

NoCo Bloom

SEPT 2023



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



THE GARDENS
ON SPRING CREEK



FALL FEAST FOR FAUNA

GARDEN
CLEAN-UP


OUTSTANDING OAKS

POLLINATOR HEAVY
GARDENS

Hello Northern Colorado!


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HLA Department Head
Colorado State University

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Extension Professor of
Horticulture in Larimer County

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Executive Director
The Gardens on Spring Creek

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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 

NoCo Bloom

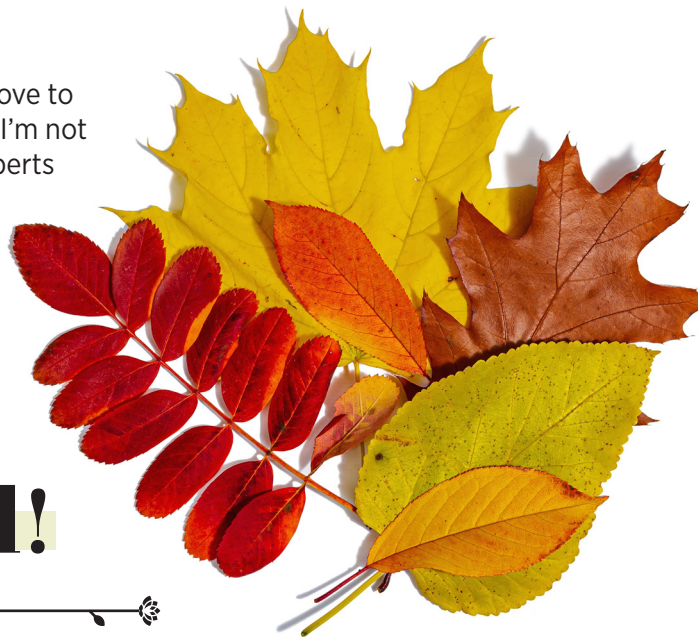
PLEASE NOTE: If you are a gardener living in Weld County and needing help, visit www.WeldMasterGardeners.org or email the Weld Garden Help Desk directly at weldmastergardeners@outlook.com.

I am Kim Manajek,
the new Executive Director
at The Gardens on Spring
Creek. I am thrilled to become
part of this community of
passionate gardeners.

I also spent a decade at the Denver Botanic Gardens, where I was a founding member of their Exhibitions and Interpretation Department. With roots in government administration and public gardens, I feel like I have found a great home at The Gardens on Spring Creek, and I look forward to an exciting future here. 🌸

I have a confession to make. While I love to play with plants in my home garden, I'm not a horticulturist. I leave that to the experts on our very talented staff. I come to The Gardens after directing the Longmont Museum for six years. In many ways, it was a similar condition—a municipal museum that had recently completed a capital campaign and expansion.

Happy Fall!



The Story of the Dr. Klett Ohio Buckeye

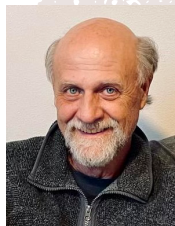
I first met Dr. James Klett in his Landscape plants class in 1980. This was his first year at Colorado State University. Fast forward 42 years and he is now retired. During all those years, our careers paralleled each other, and I developed a deep respect for Jim and consider him a good friend.

After graduating with my Horticulture degree, I landed the propagator job at Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery. In 1997 one of the Ohio buckeyes I grew from seed, collected at the CSU student center plaza, was noted to have the most outstanding red fall color. That tree happily ended up in my yard.

In the fall of 2021 Ross Shrigley, the director of Plant Select, and I were traveling together to the Black Hills of Wyoming on a plant finding mission. During our drive, the topic of Dr. Klett's retirement came up and we both thought a plant should be named for him in honor for his long service to CSU, the green industry, and the thousands of students he has transferred his knowledge to. Would it be an annual herbaceous flowering plant?

A nod to his decades of orchestrating the CSU Annual Trials, which has become a top tourist attraction for the city of Fort Collins? Or would it be a perennial flower or woody landscape plant? We both thought a tree would be best; one that would live a long full life and be there for decades – just like we have come to expect of Dr. Klett.

