

NoCo Bloom

SUMMER 2016



City of Fort Collins



TOUR LOCAL
urban
HOMESTEADS

PLANTING
FOR
**BIRDS, BEES &
BUTTERFLIES**

GET
TO THE
**COUNTY
FAIR!**

TONY'S
TIPS ON
**BROWN
SPOTS**



Connie Meyer, Urban Homestead Tour Chair

An urban homesteader is someone who takes deliberate steps to live purposely and simply in an urban environment.

Such purposeful living may involve, but is not limited to, raising backyard chickens, beekeeping, and growing fruits, herbs, and vegetables. Even things like drying clothes on a clothesline, cooking from scratch using

whole foods, and preserving the harvest through canning, dehydrating, or freezing are on the list. And, it can be creative like engaging in hobbies that produce tangible items such as quilting, knitting, sewing, cheesemaking, and brewing beer or wine.

Urban homesteading is easily within your reach. The size of your home or backyard yard doesn't matter, rather, it is what you do with what you have. Believe it or not, you may be one already.

Witness urban homesteading in action at the upcoming NoCo Urban Homestead Tour. Tickets and more info at fcgov.com/gardens. ☘

JOIN US!

July 30, 2016

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fort Collins & Loveland

\$15 per ticket

Children 12 & under free

Tickets at fcgov.com/gardens

Self-guided and fun!

this time of the growing season, especially tomato/potato psyllids and tomato hornworms. In the search for psyllids check the underside of the leaves for yellow aphid-sized discs and their salt-like droppings. Should you find them, control options include sulfur, permethrin and pyrethrum. Sulfur needs to be applied so it coats the bottom of the leaf.

Q: Are there any tips for fruit trees?

If you have an apple tree, it is time to spray for the codling moth's second generation egg laying in late July. If you have had trouble with peach tree borer (peach crown borer), early July and August is the time to spray the lower trunk with insecticide. This borer attacks all stone fruits. ☘

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

july events

FORT COLLINS

July 6 - Introduction to Backyard Chickens. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$15. fcgov.com/gardens

July 6 - Jams, Jellies and Fruit Spreads. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$25 with registration. larimer.org/ext

July 9 - Smart Solar Gardening Through Design and Microclimate. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$15. fortcollinsnursery.com

July 9 - Sunrise Yoga at the Market by Elan Yoga Studio. Larimer County Farmers Market. 200 W. Oak St. \$5. larimercountymarket.org

July 12 - 2016 Twilight Garden Series: Selecting the Best. Trial Gardens. 1401 Remington St. \$10. hortla.agsci.colostate.edu

July 9 - Yoga in the Gardens. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. Walk-ins welcome. fcgov.com/gardens

July 13 - Watershed Bus Tour. City of Fort Collins. Free with registration. fcgov.com/watershed

July 13 - Introduction to Urban Beekeeping. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$15. fcgov.com/gardens

July 14 - Pickling Vegetables. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$25 with registration. larimer.org/ext

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

July 30 - NoCo Urban Homestead Tour. Various locations in Fort Collins & Loveland. \$15. fcgov.com/gardens

July 31 - Summer Perennial Sale. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free admittance. fortcollinsnursery.com



Bill and Mary Monroe
CSU Extension Master Gardeners in Larimer County

Summer Q & A

Q: It's often hot and dry in July and August, so how do I keep my garden happy?

Give everything a drink! Slow, deep—but not too frequent—watering to encourage deep root growth should be number one on your list. Watering in the morning is best so plants are refreshed for the day. Don't forget that during the heat of day plants in containers dry out very quickly so keep them well watered. As container plants grow, they will need more water.

Q: What insects tend to be around during the summer?

Take regular tours around the yard making sure everything is doing well. Look for the pests under and on leaves that usually attack during





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.

STANDING OVATION LITTLE BLUESTEM

(Schizachyrium scoparium 'Standing Ovation' PP25,202)

This patented selection of native plant deserves a big round of applause. A warm season grass that does well in poor, dry soils, keeping a tight habit throughout the entire growing season. Spikey bluish-green leaves transition to shades of red changing to deep purple in the autumn. Seed heads remain upright through winter and provide interest and food for birds. Standing Ovation will not die out in the center and is excellent for mass plantings due to a uniform size among plants. Brought to Plant Select® by North Creek Nursery.

