



Evergreen Garden Club

# WILD IRIS

November 2020

Dear Members,

For this month as we focus on all that we are thankful for, our families, friends, and health, I would like to express how much I am thankful for all of the wonderful people I have the pleasure of knowing through our shared love of gardening. I have found that the world that belongs to gardening also belongs to the kindest of people.

“Your life and mine shall be valued not by what we take...But by what we give”.

Thank you for all your friendships,  
Cherie Luke  
EGC President

Picture by Jeanine Ashton

## **NEXT EGC MEETING**

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2020 VIA ZOOM**

Watch your e-mail for details on how to join in.

*Tuesday's program via Zoom will be*

*'Cold Climate Composting'*

*By Marian Owen – Kodiak, Alaska*



**Evergreen Garden Club  
General Meeting  
October 13, 2020**

The meeting was called to order on Zoom format at 9:18 am by President, Cherie Luke. 16 members were present

**President Report** by Cherie Luke

Discussion took place on the possibility of holding our meeting live. We currently do not have a location that would allow this but we continue to look for alternatives to the fire station location that remains closed to the public during this Covid time. In the meantime, it was suggested to have "pod" groups get together to login to the Zoom meetings, if members are comfortable having people at their homes. This would allow small groups to at least gather and be together and would maybe encourage those members not comfortable on Zoom to attend.

The Speaker for the November meeting is Marian Owen from Kodiak, Alaska to speak on the topic of Cold Climate Composting.

Happy birthday to all October members.

**Treasurer Report** by Helen McLeman

The 20-21 budget was reviewed, discussed and approved.

A discussion took place on other options to obtain revenue for the next year since we are postponing the garden tour another year. Suggestion was made to get articles in the Canyon Courier and Serenity publication asking for donations to help the club during this Covid season.

Other ideas.... Have signs made to put in every public garden and include website and ask community for donations. Ask local realtors and other businesses to make donations.

Add donation jars to all the public gardens on "work days" so when people come by to admire, we can ask for donations.

Julie Ann Courim offered to take on Advertising with the help of other members.

**2nd Vice President Report** by Donna Moore

We are currently at 35 paid members. Please renew your membership ASAP. The club needs all returning members to renew and ask your friends and neighbors to join!

Business membership is also down. If you are frequenting local businesses please ask them to be a member or make a donation.

**Technology Officer Report** by Julie Ann Courim

The website has been completely redesigned and is up and running. We moved away from the hosting providers which will save the club money and offer much more flexibility and control over our site.

We have added "Square" to the website to allow for easy access to make donations and /or pay for membership dues.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am

Respectfully Submitted by Janice Theobald, Secretary

# A Season for Pocket Gophers!

The pocket gophers seem to be out-of-control this fall. Below is a condensed recap to help protect your plants from winter damage

## *Some Facts . . .*

- A mounded pile of dirt is almost always proof positive of a pocket gopher.
- Pocket gophers do not hibernate and are active all year long. Some can be the size of a guinea pig.
- They very rarely come above ground. Personally, I have only seen them during the 'excavation' process!
- Except for the breeding season in spring and early summer, they are solitary and territorial, so what looks like a lot of activity can actually be caused by just one pocket gopher.
- Activity seems to increase in the fall, as mothers evict their summer litters, and the 'kids' go off to establish territories of their own. This is the time to be very vigilant!
- Pocket Gophers destroy both new and established plant, shrub, tree roots and tubers.
- A plant that comes up in its entirety during spring-clean-up has most likely been lost to a pocket gopher. The picture to the right shows the fatal damage to (what was) a beautiful 4-year-old Austrian Copper Rose bush.



# Eliminating Pocket Gophers...

Before you put time and energy into either trapping or poisoning, make certain the burrow is active! To do this, completely uncover the mound to expose the plug and re-check later. If it is covered back up, it is an active burrow and your best chance of elimination. If it remains uncovered, it is not active; move on to the next mound of dirt.



Pocket gophers are typically too large for snap traps. There are multiple pocket gopher traps available on the market and said to be the most humane way to eliminate them.

While there are different options, *The Black Box* is the easiest and most effective method I have found to quickly and humanely kill the gopher.

