



Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS



SEPTEMBER 2022

Welcome September!

Greetings from your newly elected President. Hello, my name is Janice and I look forward to getting to know you all as we start this new season together.

I've had the pleasure of gardening in many climates. I was born in the Midwest (Indiana) and spent my early adult years in south Florida. Moving to North Carolina and then to Texas before landing in this paradise called Evergreen, Colorado. Gardening here has been most challenging. I quickly learned that newly planted perennials and annuals are a smorgasbord for the wildlife! I watched from my kitchen window as elk ripped plants right out of the ground, ate what they wanted and then tossed the rest on the driveway. I then proceeded to pick up the root balls and put them back in the ground hoping they would resurface next season.

I was very inspired by our July Garden Tour this year. I came home very motivated and reimagined the existing gardens that I inherited with the house when we bought it, and I started over with plants that I love.

I also learned that where I want to create a new garden may not be possible because that space is solid granite! So, shift left or right a few feet or in some cases a few yards...until your shovel doesn't hit rock! Oh the joy of gardening here is an ongoing learning process!

Traditionally, September has been a month of declining splendor in our gardens. But with ample rain this summer, our gardens are flourishing and I hope we can continue to share what is blooming with our Club members. Let's look at September as a time of renewal. Renew our time together in kindred friendships as our first meeting of the new season is upon us. I look forward to welcoming everyone back, especially our new members! We have a great year planned with educational, informative and fun meetings ahead!

I have met the most amazing friends through this club. I am honored and excited to be your new President and I look forward to our next two years together.

Friends in Flowers,

Janice Theobald

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2022
BERGEN FIRE TRAINING CENTER

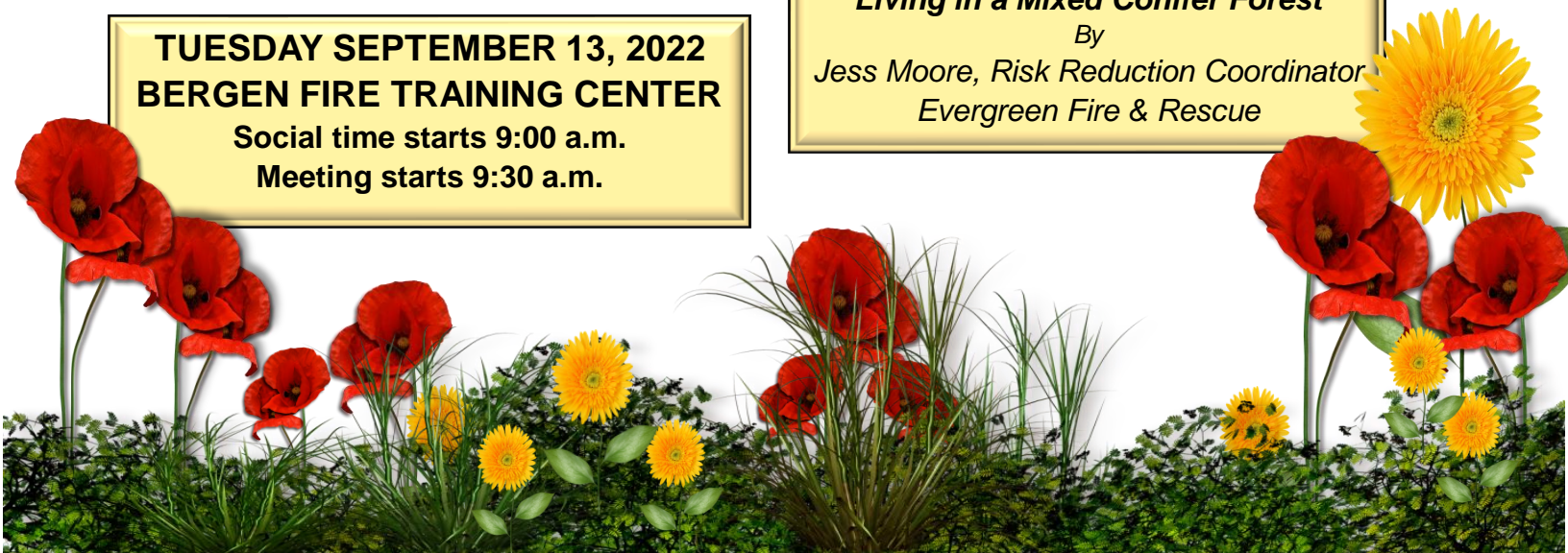
Social time starts 9:00 a.m.
Meeting starts 9:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM

Living in a Mixed Conifer Forest

By

Jess Moore, Risk Reduction Coordinator
Evergreen Fire & Rescue



It's Time to Renew your Membership!

The Board is proposing a membership dues increase to \$40 single, \$50 family, \$75 business to be effective November 1st. Any dues paid before November 1st will be honored at the existing rates of \$30, \$40 and \$50 respectively.

In order to be in the 2022-2023 directory you must have dues in by October 20th. This will be a FIRM cutoff in order to have time to get the directory printed and distributed at the November 8th General Meeting. We will vote on this at the September meeting. Reason for proposing price increase is value for being a member, 10 fun and educational meetings, and the price we are paying for quality speakers.

Our Treasurer, Helen McLeman will be available to receive dues via cash, check or credit card at the September and October meetings.



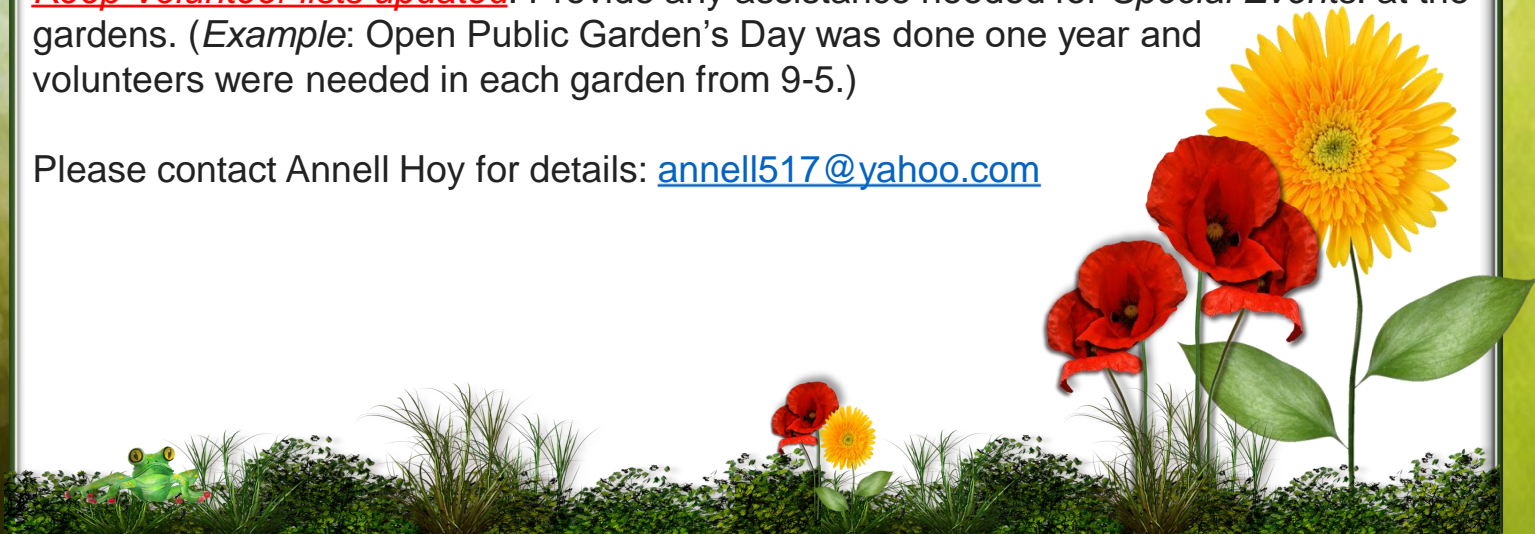
EGC IS LOOKING FOR A NEW PUBLIC GARDENS COORDINATOR!

