

NoCo Bloom

AUTUMN 2019



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK



City of
Fort Collins

THE GARDENS ARE READY TO
emerge

ATTRACT
NATIVE
BEES

CULTIVATE
COVER
CROPS



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



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



**THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK
CITY OF FORT COLLINS**

2145 Centre Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80526
970-416-2486 | 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 or call directly to 970-400-2066 for assistance.

SAVOR THE SEASON

It is the end of the growing season with the abundance of the harvest on its way. We look forward to cooling temperatures, back to school time, and more cooking, baking, and preserving. This prime time in the garden is one for enjoying the fruit of your labor and for beginning to plan for next spring. This NoCo Bloom will close out the year with tips on how to preserve your pumpkin, adding cover crops, benefits of mulch, and recommendations to plant spring bulbs now.

The fruits of much labor at the Gardens on Spring Creek will soon be uncovered with our community grand opening approaching later this fall. Read more about what to expect at this thriving community gem and learn about how you can join many celebrations on tap.

The harvest season also elicits gratitude for this beautiful community we call home. Remember, if you have more than you can use coming out of the garden, share any extra with the Food Bank for Larimer County. Their Plant it Forward program will make sure the fresh produce gets to the people who need it most. 🌱

Dr. Jessica G. Davis
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Colorado State University*

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CSU Extension in Larimer County*

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The Gardens on Spring Creek*

Korrie Johnston
Editor, NoCo Bloom

Becca Henry
Art Director, NoCo Bloom



PUMPKIN PALOOZA!



Janet Vetter, CSU Extension Master Gardener in Larimer County

Autumn. Crisp morning air. Turning leaves. Pumpkin spice latte. And going to the pumpkin patch to find the perfect specimen. But wait! Choosing the right pumpkin depends on your purpose—for carving, decorating, or even eating.

Pumpkins grown for carving (aka jack o' lanterns) are more "thin-walled" as pumpkins go and should have a flat bottom to sit upright. Pass by ones without a stem or any evidence of holes, cuts, or soft spots; they won't last long.

"Carving" pumpkins are not so good for cooking. Look for "pie" or "sugar" pumpkins instead. These pumpkins are smaller, darker orange, and denser than larger carving pumpkins. The flesh is sweeter and less stringy.

Miniature pumpkins are great for decorating. Anywhere from 3-6" in diameter, they can last for months in table decorations or other autumn displays.

If harvesting your own pumpkins, the stems should be dry and the skin tough enough to resist being penetrated by a thumbnail. There should be no breaks in the skin or soft spots. Your pumpkins will last longer if you keep them in a cool place (ideally 40-50 degrees) until you're ready to use them. If used in outdoor displays, they will last longer if protected from rain and any hard freezes. 🍂

Winter Squashes



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, 970-498-6000, 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, 970-400-2089, weldmastergardeners.org

EVANS

Sep 14 » **Evans Heritage Day**
Evans City Park, 3929 Golden St, free, evanschamber.org/event/evans-heritage-day

FORT COLLINS

Sep 7 » **Music by The Harvest Mooners**, Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St, free, larimercountyfm.org

Sep 9 » **Fundamentals of Horticultural Therapy**
CSU Campus, see website for cost, htinstitute.org

Sep 12 » **Pressure Canning**, Larimer County Extension, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr, \$25 with registration, larimer.org/ext

Sep 13 » **Watershed Bark Tour**, Lee Martinez Park, free

Sep 14 » **Read & Seed at the Market**, Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St, free, larimercountyfm.org

Sep 15 » **Miniature Gardening Class**, Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St, \$40, fortcollinsnursery.com

Sep 19 » **Sauerkraut and Fermented Vegetables**
Larimer County Extension, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr, \$25 with registration, larimer.org/ext

Sep 20 » **Pedaling the Poudre Bike Tour**
Watson Lake, free, poudreheritage.org

Sep 21 » **The Market's Going to the Dogs**, Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St., Free, larimercountyfm.org

Sep 22 » **Pedaling the Poudre Bike Tour**
Watson Lake, free, poudreheritage.org

CALENDAR COORDINATOR

Kathleen Atkins, Master Gardener
Colorado State University Extension
Please submit your gardening classes & events to nocobloomevents@gmail.com.



events 'n classes

FORT COLLINS

Sep 25 » **Putting Your Garden to Rest**, Poudre Library in Old Town Fort Collins, 201 Peterson St, free no registration necessary, poudrelibraries.org