They are sold at Big R and also on Amazon. Follow the directions on the box, or for a more detailed demonstration, search black box instructions on YouTube. The link below will take you directly to the most entertaining one I have found, but there are dozens. Good luck!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTpG93X6yZU>



# Eliminating Pocket Gophers

**\*\*Personally, I do not recommend poisoning.** However, if you decide to use a rodenticide, choose the most effective, least toxic available to minimize potential non-target poisoning. Four rodenticides are registered for pocket gopher control in Colorado:

- Strychnine (0.25 to 0.5 percent active ingredient);
- Zinc phosphide (2 percent active ingredient);
- Chlorophacinone (Rozol) (0.005 percent active ingredient);
- Diphacinone (Eaton's Answer) (0.005 percent active ingredient).

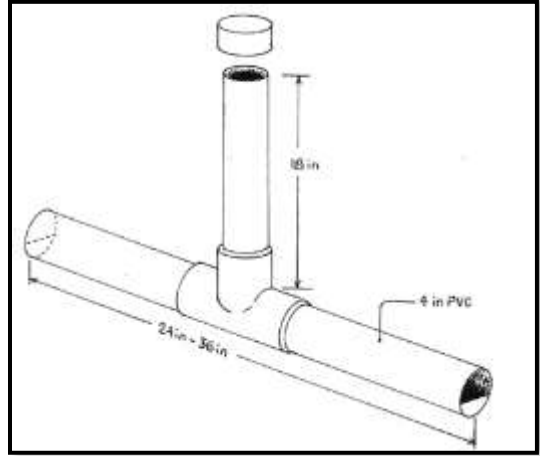
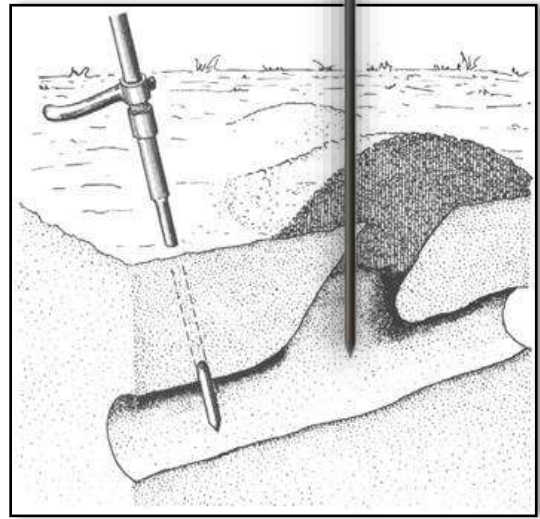
**NOTE: BEFORE USING ANY RODENTICIDE, READ AND FOLLOW THE LABEL TO MINIMIZE HARM TO CHILDREN, PETS AND OFF-TARGET WILDLIFE.**

\*\* Resource: Colorado State University Extension; Fact Sheet #6.515



Care must be taken to ensure that the poison is actually placed in the tunnel.

There is equipment you can purchase for this reason.



# IT'S TIME TO RENEW!

Membership dues are now due\*

for the 2020-2021 year!

Please send checks to EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB,

PO Box 1393, Evergreen, CO 80437

You may also PAY ON LINE at our website:

