

NoCo Bloom

SUMMER 2017



GO BEYOND XERIC TO
XXXX

LOW WATER
**CULINARY
PLANTS**

LOOK OUT FOR
**EMERALD
ASH BORER**

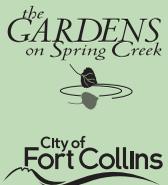
NOT EASY BUT
WORTH IT
BUFFALO GRASS



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
301 University Ave.
Fort Collins CO 80523-1173
Bldg. Shepardson 111
970-491-7019
hortla.agsci.colostate.edu



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.

Ahhh, Summer is Here!



Ahhh, summer is here! The season to which every gardener dreams. The days are long, time in the garden is plentiful, and you are now hopefully starting to enjoy the fruits of your springtime labor.

Water is our most precious natural resource, and we wanted to dedicate this issue to the plants that do well with very little—or none of it. Check out our story on the VERY xeric, what Curator Sherry Fuller recommends on how to get these XXX plants started, along with a list of recommended varieties. Want a stress-free summer garden? Consider incorporating these stalwart plants into your design.

Other highlights this month include a latest update on Emerald Ash Borer, Master Gardener recommended xeric perennial herbs, and our community calendar that is bursting with fun gardener-friendly events and classes.

Summer is a time of doing, seeing, and experiencing... we hope you can take the opportunity to enjoy it. We'll meet you back here in September.

Korrie Johnston
Editor, NoCo Bloom

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

Xeric Culinary Plants

for Northern Colorado

Virginia Stephen,
Master Gardener
for Colorado State
University Extension
in Larimer County

Wee One



When designing your xeric landscape in Northern Colorado, consider plants that are visually pleasing and attractive to pollinators. Have you also thought about plants that do triple duty and support culinary usage? Check with your local garden centers for these varieties:

NATIVE HOPS VINE

Humulus lupulus neomexicana
ZONE 4

The Romans said hops grew "wild among the willows, like wolves among sheep," hence the name lupulus. Medium green leaves, with light cream-green to pink cones (or strobiles) in the summer. With a spread up to 20' so provide support with a trellis, wall, or fence. This plant will die back to the ground in winter. Young leaves and flowers can be used as flavorings and preservatives (gives beer its distinctive bitter aroma and complex flavors), or in teas. Prefers sun/part sun and well-drained soil.

WEE ONE DWARF ENGLISH LAVENDER

Lavandula angustifolia 'Wee One'
Plant Select Petites[®]
ZONES 5-10

A 2017 introduction for the Rocky Mountain region, this English lavender has compact heads of lavender-blue flowers. Slow-growing and low water requirements, with heat and cold tolerance makes Wee One a must for

your herb garden. Collect the flower stalks in the late morning, bundle and dry in a cool, ventilated area. The dried herb can be added to pound cake, lemon sorbet, or simple syrup for unique cocktails.

CORONADO[®] RED HYSSOP

Agastache 'Pstessene Plant Select'[®]
18"X12" | FULL SUN | ZONES 5-9

This hyssop has crimson and maroon spires that bloom throughout summer. Very aromatic, with an anise/mint flavor. Flowers may be used in herbal teas, to enjoy hot or iced. Attractive to bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Cut back faded blooms to encourage re-blooming. 🌱



july events

FORT COLLINS

July 8 - Yoga in the Gardens with Miramont Lifestyle Fitness. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

July 8 - Draped Hyper Tufa Class. Gully Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. \$45. gullygreenhouse.com

July 8 - Master Food Safety Advisor Preservation Event. Larimer County Farmers' Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountymarket.org

July 10 - Water Bath Canning. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$25 with registration. larimer.org/ext

July 12 - Watershed Bus Tour. Poudre Canyon. Free with registration. fcgov.com/watershed

July 13 - Follow the Flood: Remember 1997 Remembrance Ceremony. Creekside Park. 200 Johnson Dr. Free. fcgov.com/followtheflood

July 15 - Family Yoga in the Gardens with Family Balance Yoga. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

July 15 - Music at the Market with Chris McShay. Larimer County Farmers' Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountymarket.org