Sep 28 » **Science Saturday with the Environmental Learning Center**, Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St, free, larimercountyfm.org

Sep 29 » **Open Streets at Seneca St**
free, fcgov.com/openstreets

Oct 2 » **Gardening Myths: Busted!**
Poudre Library in Old Town Fort Collins, 201 Peterson St, free no registration necessary, poudrelibraries.org

Oct 5 » **Health & Wellness Day**, Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St, free, larimercountyfm.org

Oct 12 » **Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off & Fall Jamboree**
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St, Free admission, fortcollinsnursery.com

Oct 12 » **Read & Seed at the Market**, Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St, free, larimercountyfm.org

Oct 19 » **Morning Yoga with Be Here Now**, Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St, free, larimercountyfm.org

Oct 20 » **Spooky/Classic Miniature Gardening Class**
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St, \$40, fortcollinsnursery.com

Oct 26 » **Fall Festival**, Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St, free, larimercountyfm.org

Nov (date tbd) » **Gardens Grand Opening Celebration**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, \$8-\$11, see website for details fcgov.com/gardens

Nov 23 » **Holiday Open House**, Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St, free admission, fortcollinsnursery.com

Dec 8 » **Holiday/Classic Miniature Gardening Class**
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St, \$40, fortcollinsnursery.com

Dec 13-29 » **Garden of Lights**, Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, \$8-\$11, fcgov.com/gardens

FREDERICK

Sep 27 » **Finale Fridays Frederick Market**, Crist Park—northside, 105 5th St, free admission, frederickco.gov

Oct 25 » **Finale Fridays Frederick Market**, Crist Park—northside, 105 5th St, free admission, frederickco.gov



WINTERIZE YOUR LAWN?



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

Should your lawn be on that list of things to be winterized every fall: RV, boat, mountain cabin? Well yes, your lawn should be on that list. Here is a list of winter lawn preparation to-dos, so that it wakes up in the spring with few or no problems:

FIX IRRIGATION

Correct irrigation problems now (those dry spots are easy to see this time of the year) so that you don't have to remember where the problem spots are next spring. Fix those crooked, low, broken, and plugged heads. Watering your lawn uniformly this fall will help prevent the additional stress of a dry and/or cold winter from killing the grass in those spots that are brown and drought-stressed now!

FERTILIZE

Sometime during the month of September, apply fertilizer. It can be organic. It can be synthetic. It can be a "winterizer"—and it can be what you use in the spring or summer too. The important thing is that you apply nitrogen (follow all instructions to apply the correct amount) NOW, while you can water it in—and while the grass is still green.

AERATE

Arrange for lawn aeration—especially if you have a thatchy lawn or have soil that is compacted from kid or pet traffic. Water well a day before it is aerated—and pay any extra cost to have it double aerated. The more holes the better.

MOW

Keep mowing until the grass stops growing. And don't lower the height with the last mowing—a turf myth that can actually result in winter injury. And it's good to mow those falling tree leaves into your lawn!

WATER

Water as late into the fall and early winter as possible—especially if it's a dry fall. It's good for your lawn—and for the trees growing in your yard.

WEED

Spot treat any broadleaf weeds that may have popped up over the summer. Most broadleaf weeds are more easily controlled in the fall.

To get answers or information about your lawn or any other part of your landscape, 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. 🌻





ATTRACTING NATIVE BEES



*Carolina Nyarady,
Colorado State University
Extension Master Gardener
in Larimer County*

Colorado is home to 946 different types of native bees. They come in a jewel box of different colors—from metallic green to bottle blue, gold, brown, and glossy black. Sadly these bees have suffered significant population declines in the last decades due to habitat loss, widespread use of pesticides, and diseases. Many native bees are superb pollinators and give us bumper crops of tree fruits, raspberries, squashes, melons and cucumbers, as well as native flowers.



Most are solitary and many emerge from their nest just in time to sync with the blooms of their favorite floral host.

All bees need pollen and nectar from flowers to survive, so our gardens can be valuable cafeterias for these insects. By providing diverse flower resources from early spring until late fall we can best support them in our gardens. If every garden created a haven for them, we would increase their habitat exponentially!

Some suggestions to follow are to do mass plantings, incorporate a variety of native flowers, ensure blooms from spring to late fall, provide water in shallow bowls or rock-filled bird baths and limit the use of pesticides. One-third of native bees nest and overwinter in more “wild areas” so leave some “wild” in your garden. Areas with leaf litter, tree snags, stems of perennial plants, rock piles and sections of bare ground for ground nesters are helpful.