And that's when it hit me, my red fall colored Ohio Buckeye now 26 years old. It was a perfect choice. Dr. Klett was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, where the Ohio Buckeye is the state tree. He earned his bachelor's degree at Ohio State University, where the school mascot is the Buckeye. And not to leave out the CSU connection the Lory Student Center is where he introduced many of his students to the Ohio Buckeye for the first time during his plant walks. These trees are the parent trees of the tree now named Dr. Klett. Scions were gathered from the original tree and for the last two years, hundreds of trees are being grown. It will take a few more years for these young trees to grow to saleable size, but the wait will be worth it. 🌳



By Scott Skogerboe

Dr. Klett Ohio Buckeye



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 September 16 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"

Weld County Master Gardeners Help Desk

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until October 30, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Walk-ins welcome during Help Desk hours, 525 N 15th Ave., Greeley, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free, weldmastergardeners@outlook.com, WeldMasterGardeners.org

COMMUNITY WIDE EDUCATION

September 13 » STEP into these Trees

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

September 14 » Pickling Vegetables

CSU Extension Food Preservation Workshops (virtual), 12:00pm - 12:45pm, Free, Registration Required, Larimer.gov/FoodPreservation

September 28 » Dehydrating Foods, Leathers, and Jerkies

CSU Extension Food Preservation Workshops (virtual), 12:00pm - 12:45pm, Free, Registration Required, Larimer.gov/FoodPreservation

October 11 » Plants that will Kill You!

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

October 12 » Pressure Canning

CSU Extension Food Preservation Workshops (virtual), 12:00pm - 12:45pm, Free, Registration Required, Larimer.gov/FoodPreservation

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events 'n classes

October 19 » **Sauerkraut & Fermented Vegetables**
CSU Extension Food Preservation Workshops (virtual),
12:00pm - 12:45pm, Free, Registration Required,
Larimer.gov/FoodPreservation

November 8 » **A Gardening Year-in-Review**
Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 12:00pm - 1:00pm,
Free, registration required, csuhort.blogspot.com:
"CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

December 13 » **Fresh New Gardening Myths**
Extension Gardening Webinars via Zoom, 12:00pm - 1:00pm,
Free, registration required, csuhort.blogspot.com:
"CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

ERIE

September 19, October 3, October 17 » **3-Part Series on Gardening**
Erie Community Library, 400 Powers St.,
6:30pm - 7:30pm, Open to the Public

FORT COLLINS

September 12 » **Garden to Fork: Rich and Robust Roots**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30pm - 8:00pm,
\$75, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

September 13 » **Garden to Fork: Rich and Robust Roots**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30pm - 8:00pm,
\$75, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

September 15 » **Pickling Vegetables**
Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr.,
12:30pm - 3:30pm, \$25, Registration Required,
Larimer.gov/FoodPreservation

September 16 » **Mindful Birding**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:00am - 11:00am,
\$20, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

September 16 » **Fall Gardening**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:00pm - 3:00pm,
\$10, virtual, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

September 19 » **Garden to Fork: Brassicas: Brilliant and Bright**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30pm - 8:00pm,
\$75, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

September 20 » **Garden to Fork: Brassicas: Brilliant and Bright**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:30pm - 8:00pm,
\$75, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

September 29 » **Dehydrating Foods, Leathers, and Jerkies**
Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr.,
12:30pm - 3:30pm, \$15, Registration Required,
Larimer.gov/FoodPreservation

September 30 » **Tai Chi**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am,
\$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

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You Might Want to Wait on GARDEN CLEAN-UP this Fall



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



The small native plant garden just outside my office is teeming with life. In early summer I watch hummingbirds sip nectar from scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*) and tiny native bees swarm the cleome. I resist the urge to clean up the garden in fall and let the bunchgrasses, flower seed heads and leaf litter stay in place until the garden awakens in spring. Leaving my garden a bit 'messy' in winter provides a more interesting landscape that can feed and provide habitat for wildlife. On winter days, goldfinches and chickadees stop by to dine on sunflowers and coneflower (genus *Echinacea*) seedheads.

