



Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS



MAY 2020

Dear Evergreen Garden Club Members,

The Evergreen Garden Club May and June meetings, along with morning yoga, are cancelled. We will, however, be conducting the meetings through *Zoom*, an on-line application. As the meeting date of May 12th gets closer, you will be receiving a separate e-mail with instructions and an on-link to join the meeting virtually.

Our May meeting gathering is typically spent working in our community gardens; however, Jefferson County has prohibited gatherings of any kind until June 1st. Your garden leaders will be contacting you with the details.

Just a reminder that Julie Ann Courim, is our EGC contact if you wish to be included on a list of members willing to volunteer to help or if you are someone in need of help due to this ongoing pandemic. Please reach out to Julie Ann at (303) 981-3593 or jacourim@centurylink.net if you need help.

THE MAY AND JUNE EGC MEETINGS, ALONG WITH MORNING YOGA
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. THE MAY 12TH MEETING WILL BE HELD
VIRTUALLY THROUGH ZOOM, AT 10:00 AM.

DUE TO JEFFCO REGULATIONS, GROUP GATHERINGS FOR OUR MAY
COMMUNITY GARDEN CLEAN-UPS ARE PROHIBITED UNTIL JUNE 1ST

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!



**April 14, 2020
Evergreen Garden Club
General Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by President, Carol Herczeg from her home using Zoom technology. In attendance were the President, First Vice President Peggy Bertrand, Treasurer Helen McLeman, Secretary Janice Theobald, and Technology Officer Susan Garcia. Absent was 2nd Vice President, Donna Moore. Fifteen additional members were on the Zoom call.

President's Report

Carol announced our new President will be Cherie Luke. Thank you to Michelle Lewis for also volunteering. Yoga will be discontinued through the end of this fiscal year. We sang Happy Birthday to the April Members. We should all contact our garden leads regarding the May work day. It may be possible to work in the gardens with proper social distancing.

1st Vice President Report

Peggy discussed the high school student volunteer request but she has not gotten much response on specifics on what to do to help. In order for them to earn the Girl scout or Boy scout badges they need to repair or fix a project or start and complete a new project. Jan Parks may have an idea that she will share with Peggy at another time. Botanic Gardens field trip is on hold at this time. The tool sharpening may be rescheduled for May meeting (if we have a Meeting) and could be done before we release for garden work days.

2nd Vice President Report

No new members at this time.

Treasurer's Report

Helen did a screen share of the current budget. No major changes. She has not been to the post office in a while due to social distancing.

Technology Officer's Report

Susan offered a thank you to Greg Pakieser for suggesting the Zoom technology for the meeting. We are in need of a volunteer for Technology Officer for next year. A video was shared on Trellis and Vertical Gardening and discussion followed with the members.

Secretary's Report

March minutes have been approved as reported in the Wild Iris.

Hospitality Update

Annell reported that the Rodeo parade has been moved to August. If we are going to participate as a Club, we need a volunteer to organize a group to walk in the parade. It was suggested to maybe skip this year and try to find a volunteer for next year's parade which should be on Father's Day weekend. It would offer more awareness and promotion of our Public Garden Tour for 2021. We will also be at King Soopers in January 2021 handing out seeds and Save the Date cards promoting the 2021 Garden Tour. Volunteers will be needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54am