Public Gardens Coordinator Duties Include: Meet and greet new members and ask about their preference of gardens in which to volunteer .

Coordinate the new members with the garden leader for their chosen garden for workday information etc.

Keep Volunteer lists updated. Provide any assistance needed for *Special Events*: at the gardens. (Example: Open Public Garden's Day was done one year and volunteers were needed in each garden from 9-5.)

Please contact Annell Hoy for details: annell517@yahoo.com



**June 14, 2022
Evergreen Garden Club
General Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Cherie Luke at 9:30 in person at the Evergreen Fire Rescue Training Center located at 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen. Board members present were Hannah Hayes, Vice President; Helen McLeman, Treasurer; Julie Ann Courim, Technology Officer and Janet Gluskoter, Secretary.

Not in attendance: Kim Gustafson, 2nd Vice President.

President's Report - Cherie announced that this is her last meeting as EGC President and introduced Janice Theobald as the nominee for incoming President. At the end of our meeting it was voted by members present in favor of Janice as our new president.

Cherie then thanked all of the committee coordinators and board members for their support throughout the past two years.

It was also suggested that some of the current board officer titles be changed to more accurately describe the duties of that role. Change 1st VP to Program Coordinator and 2nd VP to Membership Coordinator; (note: this position is open), please contact any board member if you are interested. *note: Sharon Faircloth volunteered to fill the position.

We acknowledged all June birthdays and wished them well.

Secretary's Report - The May general meeting minutes were approved by the board and submitted to the Wild Iris for publication.

Treasurer's Report - Helen stated that as of the end of May we had 1 new member, \$56 for Amazon Smile and \$156 for King Soopers. The financials for the Garden Tour will be announced at our Sept meeting. Helen asked all garden leads to provide sales receipts for reimbursement instead of completing a form every time. The form can be completed at the end of the season.

Vice President's Report (Membership Coordinator)

Hannah presented Cherie with a gift from the board.

The results for the dandelion poll are in: no one uses herbicide; 7 leave them alone; 7 leave the flowers and remove the seeds; 8 tend to weed.



**June 14, 2022
Evergreen Garden Club
General Meeting (Continued)**

Hannah announced the new coordinator for the Natural Resources article, as of September is Mary Dreger. Mary stated that she will look to members for their expertise for support.

Hat contest winners were; Helen McLeman for most creative and Debbie Kerr for silliest hat. Each received a gift certificate to Sundance Gardens.

2nd Vice President's Report (Program Coordinator) - No report.

Technology Officer's Report - Julie Ann stated that all social media feeds have been updated to include information on our garden tour in July.

Please send photos of "what's blooming" in your garden to post on Facebook or you should be able to create your own guest post and upload your photos directly if you wish.

Committee Reports

Public Gardens Coordinator Annell Hoy - Annell reported that we have collected \$1,560.00 in ticket sales during today's meeting.

Hospitality Jan Parks - Jan stated that she will drive her black Dodge pickup truck for the parade and will meet all those wanting to participate/walk in the parade at 9:15am.

EChO table Donna Moore - No report.

Garden Tour Coordinator Louise Heern - Sharon Faircloth spoke on behalf of Louise. Garden Tour ads were submitted. Barbara (?) and husband will run the shuttle.

The pre-tour will be on 7/12. We will meet at the Park & Ride parking lot at the corner of Hwy 74 and CR65 across from Parkside Café at 8:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Gluskoter, Secretary
Evergreen Garden Club





EGC members enjoying food, fun and crazy hats during the June meeting and 'Crazy Garden Hat' Contest.





EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE!

A big 'Thank You' to Jan Parks for organizing EGC's presence in the Evergreen Rodeo Parade. What a great way to promote the upcoming Garden Tour! And a big 'Thank You' to all who participated in this fun event. We could not have done it without you!



2022 EGC HIGH ALTITUDE GARDEN TOUR



What does it take to create a fabulous garden tour?

How about. . .

Six utterly delightful gardens, tended with flair and tenderness by their charming, enthusiastic, and gracious owners;

A brilliant, multi-talented, tenacious garden tour committee and board blessed with energy, bold innovation, and attention to detail;

Many, many (let's not count them) hours spent doing the next thing;

A supportive garden club that steps up to the plate every time (Thank you very much!)

Businesses and individuals that truly appreciate and support the club's gift of beauty to Evergreen;

Six inspired artists painting en plein air, accompanied by six accomplished musicians;

A bit of luck with the weather, and ...

Hundreds of gleeful garden-loving guests.

Our July 16th garden tour was a huge success thanks to all who volunteered.

We could not have done it without you!

Congratulations EGC!



Thank you to our 2022 EGC Garden Tour Hosts!

