

NoCo Bloom

MAY 2023



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK



LAWNS: SHOULD THEY STAY OR SHOULD THEY GO?

HOW TO
DECIDE

SENSIBLE LAWN CONVERSION


SUSTAINABLE
LAWN CARE

Does the Lawn Stay or Go?

HOW TO DECIDE

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**THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK
CITY OF FORT COLLINS**
2145 Centre Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80526
970-416-2486 | fcgov.com/gardens 



PLEASE NOTE: If you are a gardener living in Weld County and needing help, visit www.WeldMasterGardeners.org or email the Weld Garden Help Desk directly at weldmastergardeners@outlook.com.

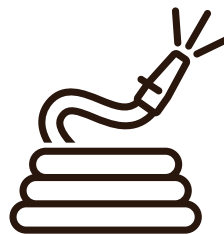
Like many great conversations, a good start is “It depends.” A couple of questions to ask yourself is: What is your goal? And why do you want to do this? If you have children or pets, you may want to keep your lawn. And that’s okay! However, there are options to reduce maintenance on your existing lawn that don’t require removal of turf or the need to convert to a different species. If you want to convert the space to a new landscape bed, a different grass species or a place to grow vegetables, additional inputs will be required.



The following chart can help you make decisions for your landscape based on time, resources (water, fertilizer, pesticides), and money. Note that “pesticide” is a broad term that includes herbicides, insecticides, miticides, fungicides, etc. 



by Alison O'Connor,
Extension Professor
of Horticulture in
Larimer County



OPTION 1:

Keep the lawn but
change maintenance
practices



OPTION 2:

Change the lawn
to a different turf
species



OPTION 3:

Change the
space entirely

SHOULD YOU RENOVATE OR CHANGE YOUR LAWN ?

KEY

- * = Least intensive or least expensive
- ** = Moderately intensive and moderately expensive
- *** = Most intensive and most expensive

OPTION 1:

OPTION 2:

OPTION 3:

	Keep the lawn but change maintenance practices	Change the lawn to a different turf species	Change the space entirely
Overall Effort	*	**	***
Time	*	***	***
Resources (water, fertilizer, pesticide use)	<p><i>Options to decrease resources:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce water (decrease total run time or days per week): * • Reduce maintenance (less mowing, fewer fertilizer applications): * • Mow the lawn taller: * • Swapping out irrigation heads to more efficient technology: ** 	<p><i>Initial effort: ***</i> <i>After three years: *</i></p> <p>Changing the turf to a different species will generally require the use of herbicides, adjustments to irrigation, the cost of seed or sod, and labor required to do the process. Water demand is unlikely to decrease during the establishment year – but after two or three seasons, once the new lawn is established, reductions in resources can be significant.</p>	<p><i>Largely depends on how you change the space:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using wood or rock mulch: * • Adding raised beds: *** • Waterwise landscaping: *** • Prairie lawn: initially; *** • after three years *
Money	<p><i>Overall: *</i></p> <p>In general, changing maintenance practices is the easiest approach and has the least inputs that will make significant changes. Changing irrigation heads will require some investment but can still an affordable option.</p>	<p><i>Initial effort: ***</i> <i>After three years: *</i></p> <p>Depending on whether you seed or sod will cause variations in price. Some seed may be more expensive than others. Doing the labor yourself will be more economical.</p>	<p><i>Varies, depending on your needs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using wood or rock mulch: * • Adding raised beds: *** • Waterwise landscaping: ** / *** • Prairie lawn: ** / ***
Notes:	Tolerance of some lawn browning needs to be acceptable. If you reduce overall lawn irrigation and have trees in or near the lawn, make efforts to continue to water the trees on a regular basis.	Do your homework and research on grass species selection. Also consider how you will maintain the lawn after establishment – <i>do you plan to regularly mow? Is there significant foot traffic? How much do you want to irrigate and fertilize?</i>	How you remove the lawn will depend on your specific needs and values. Expense and resources will vary depending on personal approach.

events 'n classes

COMMUNITY WIDE RESOURCES

Grow and Give Program - Grow Food & Share The Harvest
Colorado State University Extension, growgive.extension.colostate.edu (includes vegetable growing tips)