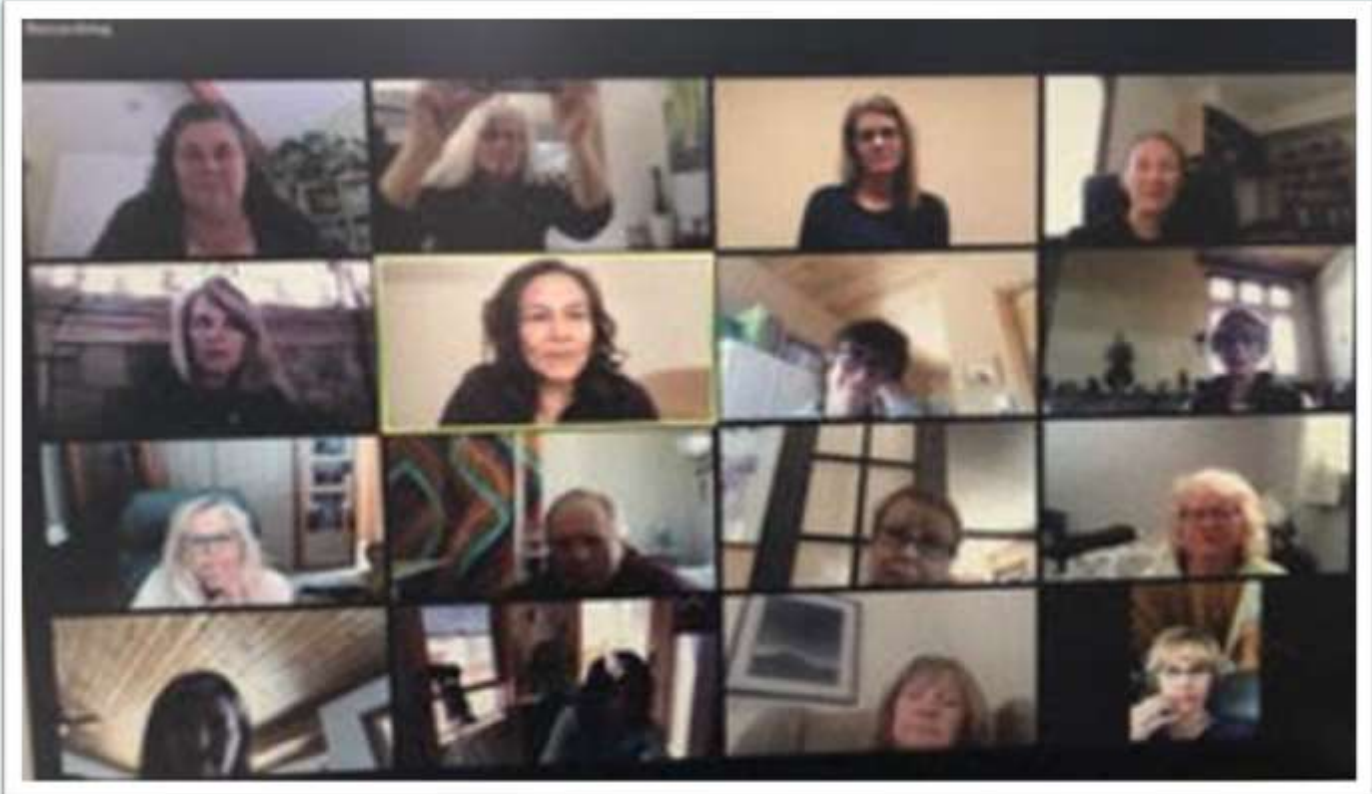
Respectfully submitted,

Janice Theobald, Secretary

Hello
May



**Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic,
The April 14, 2020 EGC Meeting was
held virtually, through a computer
application called Zoom!**



EGC is looking for the following positions!
Club Photographer
Community Garden Leader
Natural Resources
Please contact Cherie Luke for details!
cherie7651@gmail.com

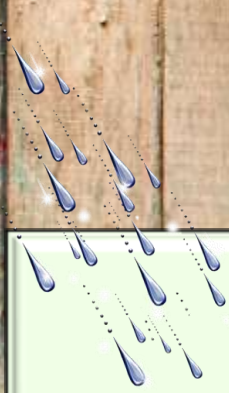
In the Garden



An announcement from
Cherie Luke

***AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING
EGC COMMUNITY GARDENS***

Jefferson County employees had a recent town hall meeting with the County Manager and Jeffco Department of Health. Basically, the county Master Gardeners are not allowed to work in their public gardens, except those that produce food, until June 1st. Our EGC has decided to follow their guidelines and wait until June 1st to work together in our public gardens. At that time if you feel comfortable doing so, we can return with the continuation of 6' social distancing and the wearing of face coverings.



**NOT THAT THIS IS OFTEN AN ISSUE HERE, BUT
DON'T TILL WET SOIL!**

One of the purposes of tilling/digging is to increase aeration and reduce compaction. Tilling wet soil has the opposite effect. It knocks out all the air spaces between the soil particles, causing solid, cement-like mud.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu9jYBMTtDy>



UNDERSTANDING THE FERTILIZER LABEL

The label on a bag of fertilizer shows the percentages of nutrients in the mix. The three numbers shown most prominently, called the N-P-K ratio, refer to the amounts of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) in the bag. For example, an 8-4-4 fertilizer contains, by weight, 8 percent nitrogen, 4 percent phosphorus, and 4 percent potassium. Nitrogen is the most critical element, promoting good foliage growth and flowers.



