

NoCo Bloom

LATE SPRING 2016



the GARDENS
on Spring Creek

City of
Fort Collins

LET THE
soil fly

ANNUALS
& VEGGIES
THAT
THRIVE

GET
FRESH AT
FARMERS
MARKETS

SMART
WATERING
WITH
TONY




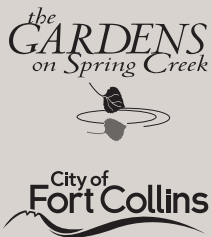
Hello Fellow Gardeners!



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

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

Finally, spring has sprung – in typical NoCo fashion. We never know what a day can bring – a little sun, rain, snow or wind. But for gardeners, spring heralds new hope for a new season: new plants to try, seeds to plant, landscape projects to tackle. This issue of NoCo Bloom is chock full of ideas to kick off the season right.

Whether you are looking for tips to ensure your veggie garden thrives, combinations for stunning containers, hardy perennials to add to your landscape, or you want the best lawn in the neighborhood – we've got you covered.

Here's to a beautiful and bountiful year of gardening.

Dr. Steve Wallner
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





Anne Wuerslin, Colorado State University Extension Master Gardener in Larimer County



Tender vegetables include celery, beans, corn, cucumbers and summer squash; these vegetables need daytime temperatures of 55 degrees or more and are intolerant of frost. True warm season veggies include peppers, tomatoes, pumpkins, melons, eggplant and winter squash, which are more inclined to thrive when air temperatures are above 60-70 degrees.

Soil temperature needs to be checked. Measure 2" down at 8 a.m. (4" down for beans). Soil temp should be at least 60 degrees. To warm your soil for a jump start, cover the ground with plastic mulch a few days prior to planting.

Vining crops such as cucumbers, squash, eggplants, tomatoes and melons, can be directly seed sown or transplanted as starts. Be careful handling the root system of these plants, as they do not like disturbance. Harden off transplants by placing them outdoors a few days before planting.

Rotate your planting sites yearly to avoid soil borne diseases. Tomatoes are especially prone to disease, but many have been bred for resistance. Plant tomato transplants deeply, up to the first set of leaves, and stake or trellis immediately after planting. Nearly every tomato can be grown in a container—just provide enough space for the mature plant.

Sequentially sow veggies such as lettuce, kale, spinach and chard. Try heat resistant lettuce that is slow to bolt in hot weather. Block planting works better than rows for greens and allows for better picking in a smaller space.

If you like to cook from your garden, various herbs can be planted in pots near your kitchen door. Attract pollinators by adding calendulas, nasturtiums or marigolds for color.

For more information, refer to CSU Garden Notes #720 Vegetable Planting Guide at extension.colostate.edu.

may events

FORT COLLINS

May 6-May 8 - Spring Plant Sale, Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. Free admittance. fcgov.com/gardens

May 11 - Foraging for Spring Flowers and Pollinators. McMurray Natural Area parking lot. \$10 (only via website). thegrowingproject.org

May 12 - Master Gardeners: Great Roses All Summer. Old Town Public Library. 201 Peterson St. Free. poudrelibraries.org

May 13 - Container Couture Class. Gulley Greenhouse. 6029 S. Shields St. \$40 includes supplies. gulleygreenhouse.com

May 14 - Make Your Own Container Crevice Garden. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$30. fcgov.com/gardens

May 19 - Master Gardeners: A Local Pest Update. Old Town Public Library. 201 Peterson St. Free. poudrelibraries.org

May 21 - Audubon Rockies: Vegetable Gardening and Pollinator Plantings. Bath Garden Center & Nursery. 2000 E. Prospect Rd. Cost TBA. rockies.audubon.org/get-involved/events

May 21 - Take Control of your Sprinkler System. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. Reduced fee on behalf of Fort Collins Utilities. \$8. fcgov.com/gardens

May 21 - Basics of Rock Gardening. Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave. \$15. fcgov.com/gardens



Spring

PLANT

Sale

MAY 6-8

GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK

MEMBERS-ONLY: FRIDAY, MAY 6, 3 - 6 P.M.

