

# NoCo Bloom

MAY 2022



LARIMER COUNTY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



THE GARDENS  
ON SPRING CREEK



City of  
Fort Collins

## A PEEK INTO PLANT PRODUCTION

TREE  
PRODUCTION


PLANT SELECT®  
PROCESS

COMMUNITY  
PLANT SALE

COLORADO STATE  
TRIAL GARDENS



 **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*

 **Amanda Sammartino**  
*Editor, NoCo Bloom*

 **Madeline Bechtel**  
*Graphic Designer  
City of Fort Collins*



**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 | [larimerextension.org](http://larimerextension.org) 



**THE GARDENS**  
ON SPRING CREEK



**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 living in Weld County and needing help, visit [www.WeldMasterGardeners.org](http://www.WeldMasterGardeners.org) or email the Weld Garden Help Desk directly at [weldmastergardeners@outlook.com](mailto:weldmastergardeners@outlook.com).

There is something magical about visiting your local nursery— stepping into the warmth of the greenhouse; the smell of the soil; the thrill of finding inspiration for your home garden and landscape. As you plan to get your hands dirty this spring, do you ever wonder how those flower seeds, veggie plugs and houseplants make it to your shopping basket?

In this issue of NoCo Bloom, we take a peek into plant production— a behind-the-scenes look at how plants are grown on a large scale. With more than 14,000 greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production companies in the United States alone, plant production is a key aspect of the horticulture industry.

We hope that this edition prepares you for a new growing season and answers questions you never knew you had about the production of plants.



# A GLIMPSE INTO NURSERY TREE PRODUCTION



*"Oak Grafts" photo by Jeffrey Stoven, Bailey Nursery*

Have you ever stopped to think about how landscape trees are produced? It's a process that is fascinating and labor-intensive. Most wholesale nursery production is in the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington, and California) because of their ideal growing conditions – a long season with rainy winters and mild summers. My brother, who works for Bailey Nursery, one of the largest wholesale nurseries in the United States, is the head of propagation and someone who's growing millions of trees and shrubs every year for the consumer market.

Many trees are started from seeds – oaks, buckeyes, and ginkgo. Others are grown from cuttings or propagated by tissue culture. Most tree seeds are collected in the fall and are frequently planted in seedbeds to stratify the seeds with winter temperatures. Once the seeds germinate, the seedlings are transplanted into the field or pots where they stay for various time periods, depending on species. For example, a buckeye will need 18 months from seed to seedling. The seedling trees will grow until they are large enough to graft. Grafting is a type of vegetative propagation and allows nurseries to grow "named" cultivars, such as 'Spring Snow' crabapple and 'Accolade' elm. Vegetative propagation results in exact genetic clones of the same plant.



*"Bareroot shipping" photo by Jeffrey Stoven, Bailey Nursery*



*by Dr. Alison O'Connor, Horticulture Extension Agent, CSU Extension In Larimer County, and Jeffrey Stoven, Bailey Nursery*

Once the grafted seedlings are large enough, they will be transplanted into the field, planted in rows like corn. The trees stay in the field until they are a size where they can be harvested for sale. Trees are sold by their height and caliper (trunk width). Fast-growing and smaller trees may only take three years to produce, but others can take up to five to six years eight years or more (oaks, ginkgo, buckeye). While trees are in the field, they are pruned, staked, taped, fertilized, and scouted for insects and disease. Fast-growing trees, like maples, might get taped and adjusted three to five times each season.

Trees are dug in the fall and stored in giant refrigerated coolers as bareroot stock. During fall and winter, the trees are graded by size and bundled. The coolers keep plants dormant – temperatures hover around 35 - 40 degrees Fahrenheit with 100 percent humidity. Shipping starts in late winter, with orders first going to warmer growing locations. Local nurseries may buy bareroot trees and pot them into containers for sale later that summer.

Once you bring your tree home, it's incredible to think that your tree is not only a few years old, but it's been worked on by dozens of hands from propagation through shipping. And we can thank people like my brother, for doing his part to keep our landscapes tree-rific!



## events 'n classes

### PLEASE NOTE:

Many events are subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check with each organization to ensure event details have not changed.

