

# NoCo Bloom

SPRING 2019



**backyard**  
CRASH COURSE

5 TOOLS  
BEGINNERS  
NEED

MANAGING  
LAWN  
MITES

WHAT TO ASK  
A LANDSCAPE  
DESIGNER



**Colorado State University**

**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](http://hortla.agsci.colostate.edu)



**LARIMER COUNTY**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

**CSU EXTENSION IN LARIMER COUNTY**  
1525 Blue Spruce Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80524-2004  
970-498-6000 | [larimer.org/ext](http://larimer.org/ext)



**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 needing help and live in Weld County, visit the Weld Extension Office at [weldgov.com/departments/csu\\_extension](http://weldgov.com/departments/csu_extension) or call directly to 970-400-2066 for assistance.

## THIS YEAR, GROW A GARDEN!

Spring is officially just days away, and we are counting down the days! *NoCo Bloom* is back for another year of gardening guidance, and this issue is dedicated to new gardeners. Those of you with the glimmer of hope in your eye; seed starters and new home owners; those of you who are inspired to bring your yard, patio, or veggie patch to life this year. Maybe you just moved to the area, or potentially into your first house with a yard...or maybe you've been here a long time, and just got bit by the gardening bug?

We've picked a few topics to get you through all the ups and downs as a new gardener. How do I start? When do I transplant? What about hiring a landscape designer? What tools do I need? When is the right time to begin? These topics and more are covered in the next few pages along with an extensive community calendar that offers many gardening education opportunities to learn even more.

Remember, the best step towards success in the garden is always the first one. Happy Gardening! 🌱

**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*

**Korrie Johnston**  
*Editor, NoCo Bloom*

**Becca Henry**  
*Art Director, NoCo Bloom*

**ON THE COVER**  
*Fort Collins resident, Jami McMannes, can't wait to start her 2019 garden.*  
*Photo by John Robson.*





## WHEN TO START VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS



*Jon Weiss,  
CSU Master Gardener  
in Larimer County*

Do those seed catalogs in your mailbox have you dreaming

about what to grow in your vegetable garden? An important consideration when deciding whether to directly seed or use transplants is the maturity of the particular variety. Due to the short growing season in Colorado, many summer favorites (tomatoes, peppers) must be planted via a “start” or transplant.

Seed packets usually state maturity in terms of “days to harvest” (DTH). For many vegetables, you will need to start them by seed indoors before you plant them outside—if you want to have a harvest in July or August. In the case of tomatoes, peppers, and other vegetables planted via transplants, the clock starts when a transplant is put into the garden, not when seeded. Consider in your planting schedule that transplants also need a 7-10 day “hardening off period” before planting outside.

Another tip to bypass all of this, visit The Garden’s Spring Plant Sale (May 11-12) where hundreds of vegetable varieties are ready and available for sale, many of which are heirloom. 🌱

### TRANSPLANT GROWING GUIDE

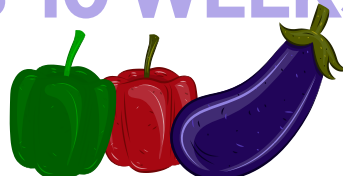
#### 5-7 WEEKS



#### 6-8 WEEKS



#### 8-10 WEEKS



## events 'n classes

### ALL COMMUNITIES

Apr 15–Oct 18 » **Colorado Master Gardener Office Hours**  
Every Mon. Wed. & Fri. morning, 10 am–1 pm.  
CSU Extension in Larimer County, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr, Free, [larimermg@gmail.com](mailto:larimermg@gmail.com), 970-498-6000, [larimerextension.org](http://larimerextension.org)

#### CSU Larimer County Extension Native Plant Master Program

Three Courses: Lory State Park: 5/17, 5/24, 5/31, Red Mountain Open Space: 6/2, 6/23, 6/30 or Pineridge Natural Area: 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, \$90 for program, Applications due 3/29/19, [larimer.extension.colostate.edu](http://larimer.extension.colostate.edu)