<https://www.evergreengardenclub.org/membership-details>

Personal yearly membership is \$30.00

Family membership is \$40.00

Business membership is \$60.00

***\*Dues must be received by  
November 10, 2020 to ensure  
inclusion in the EGC Directory  
Thank you!***

## WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS!

Janet Gluskoler

Karen Lubbe

Mary Beth Mainero

Beth Riser

Catherine Wilkins

Grey & Shirley Wickman





# Gift Ideas for Gardeners!

*from Uncommon Goods.com unless otherwise noted*



**JELLY FISH AIR PLANT PLANTER**  
*Uncommon Goods.com \$68.00*



**IN BLOOM GARDENING SET**  
*Uncommon Goods.com \$45.00*



**SPOTTED WELLIES GARDEN DUCKS**  
\$30.00 - \$40.00



**SHIITAKE MUSHROOM LOG KIT**  
\$30.00



**LIVING COMPOSTER \$199.00**





**LADY BUG CASTLE**  
**\$30.00**



**BIRD'S NEST COPPER STAKE**  
**\$88.00**



**PRAYING MANTIS STAKE**  
**\$58.00**



**GARDENER'S HAND GIFT BOX**  
**\$24.00** *Etsy.com*



**BAT HANGING SCULPTURE** **\$55.00**



**DANDELION PAPER WEIGHT**  
**\$69.00 - \$89.00**





**Green House Ornament**  
\$24.95 Gardener's Supply



**Garden Holds \$44.95** Gardener's Supply



**Bare Bones Garden Scissors**  
\$19.95 Gardener's Supply.com



**Mason Bee House**  
\$21.95 Gardener's Supply.com



**KITCHEN COMPOSTER**  
**\$15.00 - \$55.00**



**SOLAR TEA LIGHTS \$30.00**



**PRAYING MANTIS RAIN GAUGE**  
**\$89.00**

**MASON JAR**  
**INDOOR FLOWER GARDEN**  
**\$20.00**



**VINTAGE CACTUS & SUCCULENTS PUZZLE**  
**\$20.00**



A decorative window frame with wooden shutters. A banner with purple, pink, and striped pennants hangs across the top. Below the banner is a slice of pumpkin pie with a candle, a butterfly, and a small green bird perched on a branch. The background is a textured, light brown surface.

Best Wishes to all of our  
EGC November Birthday  
Boys and Girls!

A decorative window frame with wooden shutters. The frame is adorned with orange and white floral accents. The background is a textured, light brown surface.

Jefferson County Master Gardener's  
2021 Calendars are now available!  
Calendars are \$15.00 and profits  
benefit a Colorado Horticulture  
Student Scholarship  
Contact Cherie Luke at  
[cherie7651@gmail.com](mailto:cherie7651@gmail.com)  
or Cindy Gibson at  
[clgibson426@gmail.com](mailto:clgibson426@gmail.com)  
to get yours today!



# Just Add Water!

In cold weather, a heated bird bath can be a bird's best friend

Winter can be a particularly difficult time for wildlife and most gardeners love to feed the birds. But did you know that open water may be more difficult for birds to find in winter than food? Many times, reliable water sources can be frozen with or without snow on the ground, or evaporated by the cold, dry wind.

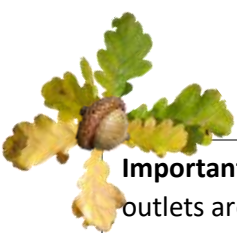
When water suddenly disappears, animals expend valuable energy and risk dangerous exposure searching for other sources—which might mean the difference between life and death in the coldest season.

Water sources in winter are a wonderful way to attract a variety of birds that don't normally visit feeders. At a time when natural water sources may be frozen, they provide a reliable source of water for bathing and drinking. Bathing is especially important in cold weather in order to keep feathers in top condition. *Research has shown that a chickadee with well-maintained feathers can sustain a 70-degree layer of insulation between the outside air and its skin.*

The easiest way to provide ice-free water in a bird bath is to use a heat source. You can find birdbaths with built-in heating elements (generally set to 40–50 degrees Fahrenheit) at online retailers and home and garden specialty stores. You can also purchase water-heating units designed to float on the surface of ponds or to rest on the bottom of birdbaths. These heaters usually cost little to run and safely shut off automatically when pulled out of the water.



**SOLAR  
OPTIONS**



**Important Safety Tip:** Be sure your outdoor outlets are protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to cut off the electricity in case of a short.

Use solar energy to your advantage: Put water sources on the south or southwestern side of your property, preferably sheltered from the wind.

However, when you provide water, remember that sanitation is important year-round. Locating water sources close to your house makes [cleaning](#) and maintenance much easier—and you won't have to carry buckets of water far. Be sure the containers are regularly cleaned and replenished with fresh water—more often as more animals use them—to prevent the spread of disease.

Rinse a birdbath daily before refilling it, and clean it once a week using a solution of one-part chlorine bleach to nine parts water and a scrub brush to loosen debris. Rinse again thoroughly before refilling with fresh water.



**GROUND  
OPTIONS**

References

The Humane Society of the United States  
Wild Birds Unlimited  
Rockies Audubon

## PUMPKIN SPICE PRETZELS!



### INGREDIENTS

- 24 oz. white chocolate
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 2 drops orange food coloring (optional)
- 8 oz. pretzel twists (about 1/2 of 1 lb. bag)
- Orange sprinkles (optional)

SHARE A FAVORITE RECIPE –  
Send to [louiseheern@gmail.com](mailto:louiseheern@gmail.com)

### DIRECTIONS

- 1 | Line three large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats.
- 2 | Melt 20 ounces white chocolate in a double boiler or the microwave. If using the microwave, make sure to stop and stir chocolate every 15 seconds to avoid scorching.
- 3 | Once melted, stir pumpkin pie spice and orange food coloring into chocolate. Dip pretzel three quarters of the way into the warm chocolate, remove, and gently shake to allow excess chocolate to drip off. Place pretzel onto prepared baking sheet and let chocolate set. Repeat with remaining pretzels.
- 4 | Melt remaining white chocolate and drizzle over pretzels. Top pretzels with sprinkles. Allow chocolate to completely set in the refrigerator before serving.



