

NoCo Bloom

JULY 2023



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK



DOG DAYS OF SUMMER


SUMMER
WATERING

ALL SUMMER COLOR

POISONOUS PLANTS
AND PETS


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CSU EXTENSION IN LARIMER COUNTY
1525 Blue Spruce Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80524-2004
970-498-6000 | larimerextension.org 



**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.

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER ARE HERE!

This period of time—identified as July 3 to August 11 each year by the Farmer's Almanac—usually includes the hottest and most unbearable days of the season.

While it may seem like this weather “isn't fit for a dog,” the phrase actually references Sirius, the dog star. During this time of year Sirius and the sun occupy the same region of the sky, rising and setting in tandem. Ancient Romans believed that the star was so bright it gave off heat, adding to the warmth of the sun. While this time is generally the hottest stretch of the summer, the heat is due to the Earth's tilt at the time—not any additional radiation from Sirius.

In this issue, we explore these Dog Days of Summer with insights on pet-friendly landscaping and ways to keep your garden thriving, despite the heat. 



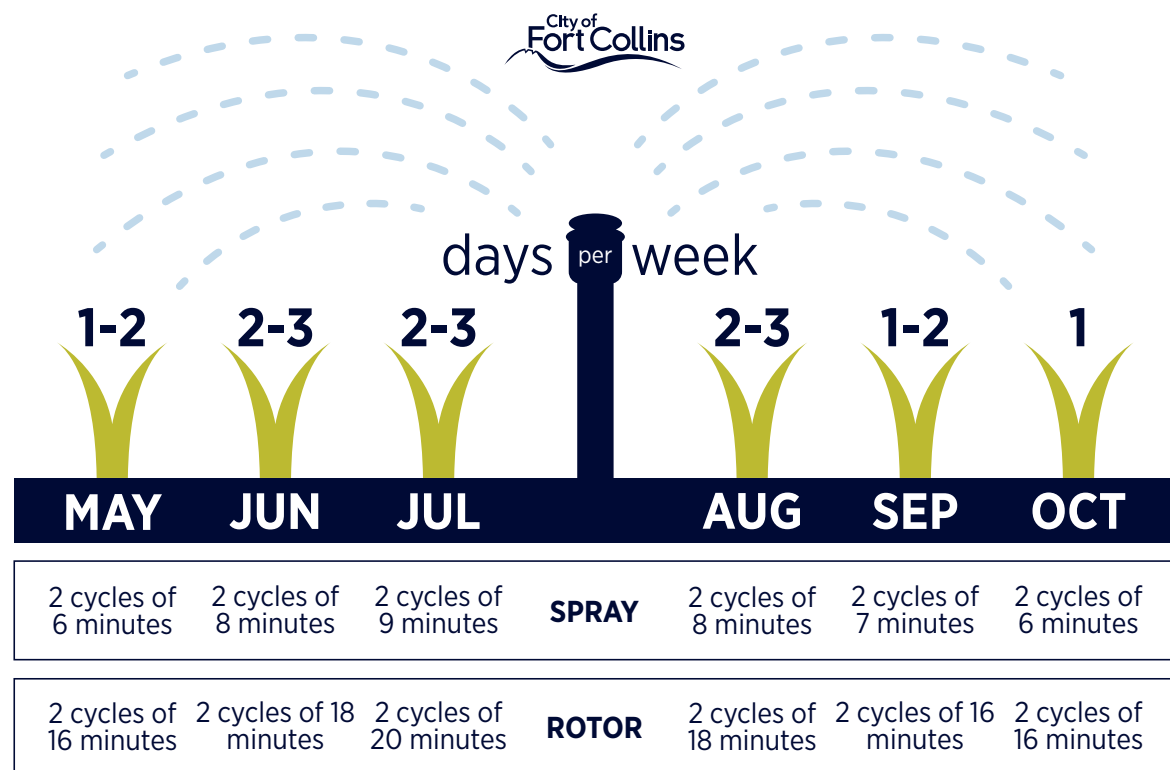
SUMMMER WATERING



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

Outdoor irrigation accounts for about 40 percent of water usage in Northern Colorado. If you want to save money in the summer, there many to reduce water usage in your landscape. Many local water providers offer free sprinkler checkup programs that provide personalized information on how to improve the efficiency of your system and check for leaks.