Other benefits: Deer resistant, useful in mass plantings or meadow designs, and is a North American native.

Size: 2-3 tall x 12-18" wide
Blooms: Late summer to fall
Sun: Full sun
Water: Dry to xeric
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3-8
Culture: Well-drained, sandy soils ☼

PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS IN NORTHERN COLORADO

SHRUBS:

Rabbitbrush
Oregon Grape Holly
Ninebark
Bluemist Spirea
Roses
Butterfly Bush

PERENNIALS:

Sedums
Sages
Veronicas
Butterfly Weed
Coneflowers
Hyssops
Buckwheat
Blanketflower



Michelle Provaznik, Director
Gardens on Spring Creek

POLLINATORS

PLANTING FOR

From honeybees disappearing due to colony collapse disorder to the rapid decline of monarch butterfly populations, the plight of pollinators has been well documented in recent national news. But what are pollinators and why are they so important?

Pollinators are animals or insects that transfer pollen from one flower to another causing seeds or fruit to form. According to the Pollinator Partnership website, "Somewhere between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants on earth need help with pollination. Pollinators provide pollination services to over 180,000 different plant species and more than 1,200 crops. That means that one out of every three bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators."

So what can gardeners do to help pollinators thrive? The United States Department of Agriculture's website has lots of information about pollinators, read some of their ideas of how gardens can help below.

For inspiration on pollinator gardens, visit the Gardens on Spring Creek to see the pollinator garden located in the Garden of Eatin' fruit and vegetable garden. This stunning garden blooms from early spring through fall attracting a wide variety of pollinators. Gardens staff recently partnered with USDA and US Forest Service staff to build a pollinator garden at their facility located across the street from The Gardens on Centre Avenue. Planted in mid-May, this garden is just now starting to blossom – you are invited to check out both gardens. ☼



Provide a **clean water** source.

Leave **dead tree trunks** for nesting insects.

Reduce or **eliminate pesticide** use.

Choose a mixture of plants that **bloom throughout the seasons**.

Early and late season bloomers are particularly important.

Use **pollinator friendly plants** that provide pollen or nectar.

Accept some plant damage from insects.

Support **land conservation**.

July events

LOVELAND, BERTHOUD & ESTES PARK

July 12 - LWP Community Stewardship Series: Renewable Energy. Grimm Brothers Brewhouse. 623 Denver Ave. Loveland. Free with registration. cityofloveland.org/LWPLectures

July 16 - Summer Harvest Party. Community Garden. Pioneer Park. East Indiana Ave & NE 2nd St. Berthoud Community potluck. berthoudlocal.org

July 16 - Estes Park Weed Roundup. Elm Road Storage Yard. 666 Elm Rd. Estes Park. Free. colorado.gov/pacific/townofestespark/weeds

July 26 - Day Tour of Colorado: Big Thompson and Windy Gap Projects. Northern Water. 220 Water Ave. Berthoud. Free with registration. northernwater.org

GREELEY & WINDSOR

July 10 - Lessons Learned From Sick Tree Day. Clearview Library. 720 3rd St. Windsor. Free. windsorgov.com

July 6 - City of Greeley Water Conservation: Watering Tips & Tricks. Greeley Recreation Center. 651 10th Ave. Greeley. Free with registration. greeleygov.com

Garden a'Fare

THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK

Two culinary pairing events highlighting edible garden creations by local chefs featuring produce grown in the Garden of Eatin' paired with local wine or beers. Guests are treated to local music, silent auction, and a complimentary tasting glass — all the while exploring our beautiful botanic gardens. Reserve your glass at fcgov.com/gardens.

