

NoCo Bloom

FALL 2016



City of Fort Collins

the GARDENS on Spring Creek



IT'S TIME TO GATHER AND PRESERVE THE
harvest

FREEZING
DEHYDRATING
AND CANNING
OH MY!

DONATE YOUR
HARVEST
**PLANT IT
FORWARD**

TONY'S LAWN
TIPS ON
**FALL WEED
CONTROL**



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.

Hello Fellow Gardeners!

I am very pleased to be able to join the CSU Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture as its new department head. The faculty, staff, and students of our department work to feed people - body and soul in Colorado and around the world. The challenge is great with population growth, urbanization, and climate change setting the context in which we work. Our goal is not just to meet people's minimal caloric needs, but to provide nutritious, safe food and beautiful environments that contribute to all aspects of individual and community health.

We are excited to bring you the latest issue of NoCo Bloom. The fields of horticulture and landscape architecture are widely diverse, and the people of CSU's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture improve lives in many ways in our community and all over the world!

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





~30° LIGHT FROST
 ~28° HARD FROST

HARVESTING

Vegetables

sept events

FORT COLLINS

Sept 3 - Yoga in the Gardens. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. Walk-ins welcome. fcgov.com/gardens

Sept 10 - Sunrise Yoga at the Market by Elan Yoga Studio. Larimer County Farmers Market. 200 W. Oak St. \$5. larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

Sept 10 - Nature's Harvest Fest. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$2 suggested donation. fcgov.com/gardens

Sept 10 - Workshop: Harvest Winemaking. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$15. fortcollinsnursery.com

Sept 15 - Bike-in Food Trucks on the Farm. The Growing Project Educational Garden at Hope Farms. Free entry, pay for food/drinks. thegrowingproject.org/events

Sept 17 - Pressure Canning Soups, Stews and Chili. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$35 with registration. larimer.org/ext

Sept 17 - Meet Your Vegetables: Tastings and Recipes. Larimer County Farmers Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free. larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

Sept 17 - Putting Your Garden to Bed. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$10. fcgov.com/gardens

Sept 17 - Create Your Own Hypertufa Planter. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$30. fcgov.com/gardens

Sept 18 - Fairy Gardening Class. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$35. fortcollinsnursery.com

Sept 24 - Iron Chef Competition. Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountyfarmersmarket.org

Sept 28 - Sauerkraut and Fermented Vegetables. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$25 with registration. larimer.org/ext

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

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



Alison O'Connor, Larimer County Extension

EXTEND THE GROWING SEASON

Cover crops with sheets to trap heat from the Earth's surface to keep plants warm during cold spells. Incandescent holiday lights on a string can raise temperatures several degrees (don't use LEDs). Remove coverings the following morning once temperatures have warmed.

LETTUCE, SPINACH AND OTHER GREENS

These are some of the most cold-tolerant vegetables and almost embrace crisp weather. With protection, many greens can be grown well past the average frost date (mid-September in most of Larimer County). Some, like kale, can withstand temperatures into the teens (and actually become tastier!).

PEPPERS, CUKES & SUMMER SQUASH

Harvest prior to a hard freeze and use or preserve immediately.

POTATOES

Harvest prior to a hard freeze; potatoes cannot be left in the ground after a frost, as it will reduce storage time. Potatoes can be harvested based on individual size preference (new potatoes are smaller and dug during the growing season). Most potatoes will reach a size of 3-6". If potatoes are in the ground, use a garden fork to avoid damaging the tubers. Harvest is easiest when the soil is moist. Remove most of the soil and store in a cool basement/garage. Check potatoes frequently for spoilage.

ROOT VEGETABLES

(TURNIPS, CARROTS, BEETS)
 Leave these in the garden until you're ready to use them in the kitchen. As fall temperatures drop, these vegetables often become sweeter with the concentration of sugars. Harvest before the ground freezes (usually by mid-November).

TOMATOES

Harvest prior to a hard freeze; tomatoes left on frosted vines will quickly deteriorate in flavor and storage ability. Green tomatoes will ripen indoors if packed into boxes wrapped in newspaper. Green tomatoes will not ripen in a refrigerator, so keep them in the basement or on the kitchen counter.