The graphic below illustrates how you can adjust your irrigation throughout the year to keep your lawn healthy while not overwatering. The watering guidelines are broken down into spray and rotor nozzles because these irrigation types apply water at different rates. Rotor nozzles are more efficient than spray nozzles and these can easily be swapped out to improve your irrigation system's efficiency. Rotor nozzles apply water slower than spray nozzles, reducing the chance of water being wasted as runoff. Run-off can also be minimized with the cycle-soak approach: split your irrigation run-time in half, after the first application allow 30 minutes for the water to soak in, then apply the second round of irrigation. 🌿



NOTE: **SPRAY HEADS** distribute water in a fixed, fanlike pattern. **ROTOR HEADS** spin, delivering one or more streams of water.

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

July 10 » **Waterwise Yard Seminar:**

Firewise Landscaping: Methods and Design

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

July 12 » **Sustainable Landscaping**

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

August 9 » **Summer Turf Woes**

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

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

COMMUNITY WIDE EVENTS

Fall Garden In A Box Kits Now On Sale

Order online now; pick up and plant in August or September, \$40-\$340, resourcecentral.org/gardens

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

July 12 » Storytime at The Gardens with the Poudre River Public Library District

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 3:30pm - 4:00pm, Free for members, fcgov.com/gardens/events

July 14 » Plein Air in The Gardens

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 12:00pm, Free for members, fcgov.com/gardens/events

July 15 » Botanical Dyeing: Fresh Indigo and Silk Scarves

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, \$50, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

July 15 » Children's Storytime at Fort Collins Nursery

Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., Free Admission, fortcollinsnursery.com

July 15 » Watercolor Journaling: Mid-Summer Gardens

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:30am - 12:30pm, \$65, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

July 18 » Twilight Garden Series:

Gardening for the Birds and the Bees

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, \$10, Registration through Gardens on Spring Creek: fcgov.com/gardens/twilight-garden-series

July 21 - July 23 » Summer Perennial Sale

Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 9:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Saturday; 10:00am - 5:00pm, Sunday, Free Admission, fortcollinsnursery.com

July 28 » Songwriters in the Round with Liz Barnez, Mike Finders, John Magnie & Angie Stevens (Benefit for The Vegetable Connection)

Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 6:30pm, \$22 Adv/\$27 Door/ Kids 12 & Under Free, fortcollinsnursery.com

July 29 » Dojo in The Gardens

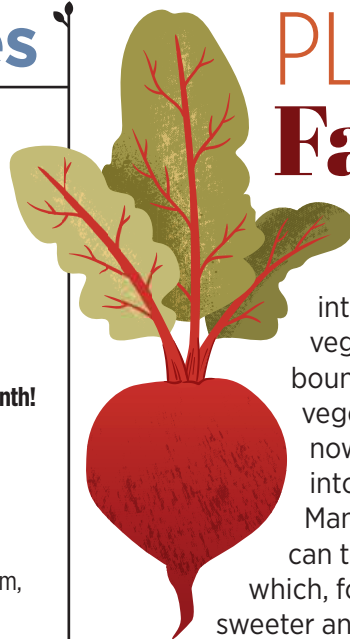
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:30am - 9:15am, \$15, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

July 29 » Tai Chi

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

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

PLANT SEEDS NOW FOR A Fall Vegetable Garden



It might seem counter-intuitive to plant more vegetables when summer's bounty is so prolific, but vegetables that are planted now will yield fresh produce into the fall and early winter. Many cool-season vegetables can tolerate a light frost which, for some, makes them sweeter and tastier. Plus, there are fewer pests and diseases in the fall.

Vegetables best suited for fall gardening are peas, plus leafy greens including lettuce, spinach, chard, arugula and kale; broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower and root crops—radish, beets and carrots. Garlic planted in the fall overwinters for harvest next summer.

Choose fast-maturing varieties you can harvest before the first frost or vegetables that can withstand a light frost. An average first frost in this area is in mid-September (but varies each year). Count backwards from the frost date you've determined, using the number of days to maturity on the seed packet to determine the best planting dates. Before planting, remove spent crops, weed thoroughly and replenish your soil with compost and fertilizer as needed.