PUBLIC: SATURDAY, MAY 7, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

AND SUNDAY, MAY 8, NOON - 5 P.M.

THIS WEEKEND!

We have just what you need to grow a beautiful landscape, bountiful veggie garden, and lively containers. Our staff, volunteers, students from CSU, Front Range Community College and High Plains Environmental Center have cultivated thousands of annuals, herbs, perennials, and veggie starts for you. Proceeds benefit all four organizations. Remember to bring your own box for carrying your favorite plants home! A complete list of plants is available online.



PLANT SELECT® 2016

Pat Hayward, Director, Plant Select

Plant Select® promotes plants that are durable, resistant, unique and vibrant for western gardens and beyond. These plants are trialed and tested in various gardens in Colorado. Plant Select® is a cooperative effort with Colorado State University and Denver Botanic Gardens.

ALAN'S APRICOT ICE PLANT

The hardiest, longest-blooming of all of our ice plant selections! This superior form has larger 2-inch showy blooms covering the foliage nearly all summer. Flower color changes seasonally from a true orange-apricot to soft orangey-pink and then back again. Brought to Plant Select® by Alan Tower, Spokane WA.

Other benefits: Good for containers, attracts pollinators, useful in rock gardens and rock walls and for edging.

Size: 1-2" tall x 12-18" wide
 Blooms: Apricot to pink blossoms late spring through fall
 Sun: Full sun to part shade
 Water: Moderate to xeric
 Hardiness: USDA Zones 4-9
 Culture: Clay, loam or sandy soils. ☼



ANNUALS

THAT Thrive



Sherry Fuller, Curator, Gardens on Spring Creek

Every year a new crop of plants come out, each claiming to be bigger, better, or easier. Here are some of my picks for remarkable annuals that will thrive in your summer containers even if your thumbs aren't as green as you'd like.



Zahara & Profusion Zinnias

More spreading than old-fashioned varieties, these zinnias have similar double flowers that last longer. As their blooms fade, new growth tends to cover them, so it isn't as important to deadhead regularly. Both varieties grow about 12-18" tall and wide and require full sun. They are heat tolerant and attract butterflies. Old fashioned zinnias often get powdery mildew, a fungus that causes the leaves to become gray, dusty, and then die, but these varieties are seldom bothered. There is a rainbow of color options, but my favorite is Zahara Sunburst with golden flowers splashed with a red sunburst in the center.

Dragon Wing Begonias

With shiny bright green, wing-shaped leaves and clusters of small scarlet flowers, Dragon Wing begonias add a bright spot to any container or garden bed. They are practically indestructible, but do best with dappled afternoon shade and average water. These plants can reach 12 to 18" tall and wide and bloom all summer until the first hard frost.



Wave Petunias

Wave petunias remain one of the easiest annuals to grow. Available in a kaleidoscope of colors and sizes, these are more drought tolerant than you might expect. The original Waves are typically groundcovers, growing only 6" tall and spreading 3-4' wide. Easy Waves are a little more mounded and don't spread as wide. Shock Waves have masses of slightly smaller flowers on large plants. Tidal Waves are the giants of the group, growing 16-22" tall and 3-5' wide. Give them full sun, regular fertilizer, and cut them back a bit if they need rejuvenation during the summer.

Fireworks Gomphrena

Strong, tall stems topped by little explosions of hot pink flowers with a hint of yellow on their tips characterize Fireworks gomphrena. This drought tolerant annual grows 3-4' tall and wide and makes a statement in a flower bed or container. Fireworks attracts both beneficial bees and butterflies, giving our pollinators one more food source. ☼



Tips for Success



Choose an ample container. Smaller containers are more difficult to keep watered.



Use good quality potting soil to fill containers initially. Remove the top 6-8 inches of root-filled soil each year and replace. Consider replacing all the soil every 3 to 5 years.



Annuals need regular watering when first planted until roots establish. As they mature and summer heat arrives, they might need to be watered every day. With limited room for roots, containers can dry out quickly. Add compost (not potting soil) to in-ground beds before planting annuals.