# A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO FORCING BULBS

*Reprinted from Better Homes & Gardens*



Almost everyone recognizes the daffodil and the tulip. They are superstars of the flower bulb world: the easy-to-grow, can't-get-any-sunnier-in-springtime flowers. But before you rush out to add them to your outdoor garden, consider this: You also can have bulbs indoors in those not-so-warm months.

Forcing bulbs inside is a super easy technique that's simply a sleight of hand—a trickster's way to get blooms by faking out your flowers about what season it really is. It involves very little effort and few materials. The biggest exertion? Scheduling their arrival.

## TO CHILL OR NOT TO CHILL

Here's the deal: Bulbs that grow indoors sometimes need a reminder that they've been through winter – however fake it is. In fact, all bulbs except amaryllis and paperwhites need a cold-snap. What makes those two different? They don't get cold at home in their native tropics, so they don't need winter wherever you live. For other flower bulbs though, you will have to chill them a little to get them to bloom inside; just how long depends on the bulb. Generally:

**Chill in September, bloom in January**

**Chill in October, bloom in February**

**Chill in November, bloom in March**

**Chill in December, bloom in April**

**Amaryllis: Chill time none; bloom time 6 to 8 weeks**

**Crocus: Chill time 8 to 15 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling**

**Daffodil: Chill time 2 to 3 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling**

**Grape hyacinth: Chill time 8 to 15 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling**

**Hyacinth: Chill time 12 to 15 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling**

**Iris: Chill time 13 to 15 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling**

**Paperwhites: Chill time none; bloom time 3 to 5 weeks**

**Snowdrop: Chill time 15 weeks; bloom time 2 weeks after chilling**

**Tulip: Chill time 10 to 16 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling**

## IF YOUR BULBS NEED CHILLING

- Choose a pot deep enough that you have a couple of inches below the bottom of the bulbs for soil and roots but that it is tall enough that you can cover the bulbs up to their necks.
- Fill the bottom of the container with potting soil.
- Use enough bulbs to fill the container. You can crowd them or give them some air. Cover with potting soil just to the necks of the bulbs.
- Chill the bulbs for the recommended time period. The crisper drawer of your refrigerator is just fine for a handful of hydrangea bulbs. An unheated basement, cold space or inside a cold frame also works as a cool spot to keep your bulbs. Keep the soil just damp – not wet.
- Start waking up your bulbs by giving them a few weeks of warmer (not warm) and some indirect sunlight.
- Once the bulbs shoot up and are a couple of inches tall, give them more sun and a warmer spot.



## IF YOUR BULBS DON'T NEED CHILLING

- Soak the roots of the bulbs in a shallow pan of lukewarm water for a couple of hours.
- Fill a pot with potting soil or garden pebbles; insert the bulbs but leave the top two-thirds exposed.
- Gently tamp down the soil or pebbles around the bulbs. Water until damp, then place in a sunny, warm spot.



References: White Flower Farm





## FORCING HYACINTHS WITHOUT SOIL

Hyacinths can be forced in pebbles and water or in glass jars. They still require a cool rooting period if forced this way.

1. Place a 2 to 3-inch layer of pebbles such as pea stone, marble chips or river rocks in the bottom of a bowl or pot.
2. Set the bulbs on top of the pebbles, and then fill with more pebbles, leaving the top 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the bulb exposed.
3. Add enough water to create a reservoir for the roots but be sure the base of the bulb stays above water level; if they sit in water the bulbs will rot.
4. Place the container in a dark, cool area (40 to 50 degrees) 4 to 8 weeks.
5. Check the water level occasionally, adding more water when necessary but keeping the water level below the bottom of the bulb.
6. When roots have developed and leaves begin to grow, move the bulbs to a bright window in a cool area (below 65 degrees).

*You can keep bulbs cool in a refrigerator, but only if there is no fresh fruit stored inside. The ethylene gas released by fruit during its natural ripening process will interfere with flower development. Better to store bulbs in an extra refrigerator, if you happen to have one.*

Please send any corrections or submissions for  
the Wild Iris to [louiseheern@gmail.com](mailto:louiseheern@gmail.com)



*Memories Live on Forever in our Hearts*



*Peggy Bertrand  
October 30, 2020*