Wildlife populations have decreased drastically worldwide in the last century; what some scientists refer to as the sixth mass extinction. Shifting our urban landscaping practices can help reduce the stresses faced by wildlife and provide urban habitat with food, water, and shelter during the winter months when these essentials are harder to find.

These are a few tips on welcoming wildlife into your yard:



DELAY GARDEN CLEAN-UP & PROVIDE WINTER FOOD SOURCES

Wait until late spring to start cleaning up your garden. Many overwintering and migratory birds adopt an omnivorous diet in the cooler months- utilizing berries, fruits and seeds that are left in the garden to supplement their diet in the winter. Shrubs, trees, and flowers that hang onto seeds with high fat content through the winter- like dogwoods (*Cornus sericea*), junipers (*Juniperus*), and sunflowers (*Helianthus*)- are particularly valuable to birds and mammals in during these cooler months when other food sources aren't available. In grassland ecosystems, seedheads from prairie grasses are another major food source of overwintering and migratory birds. Untrimmed plants, old logs, hollow stems, and leaf piles all provide shelter for overwintering insects, birds, and other wildlife.













SPRING CLEAN-UP & NATIVE BEES

In Colorado, there are over 900 native bee species. About 30% of native bees are cavity nesters that build nests and lay eggs in hollow stems or old logs. When cleaning up your garden in the spring, you can provide nesting habitat for native bees by cutting hollow or pithy stems to about knee height. As the weather warms new foliage will grow around the stems hiding them from sight. Some plants that have hollow or pithy stems are sunflower, echinacea, goldenrod (*Solidago*), aster (*Symphotrichum*), sumac (*Rhus*), raspberries (*Rubus*), and bunch grass stems. Leave cut stems standing for two to three years to allow bees to complete their reproductive cycle. 🌱

How to create habitat for stem-nesting bees:

events 'n classes

WINTER			
	<p>Leave dead flower stalks standing over the winter.</p>		
SPRING		<p>Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, 8 to 24 inches, to provide nest cavities.</p> <p>Female bees find cut or naturally-occurring open stems, start a nest, then lay an egg on the pollen balls. Larvae eat the pollen.</p>	
SUMMER		<p>New growth of the perennial hides the stem stubble.</p> <p>Bee larvae develop in cut dead stems during the growing season.</p>	
FALL		WINTER	
			<p>Bees hibernate in stems during the winter.</p>
SPRING		<p>New growth of the perennial hides the stem stubble.</p> <p>Cut back dead flower stalks. Old stem stubble will naturally decompose.</p>	

- September 30 » **Yoga in The Gardens**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:15am - 10:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes
- September 30 » **Writing in the Gardens**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:00am - 11:30am, \$45, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes
- September 30 » **Plen Air Garden Showcase**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Included in Admission, fcgov.com/gardens/events
- September 30 » **Forest Bathing**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, \$25, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes
- October 7 » **Tai Chi**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes
- October 7 » **Watercolor Journaling: Fall Gardens**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:30am - 12:30pm, \$65, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes
- October 13 » **Pressure Canning**
Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr., 12:30pm - 3:30pm, \$25, Registration Required, Larimer.gov/FoodPreservation
- October 14 » **Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off and Fall Jamboree**
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 10:00am - 3:00pm, Free Event, fortcollinsnursery.com
- October 14 » **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, All day, Free Day, fcgov.com/gardens/events
- October 19 to October 22 » **Pumpkins on Parade**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 6:00pm - 9:00pm, \$5 - \$10, fcgov.com/gardens/pumpkins
- October 27 » **Sauerkraut & Fermented Vegetables**
Larimer County Extension Office, 1525 Blue Spruce Dr., 12:30pm - 3:30pm, \$25, Registration Required, Larimer.gov/FoodPreservation
- October 28 » **Tai Chi**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes
- October 28 » **Homemade Lotion Bars**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:30am - 12:30pm, \$25, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes
- October 28 » **Fall Festival**
Larimer County Farmers Market, 200 W. Oak St., 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free admission, LarimerCountyFM.org
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Outstanding Oaks

for Your Landscape

Growing up, I attended Royal Oaks Elementary School – we were known as the “Little Acorns” and that could be a reason for my love of oaks. Oaks seem to be an unsung hero in our Colorado landscapes. While they are labeled as slow growing and messy (some don’t appreciate all those little acorns), oaks are an incredible genus of trees and have proven to do well with our challenging Colorado climate. (And guess what? They aren’t as slow growing as you might think!)