WINTER SQUASH

Harvest when the stem has hardened and turned brown and the skin of the fruit cannot be easily dented by a fingernail. Leave a two inch piece of stem when cutting from the vines. Winter squash should be "cured" indoors at room temperature for 7-10 days following harvest and stored in a cool, dry place (like a basement or garage) at 40-50 degree temperatures. *Acorn squash does not need to be cured; move immediately to a cool, dry place. 🍂



freezing



dehydrating



canning



Edie McSherry
Food Preparation, Preservation and
Safety Extension Agent, Larimer County

It's that time of year when the fruits of your labor may be getting a little out of hand as ripened zucchini, tomatoes, apples and more wait to be picked. Preserving your own food lets you enjoy fruits and vegetables throughout the year. There are three methods of preservation: freezing, dehydrating and canning.

Freezing is an excellent way to preserve freshness, flavor, texture and nutrients of fruits and vegetables. Freezing slows down enzyme activity and retards growth of microorganisms with extreme

cold. Most vegetables need to be blanched, or briefly cooked before freezing, to prevent loss of color, flavor and nutrients. The key to successful freezing is to use airtight containers otherwise freezer burn can result.

Berries and grapes are easy to freeze using the "tray freezing" method. Place some waxed paper on cookie sheet and spread washed and drained berries in a single layer on sheet. Put sheet in freezer until the berries are firm, then slide the berries into freezer containers. This way the berries are individually "flash frozen" so you can pour out the exact amount needed for muffins or a pie.

Dehydrating is one of the oldest methods of food preservation. Drying preserves foods by removing moisture so that microorganisms cannot spoil the food. Dehydrated foods take less storage space, and their flavors become more concentrated. Foods can be dried in an oven or in a food dehydrator where there is control of temperature, humidity, and air circulation.

Canning is the process in which foods are placed in jars and heated to a temperature that destroys microorganisms and inactivates enzymes. This heating and later cooling forms a vacuum seal, which prevents further spoilage during storage.

The first step in canning is to know which of the two safe processing methods you should

use, depending on the acidity of the food. High acid foods such as fruits, jams, jellies, relishes, most tomatoes and anything pickled in a vinegar solution, can be processed in a boiling water canner.

Low acid foods such as vegetables are processed using a pressure canner with either a weighted or dial gauge. If you're a beginner, I recommend starting with something simple, like a jam, using the boiling-water method.

For answers to your food preservation questions, call CSU Larimer County Extension at 970-498-6000, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Or, visit our website at www.larimer.org/ext.

Preserving the Harvest

sept events

LOVELAND & BERTHOUD

Sept 7 - Berthoud Historical Society Garden Group Meet and Greet: Preserving the Harvest. McCarty-Fickel Home Museum. 645 7th St. Berthoud. Free. berthoudhistoricalsociety.org

Sept 13 - LWP Community Stewardship Series: Renewable Energy Options for the Home. Grimm Brothers Brewhouse. 623 Denver Ave. Loveland. Free with registration. cityofloveland.org/LWPLectures

Sept 21 - Loveland Garden Club: Succulents & Cacti. All Saints Episcopal Church. 3448 N. Taft Ave. Loveland. Free entry. lovelandgardenclub.com

GREELEY & WELLINGTON

Sept 7 - City of Greeley Water Conservation: Putting Your Yard to Bed. Greeley Recreation Center. 651 10th Ave. Greeley. Free with registration. greeleygov.com

Sept 10 - The Basics of Preserving Food Safely. Wellington Senior Center. 3800 Wilson Ave. Wellington. Free. larimer.org/ext

NATURE'S HARVEST FEST



SEPT. 10 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Presented by Poudre Pet and Feed Supply

This family-friendly and educational event is back in a one-day celebration of all things nature and harvest in our community. Celebrate adventures in NoCo's big backyard with cooking and urban homesteading workshops, two butterfly releases, tastings of fresh garden produce, a marketplace full of local artisans, entertainment, kids' activities and food vendors. Full workshop schedule at fcgov.com/gardens.