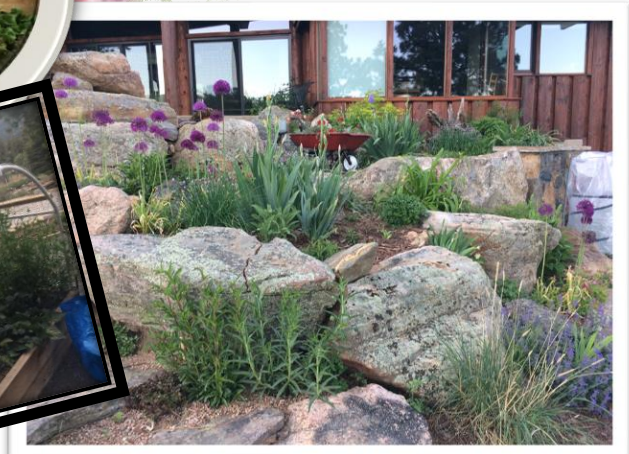
Pat Carter's Garden



Cherie Luke's Garden



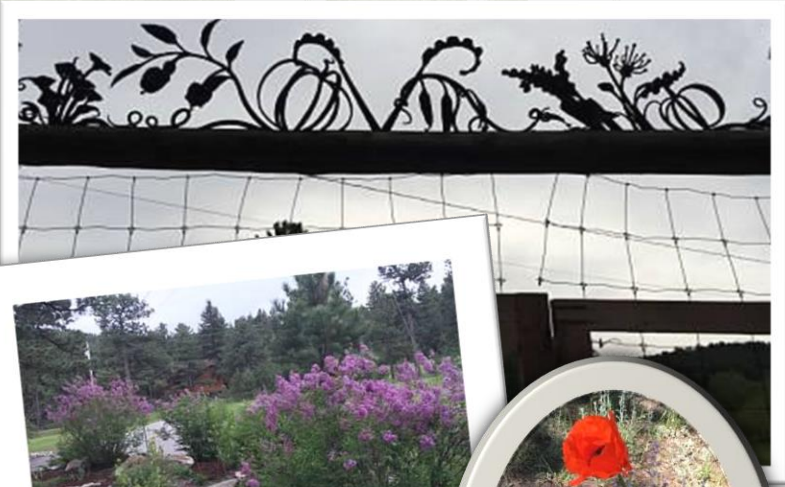
The Freyer Garden



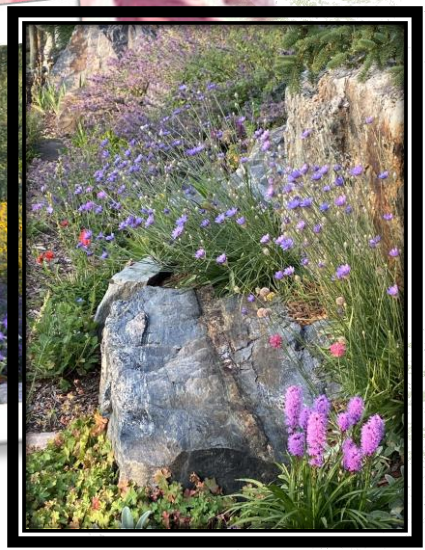
Judy Black's Garden



The Veckerelli Garden



The Heern Garden



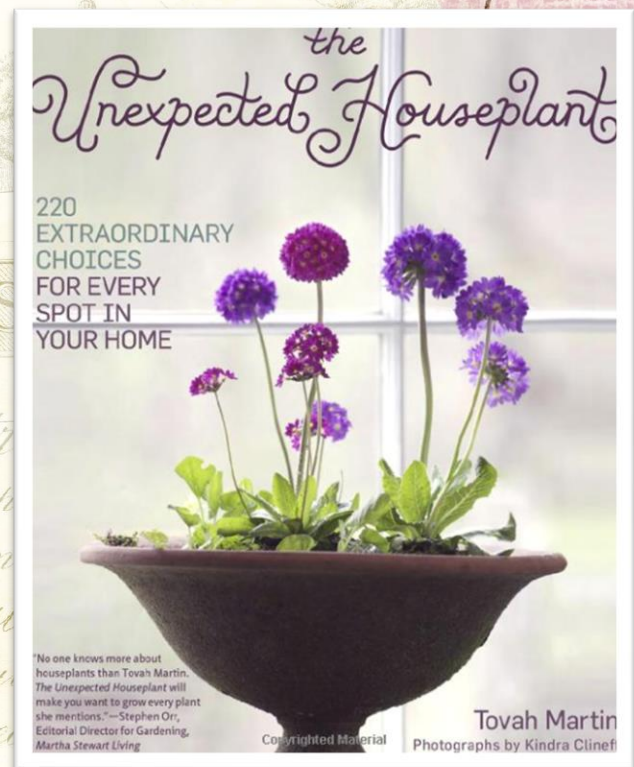
**SUGGESTED READS
BY EGC MEMBERS**

The Unexpected Houseplant

By Tovah Martin

Extraordinary choices for every spot in your home.

Editor's pick

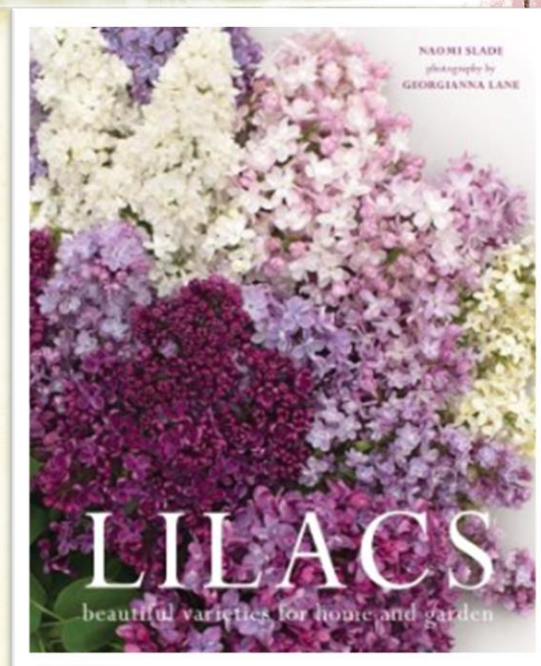


**LILACS, beautiful varieties
for home and garden**

By Naomi Slade

Submitted by

Linda Ringrose



Spectacular photos in colors from white to pink, light purple, regular lavender, dark purple and majeta, as well as single and double blossoms.

Over 60 named lilacs along with their care and history.

Beautiful photography by Georgiana Lane.

Available in the Jeffco Library.

The Language of Flowers

By Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Submitted by Pam Hinish



The Language of Flowers
Deftly weaves the sweetness
of newfound love with the
heartache of past mistakes.

A sample of 'The Dictionary of
Flowers' is taken from the book.

Check the Evergreen Library
for availability.