July 15 - Dirty Dog Wash. Bath Garden Center. 2000 E. Prospect Rd. \$10. bathgardencenter.com

July 16 - Miniature Gardening Class. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$40. fortcollinsnursery.com

July 21-23 - Summer Perennial Sale. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free admittance. fortcollinsnursery.com

July 22 - Cooking Demonstration with Mainline Ale House. Larimer County Farmers' Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountymarket.org

July 22 - NoCo Urban Homestead Tour. Six Fort Collins & Loveland locations. \$15 (children under 12 free). fcgov.com/gardens

CALENDAR COORDINATOR

Kathleen Atkins, Master Gardener
Colorado State University Extension
Please submit your gardening classes & events to nocobloomevents@gmail.com.



july events

FORT COLLINS

July 26 - Pressure Canning. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$25 with registration. larimer.org/ext

July 29 - Hobbit House Fairy Garden Class. Gulley Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. \$30. gulleygreenhouse.com

July 29 - CSU Leafy Greens Education Program. Larimer County Farmers' Market, 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

July 29 - Follow the Flood: Remember 1997 Educational Family Event. Spring Creek Park. Free. fcgov.com/followtheflood

BERTHOUD, LOVELAND, GREELEY & WINDSOR

July 8 - Berthoud Farmers' Market Kids Day & Live Music. Fickel Park. N 7th St. Berthoud. Free admittance. berthoudlocal.org

July 8 - Second Saturdays: Hypertufa Class. Treasure Island Demonstration Garden. 7th St. Windsor. Free. windsorgov.com

July 11 - Community Stewardship Lecture Series: Healthy Homes. LWP/High Plains Environmental Center. 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr. Loveland. Free pre-registration required. cityofloveland.org/LWPLectures

July 11 - Berthoud Historical Society Garden Group: Offsite Field Trip. McCarty-Fickel Home Museum. 645 7th St. Berthoud. Free. berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup

July 11 - Northern Water Garden Stroll and Discussion. Northern Water Conservancy. 220 Water Ave. Berthoud. Free. berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup

July 19 - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: Color in the Garden - Annuals/Bi-Annuals. Treasure Island Demonstration Garden. 7th St. Windsor. Free. windsorgov.com

July 20 - Northern Co Beekeepers Association: State of the Honey Industry. Kerst Barn. 17765 Hwy 392. Greeley. \$5 non-members. nocobees.org

July 22 - Berthoud Farmers' Market Pollinator Day. Fickel Park. N. 7th St. Berthoud. Free admittance. berthoudlocal.org

July 26-30 - Weld County Fair. Island Grove Regional Park. 501 N. 14th Ave. Greeley. Free. weldcountyfair.com

July 29 - Berthoud Farmers' Market Beer Day. Fickel Park. N. 7th St. Berthoud. Free admittance. berthoudlocal.org

A BUFFALO GRASS LAWN IS NOT EASY BUT WORTH THE JOURNEY

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



Spring is when people ask for a lawn that “looks nice, but doesn’t need much water” or “any grass that uses less water than bluegrass.” One way is to convert the lawn to a native grass, like buffalo grass. Honest confession, buffalo grass is not cheap, easy, quick, or problem-free. For those of you wanting a buffalo grass lawn, here are some pointers.