oct events

FORT COLLINS

Oct 2 - Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off & Fall Jamboree. Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free. fortcollinsnursery.com

Oct 6 - Whole Grain Bread Baking. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$25 with registration. larimer.org/ext

Oct 8 - Food Drive (partnering with Native Hill Farms and Food Bank for Larimer County). Larimer County Farmers Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountymarket.org

Oct 8 - Sunrise Yoga at the Market by Elan Yoga Studio. Larimer County Farmers Market. 200 W. Oak St. \$5. larimercountymarket.org

Oct 8 & 15 - Natural Dyes: Introduction to Color and Methods. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$40 includes both dates. fcgov.com/gardens

Oct 8 - Basics of Preserving Safely. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. Free. fcgov.com/gardens

Oct 8 & 9 - Orchid Obsession (Presented by Hi-Country Orchid Society). Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free. fortcollinsnursery.com

Oct 15 - Meet Your Vegetables: Tastings and Recipes. Larimer County Farmers Market. 200 W. Oak St. Free entry. larimercountymarket.org

Oct 15 - Pumpkin 3 Ways. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$25 with tastings included. fcgov.com/gardens

Oct 16 - Spooky Fairy Gardening Class. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$35. fortcollinsnursery.com

Oct 19 - Making Soft Cheeses. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$25 with registration. larimer.org/ext

Oct 22 - Mini Pumpkin Centerpieces. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$25. fcgov.com/gardens

Oct 29 - Halloween Enchanted Garden. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$5 per child, adults free. fcgov.com/gardens

GREELEY

Oct 5 - City of Greeley Water Conservation: How to Compost. Greeley Recreation Center. 651 10th Ave. Free with registration. greeleygov.com

FALL: a Great Time for Weed Control for your Lawn



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



As temperatures cool this fall, it's time to think about controlling any broadleaf weeds that may have popped up in lawns during summer. Weeds like dandelion, black medic, plantain, oxalis (wood sorrel), and clover are best controlled during the fall. Grassy weeds like crabgrass and

foxtail will be killed by the first frost, so there is no need to spray them. Spurge and purslane are also killed by frost. It is important to identify weeds in the lawn before spraying them since you can avoid spraying and save yourself time and money by waiting for frost to kill many weeds.

The best approach to lawn weed control is to use an integrated approach. Don't rely on the use of herbicides to kill weeds. Proper fertilization (fall is also the best time to fertilize a lawn, mid-September, using organic or synthetic turf fertilizer) encourages healthy growth, aeration reduces compaction, and watering late into the fall all help strengthen turf, making it more resistant to weed invasion.



The prudent use of selective herbicides will help eliminate weeds — but only if you are encouraging healthy turf growth with good management. Spot spraying weeds with pre-mixed, ready-to-use weed control products is a better approach than blanketing the lawn with a hose-end applicator or granular

weed-and-feed product in the fall. Spot spraying is more effective and safer for other plants in your landscape than the broadcast approach and is better for the environment. Spray enough to moisten the weeds' leaves. Remember, it's not death by drowning when it comes to lawn weed control. Most importantly, follow all label instructions when using any pest control product — whether a synthetic or natural organic.

Some other tips for effective weed control when spot spraying include:

1. Don't mow for 2-3 days before spraying AND 3-4 days following spraying to maximize weed leaf area and herbicide uptake
2. Don't spray if rain is expected within 12 hours of spraying (or your irrigation is scheduled to come on!)
3. Make sure the lawn and the weeds are not drought-stressed (water well in the week before spraying)
4. Spray when temperatures are below 85° F

If you have weed problems that you can't resolve, consider using the CSU Lawncheck program through the Larimer County Extension office. Call 970-498-6000 or schedule a visit online at www.extension.colostate.edu/lawncheck. 🌿

ALL THINGS Pumpkin

AT THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK 2145 CENTRE AVE

FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION
fcgov.com/gardens

PUMPKIN 3 WAYS

Sat. Oct. 15. \$25. 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Munch on roasted seeds while we explore three pumpkin recipes that will have you looking at this autumn squash in a new light. We will create garlic rosemary hummus, a savory soup, and no-bake cookies. Participants will help in the preparation and tasting. Recipes included.