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### COMMUNITY WIDE RESOURCES

#### Larimer County Colorado Master Gardener Q&A Booth at the Extension Office

Every Wednesday, April 13 to October 19, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, 10:00am - 1:00pm, Free, 970-498-6000, [larimerextension.org](http://larimerextension.org)

#### Larimer County Colorado Master Gardener Q&A Booth at the Larimer County Farmers' Market

Every Saturday, May 21 to October 29, 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free, 970-498-6000, [larimerextension.org](http://larimerextension.org)

#### Weld County Master Gardeners in Office Help Desk

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free, [weldmastergardeners@outlook.com](mailto:weldmastergardeners@outlook.com), 970-400-2089, [WeldMasterGardeners.org](http://WeldMasterGardeners.org)

#### Grow and Give Program - Grow Food & Share The Harvest

Presented by Colorado State University Extension  
[growandgivecolorado.org](http://growandgivecolorado.org) (includes vegetable growing tips)

### COMMUNITY WIDE EDUCATION

#### May 6 » **Soil Health and Amendments**

Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 1:00pm - 2:00pm, Free, registration required, [csuhort.blogspot.com](http://csuhort.blogspot.com):  
"CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

#### May 11 » **Managing Japanese Beetle**

Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 1:00pm - 2:00pm, Free, registration required, [csuhort.blogspot.com](http://csuhort.blogspot.com):  
"CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

#### May 13 » **Bulbs for Summer Blooms**

Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 1:00pm - 2:00pm, Free, registration required, [csuhort.blogspot.com](http://csuhort.blogspot.com):  
"CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

#### May 20 » **Growing Backyard Berries**

Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 1:00pm - 2:00pm, Free, registration required, [csuhort.blogspot.com](http://csuhort.blogspot.com):  
"CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

#### May 27 » **Plant Besties - Companion Plants**

Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 1:00pm - 2:00pm, Free, registration required, [csuhort.blogspot.com](http://csuhort.blogspot.com):  
"CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

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## Plant Selection Process of **PLANT SELECT**®



by Ross Shrigley, Executive  
Director, Plant Select



Plant Select® is a nonprofit plant introductory program that has been selecting and promoting new and exciting plants for 25 years! These are plants proven to thrive in high plains and intermountain regions so gardeners of all levels can achieve smart, stunning and successful gardens using fewer resources with a more positive environmental impact.

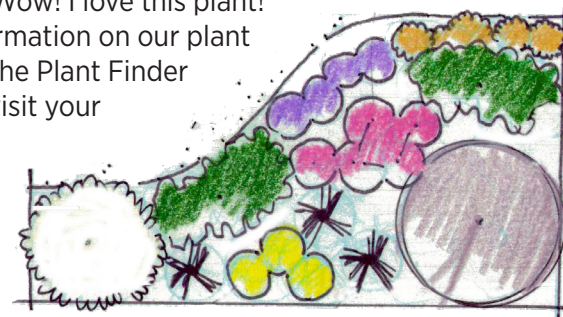
Plant Select came to fruition in the 1990s through a collaboration between Colorado State University, Denver Botanic Gardens and local growers. Membership has grown to include several municipalities and other botanic gardens who are also interested in promoting sustainable plants. Each year, plants are recommended for Plant Select's promotion by nurseries, breeders and horticulturists from around the region. Once enough of those plants are procured, they are entered into trials. Perennials are placed in Denver Botanic trials for three years. Trees and shrubs are placed in Colorado State multi-site trials for five years.

When the evaluation committee meets, all the exciting new entries are reported by horticulturists from Denver Botanic and Colorado State. At the end of the designated trial period, the chosen plants must meet seven criteria: beautiful, adaptable, habitat-friendly, durable, water-wise, easy to maintain and a smart plant choice for the intermountain region.

Plant Select is one of the few plant brands that is a nonprofit program as well as one of the few that promotes a diversity of plants, including trees, shrubs, perennials and sometimes annuals. Plant Select even promotes a groundcover that substitutes as a good turfgrass. This plant diversity enables complete landscapes to be installed by homeowners that are unique and sustainable for Colorado.

Dozens of great plants are submitted to trials, but if they cannot be propagated and produced in a timely and affordable manner, they fail the nursery production test. This is more common with woody plants, like manzanitas, because cuttings may not root easily. Even perennials can face this fate if stock plants don't recover well from when cuttings are taken. When the plants reach the garden center shelves, they are more than a pretty plant! They can be successfully produced and then thrive in intermountain west gardens. They are truly select plants, thus Plant Select!

