

# NoCo Bloom

SUMMER 2019



LARIMER COUNTY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



THE GARDENS  
ON SPRING CREEK



**chickens**

HOW TO GET  
COLOR  
ALL SUMMER

BAD BUGS  
TOUGH  
TREES

READY TO  
MOVE OVER  
TO CLOVER?



**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)



**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)



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.

## MAKE THE MOST OF **SUMMER**

The heat of summer is officially here. The time of year that arrives right after the flurry of activity in the spring and before fall clean-up. Gardeners may find themselves being watchful, fertilizing or not, enjoying blooms and bounty, fixing irrigation or pest woes, and noting future dreams and projects. Maybe you have added a component of urban homesteading to your life this summer?

If so, this issue is for you. We are examining one popular component—keeping backyard chickens. A local urban homesteader, Connie Meyer, will walk you through the ins and outs of keeping feathered friends, in addition to sharing some of her lessons learned from keeping them for over a decade.

If this topic piqued your interest, decide now to attend the NoCo Urban Homestead Tour on July 20! Six homesteads will be featured in Fort Collins and Loveland, and each homestead offers a unique amenity that you are bound to learn from and be inspired. I'll see you there!

**Dr. Jessica G. Davis**  
*HLA Department Head  
Colorado State University*

**Dr. Alison O'Connor**  
*Horticulture Extension Agent  
CSU Extension in Larimer County*

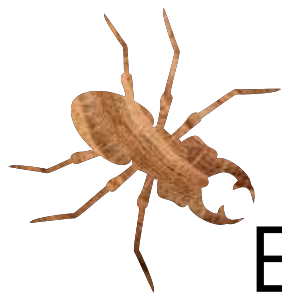
**Michelle Provaznik**  
*Executive Director  
The Gardens on Spring Creek*

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

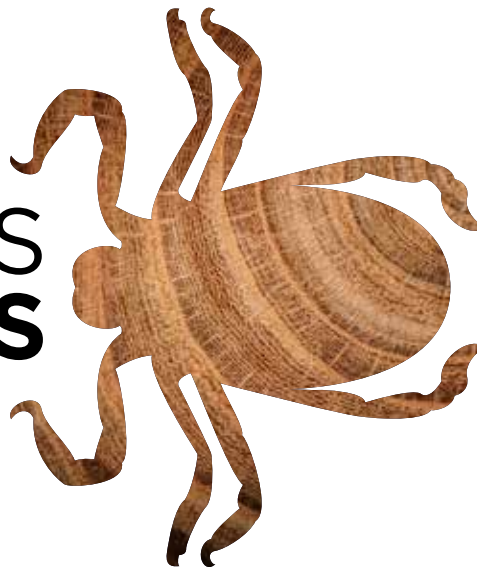
**Becca Henry**  
*Art Director, NoCo Bloom*

### ON THE COVER

*Free range chickens at Connie Meyer's urban homestead.  
Photos by John Robson.*



# BAD BUGS TOUGH TREES



## TOUGH TREES



**HACKBERRY**  
(*Celtis occidentalis*)  
Mature height 40'-60,' mature width 40'-60.' A large shade tree

with no serious diseases or pests. Tolerant of our heavy soils and dry conditions. A narrower cultivar is 'Prairie Sentinel.'



**OHIO BUCKEYE**  
(*Aesculus glabra*)  
Mature height 30'-40,' mature width 30'-40.' A durable tree with dark green

foliage which turns yellow or reddish brown in the fall. Large yellowish panicle flowers in the spring are followed by prickly seed pods. Squirrels love the fruit, which are toxic to humans.



**KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE**  
(*Gymnocladus dioica*)  
Mature height 50'-60,' mature width

40'-50.' A large but slow growing shade tree, with fragrant white flowers in the spring. Very drought tolerant. 'Espresso' is a male clone that does not have seed pods.