MINI PUMPKIN CENTERPIECES

Sat. Oct. 22. \$20.

10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

Create your own fall-themed centerpieces with a mini pumpkin or gourd, succulents, acorns and other natural materials. All materials provided. Each participant will take home one or two completed centerpieces.

HALLOWEEN ENCHANTED GARDEN

Sat. Oct. 29. \$5 per child.

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This event is one of the only candy-free Halloween celebrations in Fort Collins. Wear a costume and be ready for some magical (never frightening!) fun. The activities are geared towards children ages 2-8 yrs. 🍂

oct events

LOVELAND & BERTHOUD

Oct 5 - Berthoud Historical Society Garden Group Meet and Greet: Honey Bees (includes a honey tasting). McCarty-Fickel Home Museum. 645 7th St. Berthoud. Free. berthoudhistoricalsociety.org

Oct 11 - LWP Community Stewardship Series: Reducing Nutrient Runoff in Stormwater Ponds. Grimm Brothers Brewhouse. 623 Denver Ave. Loveland. Free with registration. cityofloveland.org/LWPLectures

Oct 19 - Loveland Garden Club: Exploring Colorado Wineries. All Saints Episcopal Church. 3448 N. Taft Ave. Loveland. Free entry. lovelandgardenclub.com

nov events

FORT COLLINS

Nov 5 - Create an Ornamental Grass Wreath. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$30. fcgov.com/gardens

Nov 5 - Easy Terrariums. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$30. fcgov.com/gardens

Nov 12 - Gardening Myths: Debunking with Science. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$18. fcgov.com/gardens

Nov 12 - Introduction to Permaculture. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$18. fcgov.com/gardens

Nov 14 - Mastering High Altitude Food Preparation. Larimer County Extension. 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. \$5 with registration. larimer.org/ext

Nov 19 - Natural Lip and Hand Balms. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$25. fcgov.com/gardens

Nov 19 - Holiday Open House. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. Free. fortcollinsnursery.com

Nov 20 - Fairy Gardening Class. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$35. fortcollinsnursery.com

dec events

FORT COLLINS

Dec 2 to Jan 8 - Garden of Lights. Gardens on Spring Creek. 2145 Centre Ave. \$5 suggested donation. fcgov.com/gardens

Dec 11 - Holiday Fairy Gardening Class. Fort Collins Nursery. 2121 E. Mulberry St. \$35. fortcollinsnursery.com



PLANT IT FORWARD

Fighting Hunger from the Ground Up

Help us reach our
35,000 pound goal!



Harvest & Donate Today!

We are still taking donations of your garden produce for our neighbors in need — remember nothing is too small or too large for us! Produce donations can be brought to these two locations.

FOOD BANK FOR LARIMER COUNTY
1301 Blue Spruce Dr.
Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK
2145 Centre Ave.
Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.
(open Sundays through Oct. 1).

For more information, plantitforwardnoco.org
or contact the Gardens at 970-416-2486.



Prepare your landscape for winter:

- Cut your lawn shorter than normal.
- Rake leaves and turf.
- Remove weeds and pet waste.
- Reduce irrigation times.
- Blow out your sprinkler system.

fcgov.com/water-wise-lawncare
970-212-2900



VTDD: 711. Auxiliary aids & services are available for persons with disabilities.

16-1940

Year Round Seasonal Headquarters



Fort Collins NURSERY

Great Fall Events!

Oct. 2: Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off and Fall Jamboree

Cash Prizes • Live Music • Beer Tent
Food Trucks • Kids Activities

Oct. 8-9: Orchid Obsession

(Presented by Hi-Country Orchid Club)

Orchid Show • Sales • Seminar
American Orchid Society Judging

Nov. 19: Holiday Open House

Santa • Music • Snacks • Specials

www.FortCollinsNursery.com

2121 E Mulberry
Fort Collins, CO
970-482-1984



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