No one wants gardening to be harder than necessary. By choosing plants that want to grow here, your work AND your water use are reduced! Plant Select's goal is for gardeners to discover unique plants that make you think, "Wow! I love this plant!" Visit our website at [www.plantselect.org](http://www.plantselect.org) for information on our plant introductions and while you're there, check out the Plant Finder and sign up for our newsletter. Then, when you visit your member garden center (also on the website), head to the Plant Select section to make your garden colorful, water-wise and spectacular.



Bev Shaw contributed to this article.



## THE FUTURE OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY'S

# "Best Of's" ANNUALS

Those who have driven through Fort Collins are likely to be familiar with the sea of flowerpots along the east side of College Avenue. What you might not know is how the Colorado State University Annual Trial Garden (1401 Remington Street, Fort Collins) impacts plant production.

Each year Colorado State University announces their "Best Of" annual flower trial winners after being evaluated during two days – one in early August and one in September. This information is relayed to breeding and vegetative companies, and if they state that an adequate supply will be available for the next season, the trial garden staff will issue a Colorado State "Best Of" award to the plant.

Colorado State then sends a press release to all growers through state and regional greenhouse, nursery and garden center trade associations. They disseminate this information to all their members so they can propagate, grow and sell the "Best Of" annuals the next growing season. Sales representatives for the various seed and vegetative companies are made aware of these winners and promote them when making their sales visits to their grower customers in their territory.

National and international breeding companies also promote "Best Of's" in promotional materials that they give to all their propagators and grower customers. Often, they will show pictures and list them in some national trade publications, as well as on their websites and social media channels.

The "Best Of" varieties are also promoted to the public in the spring of each year when these plants should be available for sale in many retail operations throughout the state and region. Many of these winners are grown by local greenhouses and sold at independent garden centers. Occasionally some mass merchandisers decide to promote a few of these winners as well.

The "Best Of's" annuals from the previous year are also displayed and labeled in a prominent bed at the Colorado State University Annual Trial Garden, and all "Best Of" winners are listed and discussed on the Annual Trial website ([flowertrials.colostate.edu](http://flowertrials.colostate.edu)). There is an industry section that cooperators can view with more specific growth data and photos taken on all the varieties in the trials.



by James E. Klett,  
Professor and Extension  
Landscape Horticulturist,  
Colorado State University

## events 'n classes

### June 3 » **Beauty and the Bees**

Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 1:00pm - 2:00pm,  
Free, registration required, [csuhort.blogspot.com](http://csuhort.blogspot.com):  
"CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

### June 8 » **Dry Shade Gardening**

Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 1:00pm - 2:00pm,  
Free, registration required, [csuhort.blogspot.com](http://csuhort.blogspot.com):  
"CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

### May 21 » **Online Class: Restoring Native Open Space**

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
9:30am - 11:00am, Free, Registration Required,  
[suburbitat.org/online-class-series-restoring-native-open-space](http://suburbitat.org/online-class-series-restoring-native-open-space)

## BERTHOUD

### May 7 » **Annual Plant Sale of Berthoud**

#### **Historical Society Garden Group**

Pioneer Museum Courtyard, 224 Mountain Ave., 9:00am -  
12:00pm, Free admission,  
[berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup](http://berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup)

### June 25 » **Rose Garden Tour and Rose Care Presentation**

McCarty-Fickel Home Museum, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Free  
admission, Donations accepted,  
[berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup](http://berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup)

## FORT COLLINS

### May 14 – May 15 » **Spring Plant Sale**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:00am - 5:00pm,  
Free admission, need ticket for entry (reserve online),  
[fcgov.com/gardens/spring-plant-sale](http://fcgov.com/gardens/spring-plant-sale)

### May 21 » **Poetry in The Gardens: Editing and Polishing**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30am - 12:30pm,  
\$40, in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### May 21 » **Growing Your Own Grapes and Hops**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 10:30am -  
12:00pm, \$18, in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### May 21 » **Forest Bathing**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 1:00pm - 3:00pm,  
\$18, in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### May 21 » **From the Garden to the Bottle:**