Victoria's Dictionary of Flowers



Abutilon (Abutilon) . . . *Meditation*
Acacia (Acacia) . . . *Secret love*
Acanthus (Acanthus) . . . *Artifice*
Agapanthus (Agapanthus) . . . *Love
letter*
Allium (Allium) . . . *Prosperity*
Almond blossom (Amygdalus
communis) . . . *Indiscretion*
Aloe (Aloe vera) . . . *Grief*
Alstroemeria (Alstroemeria) . . .
Devotion
Alyssum (Lobularia maritima) . . . *Worth
beyond beauty*
Amaranth (Amaranthus) . . .
Immortality
Amaryllis (Hippeastrum) . . . *Pride*
Anemone (Anemone) . . . *Forsaken*
Angelica (Angelica pachycarpa) . . .
Inspiration

Apple (*Malus domestica*) . . . *Temptation*
Apple blossom (*Malus domestica*) . . .
Preference
Aster (Aster) . . . *Patience*
Azalea (*Rhododendron*) . . . *Fragile and
ephemeral passion*



Baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*) . . .
Everlasting love
Bachelor's button (*Centaurea cyanus*) . . .
Single blessedness
Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) . . . *Hate*
Bay leaf (*Laurus nobilis*) . . . *I change but
in death*
Begonia (*Begonia*) . . . *Caution*
Bellflower (*Campanula*) . . . *Gratitude*
Bells of Ireland (*Moluccella laevis*) . . .
Good luck

318

Victoria's Dictionary of Flowers

Verbena (*Verbena*) . . . *Pray for me*
Vetch (*Vicia*) . . . *I cling to thee*
Violet (*Viola*) . . . *Modest worth*
Willow herb (*Epilobium*) . . . *Pretension*
Winter cherry (*Physalis alkekengi*) . . .
Deception
Wisteria (*Wisteria*) . . . *Welcome*
Witch hazel (*Hamamelis*) . . . *A spell*

Wallflower (*Cheiranthus*) . . . *Fidelity
in adversity*
Water lily (*Nymphaea*) . . . *Purity
of heart*

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) . . . *Cure
for a broken heart*

Waxflower (*Hoya*) . . . *Susceptibility*
Wheat (*Triticum*) . . . *Prosperity*
White Monte Casino (*Aster*) . . .
Patience

Zinnia (*Zinnia*) . . . *I mourn your
absence*

**Evergreen Garden Club Welcomes
our new in-coming President, Janice Theobald!**

**EGC would also like to extend a warm and heart-felt THANK YOU
to our hard-working out-going President, Cherie Luke.
Thank you, Cherie, for all you have done for EGC!**

**Thank you, Mary Dreger,
Our new Natural Resources Chairperson!**

**Thank you, Sharon Faircloth,
Our new Membership Coordinator!**

**Thank you, Annell Hoy,
Our returning Hospitality Chair!**

**Thank you to all who graciously
"Shared Your Gardens" this summer!**

**Best Wishes
to all of our
September Birthday
Boys & Girls!**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Programming Announcement

For the new year our two Work Days are now going to be Demonstration Days. The first one will be on site with Betsy Kelton teaching us about “obnoxious” weeds. You can send in questions or photos or bring them to the meeting. This might be the time to gather your photos if you think the weeds may not be around on October 11.

Please let me know if you have a suggested location for this informative program.

Hannah chiyalater@gmail.com.



Hoary Cress

Pretty today

Going to seed tomorrow (or very soon)

You can capture the seeds, but this invasive weed also multiplies by roots. Mow it and it will turn into a mat that will soon become a monoculture. It drives out all native vegetation and becomes impossible to get rid of it. If you haven't mowed, you can pull them up fairly easily after a rain.

Hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*) is designated as a “List B” species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. **It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations.**

Herbicides are a concern. Chlorsulfuron (Telar), Metsulfuron (Escort XP) and Imazapic (Plateau, Panoramic) are mostly for rangeland. You wouldn't want them near your neighbor's or your own water supply or vegetable garden. They're not made for our “lawns.” Some people are allergic to hoary cress and have respiratory symptoms when exposed to flowering plants.

Pull the plants Collect the seeds Dig up the rosettes

Colorado Department of Agriculture link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17D0sBsNu22QVA1W4zkqPIhEd868DfEkA/view>



WHAT'S A GARDENER GOTTA DO TO GET A TULIP AROUND HERE?!



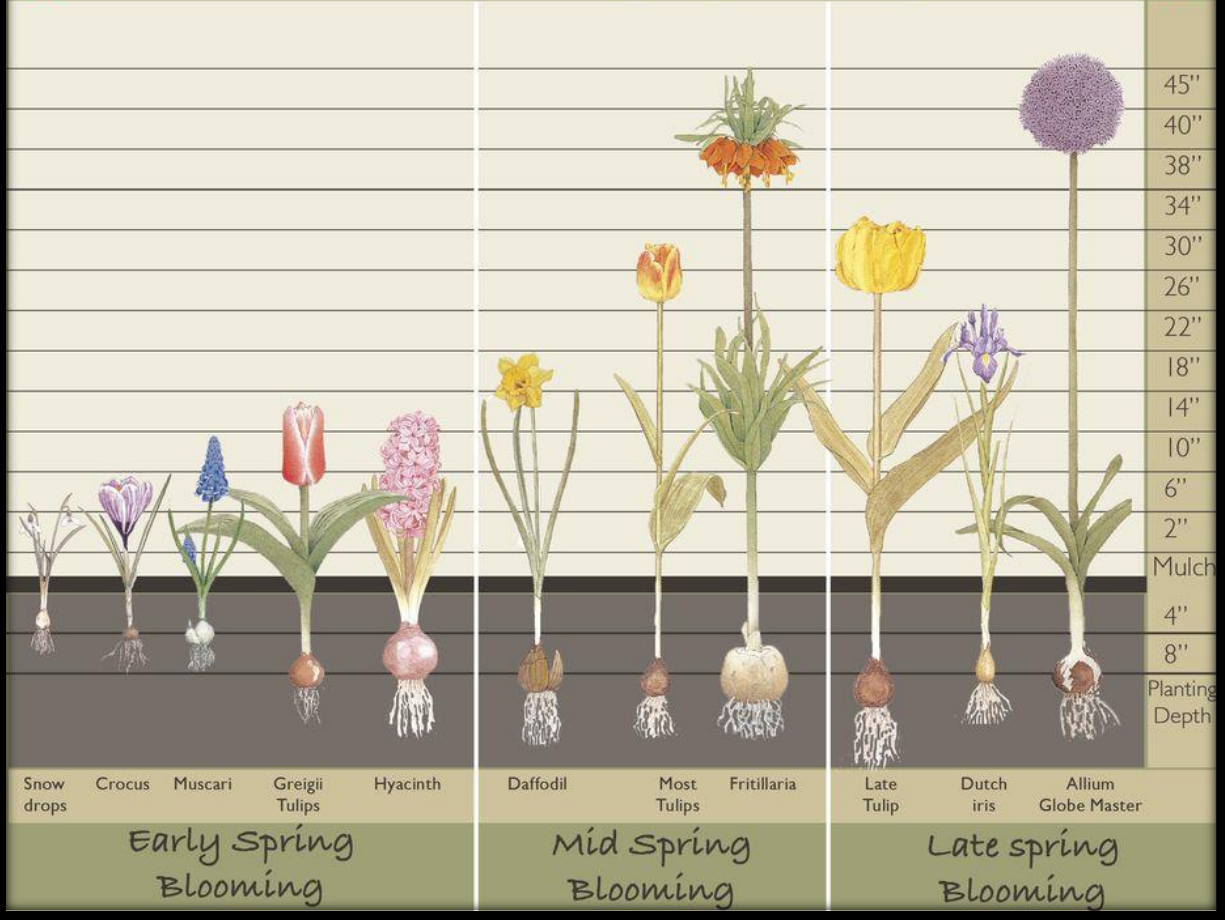
7 **Purple Sensation Alliums**
12 *Allium neapolitanum*