Oaks can broadly be divided into two groups – the white oaks and the red oaks. Why is this important? White oaks tend to do better with Colorado’s higher pH soils, drier conditions, and whiplash weather.

White Oaks

Red Oaks

<u>Leaf Shape</u>	Leaves are lobed and more rounded	Leaves tend to have pointed/sharp tips
<u>Acorns</u>	Acorns are single and the tree bears fruit every year	Acorns usually form in pairs and trees fruit every other year
<u>Fall leaf color</u>	Usually yellow or brown	Usually red or maroon
<u>Examples of species</u>	White, swamp white, chinkapin, English, and bur	Northern red, scarlet, pin, Texas red, and Shumard



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

Oaks are labeled as slow growing because they have determinate growth. This means they only push growth for a certain period of time in the spring. Indeterminate trees, like maples, tend to push growth several times during the growing season. However oaks, during their growth flush, can push 8-10+ inches of growth! Spring weather, available moisture, the tree’s age, and overall health will largely determine how much growth oak trees will push that season.

Species selection is extremely important, so do your homework before adding any tree to your landscape. Oaks will vary in height and shape. For many landscapes, bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*) are too large for the typical yard. Fortunately there are oaks with columnar forms that fit well in smaller spaces. In Colorado, a general rule is that white oaks will do better with high pH soils and are less susceptible to iron chlorosis. They also tend to be more drought tolerant. But there are a few select red oaks that can do well in the northern Front Range, too.

English oak (*Quercus robur*)

- White oak group
- 30-40 feet tall and wide
- Leaves have rounded lobes with small “earlobes” at the base of the leaf; leaves look like they are directly attached to the branch
- The narrow acorn is about 1 to 1.5 inches long with a small cap, like a beret sitting atop of the nut
- Leaves tend to be marcescent and will hang on the tree until the new leaves form in the spring
- Yellowish fall color
- There is a columnar version (“Fastigiata”) which has a width of only 10-15 feet

Chinkapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

- White oak group
- 40-50 feet tall and wide
- Leaves have ridged edges like a lasagna noodle
- Acorns are rounded and approximately one inch long
- Fall color can be shades of dull yellow to taupe or orangish-brown

Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

- White oak group
- 60-80 feet tall and wide
- The leaf has rounded lobes and is fiddle-shaped, where the top of the leaf is wider than the base
- Tends to get bullet gall, which is caused by a gall wasp that forms small rounded lumps (pea to marble-size) on branches; while not deadly to the tree, they can decrease overall growth
- Acorns are large and covered with hairs and look like mini hedgehogs
- Fall color tends to be a dull yellow

“Bulletproof”, a Plant Select® introduction is gall-resistant and will be making its way to the market in the future.

Texas red oak (*Quercus buckleyi*)

- Red oak group
- Height can range from 35-50 feet tall, not quite as wide
- Though a red oak and native to Texas, it is tolerant of higher pH soils, cold winters, and dry sites
- Leaves have sharp points and have deep sinuses
- Acorns are born every two years and grow in pairs on the tree; fruit size is ½ to ¾ inch long and the cap covers about half of the nut
- Fall color can be brilliant shades of crimson and reddish-orange

Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*)

- Red oak group
- Height ranges from 50-60 feet and 30-40 feet wide
- Tolerant of higher pH soils and dry sites
- Leaf tips have sharp points and are dark green and shiny in the summer
- Acorns are short and round, born in pairs every two years
- Leaves turn red, russet-red, or yellow-bronze in the fall