Annuals need regular fertilizer. Try using a time release fertilizer like Osmocote to provide constant feeding. Occasionally use an organic, water-soluble formula such as Age Old Organics according to their directions.

may events

LOVELAND & BERTHOUD

May 7 - Berthoud Historical Society Spring Festival and Plant Sale. Little Thompson Valley Pioneer Museum, 224 Mountain Ave. Berthoud. Free admittance. berthoudhistoricalsociety.org

May 7 - Audubon Rockies: Be a Volunteer Habitat Hero & Plant Milkweed! Rivers Edge Natural Area. Loveland. Free. rockies.audubon.org/get-involved/events

May 10 - LWP Community Stewardship Series: Heirloom Fruit Trees. Grimm Brothers Brewhouse. 623 Denver Ave. Loveland. Free with registration. cityofloveland.org/LWPLectures

May 14 - Loveland Garden Club Plant Sale. All Saints Episcopal Church. 3448 N. Taft Ave. Loveland. Free admittance.

May 14 - Native Plant Sale. High Plains Environmental Center. 2968 Bluestem Willow Dr. Loveland. Free admittance. suborbitat.org

May 14 - Community Garden Late Planting Party. Community Garden at Pioneer Park. East Indiana Ave. & NE 2nd St. Berthoud. Free admittance. berthoudlocal.org

May 19 - Loveland Youth Gardeners Spring Tomato Plant Sale. 907 S. Lincoln Ave. Loveland. lovelandyouthgardeners.org

May 21 - Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District Garden Fair. NCWCD Headquarters. 220 Water Ave. Berthoud. Free. northernwater.org

GREELEY

May 19 - Northern Colorado Beekeepers Association: Splits. Greeley Recreation Center. 651 10th Ave. \$5 non-members. nocobees.org



PLANT IT FORWARD
Fighting Hunger from the Ground Up

plantitforwardnoco.org

june events

FORT COLLINS

June 4-12 - Monarch Butterfly Pavilion - Birthday Bash. Gulley Greenhouse, 6029 S. Shields St. Free. gulleygreenhouse.com

June 11 - Extended Education Workshop. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$15. fortcollinsnursery.com

June 11-12 - Tough Plants for Tough Places: Tour with Lauren Springer-Ogden. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$20. fcgov.com/gardens

June 11 - Yoga in the Gardens. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10, fcgov.com/gardens

June-August - Various Youth Summer Camps. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$135-\$250. fcgov.com/gardens

June 14 - Twilight Garden Series: What's Hop-ening in the Garden. CSU Horticulture Center. 1707 Centre Ave. \$10. hortla.agsci.colostate.edu

June 16 - Rock Garden Concert (benefit for Project Self-Sufficiency). Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$12 adv/ \$15 door. fortcollinsnursery.com

June 19 - Fairy Gardening Class. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$35, fortcollinsnursery.com

June 19 - Father's Day Tree Sale. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free admittance. fortcollinsnursery.com

June 25 - Fort Collins in Bloom! 34th Annual JLFC Garden Tour. East Elizabeth neighborhood. \$20 or VIP \$35 (includes food and beverage samples). jlfortcollins.org

June 28 - Twilight Garden Series: Drip, Dry and Rock Your Garden. Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. hortla.agsci.colostate.edu

June 29 - Herbal Remedies from Common Plants. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$15. fcgov.com/gardens