- For a headache-free way to a buffalo grass lawn, I recommend sodding. It's faster, has fewer weeds, and is much less work but more expensive.
- If seeding, plant buffalo grass during June-July. If using sod or plugs, plant in June to early August. Buffalo grass MUST be well-established for its first winter.
- The establishment year is NOT the time to skimp on water. Buffalo grass seed, sod, and plugs are expensive—so you must water a lot the first year.
- Use turf-type buffalo grass cultivars for your lawn —pasture types are less attractive. The best seeded cultivar is called Sundancer, closely followed by Cody and Bowie (arrowseed.com or stockseed.com). The best sodded or plug cultivars are Legacy or Prestige (toddvalleyfarms.com).
- Plugging (the planting of small rooted chunks of buffalo grass) is a great alternative to seeding, and less expensive than sodding. Todd Valley Farms provides an excellent how-to guide on establishing a lawn from plugs.
- Weeds WILL be a problem with a new seeding, or when planting plugs. To reduce weed competition, apply Tenacity herbicide (mesotrione) to the bare soil at the time of seeding (find at online sellers). Once the grass is up, broadleaf and grassy weeds can be controlled using an herbicide called Square One (find online sellers). Follow label instructions; MORE IS NOT BETTER! And while these herbicides are expensive, their use at the beginning of buffalo grass establishment makes the experience much smoother and less ugly.
- Surprisingly, buffalo grass responds very well to nitrogen fertilization when seeded or plugged. Fertilize with a natural organic like Richlawn, Alpha One, or Alphalawn every two weeks beginning at seeding. Back off once you begin mowing the grass.
- Mow buffalo grass as soon as it reaches a 2 inch height to encourage spreading and weed control.
- The second year (not the first) you can reduce lawn watering.
- Finally, be patient and vigilant (with water and weeds) when starting buffalo grass from seed or plugs. In the end, it will be worth it!



For step-by-step information on establishing buffalo grass lawns from seed, plugs or sod, see this fact sheet extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/buffalo-grass-lawns-7-224.

For other lawn questions, call the Larimer County Extension office at 970-498-6000 to talk with a Master Gardener (Jarimermg@gmail.com) or email me your turf questions: tony.koski@colostate.edu. 🌱

EAB, or Not EAB?

That is the Question



Ryan Lockwood
Colorado State Forest Service

One question Colorado homeowners are frequently asking these days is whether or not their ash tree is suffering from emerald ash borer (EAB).

What is EAB?

Emerald ash borer is a destructive, non-native insect that infests and kills all ash tree species (*Fraxinus* spp.) including green and white ash, and their cultivars, like 'Autumn Purple.'

Adults are half-inch long, dark metallic green beetles with a coppery red or purple abdomen under the wings. Adults are most visible in June and July, when they lay eggs on the bark of host trees. Larvae are creamy white in color and are found under the bark in S-shaped galleries. The larval stage of EAB feeds under the bark of trees, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients. Infested trees gradually die over a period of approximately two to four years.

Where has EAB been detected?

As of April 2017, EAB has been confirmed in 30 states. In 2013, EAB was first detected in Colorado in the City of Boulder. To date, EAB has been confirmed in Longmont and Gunbarrel. EAB has not been detected in Colorado outside Boulder County.

EAB vs. other insects

The presence of EAB in a tree typically goes undetected until more than a year after initial infestation. This difficulty

TREE SYMPTOMS CAUSED BY MULTIPLE FACTORS (i.e., EAB, other pests, declining tree health):

- thinning of upper branches/twigs
- leaf loss
- suckering on the lower trunk or lower branches
- vertical splits in the bark
- increased activity from woodpeckers

TREE SYMPTOMS CAUSED ONLY BY EAB:

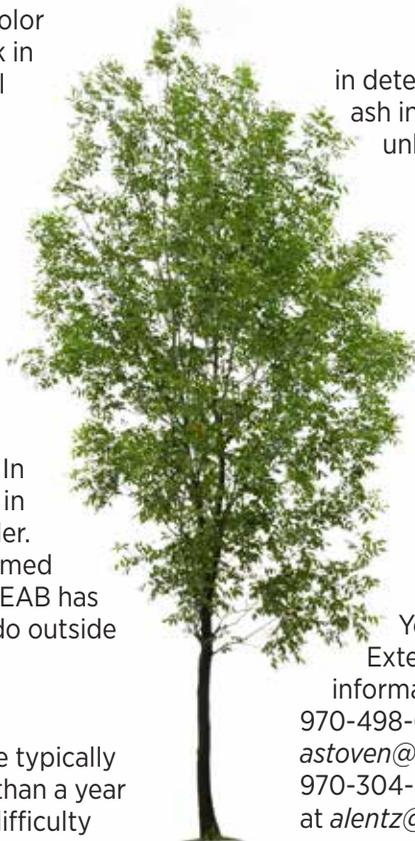
- S-shaped tunnels produced by larvae under the bark
- D-shaped exit holes about 1/8-inch wide
- significant epicormic sprouting on dying branches in the upper half of the tree

in detection is compounded by many ash in the state already being unhealthy or impacted by other tree pests.