**MANZANO MAPLE**  
(*Acer grandidentatum* 'Manzano')  
Mature height 30'-40,' mature width 25'-35.' A drought

tolerant native of New Mexico, sometimes called the western sugar maple. Beautiful red and orange fall color. 🍁

When one sees early pictures of Front Range cities, it is surprising to see what those same cities look like today. Back then, there were few trees, and we tend to forget that we're living in the high plains. Our soil and climate are not hospitable to many tree species. It must have been pure joy when early landscapers discovered that many of the ash and linden species they planted could tolerate our conditions, growing into beautiful trees.

This zealous planting along the Front Range has violated the recommendation we should all follow, "Don't plant too many trees of the same species in the same area." This rule prevents disease or insects from killing a large part of our landscapes. Yet, we are on the forefront of this happening due to an assault by two very bad, invasive bugs. The emerald ash borer is set to wipe out our ash trees, and linden trees are at the top of the Japanese beetle's menu. Unfortunately, these two trees have been over-planted in our urban landscapes. Fortunately, CSU horticulturists and city foresters have been searching to find other trees that will do well in our area. To the left are four trees to consider.



Bill Monroe,  
Colorado State  
University Extension  
Master Gardener in  
Larimer County

## events 'n classes

### ALL COMMUNITIES

#### Larimer County Colorado Master Gardener Office Hours

Every Mon, Wed, & Fri morning, 10 am-1 pm.  
CSU Extension in Larimer County, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr,  
Fort Collins, Free, [larimermg@gmail.com](mailto:larimermg@gmail.com),  
970-498-6000, [larimerextension.org](http://larimerextension.org)

#### Weld County Colorado Master Gardener Office Hours

Every Mon, Wed, & Fri morning, 9am-1pm,  
CSU Extension in Weld County, 525 N. 15th Ave,  
Greeley, Free, [weldmastergardeners@outlook.com](mailto:weldmastergardeners@outlook.com),  
970-400-2089, [weldmastergardeners.org](http://weldmastergardeners.org)

### FORT COLLINS

#### Jul 8-12 » Garden Arts Camp

Gardens on Spring Creek/Carnegie Center for Creativity,  
200 Mathews St, \$250, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

#### Jul 11 » Rock Garden Concert with Grant Farm

(benefit for The Matthews House), Fort Collins Nursery,  
2121 E. Mulberry St, \$15, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

#### Jul 11 » Water Bath Canning

Larimer County Extension, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr, \$25,  
pre-registration required, [larimerextension.org](http://larimerextension.org)

#### Jul 13 » Dirty Dog Wash

Bath Garden Center, 2000 E. Prospect Rd, \$10,  
[bathgardencenter.com/event/dirty-dog-wash-2](http://bathgardencenter.com/event/dirty-dog-wash-2)

#### Jul 13 » Extension Health & Wellness Day

Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St,  
Free, [larimercountymarket.org](http://larimercountymarket.org)

#### Jul 14 » Miniature Gardening Class, Fort Collins Nursery,

2121 E. Mulberry St, \$40, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

#### Jul 17 » Jams, Jellies and Fruit Spreads

Larimer County Extension, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr, \$25,  
pre-registration required, [larimerextension.org](http://larimerextension.org)

#### Jul 19-21 » Summer Perennial Sale, Fort Collins Nursery,

2121 E. Mulberry St, Free Admission, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

#### Jul 20 » NoCo Urban Homestead Tour, Loveland Youth

Gardeners & Gardens on Spring Creek, \$20 (children under  
12 free), [fcgov.com/gardens/special-events](http://fcgov.com/gardens/special-events)

### 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

### Jul 20 » **Read & Seed at the Market**

Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St,  
Free, [larimercountyfarmersmarket.org](http://larimercountyfarmersmarket.org)

### Jul 22–26 » **Garden Animal Camp**

Gardens on Spring Creek/Carnegie Center for Creativity,  
200 Mathews St, \$250, [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

### Jul 27 » **Music by The Seers**

Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St,  
Free, [larimercountyfarmersmarket.org](http://larimercountyfarmersmarket.org)

### Aug 1 » **Rock Garden Concert with Sean Kelly**

(benefit for The Vegetable Connection), Fort Collins  
Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St, \$15, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

