 6–7 p.m., Free, registration required, in-person, [mylibrary.us/cvrl](https://mylibrary.us/cvrl)

## LOVELAND

### Native Plant Sale (through September)

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 180+ species of native plants available, Order online, pickup in person, [suburbitat.org](https://suburbitat.org)

### Sept. 12–14 » Wild Wonderful Weekend Festival

Centerra, Celebrate sustainability and nature! Anniversary of NWF Wildlife Habitat Certification, All-day, [centerra.com/wild-wonderful-weekend](https://centerra.com/wild-wonderful-weekend)

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# FROM Fresh to Forever:

## TIPS & TRICKS FOR DRYING FLOWERS

*“We live in the perfect climate for dried flowers,” Christa said as we entered her studio, where a rainbow of flowers lined the walls. Christa Bletcher is a flower farmer at Native Hill Farm and owns Blue Llama Designs, an outlet for all things creative for her and her husband Billy. Six years ago, she started at Native Hill as a working member, and soon after took on managing the flower team that is supported by twenty working members. “Being a working member is a great way that people can connect with their community, get themselves outside and get in the dirt. Working members help with harvesting, making bouquets, and making dried flower wreaths in exchange for credit in the farm store,” she says.*

Christa and I sat down to talk about her favorite flowers for drying and to get some tips on how to harvest, dry and use the flowers. There are so many ways to get creative with dried flowers and it’s a great way to enjoy your garden through the winter. You can make garlands, wreaths, bouquets and even hair combs. Christa offers flower design workshops throughout the year at Native Hill.

The optimal time to dry a flower is the same time that it looks best when fresh. If you wait till it’s past its prime the petals or seedheads may shed. Some flowers, like strawflower, will continue to open as they dry. Once flowers are ready, harvest them early in the morning when they are hydrated. Flowers can be tied in bunches and hung upside down to dry

in a space that is warm, dry, dark, and has good ventilation. If flowers are exposed to too much light while drying, the flowers can fade.

Some flowers like peonies and zinnias will have a more open bloom when dried right side up. You can prop flowers upright by poking the stem through a piece of cardboard. If you are interested in learning how to design with flowers at one of Christa’s community workshops, keep an eye on events at Native Hill Farm ([nativehillfarm.com](https://nativehillfarm.com)) and Blue Llama Design ([instagram.com/bluellamadesigns](https://instagram.com/bluellamadesigns)).





## WHEN IT COMES TO GROWING FLOWERS TO DRY, HERE ARE SOME OF CHRISTA'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

*Flowers add color, form and texture to dried flower arrangements.*

**Peonies** (*Paeonia* sp.) are a big focal flower, and they make a statement. Peonies are low water, grow well in part shade and are perennials. They are a commitment though, as you should wait 2-3 years before harvesting flowers. You can pick your own peonies locally at Garden Sweet each spring.

**Strawflowers** (*Xerochrysum bracteatum*) are a no-brainer. They are easy to dry and bright, with a variety of colors to choose from. If you want larger blooms look for the 'King Size Red' and 'Swiss Giant' varieties.

**Marigolds** (*Tagetes* sp.): There are 100 reasons to love them! They are extremely versatile. Fresh strung on a garland, they have a magnificent scent. They can be used to dye textiles, their fragrance repels pests in the garden, and they are edible.

**Zinnias** (*Zinnia elegans*) are another great focal flower for wreaths, bouquets, and hair clips. They come in every color imaginable including lime green.

**Yarrow** (*Achillea* sp.) is native, easy to grow, low water and productive. There are a lot of colors, it smells great, and it adds bulk to arrangements.

**Flax 'Bubble Grass'** (*Linum usitatissimum*) makes a great textural addition to bouquets.

**Showy milkweed** (*Asclepias speciosa*) seed pods add a unique shape to wreaths. These plants are also larval hosts for monarchs and require little water once established.

**Lilacs** (*Syringa* sp.) add a rich purple color, and the elongated linear bloom looks great in wreaths. It's a perennial, low water, and easy to find.