Water the soil first, plant the seeds and then place a light mulch over the row to keep the soil cool. A shade cloth over the

area will help reduce temperatures and improve germination. Keep the soil moist.

Extend the growing season with floating row covers and / or frames draped with sheets or blankets that extend to the ground, then remove coverings in the morning as soon as the temperature is above freezing to avoid cooking the foliage.

You can get a head-start on the fall season by planting seeds indoors for transplanting outside. Harden off the seedlings by putting them outdoors gradually before planting in the garden. Keep them moist and provide shade if needed.

A thick layer of mulch around the vegetables will keep crops growing longer into the fall. 🌸



by Susan Bonsall, Colorado State University Extension Master Gardener in Larimer County



DOG SPOTS:

You're in for a little surprise.....

Just what is it about **SOME** dogs that burns or kills the grass in lawns?

Conventional thought is that the damage results from the deposition of high levels of salts—including nitrogen—which can burn the leaves and roots of the grass.

Dogs are habitual in where they urinate and can be “lazy” during the winter, only venturing a few feet onto the lawn outside the back door. It’s thought that this constant urination in the same spot causes a very localized buildup of salts in the soil, to the point that grass can be killed. Where the salts aren’t as concentrated, the grass gets noticeably greener and taller—the fertilizer effect from the nitrogen (urea) in the urine, thus the green donut around the brown center.

The degree of lawn damage from pet urine can vary with the grass species (bluegrass is most sensitive), how often you water your lawn (frequent or daily watering is more likely to wash off the urine before it injures the grass; excessive irrigation can dilute the deposited urine) and—most importantly—the individuality of the dog.

Some dogs never damage the grass in their lawns. And, as myth and the internet would have you believe, it’s not just a female dog problem. It’s not tied to specific breeds. Nor does the age of the dog seem to matter or how much water it drinks.

A turfgrass scientist at North Dakota State University “deconstructed” the urine of chows, poodles and collies to determine what in dog urine can cause grass to die. He found that, while salt in the urine can cause some level of turf burn, that the lactic acid in dog urine may be the more important and lethal cause of grass injury. If true, this would explain why people who follow their dogs around with a hose to wash the urine deposits off the grass suffer little lawn damage.

Since all animals produce lactic acid, this might explain why the urine of elk, fox, cats and other wildlife can injure grass on lawns and golf courses. And it might explain the damage that rabbits cause to lawns, since their urine is especially concentrated (it’s hard for them to find water in urban environments).

The solution to urine spots? Train the dog to use a mulch or gravel area. Maybe follow the dog around with a hose (a form of enabling, I think!). Exclude rabbits from the lawn using fencing—which also solves a host of other rabbit-related problems. Reseeding those dead spots, with a little extra water to dilute any salts, should get the lawn on the road to recovery. 🌱



by Tony Koski,
Extension Turf Specialist,
Colorado State University

July 29 » **Yoga in The Gardens**

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

August 5 » **Consumer and Public Evaluation Day: Public is invited to vote for their favorites and provide feedback.**

Free tours, kids can plant and take home a flower for free. CSU Trial Gardens, 1401 Remington St., 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Free admission, Flowertrials.colostate.edu

August 9 » **Storytime at The Gardens with the Poudre River Public Library District**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 3:30pm - 4:00pm, Free for members, fcgov.com/gardens/events

August 11 » **Plein Air in The Gardens**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 12:00pm, Free for members, fcgov.com/gardens/events

August 12 » **Dojo in The Gardens**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:30am - 9:15am, \$15, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

August 12 » **Forest Bathing**

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

August 12 » **National Farmers Market Week**

Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St., 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free admission, LarimerCountyFM.org

August 12 » **Tai Chi**

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

August 12 » **Yoga in The Gardens**

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

August 15 » **Garden to Fork: The Three Sisters**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, \$75, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

August 16 » **Garden to Fork: The Three Sisters**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, \$75, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

August 19 » **Beekeeping: Beginning the Window - Fall and Winter Management**

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

August 19 » **Introduction to Watercolors**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:30am - 3:30 pm, \$85, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

August 19 » **Northern Colorado Bonsai Show**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:00am- 4:00pm, Free for members, fcgov.com/gardens/events

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

ALL SUMMER COLOR



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

The dog days of summer are upon us. With their arrival, the dogged enthusiasm of many of our Northern Colorado gardens seems to wane—maybe it's napping on a cool tile floor someplace. With a declining bloom and rising mercury, gardeners too find themselves looking more at that cool tile floor than the perennial beds they invested so much time in during the spring months.