When adding any tree to your landscape, follow proper planting instructions and water on a regular, consistent basis for several weeks following planting. If fall planting, water as long as you can until the soils freeze, and then water at least once a month (twice is better) on warm days above 40 degrees. 🌱

events 'n classes

October 29 – November 5 » **Día de Muertos in The Gardens**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, All day, Included in Admission, fcgov.com/gardens/events

November 4 » **Tai Chi**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

November 11 » **Tai Chi**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

November 11 » **Watercolor Journaling: Holiday Inspiration**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:30am - 12:30pm, \$65, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

November 11 » **Introduction to Tree Pruning**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:30am - 12:30pm, \$18, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

November 11 » **Forest Bathing**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, \$25, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

November 11 » **Gear up for Gardening (Hybrid)**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, \$18 or \$10 hybrid, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

November 18 » **Tai Chi**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 8:00am - 9:00am, \$15, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

Nov. 18 – Nov. 22 » **Holiday Open House (w/Visit from Santa)**
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., Regular Business Hours, Free Event, fortcollinsnursery.com

November 18 » **Writing in the Gardens**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:00am - 11:30am, \$45, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

November 18 » **DIY Macrame Plant Hangers**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, \$45, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

December 2 » **Tai Chi**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:00am - 10:00am, \$10, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

December 2 » **Holiday Wreath Making**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:30am - 12:30pm, \$45, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

December 2 » **Holiday Wreath Making**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, \$45, in person, fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes

December 8 to December 23 » **Garden of Lights**
Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 5:00pm – 9:00pm, \$5 - \$10, fcgov.com/lights

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

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Just Leave Them!



by Tony Koski, CSU
Department of Horticulture
and Landscape Architecture

With all of the rain we've received this year, there will be a bumper crop of tree leaves this fall. For many years now, CSU Extension has recommended that tree leaves NOT be bagged/collected and instead be mowed into the lawn in the fall. Mowing leaves into the lawn with your mower will increase the organic matter content of the soil, contribute a small amount of nutrients to the turf, and possibly provide some level of weed prevention. That's right! Researchers at Michigan State University found that, depending on tree species, leaves mowed into lawns can reduce weeds when leaves are recycled into a lawn for a number of years. Leaf recycling does not cause thatch to form in lawns – a commonly repeated internet myth.

What if you have too many leaves and the lawn is buried by mowed, shredded leaves? If you mow the leaves frequently enough, this is unlikely to happen. But sometimes there are so many leaves that you can't see the grass after mowing. Or maybe you are just super fastidious about your lawn and you don't want to mulch the leaves? What can you do with all of these leaves?

First, don't just ignore leaves and leave them laying on the lawn all winter. Wet from snow and rain, they can form a thick, slippery, mushy layer on the lawn surface. The wet, matted leaves create conditions ideal for the development of snow mold disease and can kill the lawn if not raked up in the spring.

And don't just bag them up and leave them on the curb for trash pick-up. Leaves are excellent for mulching flowerbeds, around trees and shrubs, and in vegetable gardens. Bagging the leaves using your mower's bagging attachment will shred the leaves so that they are easier to use for mulch and are less likely to blow away. The leaf "bits" will decompose, adding organic matter to your garden soil. Earthworms are voracious consumers of tree leaves, hastening their decomposition in gardens and when returned to the lawn.

If you just don't like using leaves in your landscape or have too many to handle, give them to a friend who is into composting or take them to a yard waste recycling facility. Please don't send them to the landfill. 🌻

Plants That Provide Food for Animals

When fall arrives, most of us start thinking about comfort food. I wonder if our animal friends think of comfort food, too. Here are some trees and shrubs upon which our furry and feathered friends are happy to dine.

Deciduous Shrubs with Edible Fruit

Crandall clove currant – (*Ribes aureum* ‘Crandall’) or Gwen’s Buffalo Currant – (*Ribes aureum* ‘Gwen’s Buffalo’) – yellow flowers with clove fragrance in May, followed by sweet-spicy edible black fruits, eaten by birds and small mammals.

Nanking cherry – (*Prunus tomentosa*) – showy white mid-April flowers, edible red fruits attract birds, deer and rabbits.