#### Mar 1 » **Garden in the Box**

Professionally-designed, DIY, xeriscape garden kits, Discounts available in some cities, See website for details, Starting at \$110, [resourcecentral.org/gardens](http://resourcecentral.org/gardens)

#### Water-Wise Landscape Seminars

Free, expert-led classes on how to create beautiful, water efficient landscapes for all levels of gardeners. Learn more at [ResourceCentral.org/Seminars](http://ResourceCentral.org/Seminars) or call 303-999-3820 x221

### BERTHOUD

Mar 11, 18, and 25 » **NoCo Gardening Boot Camp**  
Northern Colorado Water, 220 Water Ave, \$15 for all 3 classes, Register at 970-498-6000

### ESTES PARK

Mar 12 » **Jump Start Your Garden: Learn The Basics of Seed Starting**, Estes Valley Community Center, 660 Community Dr. Room C, Free, registration required, [colorado.gov/pacific/evrpd](http://colorado.gov/pacific/evrpd)

Apr 9 » **Why Do We Need Bees**, Estes Valley Community Center, 660 Community Dr. Room C, Free, registration required, [colorado.gov/pacific/evrpd](http://colorado.gov/pacific/evrpd)

### FORT COLLINS

Mar 9 » **Build a Wooden Flower Press**, Gulley Greenhouse, 6029 S. Shields St, \$45, Pre-register online, [gulleygreenhouse.com/event/flower-press](http://gulleygreenhouse.com/event/flower-press)

#### Mar 9 » **Seed Starting 101**

Bath Garden Center, 2000 E. Prospect Rd, \$5, [bathgardencenter.com/event/seed-starting-101](http://bathgardencenter.com/event/seed-starting-101)

### CALENDAR COORDINATOR

Kathleen Atkins, Master Gardener  
Colorado State University Extension  
Please submit your gardening classes & events to [nocobloomevents@gmail.com](mailto:nocobloomevents@gmail.com).





# events 'n classes

## FORT COLLINS

Mar 9 » **Winter Farmers Market**, Opera Galleria, 123 N. College Ave, Free admission, [focomarket.org](http://focomarket.org)

Mar 10 » **Growing Project Seed Swap**  
Wolverine Farm Letterpress & Publick House, 316 Willow St, Free, [thegrowingproject.org](http://thegrowingproject.org)

Mar 11 » **Japanese Beetle & Emerald Ash Borer**  
Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr. Free, requires registration, [fcgov.com/recreator](http://fcgov.com/recreator)

Mar 12 » **Free Weekly Kids' Crafts: Bumblebee Puppets**, Bath Garden Center, 2000 E Prospect Rd, Free, [bathgardencenter.com/whats-new/events](http://bathgardencenter.com/whats-new/events)

Mar 12 » **Free Weekly Kids' Crafts: Plant a Pea**  
Bath Garden Center, 2000 E. Prospect Rd, Free, [bathgardencenter.com/whats-new/events](http://bathgardencenter.com/whats-new/events)

Mar 16 » **Grow Your Own Veggies**  
Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$18, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Mar 16 » **Interpreting and Using Your Soil Test Report**  
Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$10, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Mar 16 » **Shamrock Fairy Garden**  
Bath Garden Center, 2000 E. Prospect Rd, \$20, [bathgardencenter.com/event/shamrock-fairy-garden](http://bathgardencenter.com/event/shamrock-fairy-garden)

Mar 19 » **Free Weekly Kids' Crafts: Muffin Cup Art**  
Bath Garden Center, 2000 E. Prospect Rd, Free, [bathgardencenter.com/whats-new/events](http://bathgardencenter.com/whats-new/events)

Mar 23 » **An Introduction to Medicinal Plants**  
Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$18, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Mar 23 » **Beginner Veggie Gardening**  
Bath Garden Center, 2000 E. Prospect Rd, \$5, [bathgardencenter.com/event/veggie-gardening-101](http://bathgardencenter.com/event/veggie-gardening-101)