OTHER RESOURCES

- extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/insects/creating-pollinatorhabitat-5-616
- xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-lists
- nativebeeconservancy.org
- pollinator.org

events 'n classes

GREELEY

Sep 7 » **Greeley Farmers Market**

The Depot, 902 7th Ave, free admission, continues every Saturday until 10/16/19, greeleygov.com/fm

Sep 19 » **Weeds & Invasive Species**, Poudre Learning Center adult classes, 8313 West F St, free, poudrelearningcenter.org

LOVELAND

Sep 17 » **Meet the Invasives**, Loveland Library, 300 N. Adams Ave, free, no registration necessary, lovelandpubliclibrary.org

Sep 18 » **Loveland Garden Club: Exciting Changes at The Gardens on Spring Creek**, All Saints Episcopal Church, 3448 N. Taft Ave, free admission, lovelandgardenclub.com

Sep 24 » **Fall Planted Bulbs**, Loveland Library, 300 N. Adams Ave, free, no registration necessary, lovelandpubliclibrary.org

Oct 16 » **Loveland Garden Club: Claude Monet's Garden at Giverny**, All Saints Episcopal Church, 3448 N. Taft Ave, free admission, lovelandgardenclub.com

Nov 20 » **Loveland Garden Club: Dwarf Conifers and Friends Top Picks for Northern Colorado**, All Saints Episcopal Church, 3448 N. Taft Ave, free admission, lovelandgardenclub.com

Dec 18 » **Loveland Garden Club: Potluck and Holiday Celebration**, All Saints Episcopal Church, 3448 N. Taft Ave, free admission, lovelandgardenclub.com

WINDSOR

Sep 11 » **Basics of Food Preservation**, Clearview Library, 720 3rd St., Free, no registration necessary, clearviewlibrary.org

Sep 18 » **1st & 3rd Wednesday Classes: The Garden in the Fall**, Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd, free, weldmastergardeners.org/calendar

Oct 9 » **Making Pumpkin Succulents**, Clearview Library, 720 3rd St, free no registration necessary, clearviewlibrary.org

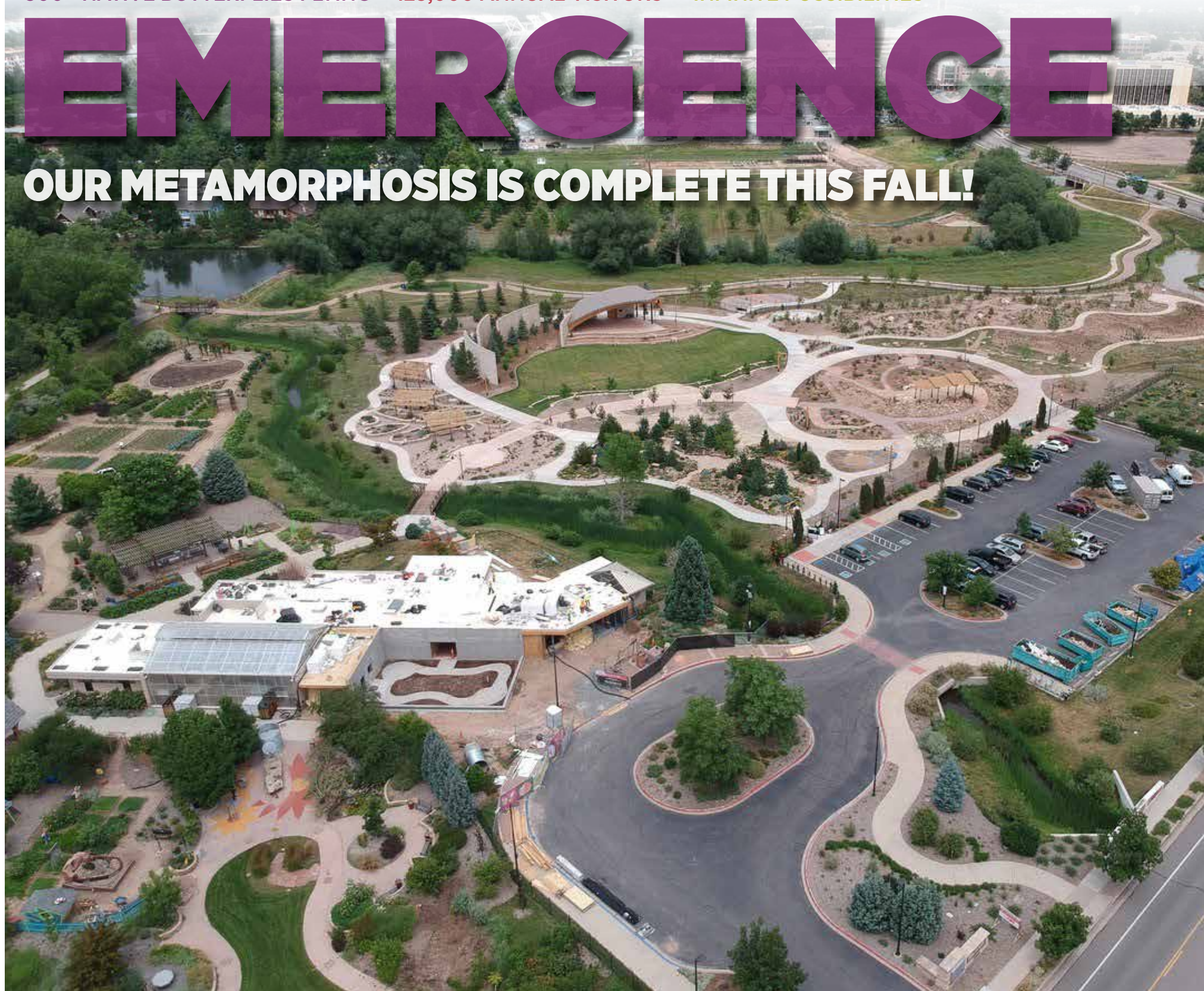
Nov 13 » **Tough Plants for Tough Spots**, Clearview Library, 720 3rd St, free no registration necessary, clearviewlibrary.org