#### **Fermentation of Plant Materials**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave.,  
1:30pm - 3:30pm, \$18, in person,  
[fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### May 31 » **Twilight Garden Series: Summer Bulbs,**

#### **Perennial Planting, Vegetable Plant Protection**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 6:00pm - 8:00pm,  
\$10, Registration through Gardens on Spring Creek:  
[fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

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# PROPAGATION

## for a Community Plant Sale



by Sherry Fuller,  
Horticulturist and Kelly Kellow, Greenhouse  
Manager, Gardens on Spring Creek

The Gardens on Spring Creek Annual Spring Plant Sale is an event unlike any other. Over the last 17 years, the event has grown to be both our largest annual fundraiser as well as a beloved community event. In 2021, we held our sale online for the second year, offering about 38,000 plants and exceeding \$120,000 in sales.

We offer the standard array of culinary herbs and both favorite and unusual annuals. Our vegetable offering focuses on heirloom tomatoes, unusual peppers and other varieties not often available in the community. For perennials, we focus on many natives and other uncommon, drought-tolerant species.

To propagate this number of plants, The Gardens uses a variety of tactics. All herbs and vegetables, as well as some annuals, are seeded into plug trays and placed into a seed tent with heated mats. This process begins in February and continues until the end of March. April is our busiest month, with 25,000 plants transplanted. Plants mature in a 1,500-square-foot heated greenhouse, then are moved to a cooler, 1,000-square-foot hoop house. The hardier varieties are quickly moved to cold frames or benches outside to harden. While we are not a certified organic facility, we utilize organic growing methods as much as possible.

Typically, we seed into 128-cell plug trays and transplant into 2.5-inch pots. Seeded annuals are transplanted into large six packs for sale, while purchased annual plugs go directly into 3.5-inch pots. We use color-coded labels for pricing that allow volunteers to easily count plants at each price point at check-out. We rely heavily on volunteers throughout the entire process, from transplanting to completing a sale, and are fortunate to have a crew of dedicated individuals who donated more than 900 hours in 2021.

For the past two years, we have rented bench space at Colorado State University a few blocks away to grow annuals and herbs and bring a few of the slowest perennials out of dormancy. This space allows us to grow about 8,000 additional plants for the sale and for use on our grounds.



For several years, we have partnered with the horticulture departments at Colorado State University and Front Range Community College to grow plants for the sale. This provides additional growing capacity and hands-on horticulture and sales experience for students' greenhouse practicum classes. Plant sale perennial propagation begins in late May and follows much the same path as annuals, finishing into 2.5- and 4.5-inch pots, depending on variety. We purchase about half our perennial seed, obtain some through seed exchanges and collect the rest on site and in the wild.

Other perennial varieties are grown from cuttings and divisions of plants on site, being mindful of restricted varieties. We grow perennials in the summer due to spring space restrictions and because overwintering them yields vernalized plants ready to bloom.

Perennials that need stratification are seeded into short 4.5-inch pots in December or January, covered with fine gravel, then placed outside in the shade and covered with snow. These germinate in spring and are transplanted as they are ready. Following transplanting, they are left in the greenhouse for several weeks before being moved to outside tables.

In late fall perennials are cut back and most of the larger pots moved into our 28 cold frames. We lay heavy frost blanket directly on the plants before closing the cold frames, then cover with white plastic. We've found they do best when remaining unopened until March. 2.5-inch pots and tender perennials are wintered in the hoop house which is heated to 20 degrees at night and vented to keep daytime temperatures as cool as possible during the winter.

### Our yearly growing process is well underway, with our in-person 2022 sale just around the corner.

Sherry Fuller is a horticulturist and perennial propagator at the Gardens on Spring Creek. Kelly Kellow is a horticulturist responsible for overseeing the greenhouse and Butterfly House at the Gardens on Spring Creek. A version of this article ran in the June 2021 issue of Public Garden Magazine.



## Why Buy a CRUMMY looking PLANT?

I recently heard renowned Western slope garden designer Kenton Seth say something along the lines of "growers don't grow bad plants. If it looks bad in a pot, there's a good chance it will look great in the ground". It really struck a chord with me.

So often we shop in the nursery for the greenest, most vigorously growing or most exuberantly blooming perennial. What if I told you this misses the mark with many of our best garden plants? Kenton certainly would agree.