Mar 23 » **DIY Fairy Garden Accessories**  
Gulley Greenhouse, 6029 S. Shields St, \$30, Pre-register online, [gulleygreenhouse.com/event/diy-fairy-garden-accessories](http://gulleygreenhouse.com/event/diy-fairy-garden-accessories)

Mar 23 » **Planting a Palette for Pollinators**,  
Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$18, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Mar 30 » **Composting & Vermiculture**, Bath Garden Center, 2000 E. Prospect Rd, \$5, [bathgardencenter.com/event/composting-101](http://bathgardencenter.com/event/composting-101)

Mar 30 » **DIY Red Worm Farm**, Gulley Greenhouse, 6029 S. Shields St, \$40, Pre-register online, [gulleygreenhouse.com/event/red-worm-farm](http://gulleygreenhouse.com/event/red-worm-farm)



## WHAT “MITE” HAPPEN TO YOUR LAWN



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

As I write this in January, we in the northern Front Range are experiencing one of the driest winters in many years. It has been sunny, windy, warmer than normal (I've never played so much golf in January!), with intermittent extreme cold. The only thing missing? Any reasonable amount of precipitation. Of course, this all could be changed by a few snowstorms or a wet spring—making what I'm writing now meaningless in March.

If we continue with the dryness, what COULD happen to your lawn? The most severe problem that we see after a dry winter is turf injury by grass mites. These tiny, insect-like critters (more closely related to spiders) essentially suck the life out of your grass as it begins greening up in March. Their activity is favored by warm, dry springs that follow dry winters. They can double their populations in a lawn weekly, which can result in rapid damage—and lawn death. Most commonly seen on south- and west-facing lawns, sections of the lawn just stop greening up—while other parts of your lawn green up normally.

The good news is that mites hate moisture—so their activity and damage can be prevented by watering once or twice a month from December to March for an hour or so with hose and sprinkler. A few winter waterings of the lawn can almost guarantee the demise of the mites. No pesticides are needed with this approach!

The bad news is that—by the time you read this—it will be too late to do the winter watering and your lawn may have suffered mite injury. If this is the case, hire someone to HEAVILY aerate the affected areas and overseed with the appropriate seed species. For more rapid results, cut out the dead areas and plant the appropriate sod species. 🌱



# FIVE TOOLS

## EVERY GARDENER NEEDS



*Dillon Hancock,  
Operations and  
Horticulture Manager,  
Gardens on Spring Creek*

Getting started in the garden without the right tools can be an exercise in frustration. Do yourself a favor and stock your tool belt with these five essentials every gardener needs.

### 1) PRUNERS (SNIPS)

A sharp pair of pruners can do everything from cutting small branches to deadheading more delicate annuals and perennials. Snips are a great choice for mostly vegetative plant care and small woody perennials.

### 2) HORI HORI (SOIL KNIFE)

A good strong soil knife or Hori Hori tool is the perfect multi-use tool for a gardener. Use it for weeding, planting, cutting rootbound plants and even cleaning out the cracks in your walkways.

### 3) SPADE

If you plan on planting larger perennials, trees or shrubs then you'll need a good spade to do the job. They're also great for breaking up hard soils and moving materials like rock and mulch around the garden.

### 4) LEAF RAKE

Rakes are necessary for keeping the garden neat and tidy during the growing season and essential for Fall cleanup.