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

Every Tuesday and Thursday , April 18 to October 19, larimermg@gmail.com or 970-498-6000, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, 10:00am - 1:00pm, Free, 970-498-6000, larimerextension.org

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

Every Saturday, May 20 to October 28, 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free, 970-498-6000, larimerextension.org

Master Gardener Q&A Booth at Greeley Farmers' Market

Every Saturday until October 28th, Union Pacific Depot, 902 7th Ave., Greeley, 8:00am - 12:00pm, Free, greeleygov.com/activities/fm

Master Gardener Q&A Booth at Milliken Market Day

Every third Saturday May 20 to October 21, Union Pacific Depot, 1109 Broad St., Milliken, 4:00pm - 8:00pm, Free, [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com), search on "Milliken Market Days"

Master Gardener Q&A Booth at Windsor Farmers' Market

June 3 to Sept 9, 110 5th St., Windsor, 8:00am - 12:30pm, Free, recreationliveshere.com/213/Farmers-Market

Weld County Master Gardeners Help Desk

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Walk-ins welcome during Help Desk hours, 525 N 15th Ave., Greeley, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free, 970-400-2089, weldmastergardeners@outlook.com, WeldMasterGardeners.org

COMMUNITY WIDE EDUCATION

May 10 » **A Colorado Insect Update**

Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 12:00pm - 1:00pm, Free, registration required, csuhort.blogspot.com: "CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

June 14 » **Native Colorado Pollinators**

Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 12:00pm - 1:00pm, Free, registration required, csuhort.blogspot.com: "CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

May 25 » **Waterwise Yard Seminar: Intro to Xeriscaping**

Live, Online (Zoom webinar), 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Free, Register Here: ResourceCentral.org/seminars

June 14 » **Waterwise Yard Seminar: New to Colorado Landscaping**

Live, Online (Zoom webinar), 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Free, Register Here: ResourceCentral.org/seminars

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events 'n classes

COMMUNITY WIDE EVENTS

May 27 » **Garden Wiser with Plant Select**

Annual Garden Center Event at participating northern Colorado garden centers - see website for details and locations, 9:00am - 12:00pm, Free admission, plantselect.org/garden-wiser-with-plant-select-2023

BERTHOUD

May 13 » **Annual Festival and Plant Sale by the Berthoud Historical Society Garden Group**

Pioneer Courtyard, 224 Mountain Ave., 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Free admission, Most plants \$3.50, berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup

May 20 » **Spring Rose Care with CSU Master Gardener Roger Heins**

McCarty-Fickel Home Museum, 9:30 am - 11:30 am, Free admission, berthoudhistoricalsociety.org/gardengroup

May 31 » **Northern Water Garden Tour through Loveland Parks and Recreation**

Northern Water Conservancy, 220 Water Ave., 11:00 am - 3:30 pm, \$26, lovgov.org/services/parks-recreation/publications/activity-guide

FORT COLLINS

Larimer County Farmers' Market - Special events once per month!

Every Saturday, May 20 to October 28, 200 W. Oak Street, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Free admission, larimercountyfm.org

May 13 » **Forest Bathing**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:00am - 3:00pm, \$25, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

May 13 » **Tai Chi**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:00am - 10:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

May 16 » **Twilight Garden Series: Gardening with Water in Mind**

Nutrien Building on the CSU Campus, 301 University Avenue, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, \$10, Registration through Gardens on Spring Creek: fcgov.com/gardens

May 20 - May 21 » **Spring Plant Sale**

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

May 24 » **Container Gardening at the Harmony Library in Fort Collins**

Harmony Library in Fort Collins, 4616 S. Shields, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, Registration through Poudre River Public Library District, Limited to 20 registrants, poudrelibraries.org

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



by Catherine Moravec
and Dena Egenhoff

Demystifying COLORADO'S NEW TURF REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

As the Colorado River crisis continues, Colorado water utilities are seeking new ways to manage water resources to ensure their reliability and resiliency. Nearly 50 percent of water used within the municipal and business sector in Colorado irrigates landscaping. By making landscapes more water-wise, we can contribute to the solution for the Colorado River and be better prepared for a more uncertain water future.