Table 39-1. Routine Application Rates for Compost

Site	Incorporation Depth ²	Depth of Compost before Incorporation ¹	
		Plant-based compost and other compost known to be low in salts ³	Compost made with manure or biosolids for which the salt content is unknown ⁴
One-time application — such as lawn area	6–8"	2–3"	1"
	3–4"	1–1½"	½"
Annual application to vegetable and flower gardens—first 3 years	6–8"	2–3"	1"
	3–4"	1–1½"	½"
Annual application to vegetable and flower gardens—fourth year and beyond	6–8"	1–2"	1"
	3–4"	1"	½"

¹ Three cubic yards (67 bushels) covers 1,000 square feet approximately 1 inch deep.

² Cultivate compost into the top 6–8 inches of the soil. On compacted/clayey soils, anything less may result in a shallow rooting depth, predisposing plants to reduced growth, low vigor, and low stress tolerance. The 3–4 inch depth is shown as an illustration of how application rates need to adjust when the deep cultivate is not practiced.

³ Plant-based composts are derived solely from plant materials (leaves, grass clippings, wood chips, and other yard wastes). Use this application rate also for other compost known, by soil test, to be low in salts.

⁴ Use this application rate for any compost made with manure or biosolids unless the salt content is known, by soil test, to be low. Excessive salts are common in many commercially available products sold in Colorado. Based on soil tests of commercially available compost, this application rate may be too high for products extremely high in salts.



WAYS TO MAKE DIVIDING PERENNIALS EASIER

An article by Nancy Hook, *'Over the Fence' Magazine*

Every spring, the members of our garden club sell divisions from our perennials to raise funds for beautifying our village. Here are some of the ways that we finesse the advice Paula Gross outlined in her informative article, "The Science Behind Plant Division" (October 2017, pp. 57-61).

1. Place a shallow container with water in the shade, and immediately move all divisions there to rest until they are potted or replanted.
2. When replanting a division, mulch, then water for five days in a row with a watering can or bucket – not a hose. This lets you see how much water is actually being used and will not blast loose soil away from the roots.
3. We rarely find it necessary to dig out entire mature plants, no matter what the root structure may be. Leaving the ground undisturbed allows you to use a spade or fork to tease out divisions. Use a rock as a fulcrum for move leverage.



4. Larger plants, such as established hellebores (Helleborus spp. and cvs., Zones 4-9), can be cut with a reciprocating saw that's equipped with a pruning blade.

5. Reduce the need to water after transplanting by waiting until after the heat of the day has passed or by working on a cloudy morning with a storm on the horizon.



6. If the foliage of a division dies off, continue to water the roots. It is likely that the plant is sacrificing top growth to enhance the survival of the root system.

7. Here in Zone 4, spring is the preferable time for dividing. Foliage is small or dormant, and new roots are encouraged to form by the warm soil and abundant rain. A plant moved after Labor Day runs the risk of heaving out of the ground during a freeze-thaw cycle if it hasn't grown enough new roots to anchor it.

8. Depending upon the overall size of a perennial, small divisions (less than what fits into a handful) won't have enough roots to anchor against tipping or heaving.

After 40 years of gardening and selling perennials at my nursery, these methods have never failed to produce abundant new plants.

Nancy Hook, Cazenovia, New York



HELP!

**EGC is looking for a club photographer!
Please contact Cherie Luke if interested.**

Cherie7651@gmail.com

FRONT RANGE ORGANIC GARDENERS

19TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE HAS BEEN REBRANDED

PLEASE JOIN US!

ORGANIC VICTORY MARKET

MAY 16, 2020

9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.



We are not selling plants this year; instead we are asking shoppers to donate what they can via cash or a cash app. As always, proceeds from the market go towards next year's grants to organizations that teach organic gardening practices. To date, FROG has given over \$45,000. back to the community.

Learn about the 2020 grants here:

http://www.gardenfrog.org/FROG_2020_Grants.pdf

We are waiting to hear if we can have the market at St. John's.

Keep watching at our website <http://www.gardenfrog.org/>

Or send a note to: frog.plant.sale@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list for the latest news.

We will be following social distancing guidelines; our planning is focused on keeping shoppers, club members and volunteers safe.

We have an outstanding crop of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, basil, perennials, succulents, and houseplants – ALL ORGANIC and grown by our club members.

Please join us May 16th!