### 5) DEBRIS HOLDER

Whether you use a collapsible-type bin, or a plastic garbage can, you'll want something to hold all the debris from your garden to haul away or compost. ♻️



Pruners \$15-40



Hori Hori \$10-26

Spade \$30



Rake \$5-30



Trash Can \$10

## events 'n classes

### FORT COLLINS

Mar 30 » **Soil Science Basics & Tour of CSU's Soil Water, and Plant Testing Lab**, CSU Plant Sciences Bldg, Room W-001, \$45, [conps.org](http://conps.org)

Apr 1 » **Gardens partially re-opens**, Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Apr 3 » **Tomatoes and Peppers for the Home Gardener** Old Town Library, 201 Peterson St, Free, [poudreiver.evanced.info/eventcalendar](http://poudreiver.evanced.info/eventcalendar)

Apr 5-7 » **Perennial Palooza Sale**, Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St, Free admission, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

Apr 6 » **Micro-Farming: Commercial Farming Techniques On A Residential Garden Scale** Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$18, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Apr 6 » **Rose Selection & Growing: Best Practices and Tips**, Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$18, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Apr 6 » **Winter Farmers Market**, Opera Galleria, 123 N. College Ave, Free admission, [focomarket.org](http://focomarket.org)

Apr 13 » **How Well Do You Know Your Sprinkler System** Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$10, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Apr 13 » **Uncommon and Underused Perennials** Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$10, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Apr 14 » **Miniature Gardening Class**, Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St, \$40, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

Apr 17 » **Growing Vegetables in Low Water Conditions** Old Town Library, 201 Peterson St, Free, [poudreiver.evanced.info/eventcalendar](http://poudreiver.evanced.info/eventcalendar)

Apr 20-21 » **Bath Gardens Spring Open House** Bath Garden Center, 2000 E. Prospect Rd, Free admission, [bathgardencenter.com/event/spring-open-house-3](http://bathgardencenter.com/event/spring-open-house-3)

Apr 20 » **Earth Day Tree Sale & Giveaway** Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St, Free admission, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

Apr 20 » **Waterwise Irrigation Basics and Landscape Watering Strategies**, Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$10, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Apr 20 » **Weekend Water Savings: Simple Outdoor Projects for Water Savings**, Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$10, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)





**ROCK GARDEN**



**PERGOLA**



**BOULDERS**





# BACKYARD CRASH COURSE

*Michelle Provaznik, Director, Gardens on Spring Creek*

You've moved into a new home or are ready for a landscape re-do, and it hits you—where do I start? The task may feel insurmountable, as if you have no idea where to start. Ten years ago, my family faced this very question when we moved into a home on a half-acre lot. Our crash course of experience and sweat equity can teach you the simple steps to mindfully tackle this very rewarding, yet daunting endeavor.



## FIRE PIT

### GET ACQUAINTED

I spent the first growing season getting to know my yard—what was planted and where, how the irrigation system worked, sunny and shady areas, and drainage. All of these can potentially change, but they inform decisions going forward.

### WHAT DO I WANT?

Maybe you need a play area for kids, you want to grow cutting flowers and herbs, or simply a peaceful place to enjoy nature. Understanding what you want from your yard is critical. For us, priorities included less lawn, large vegetable garden, place for fruit trees, outdoor kitchen, places to sit and gather around the entire site, and lots of color.

### DRAW THE DREAM

Even though I have some training in landscaping, I still couldn't figure out how to put ideas together to form a cohesive design. Fresh perspective was needed, so I hired a landscape designer to create a hardscape plan. Her design brought everything together in a way that made sense, provided continuity and flow. It has been our guide ever since. Highly consider hiring a landscape designer—it can save you a lot of money and backaches in the long run.

### TIME TO GET DIRTY

Evaluate your plan to determine next steps—chunk priorities out in manageable tasks. Maybe you want to hire a contractor or maybe you can't wait to get your hands dirty—or a combo of both. Our plan was ambitious. We've been implementing stages of it for the past eight years. We did much of the work ourselves—removed over 2,000 sq. ft. of sod, moved tons of soil, built a rock garden, constructed a flagstone patio, planted countless plants and modified the drip irrigation. We hired professionals to build the pergola, expand the concrete patio, and modify the irrigation system.