### Aug 3 » **Non-profit Guest: The Rocky Mountain Raptor**

**Program**, Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St,  
Free, [larimercountyfarmersmarket.org](http://larimercountyfarmersmarket.org)

### Aug 3 » **Wade The River**

Lee Martinez Park,  
600 N. Sherwood St, Free, [engage.fcgov.com](http://engage.fcgov.com)

### Aug 8 » **Dehydrating Foods, Leathers and Jerkies**

Larimer County Extension, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr, \$15,  
pre-registration required, [larimerextension.org](http://larimerextension.org)

Aug 10 » **Consumer Day** at the Colorado State University  
Annual Flower Garden & Perennial Demonstration Garden,  
1401 Remington St, Free, [hortla.agsci.colostate.edu](http://hortla.agsci.colostate.edu)

### Aug 10 » **National Farmers Market Week Celebration**

Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St, Free,  
[larimercountyfarmersmarket.org](http://larimercountyfarmersmarket.org)

Aug 13 » **Watershed Bus Tour** (event is registration  
only—location sent to participants), Meet at 222 Laporte  
Ave, Free, [fcgov.com/utilities/community-education/  
adults/bus-tours](http://fcgov.com/utilities/community-education/adults/bus-tours)

### Aug 17 » **Read & Seed at the Market**

Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St, Free,  
[larimercountyfarmersmarket.org](http://larimercountyfarmersmarket.org)

### Aug 21 » **Pickling Vegetables**

Larimer County Extension, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr, \$25,  
pre-registration required, [larimerextension.org](http://larimerextension.org)

### Aug 24 » **Music by Antonio Lopez**

Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St,  
Free, [larimercountyfarmersmarket.org](http://larimercountyfarmersmarket.org)

### Aug 24–Sep 2 » **Yard Sale**

Fort Collins Nursery,  
2121 E. Mulberry St, Free admission, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

### Aug 31 » **Produce Drive & Back-to-School Celebration**

Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St, Free,  
[larimercountyfarmersmarket.org](http://larimercountyfarmersmarket.org)



*Tony Koski, Turf Specialist*

*CSU Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture*

A few times every month I get asked about the possibility of seeding “mini-clover” into an existing grass lawn. The people asking have heard about clover’s ability (well, actually it’s a bacteria living in the clover plant’s roots that does it) to “fix” nitrogen from the atmosphere—meaning that a clover-containing lawn won’t need to be fertilized like grass lawns. This is true! And clover flowers are highly attractive to honey bees and other pollinators, providing many months of nectar-producing blooms through the spring and summer. Clover is also very cold hardy and will tolerate a good amount of kid and dog traffic—though it will leave bright green stains on kids clothing. Clover is not particularly drought resistant and does best in full sun. Because it is damaged by herbicides, it’s best not to use weed control products on a clover-containing lawn. Clover lawns like regular irrigation (once or twice weekly, especially when it’s hot).

Thanks to the development (by Dutch breeders) of what is known as “micro” or “mini” clover, there is growing interest planting this less obtrusive clover in lawns. However, this clover stays “mini” ONLY if mowed frequently; if not mowed, it will grow tall and look like regular white clover.

If you don’t view clover as a weed and want to try planting it in an existing lawn (use about 1 pound of seed per 1000 square feet), here are some online sources of seed for a micro clover variety called ‘Pipolina’ (it’s a bit spendy, at \$20-30 per pound).

- Outside Pride [outsidepride.com/seed/clover-seed/miniclover.html](http://outsidepride.com/seed/clover-seed/miniclover.html)
- Seed World [seedworldusa.com/products/micro-clover-seed](http://seedworldusa.com/products/micro-clover-seed)



If you want something less expensive and don’t mind larger and taller clover leaves and flowers, try planting Dutch white clover (\$3-10 per pound online and from local grass seed companies).