What can you do to help? Save water, of course, by updating older toilets, fixing leaks and upgrading your irrigation systems. But the more enjoyable part of water conservation is creating a landscape that is in tune with our natural surroundings. Removing underused, thirsty turf is a terrific way to reduce outdoor water use. Think of areas you might see grass but never step-on, like turf by your bank or grocery store. Typically, people don't stop to picnic or throw a ball in those areas. Say goodbye to non-functional turf and say hello to major water savings.

Even better, consider reducing your lawn's size or replacing it entirely with a garden oasis of beautiful low-water native grasses and resilient shrubs, flowers and groundcovers. Water-wise landscapes also provide more beauty and diversity, create pollinator habitat, tolerate drought, lower water bills and mitigate stormwater run-off.



Don't forget to include sprinkler upgrades in your landscape transformation project. Updating your irrigation system and scheduling it wisely is just as important as swapping out lawn.

Many homeowners are seeking financial help for landscape projects. In fact, programs

like Greeley's Life After Lawn Program (greeleygov.com/services/ws/conservation/life-after-lawn) or Fort Collins' Xeriscape Incentive Program (fcgov.com/xip) run out of money each year due to their popularity. In addition, 75 percent of Colorado communities do not offer any turf replacement incentives.



These factors led to the passage of HB22-1151 last year and the creation of Colorado's new Turf Replacement Program (engagecwcb.org/turf-replacement-program). It enables eligible entities (local governments, special districts, nonprofits and tribal nations) to apply for funds from the Colorado Water Conservation Board cwcb.colorado.gov to develop or expand community turf replacement programs. It also directs the Conservation Board to offer a program in areas where there is not an existing one.

Individual homeowners cannot apply for Turf Replacement Program funds directly. Instead, check with your water provider, municipality, district or the statewide program for turf replacement or xeriscape rebates. Many entities also offer impressive educational resources and inspirational demonstration gardens.

By replacing non-functional turfgrass with more climate-appropriate landscaping, we can each do our part for a better water future.

Dena Egenhoff is the Water Conservation Manager with the City of Greeley. She is also the Co-Chair of the Rocky Mountain Section American Water Works Commination and Conservation Committees. She can be reached at Dena.Egenhoff@greeleygov.com or 970.350.9846.

Catherine Moravec is a Water Conservation Lead with Colorado Springs Utilities. She can be reached at cmoravec@csu.org or 719.668.4559. 🌱



events 'n classes

June 3 » **Beekeeping Series: Post-Installation Hive Check-up**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:30am - 10:30am,
\$18, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

June 3 » **Mastering Flower Photography, Wild and Domestic**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:30am - 3:30pm,
\$25, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

June 3 » **Tai Chi**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am,
\$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

June 3 » **Yoga**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:15am - 10:00am,
\$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

June 10 » **Tai Chi**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am,
\$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

June 10 » **Watercolor Journaling: Cacti**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:30am - 12:30pm,
\$65, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

June 10 » **Yoga**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:15am - 10:00am,
\$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

June 14 » **Garden Storytimes with The Library**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 3:30pm - 4:00pm,
Free with Garden's Admission, fcgov.com/gardens

June 16 - June 18 » **Father's Day Tree Sale**
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 9:00 am - 5:00 pm,
Free admission, fortcollinsnursery.com

June 17 » **Tai Chi**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am,
\$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

June 17 » **Xeriscape Garden Party**
9:00 am - 12:00 pm, No cost to attend, Location and other
details found at: fcgov.com/gardenparty

June 17 » **Yoga**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:15am - 10:00am,
\$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

June 20 » **Twilight Garden Series:
Gardening for the Birds and the Bees**
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 6:00pm -
8:00pm, \$10, Registration through Gardens on Spring Creek:
fcgov.com/gardens

June 22 » **Concert w/The Samples
(Benefit for Project Self-Sufficiency)**
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 6:30pm, \$27 ADV/\$32
Door/ Kids 12 & Under Free, fortcollinsnursery.com

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



Thinking you'd rather trade in your lawn for a garden instead of native grasses



Follow the steps here for lawn removal and then keep reading for tips on lawn conversion to garden space.

There is growing interest in the use of native grasses for home lawns in Colorado. Once established, a native grass lawn will generally require less irrigation, mowing and fertilization than the more traditional bluegrass or fescue lawn. However, the establishment of native lawns can be difficult, expensive and frustrating. Whether beginning with a new landscape or converting an existing lawn to a native species, following some specific steps can help ensure success and reduce common problems often experienced when establishing the native lawn.