### REAP THE REWARDS

Don't forget to do this step! This is the first year in a long while that we won't be landscaping. Of course, you will find us out in the garden weeding, planting, deadheading, and harvesting. Or maybe just sitting on the patio enjoying a job well-done. 🌻



## PLANTING LAYOUT



## CRABAPPLE TREE

18"-30"

Ex. PEAR  
Ex. CRABAPPLE

# events 'n classes

## FORT COLLINS

Apr 26–29 » **City Nature Challenge: Collecting Images**, Free, [citynaturechallenge.org](http://citynaturechallenge.org)

Apr 27 » **Fort Collins Nursery Spring Open House**  
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St, Free admission, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

Apr 27 » **Growing Fruit Trees on the Front Range**  
Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$18, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Apr 27 » **Just Drip It**, Gardens on Spring Creek, Carnegie Center for Creativity, 200 Mathews St, \$10, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

Apr 27 » **Seaside Aerium**, Gulley Greenhouse, 6029 S. Shields St, \$45, Pre-register online, [gulleygreenhouse.com/event/seaside-aerium-2](http://gulleygreenhouse.com/event/seaside-aerium-2)

Apr 30–May 5 » **City Nature Challenge: Identify Your Finds**, Free, [citynaturechallenge.org](http://citynaturechallenge.org)

May 4 » **Sweet Dreams Herbal Sachets**  
Gulley Greenhouse, 6029 S. Shields St, \$40, Pre-register online, [gulleygreenhouse.com/event/herbal-sachets](http://gulleygreenhouse.com/event/herbal-sachets)

## LOVELAND

Mar 1 » **Fruit Trees for the Front Range**  
CSU Extension, Loveland Library, 300 N. Adams Ave, Free, [lovelandpubliclibrary.org](http://lovelandpubliclibrary.org)

Mar 18 » **The Meaning of Flowers**, CSU Extension, Loveland Library, 300 N. Adams Ave, Free, [lovelandpubliclibrary.org](http://lovelandpubliclibrary.org)

Mar 20 » **Growing Tomatoes in Colorado**  
Loveland Garden Club, All Saints Episcopal Church, 3448 N. Taft, Free admission, [lovelandgardenclub.com](http://lovelandgardenclub.com)

Mar 21 » **Northern Co Beekeepers Association: Annual NCBA Swarm Team Meeting**, Larimer County Ranch Complex, McKee Building, 5280 Arena Cir, Free, members/\$5, non-members, [nocobees.org](http://nocobees.org)

Mar 25 » **The Buck Stops Here: Gardening with Wildlife**, CSU Extension, Loveland Library, 300 N. Adams Ave, Free, [lovelandpubliclibrary.org](http://lovelandpubliclibrary.org)

Apr 1 » **Garden Myths and Mysteries: Learn the Truth!**  
CSU Extension, Loveland Library, 300 N. Adams Ave, Free, [lovelandpubliclibrary.org](http://lovelandpubliclibrary.org)

Apr 17 » **Dirt Cheap Gardening Whimsey with Deb Courtney**, Loveland Garden Club, All Saints Episcopal Church, 3448 N. Taft Ave, Free admission, [lovelandgardenclub.com](http://lovelandgardenclub.com)



## UNDERSTANDING LIGHT FOR GROWING INDOORS

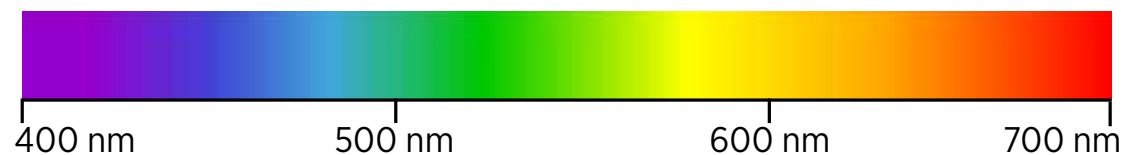


*Joshua Craver, PhD, Associate Professor of Controlled Environment Horticulture, CSU Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture*

When growing plants indoors, providing the proper lighting can be tricky. Below is a brief explanation of the two key properties of light you should keep in mind when considering electric lamps for indoor growing.