Shadblow serviceberry – (*Amelanchier canadensis*) and Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry (*A. x grandiflora* ‘Autumn Brilliance’) – white flowers in early April, tasty red and black fruits attract songbirds and animals will browse.

Highbush cranberry viburnum (*Viburnum trilobum*) and **Nannyberry** – (*Viburnum lentago*) – white spring flowers, red fall color, edible bright red fruit attractive to birds.

Elderberry – (*Sambucus racemosa* ‘Sutherlund Golden’), (*Sambucus canadensis* ‘Aurea’) – white flower clusters in June, need another elderberry variety nearby as a pollinator to produce black or red edible fruits. Song and game birds, squirrels, and bears eat fruits; deer and elk browse foliage.

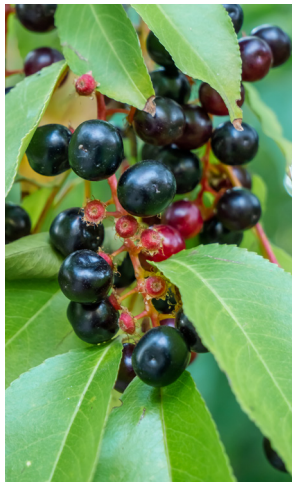
Woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*) – fragrant single pink flowers in June, followed by red hips (fruits) that are high in Vitamin C; game birds and deer will enjoy.



Deciduous Trees

Hackberry – (*Celtis occidentalis*) – reddish-purple cherrylike berries attract birds.

Crabapple – *Malus* ‘Adams’, ‘Red Baron’ or ‘Dolgo’ – good-flavored, persistent fruit and resistance to fireblight. Birds, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, deer and bears like.



Chinkapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), **Texas red oak** (*Q. buckleyi*) and ‘**Crimson Spire**’ oak (*Q. robur x Q. alba* ‘Crimschmidt’) – all good oaks for the Front Range, producing acorns for squirrels, deer and foxes.

Evergreen Trees

Rocky Mountain juniper – (*Juniperus scopulorum*) – blue “berries” that are the cones produced only by female trees, are eaten by song birds; twigs and leaves are browsed by deer and elk.

It’s only fair to warn you that if you plant trees and shrubs for the wildlife to eat, they may not restrict their menu to only the items you intended for them to eat, so be sure to harvest what you want for your comfort food before they do. 🌿



By Karen Hallberg, Master Gardener, Colorado State University Extension in Larimer County

events ‘n classes

December 16 » **Tai Chi**

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

December 30 » **Soul Healing with the Seasons: Winter Solstice Workshop**

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

GREEELY

October 14, October 21, October 28 » **Gardening Series, Presented by Colorado Master Gardeners**

AIMS Community College, Cornerstone Building, 5410 W. 20th St., 9:00am - 12:00pm, \$49 per series, Open to the Public

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

September 16 » **Chapungu Bird Walk**

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

October 7 » **HPEC Bird Walk & Bird Banding**

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Suggested Donation \$10.00, suburbitat.org

October 14 » **Guided Nature Walk with HPEC Restoration Ecology Staff**

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 9:00 am - 10:30 am, Free, suburbitat.org

October 21 » **Special event: Native American Mini-Powwow with the Iron Family**

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., see website for details, suburbitat.org

October 28 » **Interpretive Nature Walks at Chapungu Sculpture Park**

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

November 11 » **Guided Nature Walk with HPEC Restoration Ecology Staff**

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 9:00 am - 10:30 am, Free, suburbitat.org

November 18 » **Chapungu Bird Walk**

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

December 2 » **HPEC Bird Walk & Bird Banding**

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Suggested Donation \$10.00, suburbitat.org

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

events 'n classes

WINDSOR

September 20 » **Treasure Island Demonstration Garden**

Classes: Fall Realities

Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Lakulake Rd., south of Eastman Park, 10:00 am - 11:00 am, Free, Open to the public, recreationliveshere.com

September 13 » **Windsor Lunch & Learn**

Hosted by Windsor Clearview Library, 720 3rd St., 12:00pm - 1:00pm, Free, Open to the Public, csuhort.blogspot.com: "CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"