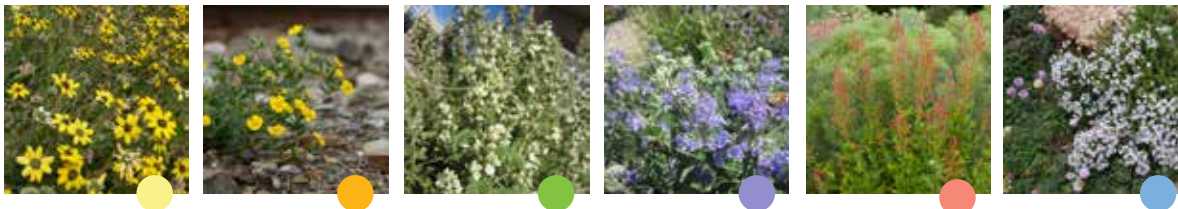
Have questions about lawns or any other part of your landscape, trees, or gardens? Talk to a Colorado Master Gardener at the Larimer County Extension office (970-498-6000) or send an email with your question or problem to [larimermg@gmail.com](mailto:larimermg@gmail.com). 🌱





Andrea Dunn, Colorado State University Extension Master Gardener in Larimer County

Once the tulips, iris and poppies quit blooming, we still want color in our gardens all summer. Our (usually) dry climate, means we need plants that are drought tolerant and don't mind putting down roots in less than optimal soil. I used this simple criteria: a) drought tolerant, b) thrives in clay soils, c) deer and rabbit resistant, d) tolerant of temperature variations, and e) attracts bees, butterflies and birds to select some summer winners for you.



## CHOCOLATE FLOWERS

Yes, they really smell like chocolate and provide bright daisy-like flowers through the summer until the very first frost. If you want a more compact, long-blooming yellow flower, try the Silver Blaze evening primrose. These have a lovely evening fragrance and both plants will bring bees to your garden.

## CREEPING CINQUEFOIL

One of my other new favorites is Creeping Cinquefoil with bright buttercup yellow flowers that bloom June-August. Not only is their beauty a selling point, a practical reason for planting them is to prevent weeds from sprouting because of the dense vegetation cover.

## FERNBUSH & BLUE MIST SPIREA

These two shrubs bloom throughout the summer and attract bees. The fernbush is one of the first plants to turn green in the spring and has spectacular white flowers from July to August. Blue Mist spirea has purple-blue flowers. Both are fast growing, medium-sized shrubs that tolerate pruning and shaping to fit your garden. Blue mist spirea is especially beautiful in the winter with its white dried flowers.

## RED BIRDS IN A TREE

This cousin to the penstemon blooms all summer long and is attractive to hummingbirds.

## VERONICA

Growing well in sun or part shade, these ground covers rapidly spread over rocks and throughout the yard to fill in gaps. Varieties of Veronica including Turkish veronica, Snowmass blue-eyed veronica, and Crystal River have glossy, green dense foliage with either cobalt blue, white with blue centers, or blue flowers that bloom until mid-summer.

Planting one or some of these will guarantee beautiful color throughout your garden this summer and for many summers to come. For more xeric options, visit Plant Select® at [plantselect.org](http://plantselect.org). 🌿

## FORT COLLINS

Sep 1 » **Fundamentals of Horticultural Therapy**  
CSU Campus, See website for cost, [htinstitute.org](http://htinstitute.org)

Sep 7 » **Household Hazardous Waste Event**  
@ 625 Ninth St, City Streets Facility, Free,  
[fcgov.com/utilities/residential/hazwaste](http://fcgov.com/utilities/residential/hazwaste)

Sep 10 » **Powertrip: Energy Bus Tour** (event is registration only—location sent to participants), Meet at 222 Laporte Ave, Free, [fcgov.com/utilities/community-education/adults/bus-tours](http://fcgov.com/utilities/community-education/adults/bus-tours)

## FREDERICK

Jul 26 » **Finale Fridays Frederick Market**, Crist Park—North Side, 105 5th St, Free admission, [frederickco.gov](http://frederickco.gov)

Aug 30 » **Finale Fridays Frederick Market**, Crist Park—North Side, 105 5th St, Free admission, [frederickco.gov](http://frederickco.gov)

## GREELEY

Jul 11 » **What's Up With Worms!**  
Poudre Learning Center Adult Classes, 8313 West F St, Free, [weldmastergardeners.org](http://weldmastergardeners.org)