What to Do if You Think You've Found EAB

If you think you have detected EAB in any ash tree, please contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 888-248-5535 or email CAPS.program@state.co.us. Visit eabcolorado.com for the latest information on this insect.

You can also contact your local Extension Office for additional information: In Larimer County, call 970-498-6000 or email Alison O'Connor at astoven@larimer.org. In Weld County, call 970-304-6535 or email Amy Lentz at alentz@co.weld.co.us. 🌱



august events

FORT COLLINS

Aug 5 - Garden a'Fare Wine Tour with Lost Prairie Winery. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$65. 21+. fcgov.com/gardens

Aug 5 - Rocky Mountain Raptor Program. Larimer County Farmers' Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

Aug 10 - Jams, Jellies and Fruit Spreads. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$25 with registration. larimer.org/ext

Aug 12 - Beekeeping through the Seasons. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$18. fcgov.com/gardens

Aug 12 - Vegetable Fest: featuring the Great Zucchini Race! Larimer County Farmers' Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

Aug 16 - Pickling Vegetables. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$25 with registration. larimer.org/ext

Aug 17 - The Holler! Concert (benefit for The Matthews House). Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$12 adv/\$15 door. fortcollinsnursery.com

Aug 17 - How to Cook Anything Outside, Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave. \$35. 21+. fcgov.com/gardens

Aug 19 - Yoga in the Gardens with Miramont Lifestyle Fitness. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

Aug 19 - Afternoon Tea in the Gardens. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. Cost TBD. fcgov.com/gardens

Aug 19 - Music at the Market with the Blue J's. Larimer County Farmers' Market, 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

Aug 20 - Miniature Gardening Class. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$40. fortcollinsnursery.com

Aug 26 - Natural Dyeing Techniques. Gully Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. \$30, gullygreenhouse.com

Aug 26 - Yoga Class at the Market with Elan Yoga. Larimer County Farmers' Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

Aug 26 - Sept 4 - Yard Sale. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free admittance. fortcollinsnursery.com

Aug 30 - Dehydrating Foods, Leathers and Jerkies. Larimer County Extension, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$15 with registration. larimer.org/ext

Go Beyond Xeric to

Xeriscaping has been around for years,



and most of us are familiar with those techniques – choosing drought tolerant plants, amending the soil appropriately, and mulching to help hold moisture. But there are difficult locations that need to go beyond xeriscape all the way to XXX—plants that will thrive with no supplemental water at all.

Native plants provide the backbone of any no-water plant list. But just because a plant is native to Colorado, doesn't mean it is drought tolerant. Alpine, mountain, and riparian plants are all adapted to moisture. No-water plants can also include those from other areas with similar climates and soils.

Soil is key. Horticulturists have been preaching for years that our heavy clay soil needs organic matter added for best plant growth. But the types of plants that will thrive with no water besides what Mother Nature provides, prefer our local soils un-amended. Loosening the soil with a garden fork or creating a mound provides the perfect conditions.

It sounds counter-intuitive, but growing evidence indicates that bare-root planting can be an effective way to plant in unwatered areas. Typical greenhouse-grown plants have developed a root system in potting media that might not even contain soil and that dries



NATIVE XXXERIC Trees & Shrubs

- Apache Plume
- Blue Velvet Honeysuckle (*non-native*)
- Desert Holly
- Fringed Sage
- Golden Currant
- Mountain Mahogany
- Rabbitbrush & Dwarf Rabbitbrush
- Rocky Mountain & Utah Junipers
- Russian Hawthorn (*non-native*)
- Pinon & Ponderosa Pines



NATIVE XXXERIC Perennials

- Blue Flax
- Catmint (*non-native*)
- Desert Four O'Clock
- Dotted Gayfeather
- Chocolate Flower
- Mexican Hat Coneflower
- Penstemons (Palmer's, Bridge's, Rocky Mountain, Cardinal)



NATIVE XXXERIC Groundcovers

- Partridge Feather (*non-native*)
- Pussytoes
- Seafoam Sage (*non-native*)
- Sulfur Buckwheat



NATIVE XXXERIC Ornamental Grasses

- Little Bluestem & varieties
- 'Blonde Ambition' Grama Grass

out very quickly. Removing this forces the plants to grow from the very beginning into the native soil.