The most important first step for a conversion to native is to select the right grass(es) for the new lawn. The species selected will determine **how** you will plant the lawn (seed, plugs, sod) and **when** you will plant the new grass.

For example, blue grama would be planted by seed (because sod isn't available, and it doesn't spread much when planted in plug form) and because it is a warm-season grass it should be planted in late spring (mid- to late-May) through mid- to late-summer (mid- to late-August). Western wheatgrass, a native cool-season

grass, can be planted as seed (no sod or plugs are available for this grass) anytime from spring (April) through early fall (early September). Giving both warm- and cool-season grasses enough time to get established before their first winter will help to ensure winter survival in that first year.



As critical as species selection is, so is preparation of the site for seeding, plugging, or sodding. If the lawn is to be sodded, then the old lawn must be removed – usually via the use of a sod cutter. A trick that helps the new sod to get established is to use a core cultivation machine (aka aerifier) to make holes in the bare soil immediately before sodding. Roots from the newly planted sod will grow into the holes, allowing the sod to root more quickly and effectively.

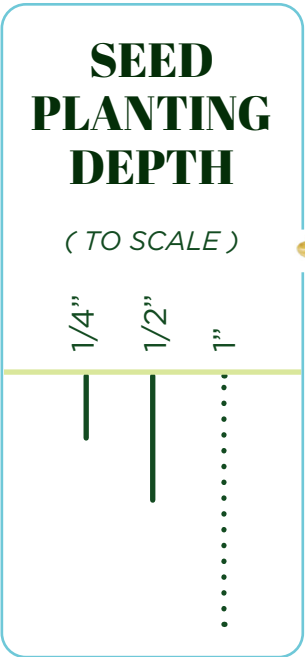
If planting using seed or plugs, it is essential to kill (or remove) existing turf and weeds that could reappear in the new native lawn and compete with the new seedlings or native grass plugs. The quickest, least expensive and most effective way of killing the old lawn and any weeds is to make one or two applications of glyphosate (about two to three weeks apart) to the actively growing/green lawn and weeds.

After this vegetation is dead, mow the dead lawn as short as your mower will allow and plant the grass seed (instruction following) or grass plugs. Allowing the dead vegetation to remain will greatly reduce weed invasion and the dead grass will act as a mulch, reducing the amount of watering needed to get the grass seed germinated or the plugs established.

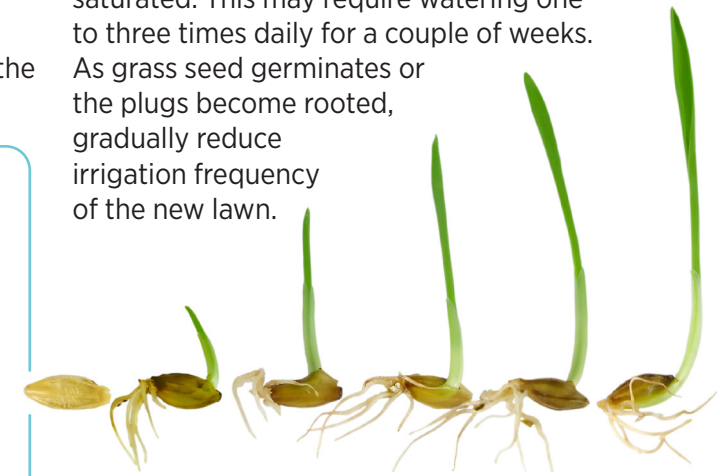


Alternatives to using glyphosate would be solarization or occultation (covering the lawn with clear or black plastic to kill it using solar power). As before, it's advantageous to leave the dead grass in place and seed or plug into it. Once the grass and weeds have been killed and the timing is correct for seeding, it's important to get the seed into the soil, but not too deeply. About one-quarter to one-half inch is ideal. Walk-behind slit seeders can be used to do this.

Alternatively, heavy core cultivation to make a LOT of holes, followed by seeding and then light raking (to work seed into the holes) can also be effective. Plugs of buffalograss can be planted using an electric drill with a large drill bit to create a planting hole in the dead lawn. The more closely together the plugs are planted (six- to 12-inch centers), the more quickly they will spread and fill in.