Jul 13 (and following Saturdays) » **Greeley Farmers Market**  
The Depot, 902 7th Ave, Free admission, [greeleygov.com/fm](http://greeleygov.com/fm)

Aug 15 » **Crevasse Gardening**, Poudre Learning Center Adult Classes, 8313 West F St, Free, [weldmastergardeners.org](http://weldmastergardeners.org)

## LOVELAND

Jul 20 » **NoCo Urban Homestead Tour**  
Loveland Youth Gardeners & Gardens on Spring Creek, \$20 (children under 12 free), [fcgov.com/gardens/special-events](http://fcgov.com/gardens/special-events)

Aug 1 » **Vegetable and Flower Judging at the Larimer County Fair**, First National Bank Building, Larimer County Fairgrounds (The Ranch), Free, [larimer.extension.colostate.edu/larimer-county-fair](http://larimer.extension.colostate.edu/larimer-county-fair)

## WINDSOR

Jul 10 » **Planting a Fall Vegetable Garden**  
Clearview Library, 720 3rd St, Free, [clearviewlibrary.org](http://clearviewlibrary.org)

Jul 13 (and following Saturdays) » **Windsor Farmers Market**  
Market Pavilion, Boardwalk Park, 100 N. 5th St, Free admission, [windsorgov.com/farmersmarket](http://windsorgov.com/farmersmarket)

Jul 17 » **1st & 3rd Wednesday Classes: Tree Walk** Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd, Free, [weldmastergardeners.org/calendar](http://weldmastergardeners.org/calendar)

Aug 2 » **Yappy Hour**, Boardwalk Park, 100 N. 5th St, Free Admission, [windsorgov.com/calendar](http://windsorgov.com/calendar)

# CHICKENS: THE HOMESTEADING GATEWAY ANIMAL

Connie Meyer, Urban Overalls

As a full-time city dweller, I love all the amenities the community has to offer. Great transit system. Community theater. And living within walking distance of several grocery stores. But as appealing as these conveniences are, my heart still belongs to the country. As a bona-fide country girl, I knew that something was missing. That missing piece? Chickens.

Raising chickens is a growing trend across the country. They are popping up in barnyards, backyards, and urban homesteads. From retirees to hipsters, people are jumping on the chicken bandwagon. We tell ourselves that we want to know where our food comes from, bringing us closer to the source. Or perhaps we want to explore our ancestral roots or develop homesteading skills? Before long you just may find yourself seeking out other self-sufficient skills or experiences. Afterall, chickens are the gateway to urban homesteading.

## HOW TO BEGIN

But if you find yourself in an urban setting, you may not know where to start. Folks, let me put your mind at ease.

- **What's allowed in city/county limits?** Check your community's urban agriculture ordinance. These vary by city.
- **What about my HOA?** Verify whether you live in an HOA (homeowners association) or not. The rule of thumb is HOA covenants trump city codes.
- **Where do I find chicks?** Explore where to get your chicks (or chickens). Options: local farm and ranch stores; chicken shows & clubs; friends, neighbors, or family; hatcheries (both local and online); and even humane societies.
- **How do I find chicken care information?** Attend local chicken care classes offered by feed stores, hatcheries, community centers, and bloggers. Read up on the topic. There are many books and pamphlets out there. There are even great YouTube videos on basic chicken care.

MORE INFO

Larimer County: [Larimer.org/planning/animals/chickens](http://Larimer.org/planning/animals/chickens)

Fort Collins: [Fcgov.com/urbanagriculture](http://Fcgov.com/urbanagriculture)



Connie Meyer holds a Silkie near her home's chicken coop.



Free range time



The grub patrol



## The world of backyard chickens

is now at your feet. Be ready for fun, adventure, and perhaps moments of bewilderment. But don't worry, there are benefits for having your own backyard flock.

Fresh eggs!