Dec 11 » **Starting Plants from Seed**, Clearview Library, 720 3rd St, free, no registration necessary, clearviewlibrary.org

30 YEARS IN THE MAKING • 12 ACRES, 10+ GARDENS • 1 BUTTERFLY HOUSE • 1,700 PLANT VARIETIES GROWING
300+ NATIVE BUTTERFLIES FLYING • 125,000 ANNUAL VISITORS • INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

EMERGENCE

OUR METAMORPHOSIS IS COMPLETE THIS FALL!



Michelle Provaznik, Director, Gardens on Spring Creek

For the past two years, the Gardens on Spring Creek has undergone a massive transformation as we doubled the size of our site and organization, completing our original

Master Plan. During this time, we navigated full and partial closures and watched construction equipment—large and small—change the landscape. Here is a preview of some of the exciting additions. For info about the Gardens on Spring Creek, visit our website at fcgov.com/gardens.



New Gardens

Five acres of new spaces to explore, doubling our site.



The Great Lawn

A two acre garden featuring a one-half acre lawn with the Everitt Pavilion and stage surrounded by multiple theme gardens.



The Undaunted Garden

An artistic showpiece of water-wise plants designed by internationally known landscape designer and local resident, Lauren Springer. A rare chance to see winter hearty cacti.



Prairie and Foothills Gardens

More than two acres showcasing the beauty, form and function of our native plants.



Wetlands

A naturalistic demonstration area of native wetland, riparian, and upland plants. This area is critical to storm water management at The Gardens.



Expanded Visitor's Center

The new building additions double the square footage to serve up to 125,000 annual visitors with an inviting, educational, and more efficient space.



The Butterfly House

The heart of our expansion is a 1,500 square foot glass home to hundreds of native butterflies! Meander along its pathway and gathering spaces for an up close view of the fluttering beauties. Learn the lifecycle of the butterfly and what feeds, protects, and nurtures it. A chrysalis viewing window offers guests the opportunity to watch butterflies breaking away from their cocoons. Other features in the house include over 100 varieties of tropical plants and a living wall.



New Entrance and Lobby

Our main entrance is now one single entry making it easy for member check-in or paying for admission. The new lobby will welcome every visitor to The Gardens and features an expanded gift shop, café concessions (opening 2020), family restroom, and community meeting room.



Looking Ahead

- > Grand opening in November 2019.
- > Expect summer concerts in 2020.
- > More rental spaces for private events and parties.
- > Expanded education programming for youth and adults.
- > And everyone's favorite, Garden of Lights, is better than ever as it expands into the Great Lawn this December.



New Admission

We have a new admission fee and membership structure aligning The Gardens with other cultural institutions along the Front Range. New scholarship and accessibility programs are under development. To join as a Member, visit fcgov.com/gardens/become-a-member.