October 11 » **Windsor Lunch & Learn**

Hosted by Windsor Clearview Library, 720 3rd St., 12:00pm - 1:00pm, Free, Open to the Public, csuhort.blogspot.com: "CSU Extension Gardening Webinars"



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



by Kelly Kellow, Horticulturist at The Gardens on Spring Creek

Pollinator HEAVY LIFTERS

Fall blooming perennials are necessary in any type of garden as they are the last to bloom and provide late season nectar for many types of pollinators. They typically start blooming between August and September and bloom until October to November. These plants are important for all pollinators, including bees, butterflies, moths, and birds as they are a rich nectar source when many other flowers have faded for the season. As there are many great fall blooming perennials, there are a few that stick out in my head as some pollinator favorites.

Ericameria nauseosus, or rabbitbrush, is native to our region and can be found in natural areas around Fort Collins. Flowers terminate the plant's stems, and are abundant, with a long bloom time between August and October. Native sulfur butterflies are especially fond of the bright yellow flowers. West Texas grass sage or *Salvia reptans* is a North American native that produces clouds of small sapphire blue flowers from August to October.

Though not being red, hummingbirds seem to enjoy and flock to the flower amongst bees and butterflies. Fall blooming sedums, like 'Autumn Joy' or 'Dark Magic', bloom August to October, as well, and provide large clusters of star shaped flowers. They are upright sedums that grow 12-26" tall depending on the variety. *Colchicum autumnale*, or autumn crocus, is a spring-planted bulb that blooms late August to October. The large white to purple flowers are much bigger than that of the spring crocus making plenty pollen and nectar for honeybees and bumble bees.



Finally, *Solidago* species (goldenrod) come in many different sizes and flower forms, and all are great as they all provide large clusters of bright yellow flowers from July to September. 'Wichita Mountains' is one of the later blooming varieties. It has upright, bottle brush shaped flower spikes that attract bees and butterflies. You will find kaleidoscopes of painted lady butterflies on the flowers the second they start blooming. Consider fall planting the above plants now, as they will establish with less watering and bloom next year with greater vigor than their spring-planted counterparts. Your garden and its pollinators will both appreciate it! 🍯