Flower bulb trays come in different sizes and make planting bulbs in pots and in the ground, much easier!





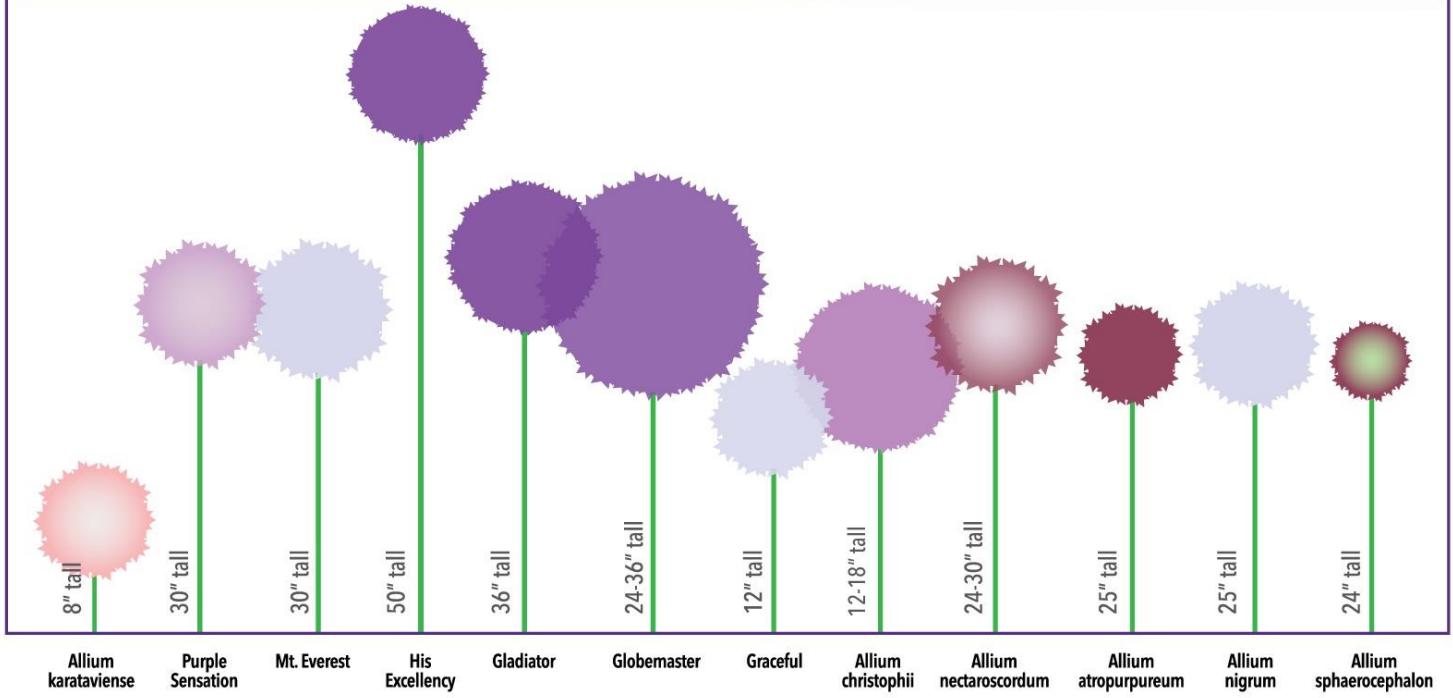
Netherland Bulb Company Planting Guide



ALLIUMS | Bloom times and heights

LATE SPRING

EARLY SUMMER



BULBS AND THEIR FLOWERS THAT TYPICALLY DO NOT GET EATEN

DAFFODILS




The appeal of daffodils lies in their beauty and durability. Their flowers come in a range of colors (yellow, of course, but white, too, often with contrasting cups of orange, yellow or apricot) and in a variety of shapes and sizes. And they ask little in return. Planted in a sunny location where the soil drains well, most daffodils are willing to come back year after year. Perhaps best of all, deer and rodents leave daffodils alone. That's because all daffodils contain a bitter toxic substance called lycorine.

Botanically, all daffodils belong to the genus *Narcissus*, which explains why some people refer to daffodils as “narcissus.” In the South, “jonquil” is often used. Technically, it refers only to *Narcissus jonquilla* and its hybrids, but there is no right or wrong with common names. However you know these tough and attractive bulbs, they are an essential part of the spring landscape.



At higher altitudes, its better to plant mid to late blooming bulbs, so you can enjoy them longer into the season, with less chance of trying to find them under the snow. Look for the bloom time when purchasing as they can range from early to late.*



Height	14-16 inches
Sunlight	Full (6+ hours sun per day)
Soil	Well drained
Flower Color	Creamy White with Orange
Bulb Size	14-16cm ?
USDA Zones	5a-7b ?
Bloom Time	Mid-Late



Planting Instructions

To get the most from daffodils, follow these 3 basic rules:

- 1. Plant them where they will get at least 6 hours of direct sunlight**, even after they have finished flowering and the trees have leafed out. Daffodils need lots of sun after they bloom to produce next year's flowers.
- 2. Plant them in soil that drains well.** Avoid areas where water stands after a rainstorm.
- 3. After daffodils flower, wait at least 8 weeks—until the leaves turn yellow — before cutting them.** Never tie or braid daffodil foliage. This year's leaves = next year's flowers.

If you want to naturalize daffodils (i.e., plant them so that they look as though they had sprung up on their own), we suggest that you set them out in drifts (not in blocks or lines) and that you space the bulbs farther apart than recommended on the bag label (to allow room for the clumps to increase in size). If you want to naturalize daffodils in a grassy area, you must wait to mow until their foliage has turned yellow, which means allowing the grass to grow very tall.