Bare-rooting is used in rock and crevice gardening but is also useful when water is a scarce commodity. To plant, carefully tease off the soil in a bucket of water, keeping as many roots intact as possible. Dig a deep hole to tuck the roots into, keeping them as straight as possible. Water thoroughly and cover plants with a piece of lightweight floating row cover to shade them for a week or so. Bare-rooting works best with plants in 4" pots or smaller.

SOIL IS KEY

Watering weekly or even monthly through new plants' first summer will increase your success, but many plants will grow without this input. Even drought tolerant plants have limits though. In severe drought conditions, have pity and water occasionally.

This approach to gardening isn't for everyone or even every part of your yard. Your XXX yard probably won't look like your neighbors' but it will lower your water bill and let you vacation with less yard stress. It will attract more native bugs, including pollinators, and more birds, adding life to your garden.

Plant Select has a notation for its least thirsty plants as well. For more information, Robert Nold's book *High and Dry*, 2008, Timber Press. 🌱



*Sherry Fuller, Curator
The Gardens on Spring Creek*

IT'S TIME FOR THE
COUNTY
Fair



Alison O'Connor, Colorado State University Extension Horticulture Agent in Larimer County



You can almost smell the funnel cakes and that can only mean one thing—it's county fair season! Attend the Larimer County Fair, August 4-8, at the Ranch in Loveland (larimercountyfair.org).

The Fair is chock-full of fun things to see and do, including visiting the animals in the barns, watching a rodeo, cheering on the Splash Dogs and admiring projects from 4-H kids and the Open Class entries.

If you think you can grow the biggest zucchini or the hottest pepper on the planet, then consider entering the Larimer County Fair. It's free to enter! Two areas gardeners should consider entering are the Open Class Horticulture and Crops Show and Garden Flowers. To enter fill out the online form by July 17 at the fair website larimercountyfair.org. Premiums are awarded for first, second and third place and there are also special awards.

For a full look at the Open Class categories and classes, please visit larimercountyfair.org and click on "Participants" and then "4-H and Open Class." If you have any questions, the Larimer County Extension Office is happy to answer them for you 970-498-6000. 🍄

august events

BERTHOUD, LOVELAND, GREELEY & WINDSOR

Aug 1 - Berthoud Historical Society Garden Group: Prairie Planting. LTVPM Courtyard. 224 Mountain Ave. Berthoud. Free. berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup

Aug 2 - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: How does a Transplant garden in Colorado? Treasure Island Demonstration Garden. 7th St. Windsor. Free. windsorgov.com

Aug 4-8 - Larimer County Fair. The Ranch. 5280 Arena Cir. Loveland, Free. larimercountyfair.org

Aug 12 - Second Saturdays: Master Gardener Program. Treasure Island Demonstration Garden. 7th St. Windsor. Free. windsorgov.com

Aug 16 - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: Vegetable Picking. Treasure Island Demonstration Garden. 7th St. Windsor. Free. windsorgov.com

Aug 17 - Northern Co Beekeepers Association: Beekeeping Costs and Income: How to be financially viable. Kerst Barn. 17765 Hwy 392. Greeley. \$5 non-members. nocobees.org



LARIMER COUNTY

FARMERS' MARKET

SATURDAYS, MAY 20 - OCTOBER 28

8:00 A.M. - NOON

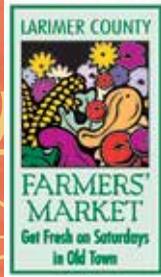
200 W. OAK STREET, OLD TOWN FORT COLLINS

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LARIMER COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET Get Fresh on Saturdays in Old Town

Colorado State University Extension





NoCo Urban Homestead Tour

SAT, JULY 22 | 9 A.M. - 3 P.M. | FORT COLLINS & LOVELAND

Get inspired by the urban homesteads featured on our 4th annual NoCo Urban Homestead Tour, a fundraising event benefiting the Gardens on Spring Creek and Loveland Youth Gardeners. Tour goers are treated to six tour stops, three homesteads in Fort Collins and three in Loveland; each integrating unique processes and attractions.