*Grasses can add texture, movement and an airy dynamic to floral arrangements. You can utilize the seedheads from bunch grasses found in your home landscape.*

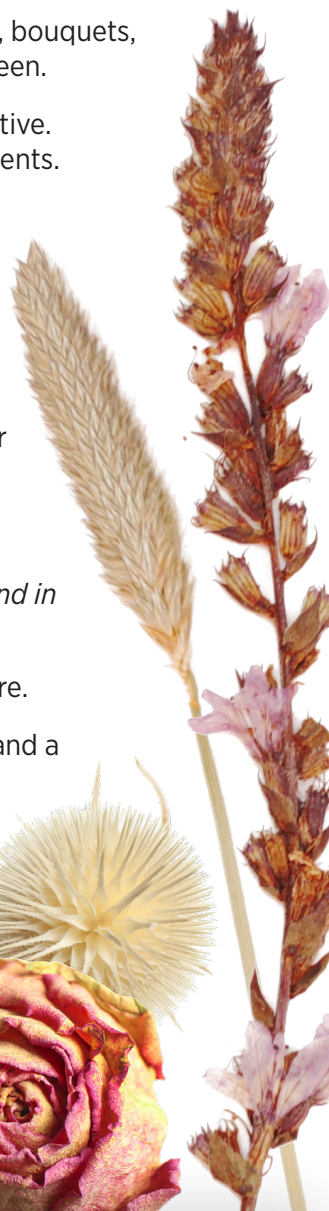
**Silvergrass** (*Miscanthus* sp.) has a feathery plume that adds texture.

**Frosted explosion grass** (*Panicum elegans*) is very productive and a great filler flower.

**Blue grama** (*Bouteloua gracilis*) has delicate, eyelash-like seedheads and is a native, low water grass.

**Feathertop** (*Pennisetum villosum*) has large, fluffy plumes that sway elegantly.

**Northern sea oats** (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) display dangling seed heads that add movement to bouquets. And it grows well in shade! 🌿



by Emma Pett , Water  
Conservation Technician

## events 'n classes

### Sept. 12 » (Wild Wonderful Weekend) Nature Art Show

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., All-day, [suburbitat.org/events](http://suburbitat.org/events)

### Sept. 12 » (Wild Wonderful Weekend) Garden Party for

Lakes at Centerra Residents High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 6 p.m., [suburbitat.org/events](http://suburbitat.org/events)

### Sept. 13 » (Wild Wonderful Weekend) Wild Zone Promenade

Shops @Centerra, Family fun, sustainability, education, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., [centerra.com/wild-wonderful-weekend](http://centerra.com/wild-wonderful-weekend)

### Sept. 13 » Chapungu Garden Tour Chapungu Sculpture Park,

6105 Sky Pond Dr., 10 a.m.-noon, Donation, [suburbitat.org](http://suburbitat.org)

### Sept. 13 » Gardening for Wildlife Class

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 2 p.m., Donation, [suburbitat.org/events](http://suburbitat.org/events)

### Sept. 14 » (Wild Wonderful Weekend) Farm-to-Table Brunch

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 11 a.m., [suburbitat.org/events](http://suburbitat.org/events)

### Sept. 27 » Guided Birding Walk Chapungu Sculpture Park,

6105 Sky Pond Dr., 9-11 a.m., Donation, [suburbitat.org](http://suburbitat.org)

### Oct. 4, Bird Banding & Bird Walk

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 9 a.m., Donation, [suburbitat.org/events](http://suburbitat.org/events)

### Oct. 5 » Wellness Retreat with Dr. Rochelle Calvert

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., Somatic healing, nature therapy, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., [drrochellecalvert.com](http://drrochellecalvert.com)

### Oct. 18 » Native American Powwow with the Iron Family

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 11 a.m., Donation, [suburbitat.org/events](http://suburbitat.org/events)

### Nov. 1 » Bird Banding & Bird Walk

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 9 a.m., Donation, [suburbitat.org/events](http://suburbitat.org/events)

### Nov. 8 » Guided Interpretive Walk with Restoration

Ecologists High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 10 a.m., Donation, [suburbitat.org](http://suburbitat.org)

### Nov. 13 » Guided Interpretive Walk with Restoration

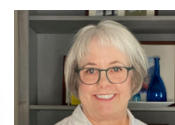
Ecologists High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 10 a.m., Donation, [suburbitat.org](http://suburbitat.org)

### Nov. 22 » Guided Birding Walk Chapungu Sculpture Park

6105 Sky Pond Dr., 9 a.m., Donation, [suburbitat.org](http://suburbitat.org)

### Dec. 6 » Bird Banding & Bird Walk

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 9 a.m., Donation, [suburbitat.org/events](http://suburbitat.org/events)



Compiled by Kathleen Atkins,  
CSU Extension Master Gardener  
Event information is welcome at  
[nocobloomevents@gmail.com](mailto:nocobloomevents@gmail.com)



# THE BASICS OF REPOTTING ARE AS FOLLOWS:



by Alison O'Connor,  
horticulture specialist, CSU  
Extension in Larimer County

## REPOTTING HOUSEPLANTS:

### A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Do you have houseplants that need to be watered more often than others?

Have you owned houseplants for years, but they are still in the original pot? If you answered yes to either of these questions, repotting can be beneficial.