Depth of Planting Hole 8 inches
Spacing 4 inches apart

Spring-flowering bulbs *must* be planted in the fall. They need cool soil to make roots before the onset of winter. Cool fall weather arrives at different times from north to south and from high elevations to low.

Please note that the temperature of the soil lags behind the air temperature. You can generally plant later than the windows provided in this map. As long as the ground is not frozen, you can still plant.



Bulb Calculator

To find the number of bulbs you need, enter the square footage of the planting area in the box below.

Area	Density	Bulbs Needed
<input type="text"/>	4-5	<input type="text"/>
<i>Square Feet</i>	<i>Bulbs/sq. ft.</i>	

[How Many Bulbs Do I Need?](#)

Many companies that sell bulbs online, have bulb calculators like the example on the left, to help determine how many bulbs to order for a particular area.

ALLIUMS

The ornamental alliums are a diverse group. There are tall growers with dense globes of starry flowers that are held well above the leaves and ground huggers whose colorful blooms open in small clusters. All demand well-drained soil and plenty of sun (afternoon shade will prolong bloom in warm climates) and flower at the end of the spring bulb season, after the tulips are done.

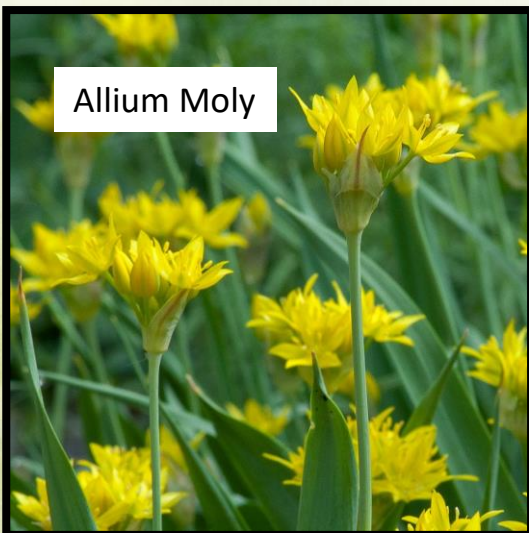
The genus *Allium* includes a number of familiar edible plants: onions, garlic, leeks, chives and shallots are all alliums. When you sniff the bulb or bruise the foliage of an ornamental allium, you will immediately think “onion!” People have long appreciated the flavors offered by this group, but deer find them distasteful. You can plant alliums in deer country and rarely observe a nibble.

Planting Instructions

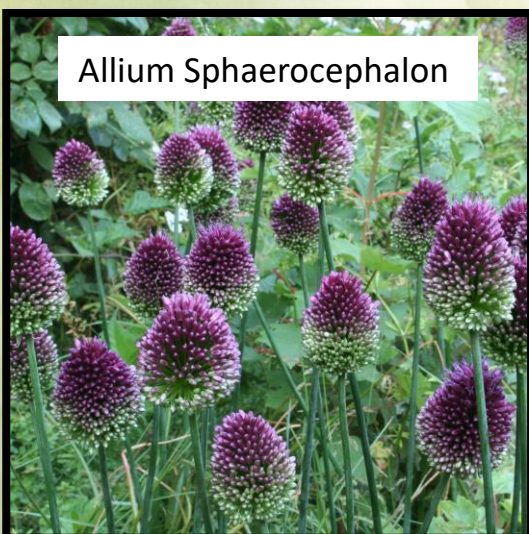
Plant in full sun or light shade and well-drained soil. Sandy soil is ideal. Allium leaves begin to yellow by the time the flowers open. You can disguise the foliage by planting large alliums behind or among bushy perennials or shrubs, and small alliums among low-growing perennials. The flower heads of Globemaster and Christophii remain attractive for a time even after the color drains away. They can be left in the garden or cut and dried for use in indoor arrangements.



Allium Gladiator



Allium Moly



Allium Sphaerocephalon

ALLIUM GARDEN BULBS

OTHER ONION VARIETIES INCLUDE:



Allium sicutum



Allium schubertii



Allium christophii



Allium nigrum

ALLIUM GARDEN DESIGN: INSPIRATION FOR BOUNTIFUL BLOOMS

The garden on the next few pages was designed for a sunny, 10' x 18' area, but you can easily modify it to suit almost any space and includes the perennials listed below.



This colorful garden pays homage to the traditional English flower border. Pinks, purples and blues come together with chartreuse for a look that's both fresh and soothing to the eye. Planted among the easy-care perennials are four types of alliums, each with a different height, flower size and bloom time. They will be the crowning jewels in this simply sophisticated design.

Size: 10 feet x 18 feet
Soil: Well drained
Light: Full sun

Blooms: May-September
Hardiness: Zones 4-8



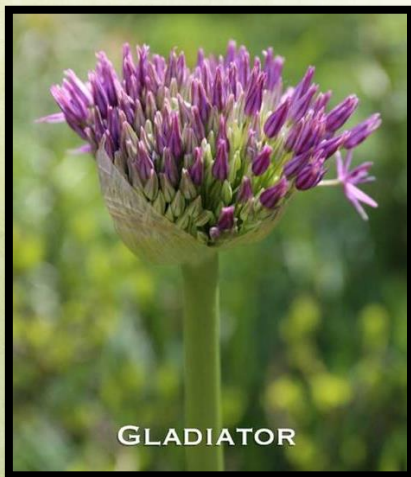
From this carpet of lavender and chartreuse blossoms will emerge two additional alliums: [Star of Persia](#) (*A. christophii*) and [Drumstick](#) (*A. sphaerocephalon*). Not as well-known as other types, these flowers each have their own special look, and they stretch the allium season into early summer.

Midsummer brings another burst of purple from the spires of catmint ([Nepeta faassenii 'Kit Kat'](#)) and '[Caradonna](#)' sage (*Salvia nemorosa*). Both of these perennials have fragrant foliage and will re-bloom in late summer if you shear off the spent flowers.

Closing out the season is [Perovskia 'Little Spire'](#). This Russian sage is about a foot shorter than the standard type, and it has the same pretty grey-blue foliage and lavender flowers. Bloom time is August into September.



The flowering season begins with [Purple Sensation](#) alliums. These 3-4" diameter blossoms are purple when they first open, and gradually change to violet-pink. Purple Sensation bulbs are relatively inexpensive, so feel free to add more bulbs than the number specified to get an even more impressive show.



The second allium to bloom is '[Gladiator](#)'. It has large, 6" diameter flower heads on sturdy, 3' stems. Like all alliums, Gladiator is a magnet for pollinators, including the season's first butterflies. The flowers retain their color for 3 weeks or more and then gradually fade. You can leave the flower heads in place or cut the stems near the base and dry them to display indoors in a vase.