This self-guided tour will feature raised bed gardening, backyard chickens and coops, season extension, beekeeping, beer making, preserving, fruit trees, greenhouses, and incorporating useful and repurposed garden structures. The tour will highlight small yet inspiring backyard settings.

Cost to attend the tour is \$15 per person; Children 12 & under are admitted free. Tickets at fcgov.com/gardens.

Garden a'Fare Wine Tour with Lost Prairie Winery

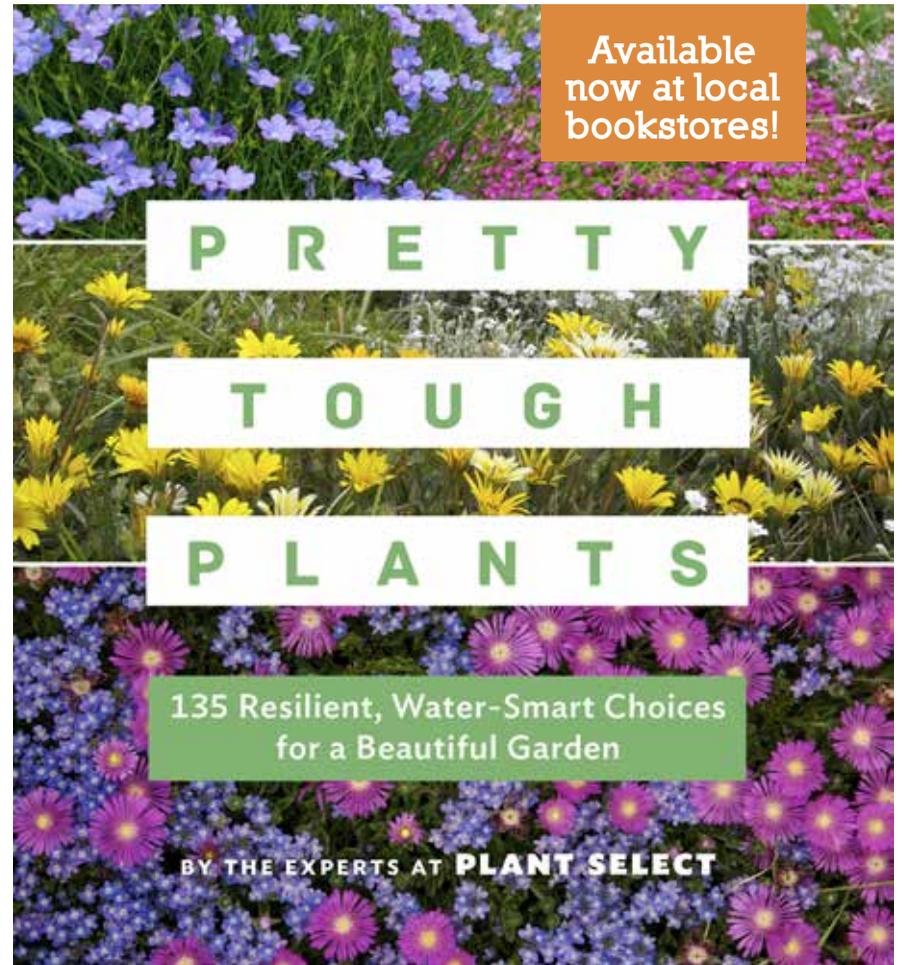
SAT, AUGUST 5 | 5 - 8 P.M. | GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK

Garden a'Fare Wine Tour is a culinary pairing event highlighting edible garden creations by local chefs featuring produce grown in the Garden of Eatin' paired with Lost Prairie wine. Wine Tour will feature modern "progressive dinner" style courses by local chefs paired with four varietals of wine.