I've repotted many houseplants over the years, but none made me more nervous than a rope hoyo (*Hoya carnososa*) that was my grandma's. I had owned it for about 20 years, and she had it for decades prior. It was in a tiny clay pot and so unhappy that repotting was the only solution. Fortunately, the repotting effort went well and the hoyo has put on new growth and leaves. [Sigh of relief.]

**SHOULD YOU FERTILIZE?** You can add a slow-release fertilizer at potting. But wait to fertilize with your watering regime until you start seeing new growth. As we go into winter, plant growth will decrease, so consider using a half-rate of fertilizer.

Gather your supplies. You'll need potting media, gloves, a pair of pruners or scissors, and the plant's new pot (A).

If possible, gently pull the plant out of its existing pot and look for circling or matted roots. Now, some plants like to be rootbound, like spider plants, so do some research before proceeding.

Aim to increase the original pot size by only one or two sizes. Too big of a pot can result in overwatering, and it will take awhile for the plant to grow into the excess space. Your new pot must have drainage holes. If it doesn't, then consider inserting a pot with drainage into the outer pot (B,C).

Moisten your potting media if it's dry or dusty. Dusty media can be hard to water once it's around the plant and may create dry pockets. The potting media should stick together slightly when squeezed.

Gently pull the plant out of its original pot. If it's in a clay pot, you might need to break it and pull the pieces away from the root ball. Using your pruning shears or scissors, cut through the circling roots on the root ball and gently pry the roots apart. Go slowly and be deliberate with this step, as you don't want to break apart the roots too much (D).

Place some of the moistened potting media in the bottom of the new pot and then press the plant on top and fill in the sides with potting media. Gently push down on the media and the root ball to secure the plant. Repot the plant at the same height it was in the previous pot.

Add more media, but don't fill it all the way to the top of the pot. When you water, you might wash out the potting media (E).

Water to settle the potting media. You might need to do this a couple of times (F).

Take the opportunity to wipe down the dusty leaves!

Place your plant back where it was growing. It might take a few weeks for the plant to flourish in its new pot. Be sure to monitor how much water you're giving it. 🌸





# PUMPKINS ON PARADE

OCTOBER 23 - 26 | 5-9 P.M. NIGHTLY

Visit The Gardens on Spring Creek—where glowing gourds and spooky family-friendly fun light up the night!

[fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)



**THE GARDENS**  
ON SPRING CREEK

City of  
**Fort Collins**



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Larimer County Farmers' Market  
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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
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# LAWN AND GARDEN CHECKLIST

Healthy landscapes use less water and are more resilient.



## WAIT

Save your fall cleanup for spring. Leave spent plant material like flower stalks and dried ornamental grasses to provide food for birds and shelter for insects.



## PREP

Aerate to improve lawn health and reduce maintenance by helping air and water reach the root system. Mulch fallen leaves into the lawn for beneficial nutrients.



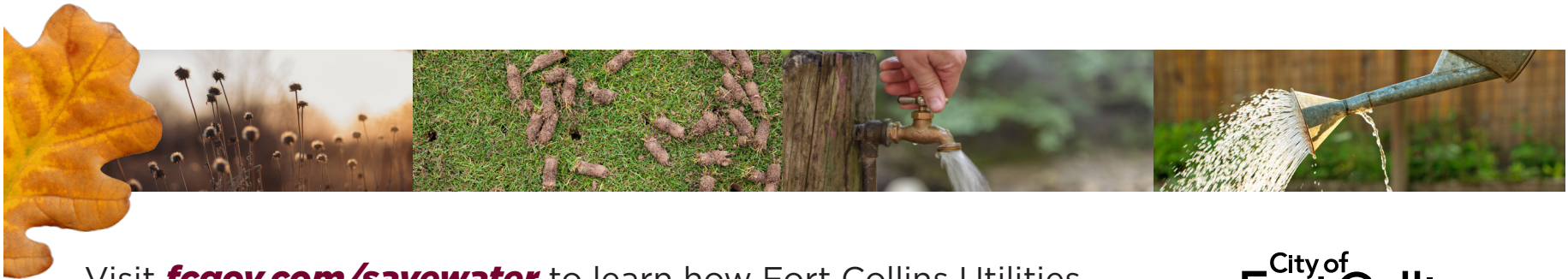
## WINTERIZE

Shut off your sprinklers in early October and winterize your system, before the first freeze. Store hoses inside for the winter to prevent damage.



## WATER

Colorado winters are dry! If there is no measurable precipitation for more than four weeks, hand water trees, shrubs and perennials when temps are above 40 degrees.



Visit [fcgov.com/savewater](https://www.fcgov.com/savewater) to learn how Fort Collins Utilities can help you save water and money on your utility bill.