After planting, keep the soil moist but not saturated. This may require watering one to three times daily for a couple of weeks. As grass seed germinates or the plugs become rooted, gradually reduce irrigation frequency of the new lawn.



A safe (to people, pets, and the new lawn grass) herbicide to use for weed prevention is mesotrione, sold by Scotts® as Turf Builder® Starter® Food for New Grass. This product, applied at the time of planting seed or plugs, also contains fertilizer to help accelerate establishment of the new lawn.

Mowing your new native lawn as tall as you can tolerate (or your HOA or city will allow) – or not mowing it at all – will help it to be healthy, weed-free and low maintenance. 🌿

GOOD LUCK!

Bunch Grasses

- Grow primarily in bunches; minimal lateral growth

Sod-forming Grasses

- Creep via rhizomes or stolons to form a lawn

Warm-Season Grasses

- Grow most vigorously in summer
- Become dormant/brown with the first hard frost; green up in late spring
- Prefer full sun
- Use less water than cool-season grasses

Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)
Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Cool-Season Grasses

- Grow most vigorously in spring and fall
- Will remain green for most of the year
- Can tolerate both sun and shade
- Use more water than warm-season grasses

Tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*)
Fine fescues (*Festuca sp. includes Chewings, hard, sheep*)
Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)
Prairie junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*)

Buffalograss (*Bouteloua dactyloides*)
Bermudagrass (*Cynodon spp*)
Dog Tuff®
Tahoma 31
Ironcutter
Riviera

Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*)
Creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubrum*)
Western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*)
Streambank wheatgrass (*Agropyron riparian*)

events 'n classes

July 1 » **Tai Chi**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

July 1 » **Yoga**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:15am - 10:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

July 8 » **An Introduction to Mindfulness**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, \$18, in person, fcgov.com/gardens

July 8 » **Tai Chi**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

July 8 » **Yoga**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:15am - 10:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

JOHNSTOWN

May 13 » **Solar Garden Planting Project with Audubon Rockies**

8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Free admission, <https://x.gldn.io/e/Lxlg3d8qNxb>

LOVELAND

Loveland Farmers' Market

Every Sunday, June 4 to September 24, 700 S. Railroad Ave, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Free admission, Search "farmers market" at lovgov.org

Ongoing Native Plant Sale

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., Available through September 30, suburbitat.org

May 9 » **P.E.O. Chapter FL Plant Sale**

Faith Church, 2707 N. Wilson Ave., 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Free admission, Sales raise funds for educational scholarships for deserving Loveland women, Information: Contact Mary Ella at 970-667-6201 or maryella@qwestoffice.net, Home delivery is also available upon request

May 13 » **Kinston Garden Club: Planting Warm Season Vegetables**

Kinston Hub, 6402 Union Creek Dr., 9:30 am - 11:00 am, Free class, suburbitat.org

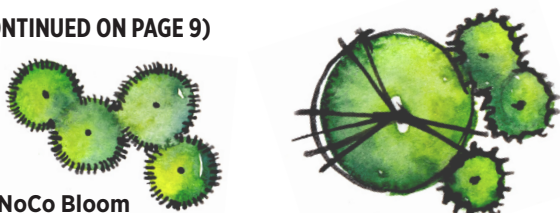
May 19 » **Aspire 3D Kite Festival**

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

May 27 » **Garden Tour, presented by High Plains Environmental Center**

Chapungu Sculpture Park, 6105 Sky Pond Dr., 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Free garden tour, suburbitat.org

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Converting Your Lawn to Garden Space



by Bryan Fischer, Curator of Plant Collections and Horticulturist, Gardens on Spring Creek

Alright, so your lawn's gone. Dead. Nada. What next?

Ideally, you've knocked the above step out in April. Why? Starting early ensures you'll have more time to plan, execute, and plant and establish those plants – critically, those last two steps are a heck of a lot easier in spring than in summer. By June, you'll be doing twice the watering if your plants haven't rooted. But, if reading this article is what is prompting you to swap your neglected lawn for the garden of your dreams, don't fret – it can be done.