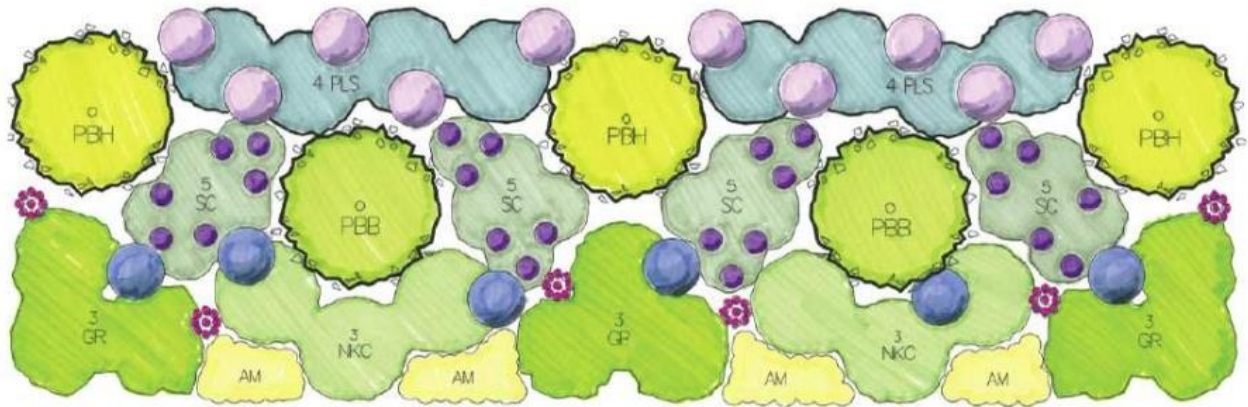
Gladiator will still be blooming when the buds of peonies '[Bowl of Beauty](#)' and '[Bunker Hill](#)' start opening. Planting peonies is an investment. It may be 3 years before you get a good show of flowers, but once these plants start blooming, they can produce 50 or more flowers per plant and will bloom for generations.

[Lady's mantle](#) (*Alchemilla mollis*) and [geranium 'Rozanne'](#) are low, spreading perennials that will weave themselves together in the front of the bed and give 4 to 6 weeks of color. (To stretch this garden's bloom time into early spring, consider planting some [crocus](#) and miniature [daffodils](#) in with the geraniums.)



Allium Garden Design

Bountiful Blooms



PLANT KEY

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 
10 bulbs |  <p>Giant Allium
<i>'Gladiator'</i>
Blooms late spring
Plant fall
Height 36"
Plant 6" deep</p> | 
6 bulbs |  <p>Allium christophii
<i>Star of Persia</i>
Blooms late spring
Plant fall
Height 18"
Plant 6" deep</p> |
| 
24 bulbs |  <p>Allium aflatunense
<i>'Purple Sensation'</i>
Blooms late spring
Plant fall
Height 30"
Plant 5" deep</p> | 
4 plants |  <p>Alchemilla mollis
<i>Lady's Mantle</i>
Blooms early summer
Plant spring to fall
Height 12-18"</p> |
| 
2 plants |  <p>Paeonia lactiflora
<i>Peony 'Bowl of Beauty'</i>
Blooms late spring
Plant spring or fall
Height 36"</p> | 
3 plants |  <p>Paeonia lactiflora
<i>Peony 'Bunker Hill'</i>
Blooms late spring
Plant spring or fall
Height 32"</p> |
| 
54 bulbs |  <p>Allium sphaerocephalon
<i>Drumstick Allium</i>
Blooms early summer
Plant fall
Height 24"
Plant 5" deep</p> | | |
| 
9 plants |  <p>Geranium x 'Rozanne'
<i>Cranesbill</i>
Blooms summer
Plant spring to fall
Height 15-18"</p> | 
20 plants |  <p>Salvia nemorosa
<i>'Caradonna' Sage</i>
Blooms early summer
Plant spring to fall
Height 12-24"</p> |
| 
8 plants |  <p>Perovskia atriplicifolia
<i>'Little Spire'</i>
Blooms summer to fall
Plant spring to fall
Height 18-24"</p> | 
6 plants |  <p>Nepeta x faassenii
<i>'Kit Kat' Dwarf Catmint</i>
Blooms summer
Plant spring to fall
Height 18"</p> |

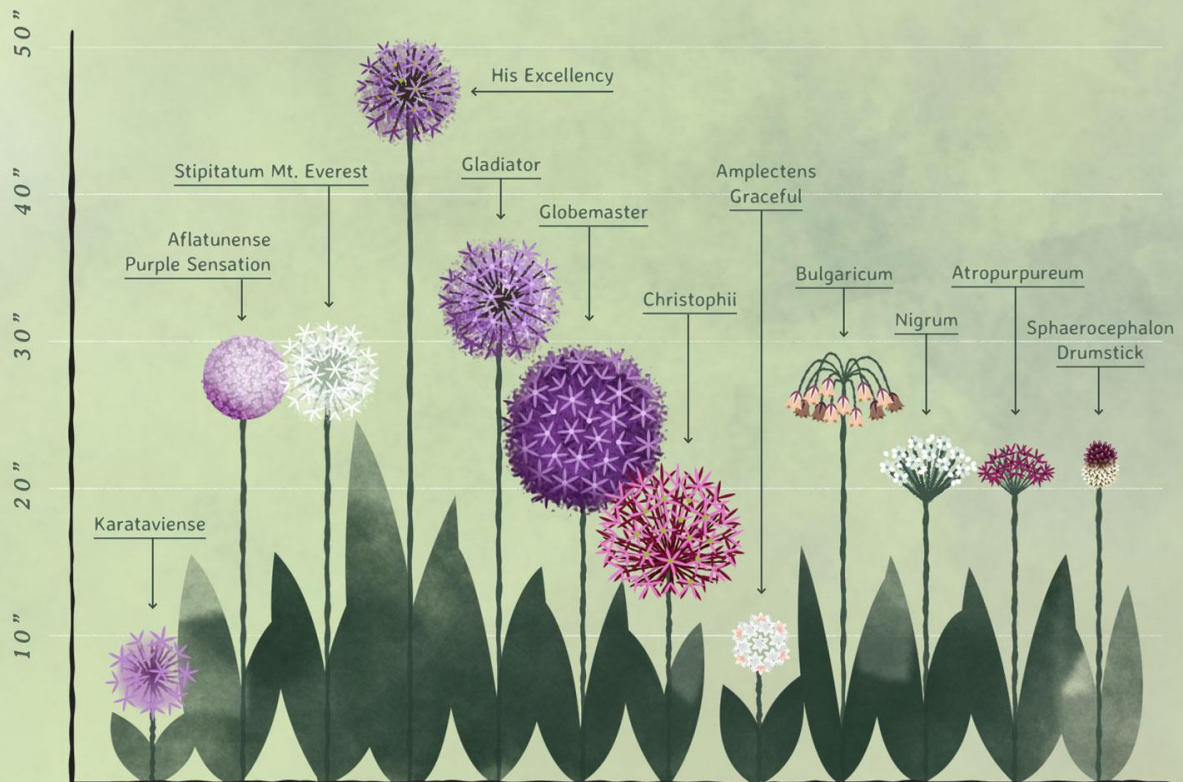


Let the Seed Heads Linger

When alliums have finished blooming, don't be too quick to remove the spent flowers. The show continues! Most types develop decorative seed heads that will persist for weeks — and some for months. This year it was early September before I finally pulled out the *allium christophii* and brought the seed heads indoors to enjoy around the house.