A six-week nap is one option. A more exciting one, however, is to include a few perennials that are unbothered by the dog days, bringing color to midseason gardens and bridging the “blah” period between the spring and monsoon bloomers common in our region.

For dry patches, rock gardens and locations where a low-profile option is needed, *Eriogonum allenii*, or shale barren buckwheat, fits the bill. By July the plants will bloom for weeks, producing a profusion of minute yellow flowers held in clusters on stiff stems above mats of rounded, two- to three-inch leaves.

Calamintha nepeta 'Montrose White' ('Montrose White' calamint)

Native to shale barrens in the Eastern United States, the plant is adapted to alkaline soils and is a breeze to grow with occasional, deep watering. Shale barren buckwheat may prove more adaptable to cultivation in our gardens than some of our western native species and is worth a try if you've had trouble growing *Eriogonum* in the past. You may need to mail-order this plant to get it started in your garden.

Even easier going and longer blooming than *Eriogonum allenii* is *Calamintha nepeta* 'Montrose White' ('Montrose White' calamint). It is quickly gaining steam in my gardens and at the Gardens on Spring Creek. A personal favorite, this bunching (not running!) mint relative produces a dark-green mound of handsome, rounded foliage and follows with a diaspora of dainty, white to white-lavender throated flowers.

Easily grown in full sun or part shade with a variety of water regimes, the plant is sterile, so doesn't have the troublesome seediness of other *Calamintha* taxa. Since the plant doesn't produce seed, it blooms from July to frost in a perpetual state of what might be described as would-be parental frustration. It boasts fragrant, minty foliage and performs equally well in mesic, wood mulched beds as it does in xeric, gravel mulched ones.



Eriogonum allenii



Phlox nana



Penstemon rostriflorus

Inappropriate for wood mulched sites but a gem for site with gravel mulch or no mulch at all (gasp), *Phlox nana* remains an underplanted gem found most often in rock gardens in our region. I routinely recommend the little stalwart (it scarcely passes six inches in height) for our hottest, harshest locations, like xeric parkway strips and exposed patches of baking dirt.

Originally rare in-the-trade due to propagation challenges, a selection by the late David Salman significantly improved the propagability of this plant. Now, it can be found occasionally at nurseries in our area and can be easily mail-ordered in. Plants are slow to establish after transplant but grow to form sizeable (to three or more feet across; sometimes much more with time), loose patches of mounded, linear foliage. In spring, watch for an explosion of one-inch, hot pink pinwheel-like flowers. Or don't—it's impossible to miss. Perhaps best of all, this plant is one of few in the garden that will continue to

bloom lightly if watered. A patch I've cared for since 2019 blooms off and on from May through early fall most years.

Many penstemon of our region are short lived and relatively short blooming. *Penstemon rostriflorus* is—delightfully—neither. Native to the Four Corners region and southwest, the plant is attractive in the early season, with narrow, rounded leaves arranged in pairs along low stems. By July Fourth these heat lovers are erupting skyward, budding up for a show of their own. Hummingbirds delight in the innumerable, tubular, firey orange-red blooms that smother the plants foliage by the second week of the month. These, too, will bloom until early fall, taking mounded forms to almost three feet high.

If planted into gravel mulch, plants will self-sow with vigor, so be prepared to weed them out, ensure your mulch layer is too deep for this to take place (three to four inches should do it),

or enjoy a stand of the stuff. I wouldn't bother with them in wood mulch, as they will not perform reliably. In dry meadows, gravel mulch or in bare ground they are long lived. Thanks to promotion by the nonprofit Plant Select, this penstemon can be found at nurseries throughout our region.