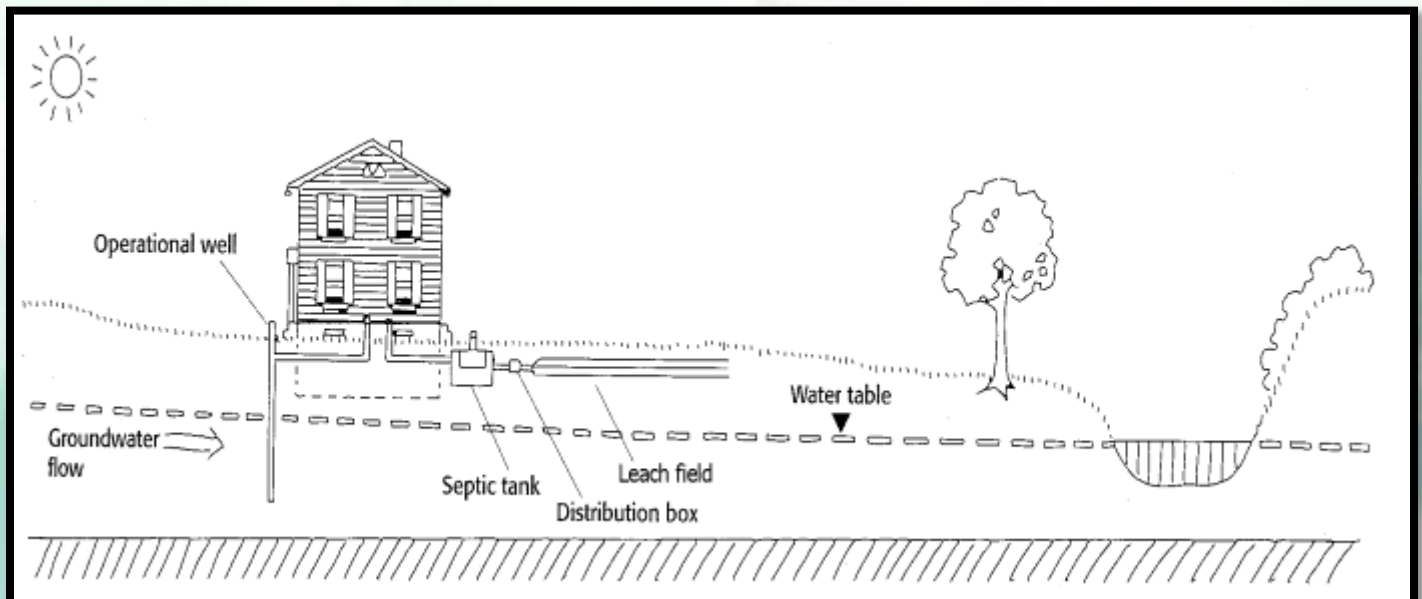
Mountain Water Issues

Regulations and realities conspire to make this one of the biggest frustrations for mountain gardener's on wells