As you stare out over your barren moonscape, consider how you would like to use your garden-to-be. Would you like to have a seating area? Should some lawn remain for dogs or kids (hopefully you considered this before going nuclear)? Begin by structuring those large, defining features. Laying out a garden hose and some folding chairs can help give a sense of scale and flow to such imaginary spaces. Then, figure out how you would most likely naturally move through your space when actually using it. If a primary route will be carrying a lavish charcuterie plate directly to that picnic seating area, you'll likely want a path that runs between the two. If the charcuterie plate is as big as I'm imagining, it had better be a wide path. Consider, too, items like vegetable garden beds, sheds and kids play areas. Crusher fines (sometimes called Breeze in the trade) make a great path if edged.

As you work your way through your imaginary space, you'll likely find you have a network or web of paths between a few hot-ticket items. Use landscape paint or a few hoses and mark those paths out. You'll likely find that they have a natural flow in your yard, and that they've created some pretty interesting geometric shapes between them. Those will be your garden beds!

With a bit of massaging and some path streamlining (maybe you don't need a path to the charcuterie pit-stop AND the shed if, say, one path could get you to both), this can be a surprisingly simple way to put together an intimate and engaging garden space. One final tip on paths: paths appear most interesting when you can't quite see what comes next, so curved and slightly angled paths are often more engaging in a garden than straight-line paths.

When it comes to plants, begin by grouping according to (1) water and light preferences, and (2) plant height, foliage form and flower color next. Generally, I conceptualize beds so that those in the more central portions of the yard reach three feet or less, while those at the edges can be considerably taller. Perhaps most importantly, remember that gardening is an iterative process (i.e. something you will build, refine and improve over time). For folks like me, this is where much of the beauty of the art comes from; you get a new chance to perfect the space each year. So, don't stress and don't forget we have numerous resources spread throughout the community to help you out should you hit a snag: Xeriscape Incentives Program (XIP) through Fort Collins Utilities, classes at the Gardens on Spring Creek and the loads of information easily accessible through Colorado State Extension or a good old fashioned book. 🌿

SUSTAINABLE LAWN CARE



by Emma Pett, Lead Water Conservation Technician, Fort Collins Utilities



Lawns get a bad rap in the West where water is a precious resource, but they also serve as important community spaces to gather and play. Lawn areas that are seldom used are great spots to consider transforming – such as a front lawn that only gets walked on during mowing. Several cities including Fort Collins and Greeley have programs that will pay you to remove turfgrass and replace it with low water plants. If you love your lawn but also want to save water, there are small changes you can make that can make a big impact.

MOW LIKE A PRO

How low do you go when you mow? Grass species have different recommended mowing heights, and most turfgrasses do well at taller mowing heights. Mowing on the higher end of the recommended height can help shade out weeds, cool the soil and keep your lawn resilient to drought. Cool season grasses like Kentucky bluegrass and fescues can be kept taller at a height of three to four inches. Warm season grasses like buffalograss and blue grama can be mowed as little as once a year, unless you prefer a tidier aesthetic. If you keep your grass on the longer side and don't use pesticides, you can also interplant low growing flowers to provide food for pollinators. When you mow, mulch clippings back into the lawn. Lawn clippings can help build healthy soils and provide free fertilization.

WATERING WISELY

Colorado can challenge even a seasoned gardener with its wind, temperature swings and clay soils. When we work with and consider these challenges, we can save water while keeping a healthy lawn. Because Northern Colorado can be hot and windy during the daytime, it is recommended to water between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. to reduce the amount of irrigation lost to evaporation. If you have clay soil, it is best to apply water slowly and in cycles. Cycling irrigation will allow water to penetrate the soil, encouraging deeper root growth and increasing your lawn's drought tolerance.



Rotary nozzles, a newer and more efficient irrigation technology, can also help apply water more slowly so it is not lost as run-off. Another trick to save water is to reduce your irrigation run-times for lawn and landscape beds. Reducing the minutes by just 10 percent can save you 10 percent of total water during a season (i.e. 30 minutes can drop to 27 minutes) – and you won't notice the difference in overall lawn or plant health. If you'd like tailored recommendations on how to improve your irrigation system, several Northern Colorado water providers offer free sprinkler checkup programs that provide full assessments and recommendations. 🌱

TALLER GRASS = COOLER SOIL

events 'n classes

June 17 » **Loveland Youth Garden Tour & Art Show**
Begins at Loveland Youth Gardeners Good Enough Farm, 2500 E 1st St., Continues to multiple locations around Loveland, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Early Bird tickets (until 4/30) \$20, then \$25, Tickets available at lovelandyouthgardeners.org