Many of the traits that make our native and adapted plants such strong performers in our gardens, like conservative growth, an aptitude for Colorado soils and root systems of heroic size, make them absolutely despise being confined to a pot in a water-retentive growing media.

Remember this next time you see a crummy looking Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), false indigo (*Baptisia spp.*), or any number of other shrubs or forbs that can be easy to overlook in favor of a flashy Delphinium in the nursery aisle. I doubt you'll regret it.



by Bryan Fischer, Curator  
and Horticulturist,  
Gardens on Spring Creek



## events 'n classes

June 4 » **Beekeeping: Post Installation Hive Check-up**  
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30am - 10:30am,  
\$18, in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

June 4 » **Inner Awakening Spring Workshop**  
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30am - 12:00pm,  
\$40, in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

June 4 » **Walking Garden Tree Tour**  
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 10:30am -  
12:30pm, \$18, in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

June 11 » **Notable Tree Bike Tour**  
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., 9:30am - 12:00pm,  
\$18, in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

June 17 - June 19 » **Father's Day Tree Sale**  
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 9:00am - 5:00pm,  
Free admission, [recreationliveshere.com](http://recreationliveshere.com)

June 18 » **Xeriscape Garden Party (In Person Event)**  
Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, 300 Laporte Ave, 9:00am -  
12:00pm, Free, Hybrid event with webinars/virtual resources  
through June, [fcgov.com/garden-party](http://fcgov.com/garden-party)

June 21 » **Twilight Garden Series: New Perennials,  
Veggie Pest Problems, Turf Weeds and Disease**  
CSU Annual Trial Gardens, 1401 Remington St., 6:00pm -  
8:00pm, \$10, Registration through Gardens on Spring Creek:  
[fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

June 25 » **2022 Junior League of Fort Collins Garden Tour**  
Old Town Fort Collins, 8:30am - 1:00pm, \$30, [jlgardentour.org](http://jlgardentour.org)

### LOVELAND

May 1 » **Ongoing Online Native Plant Sale**  
High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
\$6 each, [high-plains-environmental-center.square.site](http://high-plains-environmental-center.square.site)

May 3 » **Loveland Garden Club Plant Sale**  
Jax West Farmers Market, Corner of Highway 34 & Wilson Ave,  
9:00am - 1:00pm, Free admission, [lovelandgardenclub.com](http://lovelandgardenclub.com)

May 7 » **HPEC Bird Walk & Bird Banding**  
High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
9:30am - 11:00am, Registration Required, Suggested Donation  
\$5-\$10, [suborbitat.org/monthly-bird-banding](http://suborbitat.org/monthly-bird-banding)

May 11 May 12 » **P.E.O. Chapter FL Plant Sale**  
Pick up or Home Delivery available, Orders received through 5/2/22,  
Orders and information: Contact Mary Ella at 970-667-6201 or  
[maryella@qwestoffice.net](mailto:maryella@qwestoffice.net)

May 14 » **Guided Interpretive Trail Walk with  
Kristin Oles, HPEC Restoration Ecologist**  
High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
9:00am - 10:30am, Free, Registration Required,  
[suborbitat.org/guided-interpretive-trail-walk](http://suborbitat.org/guided-interpretive-trail-walk)

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If you visit a local nursery or garden center to pick up a few pounds of bluegrass, fescue or ryegrass seed for your lawn, you're likely to ask yourself *"Isn't this more expensive than the last time I bought seed?"*

Or, you may have decided to convert your bluegrass lawn to buffalograss, but can't find seed anywhere - and, if you do, it costs \$40 or \$50 per pound? As with many things horticultural right now (trees, perennials, vegetable seed), turfgrass seed is in very short supply - which makes it more expensive.

A little-known fact is that more than 75 percent of the world's turfgrass seed is grown in Oregon, with most production occurring in the Willamette Valley. For Oregon's grass seed farmers (there are about 1,500), the mild, moist winters and moderate, dry summers create a climate perfect for producing grass seed - the reason that the Willamette Valley is known as the "Grass Seed Capital of the World".