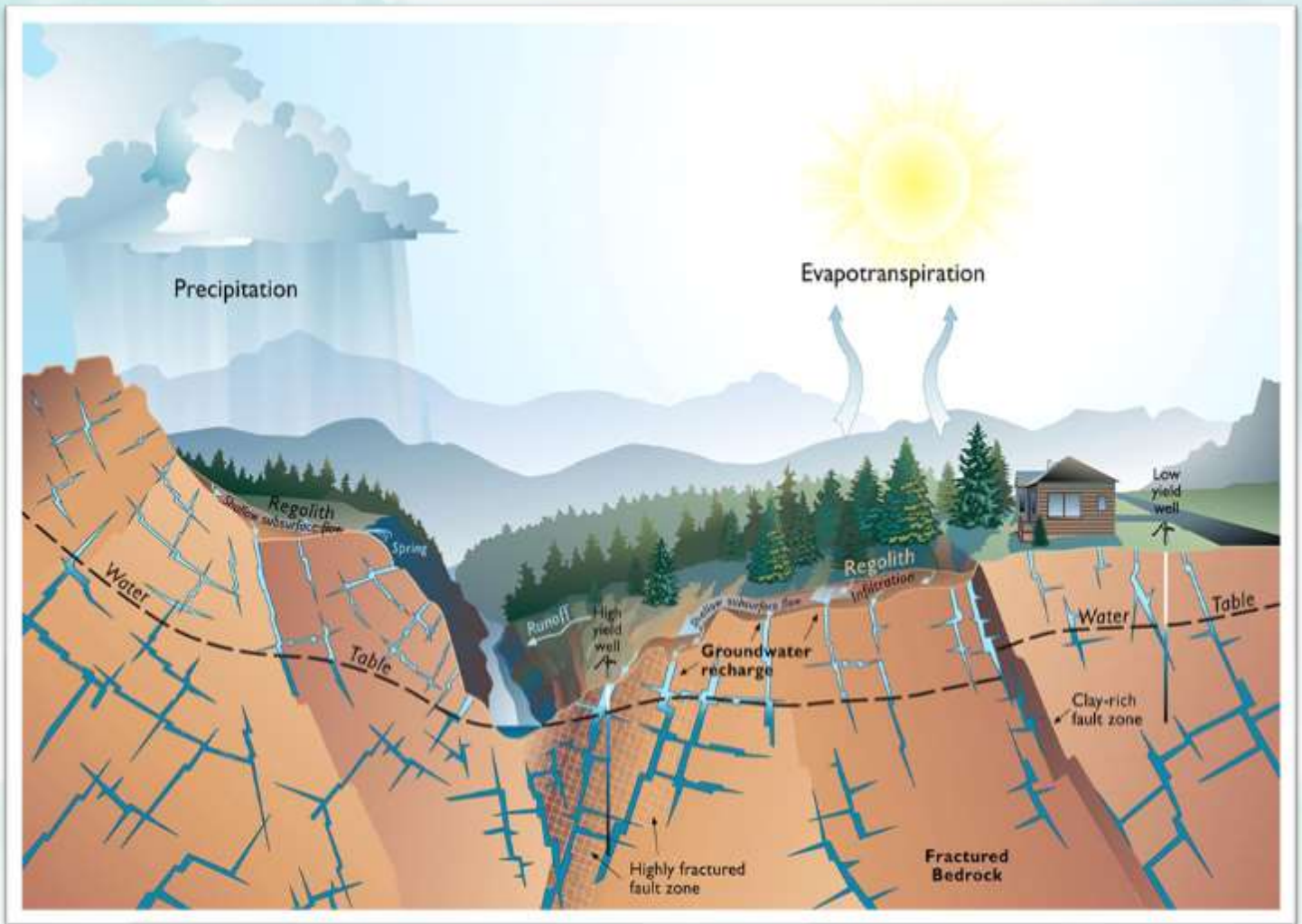
DID YOU KNOW in the state of Colorado, most private wells drilled on or after May 8, 1972 on properties less than 35 acres are permitted for household use only and have no outdoor watering privileges?

Water can be used only inside the home and cannot be used to irrigate gardens, windbreaks, livestock or for any other outside use.

There is good reason for this. Household use only, "uses" 10% of the water, and the rest returns to recharge the water cycle.



Mountain Wells Tap into 'Fractured Rock Aquifers'



BE NEIGHBORLY!

Often, neighbors are tapped into the same aquifer. When local snows are not good, ground water does not travel far and recharge can be slow. Excessive use can draw down the water table in the aquifers. It is possible to dry your neighbors well if yours is deeper.

Even if your well is permitted for outdoor watering, you may want to protect it in times of drought. If you are on city water, there may be watering restrictions in times of drought.



*Getting Around Water Issues Without Breaking the Law
or Irritating your Neighbors*

MAKE USE OF IMPERVIOUS AREAS!

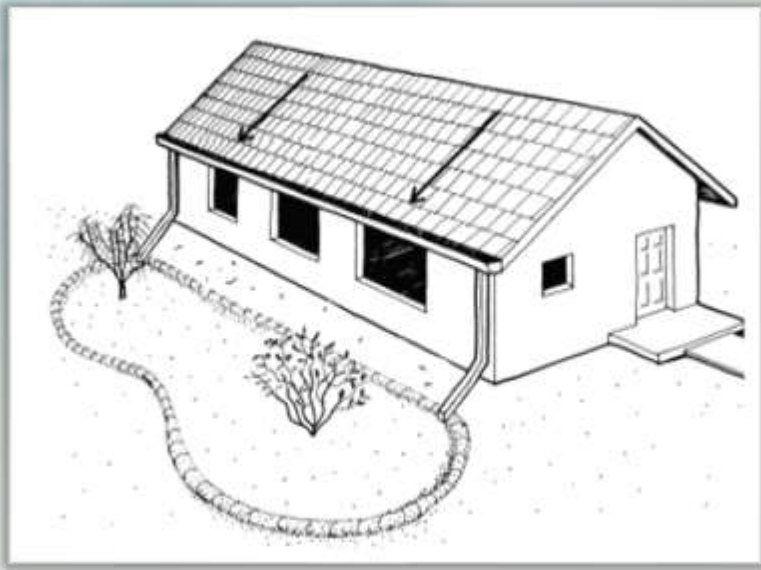
It is now legal to have two 55-gallon water barrels per household



A House with 1000 Square Feet of Roof Area
Produces Over 600 Gallons of Water
From 1 Inch of Rain!