Gluten free and vegetarian guests, this event is for you! Restaurants include Café Vino, Fiona's Deli, The Cooking Studio, Spoons Soups & Salads, Locality, and Mainline.

Event includes local music to enjoy, silent auction to peruse and bid, and a complimentary event tasting glass to take home. All the while, you will have the opportunity to explore our beautiful botanic gardens.

Cost is \$65. Tickets at fcgov.com/gardens.



sept events

FORT COLLINS

Every Saturday - Colorado Master Gardener & Food Safety Booth. Larimer County Farmers' Market. Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountymarket.org

Every Monday & Tuesday - Read and Seed. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$3. fcgov.com/gardens

Sept 2 - Fort Collins Fungi. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. Cost TBD. fcgov.com/gardens

Sept 2 - Summer Bounty Cooking Class. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$35. fcgov.com/gardens

Sept 2 - Fitness Class at the Mind Body Design. Larimer County Farmers' Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountymarket.org

Sept 2 - Preserve the Harvest Workshop. The Growing Project Garden at Hope Farms. 1601 N. Shields St. \$15 only via website/email. thegrowingproject.org

Sept 6 - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: Color in the Garden Late Garden Enhancement. Treasure Island Demonstration Garden. 7th St. Windsor. Free. windsorgov.com

Plant this, Not That

GOLDEN BANNER VS LUPINE

Sherry Fuller, Curator
The Gardens on Spring Creek



A hybrid lupine in full bloom is a sight to behold, but very difficult to achieve in our area. These elegant lupines grow best in rich soil that is a bit acidic, well-drained and evenly moist—none of which describes our typical soil.

Instead of hybrid lupine, try golden banner, *Thermopsis divaricarpa* and *montana*, native plants common in our foothills and mountains with lupine-esque spikes of yellow flowers. Also called golden pea, false lupine and Carolina lupine, there is another species, *T. villosa*, native from New England south to Alabama that is almost as easy to grow here and more common in nurseries. Both of these beauties bloom brightly in spring and grow 2-4' tall, depending in part on how much water they get.

If you prefer blue flowers, one of the false indigos, *Baptisia* spp., is a good choice. These are eastern natives that are very hardy, easy to grow here and look very similar to blue lupines. They are slow to establish, but once they get going, baptisias are long-lived. They bloom in early summer, but their blue-green foliage is attractive through the growing season. 🌱



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Help
You
Grow

Fort Collins
NURSERY

2121 E. Mulberry St., Fort Collins, CO 80524 • 970-482-1984 • www.FortCollinsNursery.com



WATER USE Q&A



Let's Get Water Smart

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

DID YOU KNOW?

July is Smart Irrigation month! During July most sprinkler system retailers (online and local) offer rebates and incentives on items that will help you save money and water. Your water provider might provide additional incentives, too (bonus!).

Q: WHAT IS "SMART" IRRIGATION?

A: Smart irrigation takes an engaged homeowner plus efficient equipment. Pressure-reducing heads are a smart choice if you see floating mists of water that barely reaches your landscape. High-efficiency nozzles are smart, inexpensive components to swap-in. Drip irrigation is smart for non-turf areas because it delivers water directly to the root zone.



Q: MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON MY TREES, WHAT CAN I DO FOR FREE?

A: Water after 8 p.m. and before 6 a.m. to reduce water loss due to wind and heat. Turn off your sprinklers or use the "rain delay" function when it rains. Ensure that you only water when your landscape needs it and that you only water what needs to be watered (keep that sidewalk dry!).

Q: HOW MUCH SHOULD I WATER?

A: Never water more than three days per week. Split run-times in half so the first application to soak in; this "cycle-soak" approach will allow the second application soak in better, getting water to the roots while minimizing run-off. For spray zones, water for two 8-minute cycles. Rotor zones apply less water per minute; use two 18-minute cycles. Finally, as the seasons change, so should your schedule – scale back when days get shorter and nights get cooler.