The first property is light intensity (“how much” light we are supplying to the plant). This is commonly measured in quantum units ( $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ). Watch out for lamps that report light intensity in footcandles or lux, as these measurements pertain to how humans perceive light and are not appropriate for plants.

### Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR)



The second property is the color (or wavelength) of light. While many lamps will list specific colors of light (e.g., blue and red) emitted, the most important detail to look for is whether the wavelengths listed fall within the range of 400–700 nm. This range is referred to as photosynthetically active radiation (PAR), which is a technical term for the specific wavelengths of light that plants use for photosynthesis and growth. 🌱



# EXPLORE NEW CORNERS OF THE GARDENS ON APRIL 1



Beginning April 1, five new acres of the Gardens on Spring Creek will open with limited hours. New gardens include the theme gardens, the Great Lawn, Undaunted Garden, Prairie & Foothills Gardens, and the Wetlands. In addition, the Rock Garden re-opens just in time for hundreds of spring bulbs to burst open.

The Visitor's Center and original surrounding gardens remain closed due to ongoing construction. Admission is free, but no restrooms or running water are accessible for visitors, so please plan your trip accordingly. Check our website for open touring hours at [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens). 🌸



## City Nature Challenge

### CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!



From April 26 to May 5, cities all from all over the world will compete to see who can document the most animals and plants! City Nature Challenge is an international bioblitz. All you need is a curious mind and to download the app to your smartphone. Residents are encouraged to get out in their garden, natural area, and open space and take photos of species and identify them.

This year is Fort Collins' first year to accept the challenge. Join the Gardens on Spring Creek, Fort Collins Natural Areas, Audubon Rockies, Larimer County and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies to beat Boulder! Learn more and see the map of sample areas at [fcgov.com/nature-challenge](http://fcgov.com/nature-challenge). 🌿



## Larimer County CSU Extension

*where university meets community*

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**  
**Nutrition and Food Safety**  
**Health, Wellness and Family Well-being**  
**Yard and Garden, Colorado Master Gardeners**  
**4-H Youth Development**

Discover how Extension can help you.  
[www.LarimerExtension.org](http://www.LarimerExtension.org)





# WEEKEND WATER-SAVING PROJECTS

Katie Collins, Water Conservation Coordinator, Fort Collins Utilities



WANT TO LEARN MORE? **Check out the Weekend Water Savings class** on April 20. Learn landscape tips and get to know equipment that can take a chunk out of outdoor water use. The class costs \$10. Register at [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens).



**Q: I'M LOOKING FOR QUICK AND EASY WATER-SAVING LANDSCAPE PROJECTS. ANY IDEAS?**

A: Swapping a patch of underutilized grass with a perennial bed is a great way to reduce water use while adding interest to your yard. With simple planning, it can be quick and inexpensive!

## TAKE 30 MINUTES TO MAP YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM.

Make a sketch of your property. Turn on every sprinkler zone and draw the location of each zone and each sprinkler head. Water-wise tip: wait until May 1 to turn on your system.

## TAKE 5 TO 30 MINUTES TO IDENTIFY STAND-ALONE ZONES.

Sprinklers cover area best when the water sprayed from each sprinkler head reaches the next closest head(s). When a sprinkler zone stands alone, meaning heads from other zones aren't helping to water the area, the zone can be removed without compromising remaining sprinkler coverage. An example of this is the strip of grass next to the driveway.

## TAKE 15 MINUTES TO DESIGN THE SPACE (OR NOT!).

Take the guesswork out of design and purchase a Garden In A Box at [ResourceCentral.org/gardens](http://ResourceCentral.org/gardens).

## TAKE AN AFTERNOON TO RETROFIT THE ZONE.

When you change the landscape, you must change the way you water. After removing the grass, cap all but one sprinkler head on the zone. Replace the last head with a drip retrofit kit, available at a hardware store. Plug a dripline into the drip head. Set aside about four hours (depending on area) plus a trip to the store.