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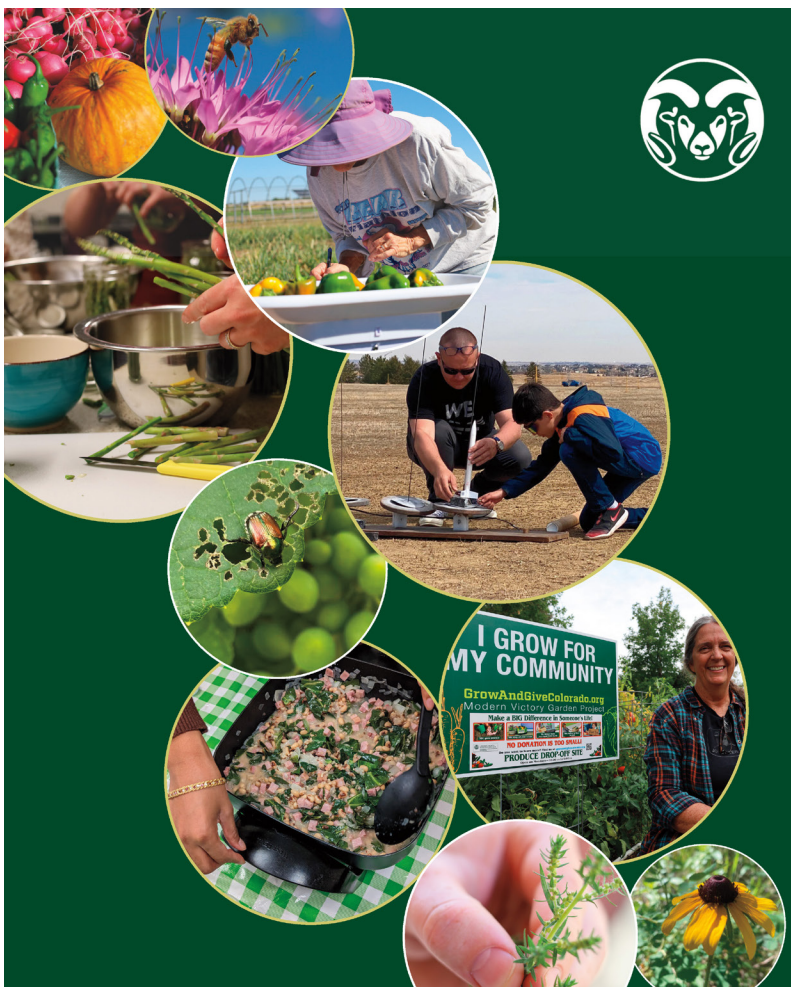
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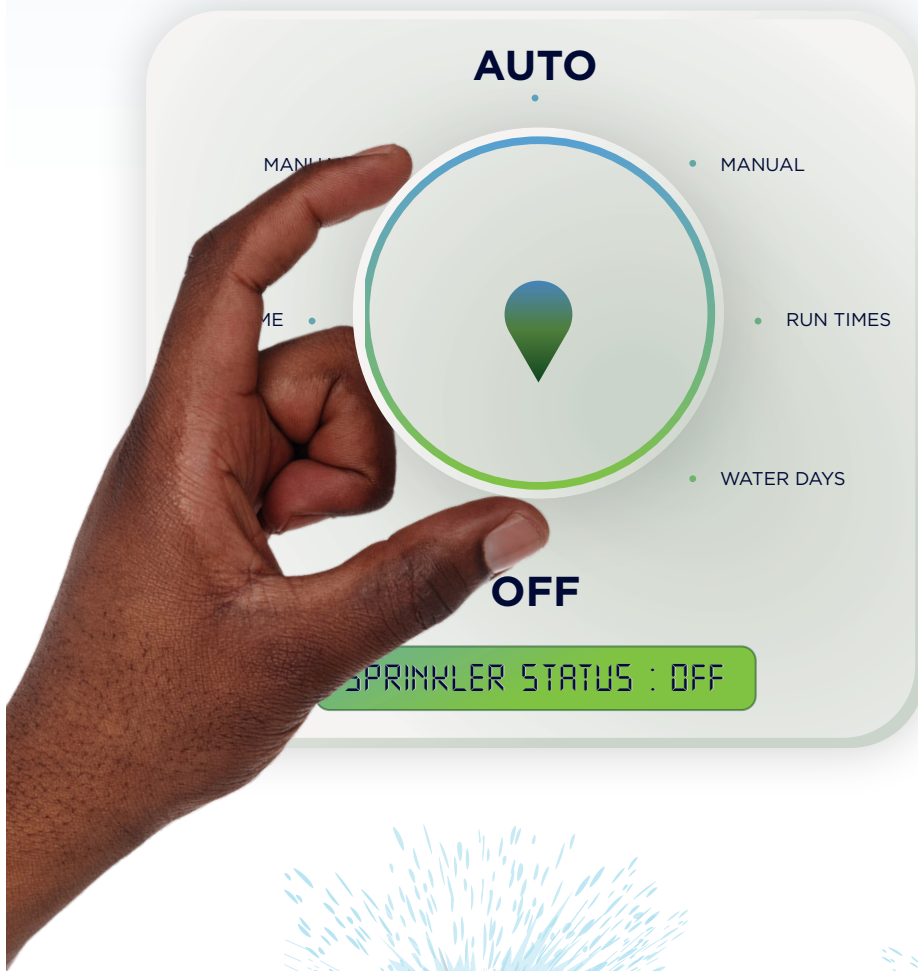


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Turn off your sprinkler system by **Oct. 1!**



When the weather cools, lawns go dormant and need less water. By shutting down irrigation to healthy lawns early in the fall, we can see a big decline in community water use. Remember to hand water trees and other perennials during dry periods throughout the fall and winter to keep them healthy.

Eligible residential Fort Collins Utilities water customers who pledge and turn off their sprinklers will be entered into a drawing for **\$50 off your water bill!**



Take the pledge and learn exactly how much water your trees need at fcgov.com/off.