Bug 'n grub patrol  
(if you allow them to free-range)

Shallow tilling  
(of your garden beds if they are free-range)

Add to your compost  
(with dirty nest box material)

Repurpose kitchen waste  
(chickens will gladly eat most kitchen scraps)

DIY chicken nuggets  
(please check if your city allows processing or check for local processors who do this for a fee)

Stress relief  
(believe it or not, there is nothing quite like the contented clucking or soft trill of a sunbathing hen)

# events 'n classes

## WINDSOR

Aug 3 » **Windsor Artisan Market**  
Boardwalk Park, 100 N. 5th St, Free admission,  
[windsorgov.com/farmersmarket](http://windsorgov.com/farmersmarket)

Aug 7 » **1st & 3rd Wednesday Classes: Dahlias**  
Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku  
Lake Rd., Free, [weldmastergardeners.org/calendar](http://weldmastergardeners.org/calendar)

Aug 14 » **Cut Flowers from the Garden**  
Clearview Library, 720 3rd St, Free, [clearviewlibrary.org](http://clearviewlibrary.org)

Aug 21 » **1st & 3rd Wednesday Classes:**  
**Plant Select & Xeric Plant Tour**, Treasure Island  
Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd,  
Free, [weldmastergardeners.org/calendar](http://weldmastergardeners.org/calendar)

Aug 31 – Sep 2 » **Windsor Harvest Festival**  
Free admission, [windsorharvestfest.com](http://windsorharvestfest.com)

Sep 4 » **1st & 3rd Wednesday Classes: Garden  
with Grasses**, Treasure Island Demonstration  
Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd, Free,  
[weldmastergardeners.org/calendar](http://weldmastergardeners.org/calendar)

# PENSTEMONS

## FOR COLORADO



Sherry Fuller, Curator,  
*Gardens on Spring Creek*

There are many reasons to celebrate living in Colorado, and for gardeners, the ease of growing penstemons must be included on that list. Of the roughly 300 species of penstemons, more than 60 are native to Colorado. Most varieties have somewhat tubular, two-lipped flowers and often have a protruding hairy staminode that is the source of their common name, beardtongue.

In general, penstemons grow well here in full sun, without soil amendment and with deep, but infrequent watering. Most prefer gravel mulch over wood. They are generally

not bothered by deer or rabbits and are a good food source for pollinators including bees and hummingbirds. Most varieties grow a low mound of foliage topped by taller flowering stems. Most of these stems should be removed when flowering is over to help preserve the vigor of the plants—making lots of seeds is hard work and can drain a plant. But since some varieties can be short-lived, you should consider leaving a few stems to produce seed that will often self-sow and increase your plants.

Not all penstemons you might find at the nursery are winter hardy here. Some of the longest blooming with the showiest flowers are hybrids (*P. x gloxinoides*) and are considered annuals here, but still worth growing! 🌸



**EASIEST  
TO GROW**

**Rocky Mountain  
Penstemon**

*P. strictus*



**LONGEST  
BLOOMING**

**Mexicali Penstemon**

*P. x mexicali* including  
'Red Rocks' and 'Pikes  
Peak Purple' with  
deadheading



**BEST FOR  
HUMMING-  
BIRDS**

**Scarlet Bugler &  
Cardinal Penstemon**

*P. barbatus & cardinalis*



**BEST  
GROUND-  
COVER**

**Menzies' Penstemon**

*P. davidsonii v.  
menziesii*



**KEEPS  
FRAGRANT**

**Palmer's Penstemon**

*P. palmeri*

# WHAT'S THE WEATHER

## DOING THERE?

Korrie Johnston

Communications Specialist, Gardens on Spring Creek



This spring, the City of Fort Collins unveiled a new ozone monitoring exhibit at the Gardens on Spring Creek.

The exhibit includes a bench structure with built-in air monitors measuring ozone, particulate matter, and weather conditions. The exhibit also includes information about the health and ecosystem impacts of ozone and will include an ozone garden, consisting of plants that show damage from high ozone.