## TAKE 2 HOURS TO PLANT AND MULCH!

Water regularly in the first several weeks, then start dialing back. Train those plants to be water-wise! ☘

# Start Spring Planting Now!



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## TOP 5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR LANDSCAPE DESIGNER



*Deryn Davidson, Horticulture Agent, CSU Extension in Boulder County*

Looking to rehab your landscape this summer or starting your garden from scratch? Using a landscape designer can be a useful way to help you create your vision. As you interview potential designers, consider these tips:

### 1) STYLE CHECK

Check out your designer's portfolio and make sure their style matches your vision.

### 2) SPECIALITY CHECK

Inquire if your professional specializes in a certain type of design.

### 3) CONCEPT VERSUS DETAILS

Find out what services they offer. Sometimes people are misled because they think they'll get a design with specific details, when they only are given a concept. Some designers may not provide the specific design unless the client uses their services to install.

### 4) ASK ABOUT COSTS

Clearly state your budget. Ask if there are discounts available if they do the installation (common with design-build businesses).

### 5) WHAT'S YOUR LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

How much do you want to be part of the process? Make sure your input and level of involvement are agreeable to the designer.

## events 'n classes

### LOVELAND

Apr 18 » **Northern Co Beekeepers Association: Spring Splits**, Larimer County Ranch Complex, McKee Building, 5280 Arena Cir, Free, members/\$5, non-members, [nocobees.org](http://nocobees.org)

Apr 27 » **Getting Down in the Dirt with Larimer County Master Gardeners**, Milner/Schwarz Farmhouse Museum, Fairgrounds Park, 710 S. Railroad Ave, Free admission, [lovelandhistorical.org](http://lovelandhistorical.org)

May 4 » **Native Plant Sale and Habitat Fair**, High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr, Free, [suburbitat.org/native-plant-sale-and-habitat-fair](http://suburbitat.org/native-plant-sale-and-habitat-fair)

### WINDSOR

Mar 13 » **Summer-blooming Bulbs**, Clearview Library 720 3rd St, Free, [clearviewlibrary.org](http://clearviewlibrary.org)

Apr 2 » **Treasure Island Demonstration Garden Kick-Off Meeting**, Windsor Recreation Center, 250 N. 11th St, Free, [windsorgov.com](http://windsorgov.com)

Apr 10 » **Spring Lawn Care**, Clearview Library, 720 3rd St, Free, [clearviewlibrary.org](http://clearviewlibrary.org)

May 1 » **1st & 3rd Wednesday Classes: Gardening Topic by Master Gardeners**, Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd, Free, Call 303-726-7634 for info, [weldmastergardeners.org/calendar](http://weldmastergardeners.org/calendar)

Community  
**SPRING**  
PLANT SALE

**SATURDAY, MAY 11**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 12**  
10 A.M.-5 P.M.

**GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK**  
2145 CENTRE AVENUE

**THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK**  
City of Fort Collins  
FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Colorado State University

Help us save resources! Bring your own carrying box. Proceeds support horticulture programs at each participating organization. Visit [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens).



# Spring

## YARD & GARDEN CHECKLIST

Time to prepare for the growing season! Between cleaning up your garden beds, get inspired and plan for the year to come.

*Bees 'N' Blooms Garden In A Box rendering courtesy of Resource Central.*



### PLAN

*Garden In A Box* offers professionally-designed perennial garden kits tailored for Colorado. It's never been simpler to transform your yard into a low-water landscape. [resourcecentral.org/gardens](http://resourcecentral.org/gardens)



### PARTY

Mark your calendar for the inspirational 18th annual Xeriscape Garden Party on June 15 at our downtown Xeriscape Demonstration Garden at 300 Laporte Ave.



### GROW

Attend a class and learn something new with the Gardens on Spring Creek. Topics include seedlings, soil, roses, irrigation & more! Register at [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens).



### WATER

Be patient. Wait until May to charge up and use your sprinkler system. When you do start up, carefully inspect the entire system for leaks and equipment that needs repair.