In the garden, allium seed heads look best when they're in a relatively open area that's not too crowded with other plants. This makes it easier to appreciate their unique shape. Plus, good air circulation helps them stay dry and so they are less likely to fall apart.

12 Outstanding Alliums



Plan for Contrasting Heights

Some alliums rise to a height of 4 feet, while others never get taller than 6 inches. This is why it's important to stop and think about which type of allium you're planting and where it's going.

Short ones like *karataviense* (6"), 'Graceful' (10") and *schubertii* (15") can be planted near the front of a flower bed where they're easy to admire. Locate mid-size types in the middle and the tallest ones at the back. You can also ignore all that and use tall alliums as "see through" plants



Waves of ornamental grass (*Nassella tenuissima*) were paired with big-headed alliums, possibly *Gladiator*

The article "Allium Garden Design" is Reprinted in part from Longfield Gardens.

Visit the link below for additional inspiration.

<https://blog.longfield-gardens.com/how-to-use-combine-alliums-with-perennials/>



Allium karataviense works well in rock gardens and sedums are just the right scale to be good companions.

MEOW WOLF AND DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS COLLABORATE TO CREATE 'ALIEN DREAM WORLDS'



Visitors to Meow Wolf Denver may soon find themselves getting lost in alien dream worlds even before they enter the building.

That's possible only because of this summer's inaugural collaboration between Meow Wolf and Denver Botanic Gardens. "Alien Dream Worlds," created by the Gardens' assistant curator Kevin Williams and tended to by seasonal gardeners, is an entirely free, entirely outside feature that adds interest to Meow Wolf's already attention-getting Convergence Station installation.

Appropriately, its layout echoes the tangled, elaborately constructed worlds inside, which are hidden behind doors and tucked under roofs. This one is front-and-center, acting as the very first designed environment that visitors see.



Planted on June 1, the 2,000-square-foot space is crowded with hundreds of baby plants but also wavy concrete paths that frame the whimsical Plethodon statue — a salamander-like fantasy creature that seems to undulate above and below ground.

“I’m expecting it to become this thick, wild space that makes it look like the Plethodon ripped through the parking lot, and then nature just filled in the rubble,” said Williams as he worked outside Meow Wolf Denver on a 94-degree weekday in early August.

Williams’ playful approach is typical of both Meow Wolf and Denver Botanic Gardens — each among the most prominent tourist draws in the city — and the latter has hosted dozens of high-profile art exhibitions over the years. Most of the lore at Convergence Station springs from dimensional portals and alternate realities, something that botanic gardens are decidedly light on.

The Alien Dream Worlds garden, the first of what Williams expects will be a series of projects, is the ostensible portal to those portals.



So how does one construct an immersive environment without a roof, moody lighting, or other technological aids? This isn’t a music festival tent, with strobes and bumping bass, and there are certainly no 3-D mapped LED projections to be found on the exterior walls, as with the D&F Clocktower (not yet, anyway).

Instead, Williams goes for visual impact, having put together a Vision Document for the garden replete with multiple schemes, lore and a list of nearly 40 plants.

In the actual garden, jagged chunks of broken concrete add an urban texture to the hundreds of plants and seeded areas — which next month will be joined by 300 more seedlings and a couple thousand bulbs. Williams is pouring all of his Denver Botanic Gardens expertise into the space, training plants to be xeric (low- to no-water) and happily jumbled. The space is currently blocked off by metal barriers, but will soon be protected by a low fence around which visitors can get close-up looks.

“We call these ‘novel plant communities,’ because they’re much more like wild systems where plants grow closer together than recommended,” Williams said as he surveyed the garden. “Those plant-spacing requirements on Home Depot tags are basically created by mulch companies to sell more mulch.”

The garden features different species from the same genus, all of them adapted to dry climates like Colorado’s. One of the Denver Botanic Gardens’ core attractions, the Steppe Collection, embraces the idea of sister climates, wrote Meow Wolf’s Erin Barnes. And so does “Alien Dream Worlds.”

“Colorado is part of the steppe bioregion known for flat, dry grasslands and shrublands. Our sister steppe bioregions around the world can be found in places like Central Asia, Southern Africa and Patagonian Argentina,” she wrote on [Meow Wolf’s website](#).

Those regions are where Williams sourced some of his verbena plants, which will be joined by the pink-flower dandelion, Little Bluestems and other varieties that play nice together in dry, compacted ground. After it’s established next year, the garden’s perennials and self-seeding annuals will keep it less a weeding-and-tending concern than a weekly obligation.

Meow Wolf’s contract with the Botanic Gardens runs for two years, so Williams will be able to keep tweaking the space to his liking. You may see him there once a month through October, and starting again next May. He’d also like to set up a Meow Wolf-themed garden at Denver Botanic Gardens’ York Street flagship location.

“A plant palette is almost limitless in what you can access and grow on a defined space, so this project is sort of an icebreaker between us,” he said. “But you don’t have to find a garden beautiful to find it compelling. We’re attracted in all other forms of art to things that are much more challenging, and gardens, for some reason, we tend to make to appease the viewer. ... We’re not necessarily creating a garden for people. We’re creating a habitat for the Plethodon.”





THANK YOU TO LAST YEAR'S
EGC BUSINESS PARTNERS

**STEVEN PARKS GOLDSMITH &
FINE JEWELER
STEMS FLOWER SHOP
DAVID HANNA - CALDWELL
BANKER
SUNDANCE GARDENS
THE VILLAGE GOURMET
THE HOLLY BERRY
THE EVERGREEN GALLERY
BEAUJO'S
NELLYBELLE GENERAL STORE
BASKIN ROBBINS
CHOW DOWN
FRAMES FOR ALL REASONS
HEARTHFIRE BOOKS & TREATS
PRIME LENDING**

Please send any submissions or corrections for the
Wild Iris to Louise Heern at louiseheern@gmail.com
Welcome Back!



GARDEN