Wine Tour with Blue Skies Winery

Saturday, August 6, \$75



Beer Tour with Odell Brewing

Saturday, August 27, \$55



august events

FORT COLLINS

August 5 - Garden Party. City of Fort Collins. City Hall. 300 Laporte Ave. Free. fcgov.com/garden-party

August 6 - Garden a'Fare Wine Tour with Blue Skies Winery. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$75. fcgov.com/gardens

August 9 - Pressure Canning. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$25 with registration. larimer.org/ext

August 11 - Watershed Bus Tour. City of Fort Collins. Free with registration. fcgov.com/watershed

August 11 - Microgreens. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$21. fortcollinsnursery.com

August 13 - Bug Day. Bath Garden Center. 2000 E. Prospect Rd. Free. bathgardencenter.com

August 13 - Yoga in the Gardens. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. Walk-ins welcome. fcgov.com/gardens

August 13 - Sunrise Yoga at the Market by Elan Yoga Studio. Larimer County Farmers Market. 200 W. Oak St. \$5. larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

August 18 - Rock Garden Concert featuring The Holler! Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$12 adv/ \$15 door. fortcollinsnursery.com

August 20 - Meet Your Vegetables - Tastings and Recipes. Larimer County Farmers Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free admittance. larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

August 21 - Fairy Gardening Class. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$35. fortcollinsnursery.com

August 24 - Dehydrating Foods, Leathers and Jerkies. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$15 with registration. larimer.org/ext

August 27-29 - Yard Sale. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free admittance. fortcollinsnursery.com

August 27 - Garden a'Fare Beer Tour with Odell Brewing Co. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$55. fcgov.com/gardens

August 31 - Preserving Tomatoes - Canning, Freezing and Dehydrating. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$15 with registration. larimer.org/ext

What's Causing this Brown Spot in my Lawn?



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

The cool, rainy spring that has turned our lawns emerald green will soon give way to our typical hot, dry, sunny summer weather – and brown spots will invariably appear in Front Range lawns. Summer brown spots are often assumed to be caused by diseases and insects, but this is often not the case at all. While not impossible, insect-caused brown spots are relatively uncommon during the summer months (fall is a different story). And with the exception of necrotic ring spot, we have relatively few disease problems that directly cause brown spots in lawns.



The vast majority of summer brown spots in lawns are related to watering in some way. Broken heads, poor sprinkler spacing, pressure problems, plugged heads, sunken heads, heads obstructed by shrubbery, overgrown perennials or tall grass, etc. are common causes of brown areas in lawns.

Lawns that are not watered enough (or frequently enough) can develop brown areas. Seasonal adjustment of irrigation amount and frequency to account for sunnier, hotter, and drier summer conditions is essential to prevent stress and semi-dormancy in lawns.

When lawns become stressed by insufficient water, they become more susceptible to a disease called *Ascochyta* leaf blight. Yes, I did say a few sentences ago that brown spots generally aren't caused by disease. In the case of *Ascochyta*, the real cause of brown spots is not the fungus – but insufficient water that stresses the grass and makes it susceptible to this disease. So, before blaming brown spots on disease or insects and running to the store for a fungicide or insecticide that will not cure the problem, do some sleuthing to see if it might be the result of a misbehaving sprinkler head – or because you are not watering your lawn adequately. Correct the watering problem and the brown spots should begin to slowly recover. Read more about *Ascochyta* leaf blight here: extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/ascochyta-leaf-blight-of-turf-2-901.

Another common cause of brown spots is your dog or some other animal (rabbits, cats, foxes) that can kill grass with their salty urine – a topic for another column.

If you have brown spots you can't resolve, the CSU Lawncheck program conducted through the Larimer County Extension office can provide assistance. Call 970-498-6000 or schedule a visit online at www.extension.colostate.edu/lawncheck. 🌱

IT'S TIME FOR THE
COUNTY
Fair



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



Fairs, big or small, are always a treat to enjoy in the summer. Stay local and attend the Larimer County Fair, August 5-9, at the Ranch in Loveland (larimercountyfair.org).

What signals summer more than animals on display, something-on-a-stick and the Tilt-a-Whirl? Plus, you can catch one of the three rodeos, August 7-9.

Attending the Fair is one thing...but have you ever considered participating? The Open Class show is a way to show off your best jams, baked goods, vegetables, flowers and quilts (and many more categories). Plus, it's free to enter! Two areas avid gardeners should consider entering are the Open Class Horticulture and Crops Show and Garden Flowers. To enter Open Class, fill out the online form by July 18 at the website larimercountyfair.org.