Q: MY SPRINKLER SYSTEM IS A MYSTERY TO ME, WHERE DO I START?

A: Many water utilities offer free audits with practical, easy-to-understand information. After this, you'll be prepared to control your controller and to check for leaks and water-wasters that can damage your property (ever seen what sprinklers do to a fence?). Contact your water provider to see if they offer this service. 🌱

10% Off TREE PRUNING

Locations in Denver, Firestone and Fort Collins

Applies only to shade and ornamental tree pruning services. Expires August 31st, 2017. Residential customers only. Other restrictions may apply.



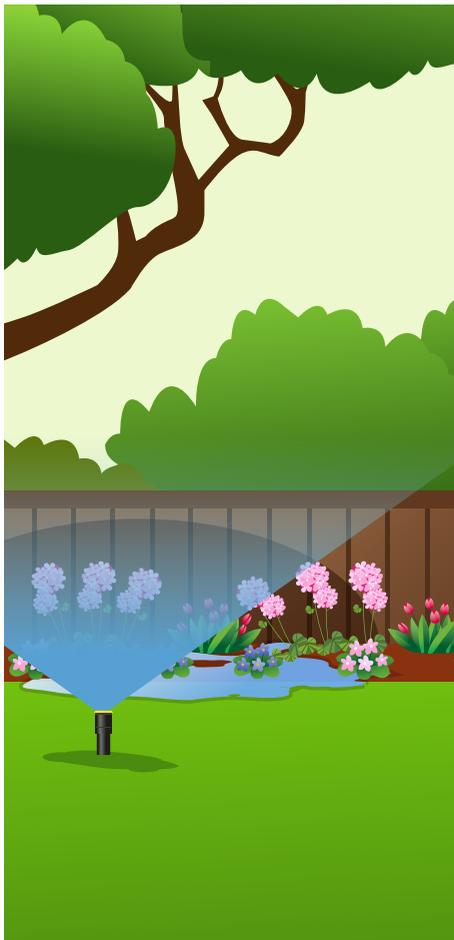
Take advantage of our special offer
970.284.8031



OVER- WATERED LAWN?

INSTALL A
WATERSENSE
CONTROLLER.

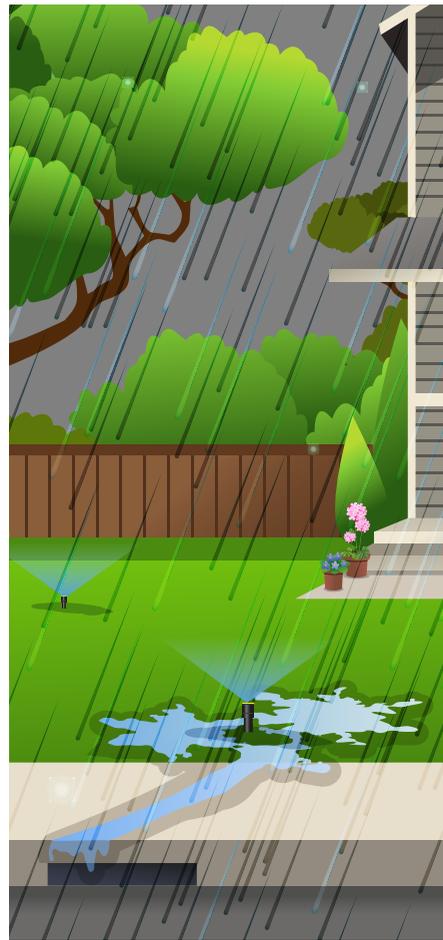
\$100 REBATE



WATERING FLOWERS THE SAME AS TURF?

INSTALL
A DRIP
IRRIGATION
SYSTEM.

50% REBATE
UP TO \$50



WATERING IN THE RAIN?

INSTALL A
RAIN SENSOR.

\$15 OR **\$30**
REBATE



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND
OTHER SPRINKLER EQUIPMENT REBATES

fcgov.com/sprinkler-rebates, 970-212-2900 or V/TDD 711

Must be a Fort Collins Utilities water customer to qualify for rebates. Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities.

City of
Fort Collins
Utilities