Just as ozone can affect people, high ozone can also damage plants and even reduce crop yields. Data from this site, and other air quality monitoring sites in Fort Collins, can be viewed in real time online at [fcgov.com/AQdata](http://fcgov.com/AQdata). 🌱



### LOCAL. FRESH. FUN.

LARIMER COUNTY

# FARMERS' MARKET

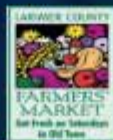
SINCE 1975

## SATURDAYS

9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

200 W. OAK ST.,  
FORT COLLINS, CO 80521

### MAY 18 - OCTOBER 26, 2019



LARIMER COUNTY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

Photo by Karen Collins



# WATER-WISE LAWN CARE



*Katie Collins, Water Conservation  
Coordinator, Fort Collins Utilities*

## Q: HOW LONG SHOULD MY LAWN SPRINKLERS RUN?

A: Start by doing a catch can test. Collect six small containers of equal size. Place cans throughout the area of one sprinkler zone then run the zone for ten minutes.

Pour all the water from the cans into one can and measure the depth of the water in inches with a ruler. The result is the estimated inches per hour, or precipitation rate, this sprinkler zone delivers. Use our handy guide (next column) to estimate the amount of water to add back into the soil each week during the month listed.

Example: If the Zone 1 catch can test reveals an estimated 1.5 inches per hour precipitation rate, Zone 1 would need to run for a total of

one hour per week during July to put 1.5 inches of water back in the soil. Before reprogramming the irrigation controller, consider cycle-soak irrigation scheduling.

## Q: WHAT IS CYCLE-SOAK IRRIGATION SCHEDULING?

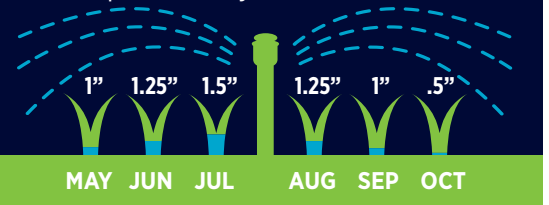
A: When water is applied faster than soil can absorb it, runoff occurs—and that's a big waste! Cycle-soak scheduling cuts a total zone run time into increments, allowing water to soak into the soil for an hour before another cycle begins. Clay soils cannot absorb more than 0.25 inch of water in an hour, so only apply that much water in one cycle. A simple calculation will help estimate cycle times.

If Zone 1 gets 1.5 inches per hour, according to our Run Time Worksheet, it would take 10 minutes to deliver 0.25 inch of water.

For each irrigation day, we recommend applying no more than 0.25 inch of water

## LAWN WATERING GUIDE

inches per week by month



## RUN TIME WORKSHEET

FOR EXAMPLE  
 $\frac{1}{4}'' \div 1\frac{1}{2}'' \text{ per hour} \times 60 = 10 \text{ minutes}$

inches of WATER TO APPLY	÷	inches/hour RATE FOR ZONE	=	minutes RUN TIME
--------------------------------	---	---------------------------------	---	------------------------

two times to equal 0.5 inch of water per cycle. On the controller, schedule a second start time for a second cycle to run one hour after the first cycle. Add more irrigation days during hotter months.

Need additional help? If you're in Fort Collins, consider a free sprinkler audit ([fcgov.com/sprinkler-audit](http://fcgov.com/sprinkler-audit)). Not in Fort Collins? Check with your municipality for local offerings. 🌿



# 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

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# WATER

## SMART THIS SUMMER



### PLAN

Group plants together with similar water requirements to prevent under- and over-watering.



### ADJUST

Don't apply more water than the soil can absorb at one time. Adjust your controller to a cycle-soak schedule.



### WATER

Water grass deeply no more than two days a week to develop deeper, drought-resilient roots. Water only when grass shows signs of wilt.



### INSPECT

Once a week, inspect zones while they are operating. Check for leaks, breaks and pressure problems, and fix them.



Get water smart by learning how to use your sprinkler system more effectively with a free sprinkler audit. Visit [fcgov.com/sprinkleraudit](http://fcgov.com/sprinkleraudit). Utilities, ELCO and Fort Collins-Loveland water district customers are eligible.

Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities. V/TDD 711.

City of  
**Fort Collins**  
Utilities