If you miss the July 18 deadline, it's only \$5 per department. Premiums are awarded for first, second and third place and there are also special awards.

You do not have to decide what individual classes to enter when you register—instead you decide if your petunias are Fair-worthy the day of entry. There are classes for the entire family to participate in, like classes just for kids and novelty items. I was the three-time reigning Biggest Zucchini champion. I'm hoping for the largest zuke in Larimer County in 2016! Or will it be yours?

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. Just give us a call at 970-498-6000.🌻



Building and Maintaining a Healthy Soil

Jean Reeder, PhD, CSU Extension Master Gardener in Larimer County



If your soil isn't healthy, your plants won't be either. Soil health can be defined as its continued capacity to sustain plants, animals and humans. A healthy soil supplies plants with nutrients and water needed for growth and reproduction. Plants also need oxygen from the soil for root function. A healthy soil is a living, breathing ecosystem. Billions of microorganisms can be found in one cup of healthy soil, and their job is to keep the ecosystem running smoothly. Management choices that provide a healthy habitat for both soil microorganisms and roots will promote a thriving plant community and garden.

How can we build and maintain soil health?

Deal with soil compaction - soil needs pore space to facilitate air and water movement into and through the soil. Compaction decreases porosity in the soil - slowing water drainage and restricting oxygen for roots.

Irrigate properly - roots and beneficial microorganisms need water and oxygen, so keep the primary root zone well hydrated and well aerated. The texture of a soil (proportions of sand, silt and clay) determines how to best irrigate it.

august events

FORT COLLINS

Colorado Master Gardener Office Hours.
Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday Morning.
CSU Extension in Larimer County. 1525 Blue Spruce. Free.
colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/Larimer

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

LOVELAND, BERTHOUD

August 3 - Berthoud Historical Society Garden Group Meet and Greet: Collecting Seeds. McCarty-Fickel Home Museum. 645 7th St. Berthoud. Free. berthoudhistoricalsociety.org

August 5 - 2016 Larimer County Fair. The Ranch. 5280 Arena Circle. Loveland. Free. larimercountyfair.org

August 9 - LWP Community Stewardship Series: Composting. Grimm Brothers Brewhouse. 623 Denver Ave. Loveland. Free with registration. cityofloveland.org/LWPLectures

August 18 - Day Tour of Colorado: Big Thompson and Windy Gap Projects. Northern Water. 220 Water Ave. Berthoud. Free with registration. northernwater.org

GREELEY

August 8 - City of Greeley Water Conservation: Great Ornamental Grasses. Greeley Recreation Center. 651 10th Ave. Free with registration. greeleygov.com

August 18 - Northern Colorado Beekeepers Association: Honey Extraction. Rodarte Community Center. 920 A St. \$5 non-members. nocobees.org

Reduce chemical disturbances to the soil - don't use pesticides unnecessarily and don't overdo fertilizers or organic amendments. Excess nutrients can be a source of environmental pollution, causes an imbalance of nutrient ratios in the soil, and add unnecessary salts.

See CSU Extension GardenNotes and Fact Sheets (cmg.colostate.edu) for information on dealing with soil compaction, irrigation management, and the proper use of fertilizers and organic amendments.

July is smart irrigation month. Learn how to water smart all season.

- Learn more about smart irrigation month at irrigation.org.
- New drip kit rebates and a wide range of irrigation equipment rebates for qualified water customers.
- Watch for more savings on irrigation equipment at local retailers this summer.

fcgov.com/sprinkler-rebates
970-212-2900



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

16-1601

We'll Help You Grow

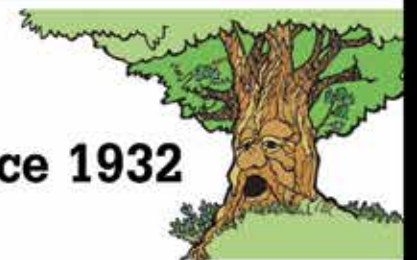


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