NEW DAILY ADMISSION

(includes Butterfly House)

Members: Free

Adult: \$11
Adult 65+/Military: \$9
Child (2-17 yrs.): \$8
Student w/ID: \$8



EARLY BLOOMER
RETICULATED IRIS



TALL SPIKES
FOXTAIL LILIES



LONGEST BLOOMING
CAMASSIA



UNUSUAL
SICILIAN HONEY LILY



EASY GROWER
SIBERIAN SQUILLS

PLANT FOR SPRING NOW



*Sherry Fuller, Curator
Gardens on Spring Creek*

Nothing says spring like a drift of bright golden daffodils or those first snow crocus peeping through

the ground. But to get lovely spring color, you need to plant bulbs in the fall. Late September through October is the best time to plant bulbs. Here are some less commonly planted bulbs that thrive in our area.

RETICULATED IRIS

Diminutive and very early-blooming, they pop in shades of purple, blue and yellow and are one of the first flowers to bloom here at the Gardens.

FOXTAIL LILIES

While not true bulbs, these lilies (*Eremurus* sp.) are planted in the fall. They grow rosettes of grassy leaves from their thick, spreading roots and are topped in early summer by 4-6' spikes of tightly packed flowers in shades of yellow, peach or white.

CAMASSIA

Late spring bloomers with spikes of large, soft blue or white flowers. These are a good choice for a part shade location, especially if it gets good spring water. Camassias are one of the few native American bulbs and are from the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

SICILIAN HONEY LILY OR ALLIUM SICULUM

(also sold as Nectaroscordum)

This is a great choice if you enjoy unusual plants. The flower stems grow 2-3' tall and are topped by clusters of nodding, bell-shaped florets that are rosy pink, tinged with white and green. Stunning in the garden and beautiful as a long-lasting cut flower.

SIBERIAN SQUILLS

These are one of the easiest bulbs to grow. Short with bright blue flowers in early spring, these little beauties will reseed to form colonies. 🌸



TRUSTED TIPS

- Plant all bulbs in drifts if you have room and budget, but plant at least 3-5 in a clump.
- Plant bulbs under ground covers or mixed into later perennials to disguise the ripening foliage as it dries.
- Most bulbs like good drainage and regular moisture while they're growing and blooming, but are happy with dry heat in summer so they fit perfectly into many of our gardens.
- Check our local nurseries for these and other unusual bulbs or at Brent & Becky's online.

FAVORITE DAFFODIL VARIETIES

All are virtually deer and rabbit proof.



FEBRURY GOLD
EARLY BLOOMER



THALIA
WHITE MULTI-
FLOWER STEMS



PIPIT
CUTE MINI



CASSATA
SPLIT CORONA

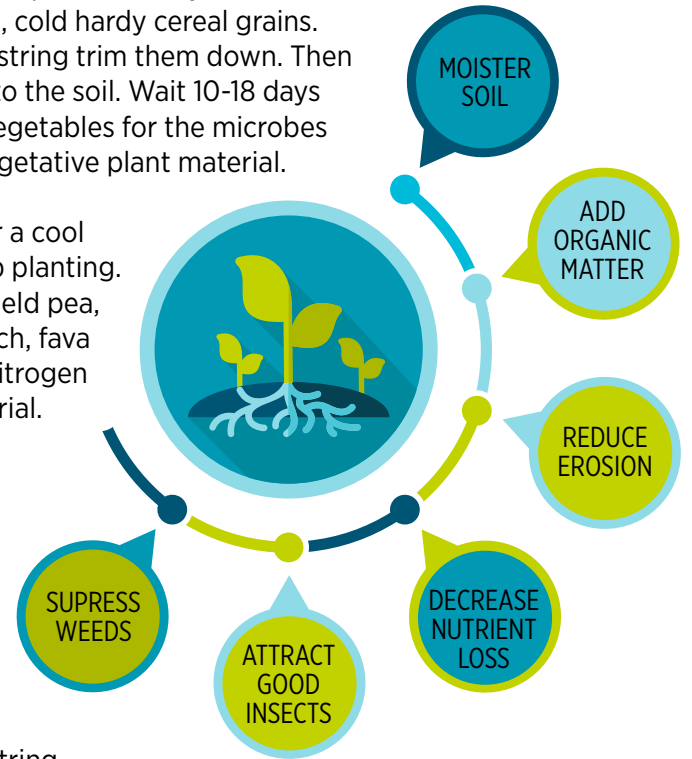


*Mary Miller
Community Garden Outreach Coordinator
Gardens on Spring Creek*

A cover crop is a crop grown for the protection and enrichment of the soil. Cover crops are grown primarily for the enhancement of the soil versus the crop yield. They have numerous benefits to the health and productivity of the soil. Those benefits include aiding in the prevention of soil erosion, providing competition to weed growth, and increasing the soil's organic matter. Cover crops have the capacity to penetrate and break up the clay and subsoil layers, while extracting nutrients from those layers and depositing them in topsoil which increases their availability. They also increase the important microbial activity, provide food to those microbes and earthworms which are vital to the health of soil, increase water and air penetration of the soil, and provide a habitat for beneficial insects.