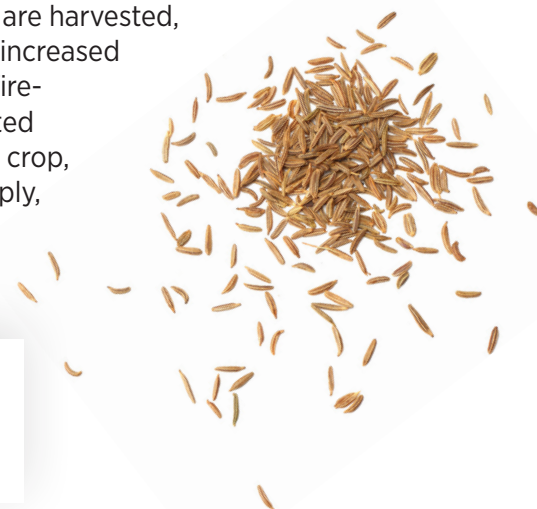
The 2021 grass seed crops in Oregon (which would produce the seed consumers buy this year) was subjected to ice storms, flooding, drought, record high summer temperatures, fires, and what is being called a vole (meadow mouse) endemic - all combining to reduce grass seed harvests to record low levels. Add to this unprecedented demand for grass seed (people stuck at home, wanting their lawns to look nicer), high fuel costs, supply chain complications (they have seed to ship, but no trucks to move it) and labor shortages (fewer people to harvest, clean, pack, ship): you have seed shortages and higher prices. Also, Oregon grass seed farmers have been gradually transitioning to growing more profitable crops like wheat and hazelnuts, so fewer acres of grass seed means less supply.



While not grown in Oregon, supplies of buffalograss and other native grasses are likewise lower - and more expensive when you do find the seed. This is because drought caused lower yields where native grasses are harvested, such as Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas, and there is increased demand for native grass lawns and to revegetate fire-damaged landscapes throughout the western United States and Canada. Just like any other commodity crop, grass seed availability and price is affected by supply, demand, weather, pests - and pandemics.



*Tony Koski, Extension Turf Specialist  
in the Department of Horticulture  
and Landscape Architecture at  
Colorado State University*





## events 'n classes

### May 14 » Loveland Youth Gardeners Plant Sale

Loveland Youth Gardeners, 2500 E 1st St.,  
9:00am - 12:00pm, Free admission,  
[lovelandyouthgardeners.org/sponsorship-opportunities](http://lovelandyouthgardeners.org/sponsorship-opportunities)

### May 18 » Loveland Garden Club End of Year Potluck

Loveland Garden Club, All Saint's Episcopal Church, Ford Hall,  
3448 N Taft Ave., 10:00am - 12:00pm, Free,  
[Lovelandgardenclub.com](http://Lovelandgardenclub.com)

### May 21 » Aspire 3d Kite Festival

Loveland Sports Park, 950 N Boyd Lake Ave., 10:00am - 3:00pm,  
Free admission, [aspire3d.org/kitefestival](http://aspire3d.org/kitefestival)

### May 28 » Interpretive Trail Walk at Chapungu Sculpture Park with Sabrina Kershman, HPEC Horticultural Manager

May 28, Interpretive Trail Walk at Chapungu Sculpture Park with  
Sabrina Kershman, HPEC Horticultural Manager

### June 4 » HPEC Bird Walk & Bird Banding

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
9:30am - 11:00am, Registration Required, Suggested Donation \$5-\$10,  
[suburbitat.org/monthly-bird-banding](http://suburbitat.org/monthly-bird-banding)

### June 11 » Guided Interpretive Trail Walk with Kristin Oles, HPEC Restoration Ecologist

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
9:00am - 10:30am, Free, Registration Required,  
[suburbitat.org/guided-interpretive-trail-walk](http://suburbitat.org/guided-interpretive-trail-walk)

### June 18 » Loveland Garden Tour & Art Show

Benefiting Loveland Youth Gardeners,  
8:00am - 2:00pm, Tickets start at \$20,  
[lovelandyouthgardeners.org/garden-and-art-tour](http://lovelandyouthgardeners.org/garden-and-art-tour)

### June 22 » Everybody Bike Day

Stations throughout the community, 6:30am - 9:00am,  
4:30pm - 7:00pm, Free admission,  
[Lovgov.org/walkbikeloveland](http://Lovgov.org/walkbikeloveland)