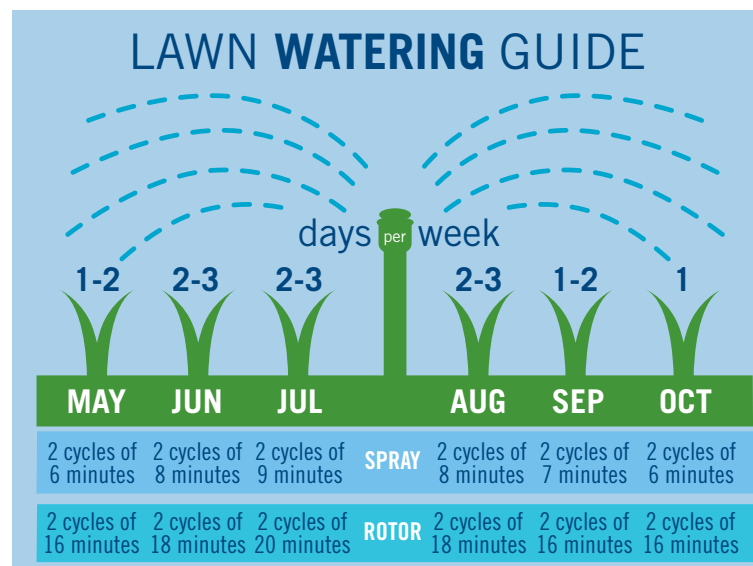
Every Monday & Tuesday - Read and Seed. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$3. fcgov.com/gardens

Smart Watering with Tony



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

If you have an irrigation system, you have likely fired it for some early spring watering. Like most mechanical systems in our lives (cars, plumbing, lawnmowers, etc.), irrigation systems require some routine maintenance to keep them operating well. Unfortunately, I often visit home and HOA landscapes where it is obvious that sprinklers have not been repaired for many years. Broken, leaky heads result in poor sprinkler coverage that leads to most of the lawn problems that we see in home lawns: brown spots, dead spots, weeds, poor color and density, and many disease problems.



To keep a lawn uniformly green, large areas of a lawn are often overwatered in order to make poorly covered areas green. Excessive watering is wasteful, leads to mushy soil and root-rot diseases like necrotic ring spot – and results in unnecessarily high water bills.

While we recommend watering your lawn during the late evening and early morning hours (9 p.m. – 9 a.m.), watch your system run during the daytime this week to look for misbehaving sprinkler heads. They should pop up perfectly vertical, rotate to cover their area, display a spray pattern for that type of head, and retract back into the ground fully when the water is turned off. Sprinkler heads can be damaged by mowers, children, and pets. They can sink too far below grade over time, become obstructed by tree roots, or become overgrown and hidden by shrubs and perennials at the borders of the lawn.

If you qualify, Fort Collins Utilities will conduct a free audit of your home irrigation system. To qualify for this audit, you must be a Fort Collins Utilities customer, including those served water by Fort Collins-Loveland and ELCO water districts. To get on the list for an audit, call 970-416-2666, or register online.

As for how long to water your lawn each week, it depends on the type of sprinkler heads you have in your system. Refer to the chart above, from the City of Fort Collins, for a starting point on how long to water during the growing season. Water less if it is cool, cloudy, calm and rainy – and slightly more when it is hotter, sunnier and windier than normal.

If you have lawn problems (weeds, disease, spots) that you can't resolve, the CSU Lawncheck program conducted through the Larimer County Extension office can provide assistance. Call 970-498-6000 for more information or go to the Lawncheck website, www.extension.colostate.edu/lawncheck.

Get Fresh at Farmers Markets



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

Spring means local farmers markets start selling crisp greens, vegetable starts and broccoli, which lead to sweet peaches, crisp apples and plentiful potatoes. These markets promote community involvement, healthy eating practices and offer a great variety of products. Plus, produce is at its peak of freshness. Not to mention all the other wonderful goodies you can take home, like salsa, sauces, bread, eggs, pastries, milk, dog treats, wine, cheese and fresh flowers.

The 41st season for the Larimer County Farmers Market kicks off in downtown Fort Collins (200 W. Oak Street, Larimer County Courthouse) on Saturday, May 14. The market will open 8 a.m. to noon each

Saturday through October 22. Unique features of the market are that it's run through the CSU Extension Office in Larimer County, and Master Gardener volunteers handle day-to-day operations of the market. They are also on hand to answer your gardening questions.

Continuing in 2016, the LCFM will match up to \$10 week/customer in SNAP (food stamp) benefits. If you forget to bring cash or checks, the market can swipe your credit card for Market Bucks. Throughout summer the market will also host many special events, so check out the website for the most up-to-date information larimercountyfarmersmarket.org. 🌱

Get Fresh in Larimer County All Week Long!