Even if you don't get them in the ground in time to enjoy the above selections this year, they all fall plant just fine. Planted in September, all these plants will bloom the following season. And, if that six-week nap is still your choice, I wouldn't hold it against you. 🌸



HAPPY PLANTING!

events 'n classes

August 19 » **Tai Chi**

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

August 19 » **Yoga in The Gardens**

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

August 22 » **Garden to Fork: Berries and Stone Fruit: Bursting with Flavor**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, \$75, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

August 23 » **Garden to Fork: Berries and Stone Fruit: Bursting with Flavor**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, \$75, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

August 24 » **Wildflower Walk**

McMurry Ponds, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, \$25, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

August 26 – September 4 » **Yard Sale**

Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 9:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Saturday; 10:00am - 5:00pm, Sunday, Free Admission, fortcollinsnursery.com

August 29 » **Twilight Garden Series: The Best of.....**

CSU Trial Gardens, 1401 Remington St., 6:00pm - 8:00pm, \$10, Registration through Gardens on Spring Creek: fcgov.com/gardens/twilight-garden-series

August 29 » **Garden to Fork: Chilies: Sweet and Spicy**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, \$75, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

August 30 » **Garden to Fork: Chilies: Sweet and Spicy**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, \$75, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

September 2 » **Tai Chi**

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

September 2 » **Yoga in The Gardens**

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

September 5 » **Garden to Fork: Tomatoes: Sweet and Savory**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30pm - 8:00pm, \$75, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

September 6 » **Garden to Fork: Tomatoes: Sweet and Savory**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30pm - 8:00pm, \$75, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

September 8 » **Plein Air in The Gardens**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 12:00pm, Free for members, fcgov.com/gardens/events

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

LANDSCAPING CONSIDERATION FOR PET-FRIENDLY YARDS

Many of our furry and feathered family members spend more time in the yard than we do.



by Deryn Davidson, Colorado State University Extension Sustainable Landscapes Specialist

HERE ARE SOME TIPS AND TRICKS TO HELP MAKE IT A SAFE AND INVITING SPACE FOR EVERYONE:

Mulch is an important part of any landscape, but some can be dangerous to dogs like ones made from cocoa husks (chocolate is toxic to dogs), and others don't stay put when walked through or played in. Rock mulch can be great for certain areas if you have dogs—and makes for easier clean-up.



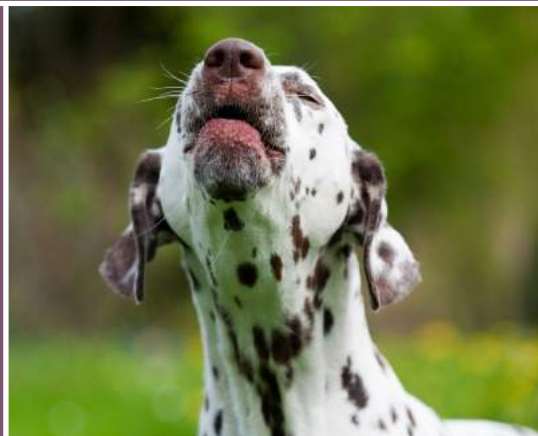
It's important to consider materials like edging, hardscape, mulch and plants. Pets (and people) can trip and / or potentially cut themselves on straight steel edging. There are alternatives available like metal with rounded edges or hard plastic. Hardscapes used for walkways and patios can retain a lot of heat in the summer or be slippery when they're wet. Think through those materials carefully.

Plant choice is important since some can be toxic to animals—refer to John’s article on pg. 10 in this issue regarding that.



Have a compost pile? Great! Keep in mind that it can be attractive to curious critters and can potentially be dangerous. If pets have access to where you compost, consider having a system that contains the materials so they can’t get into it.

If you have a barker or a pup that runs the fence line endlessly, they might just be curious about what’s happening on the other side. Try cutting out a small window at their height and installing a section of wire fence panel over the opening, or an actual acrylic dome like an Expawlorer (found online). Being able to see that they’re not missing out on anything might do the trick.



If you have a digger, you can try creating a designated area for digging and encourage use by putting toys and treats there. This won’t always work, but you may be able to satisfy that innate desire to dig.