Plant a fall cover crop of annual rye or triticale, both fast growing, cold hardy cereal grains. In spring mow or string trim them down. Then dig or till them into the soil. Wait 10-18 days before planting vegetables for the microbes to “digest” the vegetative plant material.

Spring is great for a cool season cover crop planting. Hardy legumes (field pea, annual clover, vetch, fava beans) increase nitrogen and organic material. Combining legumes with a cereal grain can provide scaffolding for the vining legumes. Plant as soon as the soil can be worked. Mow or string trim and dig or till the crop into the soil.



Cover crops do not need to be intimidating to gardeners! With a little planning, you may improve your soil and thus your yield. 🌱



Fall Cover Crop – Buckwheat



Spring Cover Crop – Soil Builder mix, a blend of bell beans, field peas, vetch, and Cayuse oats.

A WINTER COAT FOR YOUR GARDEN



Katie Collins, Water Conservation Coordinator, Fort Collins Utilities

Q: WHY MULCH?

With winter just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about preparing your garden for the cold, snowy months. A healthy layer of mulch in the winter prevents soil temperatures from fluctuating drastically, reducing stress by keeping plants cozy in the cold.

Q: WHERE CAN I FIND FREE MULCH?

Looking for wood mulch? Call up a local arborist and request a chipper load of wood chips be dumped in your driveway. Check local resources, too—for example, the City of Fort Collins offers free mulch in self-load bins.

Think outside the bin and consider mulches you're already producing, such as dried leaves, pine needles and dried grass clippings. Use trimmings from plants that are cut back annually to provide multi-benefit mulch. When it comes time in spring to cut back perennials, chop the spent plant material into smaller pieces and drop them in the same general area for free, homegrown mulch. It may initially look a little messier than usual, but you'll get used to it when you reap the benefits. Not only does the mulch shade the soil, the spent plant material provides habitat for tiny critters, adds nutrients to the soil and reduces yard waste. That's a quadruple win!

Q. HOW MUCH MULCH?

Apply at least three inches of mulch on the soil surrounding plants. Make sure to pull mulch away from the base of plants to avoid holding too much moisture on the stems. In areas without plant material, consider reducing or eliminating the application of mulch to provide bare soil for ground nesting native bees. 🐝



Did you know?

YARD WASTE MAKES UP 4% OF LARIMER COUNTY'S LANDFILL

Divert green waste from landfills by using yard waste at home for mulch, pollinator habitat or experimentation with hügelkultur, a gardening method that puts dead wood to work in your planting beds.



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





TRANSFORMING NOW EMERGING NOVEMBER 2019

Follow our transformation at fcgov.com/gardens
2145 Centre Ave, Fort Collins



THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK

Plant
Bulbs
in fall
for *flowers*
in spring

Fort Collins
NURSERY

Crocus • Narcissus • Allium • Iris • Tulips • Snowdrops • and More

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PLAN AHEAD

Want more out of your landscape?
Start planning for a functional yard.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Worn-grass walkways may be turned into an attractive path. An underused corner of grass can be swapped for a diverse mix of flowers and habitat for pollinators. Permeable patios make way for endless entertainment possibilities every summer. Giant Jenga, anyone?

START PLANNING

- Start budgeting; landscape projects average \$2-5 per sq. ft.
- Over the fall, take pictures of landscape elements and plants you can't live without.
- Call up a few local designers to share your ideas or sit down at the drawing board yourself.
- Get on the landscape installers' schedule OR carve out some time next spring to do it yourself.
- Remember to adapt irrigation zones to meet the water requirements of each plant zone in your landscape.

HIRING A PRO?

To help you get started, visit fcgov.com/xeriscape-pros for a list of Xeriscape Program Ambassadors and additional information.

DIY-ing? Don't dig up more than you can finish. Plan for no more than 1,000 square feet per year. Find more water-saving tips at fcgov.com/water-smart.

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