WEEKDAYS

Loveland Farmers Market*
Tuesdays from June 7 to Oct. 25
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
North Garfield and Orchard
lovelandfm.com

Fort Collins Farmers Market*
Wednesdays from June 15 to Oct. 26
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Harmony and Lemay
fortcollinsfm.com

Estes Valley Farmers Market
Thursdays from June 2 to Sept. 29
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
250 Park Ln. (Bond Park)

SATURDAYS

Larimer County Farmers Market*
May 14 to Oct. 22
8 a.m. – noon
200 W. Oak St. Fort Collins
larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

Drake Road Farmers Market*
April 16 to Sept. 24
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
802 W. Drake Rd.
drakeroadfarmersmarket.com

Berthoud Local Farmers Market
June 25 to Sept. 24
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
1201 Lake Ave.
berthoudlocal.org

SUNDAYS

Fort Collins Farmers Market*
May 1 to Nov. 13
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Harmony and Lemay
fortcollinsfm.com

*These markets accept SNAP benefits



june events

GREELEY

June 1 - Audubon Rockies: Habitat Hero: Wildscaping 101. Greeley Recreation Center. 651 10th Ave. Free.
rockies.audubon.org/get-involved/events

June 25 - Greeley Garden Tour. Selected Gardens in the Greeley Area. \$15. greeleygardentour.org

LOVELAND, BERTHOUD, ESTES PARK

June 1 - Berthoud Historical Society Garden Group Meet and Greet: Compost Tea and Bokashi. McCarty-Fickel Home Museum. 645 7th St. Berthoud. Free.
berthoudhistoricalsociety.org

June 4 - Community Garden 2nd Round of Planting Party. Community Garden at Pioneer Park. East Indiana Ave & NE 2nd St. Berthoud. Free admittance, berthoudlocal.org

June 7 - Weed and Critter Control with Tony Koski. Estes Park Senior Center. 220 Fourth St. Estes Park. Free with registration. estes.org/seniorcenter

June 14 - LWP Community Stewardship Series: Introduction to Loveland Open Spaces. Grimm Brothers Brewhouse. 623 Denver Ave. Loveland. Free with registration.
cityofloveland.org/LWPlectures

June 16 - Northern Colorado Beekeepers Association: Oxalic Acid Vaporizer. Community Center. 248 Welch Ave. Berthoud. \$5 non-members. nocobees.org

June 18 - Loveland Garden Tour & Art Show benefiting Loveland Youth Gardeners. Loveland Youth Gardeners. Lakeside Gardens. Northeast Loveland. \$15 (12 and under free). LovelandYouthGardeners.org

Begins June 20 - Weekly Community Garden Maintenance. Community Garden at Pioneer Park. East Indiana Ave & NE 2nd St. Berthoud. Free admittance. berthoudlocal.org



Sign up for a free sprinkler audit

Over 400 residents get a free sprinkler audit each year – don't miss out on yours!

- Sign up at fcgov.com/sprinklers
- Save water, money, and have a healthier lawn this summer

If you water manually, learn some best practices at fcgov.com/hand-water and enter to win tools to help you water efficiently.



fcgov.com/sprinklers
fcgov.com/hand-water
970-212-2900

Must be a Fort Collins Utilities water customer to participate. 970-212-2900 | V/TDD: 711
Auxiliary aids & services are available for persons with disabilities.

Grow With Us

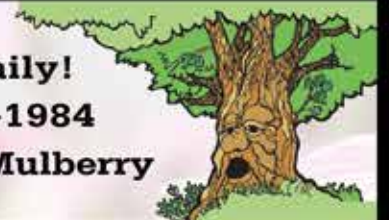
Fort Collins NURSERY

Upcoming Sales & Events

June 11: Extended Ed Class
June 16: Rock Garden Concert
(Benefit for Project Self-Sufficiency)
June 19: Father's Day Tree Sale
June 19: Fairy Gardening Class

Details at: www.FortCollinsNursery.com

Open Daily!
970-482-1984
2121 E Mulberry



Plants • Supplies • Garden Gifts • Tools • Fertilizer • Seeds