### June 25 » Interpretive Trail Walk at Chapungu Sculpture Park with Sabrina Kershman, HPEC Horticultural Manager

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
10:00am - 12:00pm, Free, Registration Required,  
[suburbitat.org/interpretive-nature-walks-at-chapungu](http://suburbitat.org/interpretive-nature-walks-at-chapungu)

### July 2 » HPEC Bird Walk & Bird Banding

High Plains Environmental Center,  
2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 9:30am - 11:00am,  
Registration Required, Suggested Donation \$5-\$10,  
[suburbitat.org/monthly-bird-banding](http://suburbitat.org/monthly-bird-banding)

### July 9 » Guided Interpretive Trail Walk with Kristin Oles, HPEC Restoration Ecologist

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
9:00am - 10:30am, Free, Registration Required,  
[suburbitat.org/guided-interpretive-trail-walk](http://suburbitat.org/guided-interpretive-trail-walk)

(CONTINUED TO RIGHT)

# ESTABLISHING A WATER-WISE LANDSCAPE

**1. START WITH WATER:** All plants need water to become established, even natives that originate from the driest parts of our state.

*How much water?* Consider the size of the original plant pot and water that volume each time you irrigate—likely once or twice a week in the first few weeks after planting. For one-gallon pots, water one gallon and so on.

**2. CALIBRATE:** Watch how your garden responds before and after watering events. Observe spots that are drying out faster or slower and adjust your water accordingly.

**3. ACCLIMATE THE PLANTS:** After the first few weeks through the third year, when plants are likely established, reduce watering frequency. By year three, this could mean once a week or once a month, depending on the plant. Always check the soil moisture before irrigating to avoid overwatering. At each irrigation event, water deep and infrequently to encourage roots to grow further into the soil.

**ONCE PLANTS ARE ESTABLISHED, ENJOY. YOU HAVE RAISED THEM RIGHT!**



by Katie Collins,  
Water Conservation  
Coordinator,  
Fort Collins Utilities



## events 'n classes

### WINDSOR

#### May 8 » Treasure Island Demonstration Garden Mother's Day Tour

Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd.,  
1:30pm - 3:30pm, Free, [recreationliveshere.com](http://recreationliveshere.com)

#### May 18 » Garden Friends and Foes

Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd.,  
10:00am - 11:00am, Free, [recreationliveshere.com](http://recreationliveshere.com)

#### June 15 » Making the Most of Micro-climates

Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd.,  
10:00am - 11:00am, Free, [recreationliveshere.com](http://recreationliveshere.com)

#### June 19 » Treasure Island Demonstration Garden Father's Day Tour

Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd.,  
1:30pm - 3:30pm, Free, [recreationliveshere.com](http://recreationliveshere.com)

#### June 28 » Sick Tree Day

8:00am - 7:00pm, Available only to Windsor residents, Free,  
Appointments are limited, Hurry to reserve at (970)674-3500,  
[recreationliveshere.com](http://recreationliveshere.com)



Compiled by Kathleen Atkins,  
CSU Extension Master Gardener  
Event information is welcome at  
[nocoblomevents@gmail.com](mailto:nocoblomevents@gmail.com)



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COMMUNITY

# Spring

PLANT SALE



**SAVE THE DATE**

In-person sale returns

**MAY 14 - 15**

Join us for our annual sale of locally-grown herbs, vegetables, annuals and perennials! Proceeds benefit community horticulture programming. [Learn more at fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

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**LET'S PARTY!**

# XERISCAPE

## GARDEN PARTY IS BACK!

We will be celebrating the whole month of June.



### LEARN

Join the celebration virtually!

We'll have:

- Weekly webinars with expert speakers
- Water-wise gardening tips and resources
- Compost bin and rain barrel sales
- Prize giveaways

Learn more and register for the webinars at [fcgov.com/garden-party](https://fcgov.com/garden-party)



### PARTY

Can't wait to see you in-person at our downtown Xeriscape Demonstration Garden for interactive vendors, local resources, live art demonstrations, family-friendly activities and more.

**Saturday, June 18**  
**9 a.m.-noon**  
**300 Laporte Ave.**



### SWAP

Participate in the Pollinator Plant Swap **at the in-person Garden Party**. You do not have to donate plants to take some home with you, but we welcome donations of any pollinator plants that are grown free of chemicals.



Learn more at [fcgov.com/garden-party](https://fcgov.com/garden-party)

Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities. 22-24049