June 24 » **Garden Tour, presented by High Plains Environmental Center**
Chapungu Sculpture Park, 6105 Sky Pond Dr., 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Free garden tour, suborbitat.org

WINDSOR

May 14 » **Mother's Day at Treasure Island**
Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd., south of the southern end of Eastman Park, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, Free, recreationliveshere.com

May 17 » **Treasure Island Demonstration Garden Classes: Water Wiser**
Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd., south of Eastman Park, 10:00 am - 11:00 am, Free, recreationliveshere.com

June 18 » **Father's Day at Treasure Island**
Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd., south of Eastman Park, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, Free, recreationliveshere.com

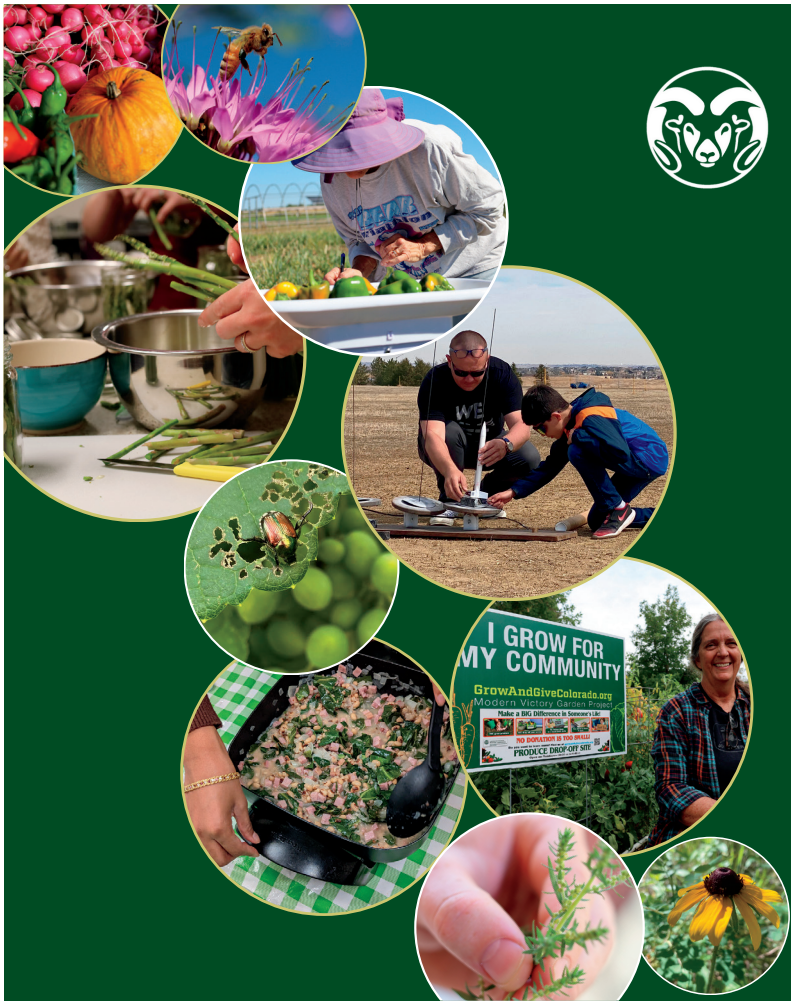
June 21 » **Treasure Island Demonstration Garden Classes: What Now?**
Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd., south of Eastman Park, 10:00 am - 11:00 am, Free, recreationliveshere.com



Compiled by Kathleen Atkins, CSU Extension Master Gardener
Event information is welcome at nocobloomevents@gmail.com

& COOLER SOIL = LESS WATERING





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PARTY

Celebrate the art of landscaping with family-friendly activities, live art demonstrations, live music, a prize drawing, a coffee truck, and more!



SWAP

Participate in the Pollinator Plant Swap! We welcome donations of any pollinator plants grown free of chemicals, but you don't have to donate to take some home.

JOIN US AT THE XERISCAPE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN!

Saturday, June 17 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. • 300 Laporte Ave.

 Learn more at fcgov.com/garden-party

Auxiliary aids and services are available for persons with disabilities. 23-25023