You can have a yard that is both beautiful for you and functional for your pets. You just need to think through the design elements and plan accordingly. 🌸

events ‘n classes

September 9 » **Critter Carnival**

Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St., 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free admission, LarimerCountyFM.org

September 9 » **Soul Healing with the Seasons: Fall Equinox Workshop**

Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:30am - 12:00pm, \$55, in-person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

September 9 » **Tai Chi**

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

September 9 » **Yoga in The Gardens**

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

FREDERICK

July 21 » **Master Gardener Q&A Booth at Chainsaws & Chuckwagons**

Centennial Park, 630 Eighth St., 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Free, Open to the public, in-person, frederickco.gov/692/Chainsaws-Chuckwagons

LOVELAND

Ongoing Native Plant Sale

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

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

July 12 » **“Resource Central: Troubleshooting Your Summer Garden” Webinar Watch Party**

Loveland Public Library, Gertrude Scott Meeting Room, 300 N. Adams Ave., 5:45pm - 8:00pm, Free, lovelandpubliclibrary.org

July 15 » **Loveland Cherry Celebration**

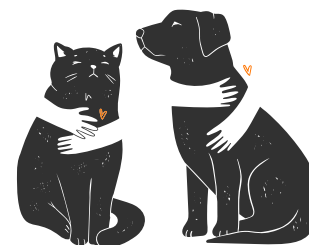
Peters Park & the Loveland Museum parking lot, 503 N. Lincoln Ave., 5:00pm - 8:00pm, Free admission, thelovelandmuseum.org/loveland-cherry-celebration

July 22 » **Chapungu Bird Walk**

Chapungu Sculpture Park, 6105 Sky Pond Dr., 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Free, suburbitat.org

August 1 » **“Resource Central: New to Colorado Landscaping” Webinar Watch Party**

Loveland Public Library, Gertrude Scott Meeting Room, 300 N. Adams Ave., 5:45pm - 8:00pm, Free, lovelandpubliclibrary.org



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

MILLIKEN

August 12 » **Master Gardener Q&A Booth at Milliken Beef 'n Bean Day**

320 Centennial Dr., 10:00am - 4:00pm, Free, Open to the public, millikenevents.com/beef-n-bean-day

WINDSOR

July 19 » **Treasure Island Demonstration Garden Classes: Plant Select®**

Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd., south of Eastman Park, 10:00 am - 11:00 am, Free, recreationliveshere.com

July 27 » **Tree Walk with the Windsor Tree Board**

Windsor Main Park, Meet at the park shelter at 300 Locust St., 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm, Free

August 16 » **Treasure Island Demonstration Garden Classes: Tree Considerations**

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

PETS &

POISONOUS PLANTS

Epidemiological studies of domestic animals indicate that somewhere between **1 – 10 PERCENT** of reported pet poisonings are caused by plants.

In the United States between 2005 and 2014, the most commonly reported “plant” reported as a poisoning agent for dogs was “mushrooms.” If you look at actual plants, *Cycads* (sago palm, *Cycas revoluta*), hydrangea, peace lily, and grape vines (*Vitis* sp.) were the top offenders, yet only made up 1.2 percent of all dog poisonings nationwide. Cats were more affected by plants, peace lily being the only overlap between them and their canine counterparts. For cats, lilies, *Dracaena*, *Zantedeschia* and *Alstroemeria* were the most commonly reported problems.

Similar plants showed up in Europe—a review of poisonings from the University of Milan (2015-2019) showed *Cycas revoluta*, *Euphorbia pulcherrima* and *Hydrangea macrophylla* to be the most reported plants of concern at poison control centers.

Herein lies an important point, though—the data are about plants that are reported to poison control centers, rather than on toxicological studies or confident plant taxonomy. The poor poinsettia is a poster-plant for this phenomenon: though its toxicity is mild and no animal or human deaths have ever been reported from its ingestion, it remains famous for being poisonous. Other plants (including raw or undercooked beans and rosemary) are far more dangerous.

So short of getting a toxicology degree, what is a pet owner to do? Almost every plant has some property that could be potentially dangerous, and even some that are regarded as innocuous could be problematic for certain individuals (just ask someone with a peanut allergy!). The number one thing you can do to help protect your pet from plant poisoning is to know what plants you have in your yard or home that your pet could access.

Confident plant identification is important for two reasons: first, in the event of an exposure, time can be of the essence—being able to tell your veterinarian the botanic name of the plant your pet may have ingested can speed the care your pet needs. Second, knowing your plants enables you to have a conversation with a veterinarian about the overall risk any particular plant might pose before it's an emergency. 🌿



by John Murgel, Horticulture Specialist, Colorado State University Extension in Douglas County



HYDRANGEA

GRAPE VINE

CAUTION!



NOT FOR CATS



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