The 2009 Rainwater Bill SB 80 was passed – take advantage of rain barrels!

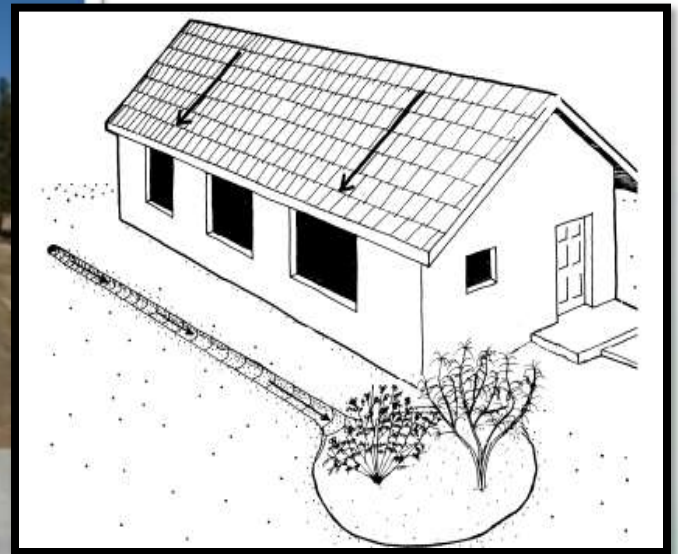
DIRECT DOWNSPOUTS TO YOUR GARDEN!



Dig a depression (at least 10' from house),
direct the rainwater there to plant.

Add organic matter (compost) to increase
water holding capacity.

Positive drainage away from house.



NO DOWNSPOUTS? TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR DRIP LINE

Channel Water from the Dripline.

Driplines can also be a place to hold plants until you can plant them.

NOTE: To avoid smashed plants, don't plant *directly* under the
dripline, especially if you have a metal roof!



WATCH YOUR YARD DURING A RAINSTORM!

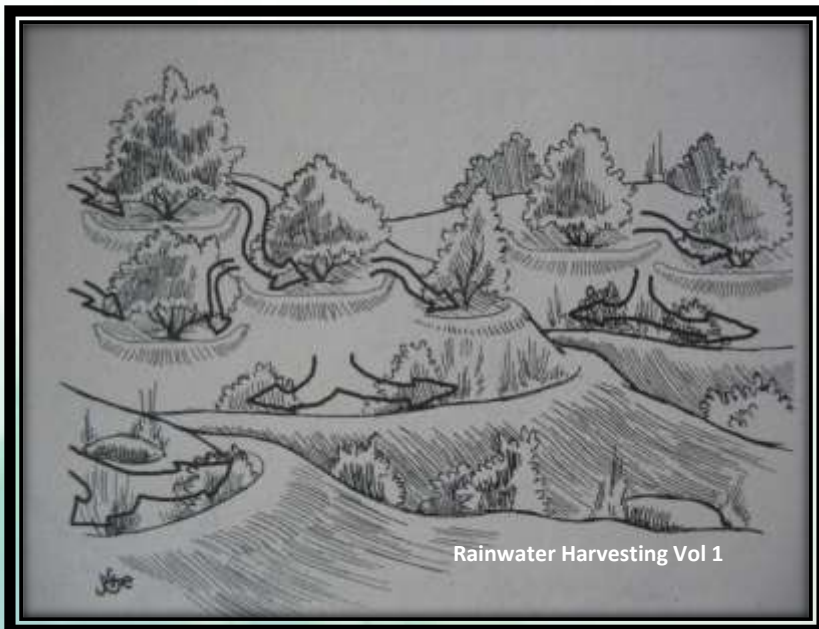
WHERE DOES THE WATER COME FROM?

WHERE DOES THE WATER COLLECT AND RUN OFF?

WATER THAT LEAVES YOUR YARD IS 'LOST'



**Contour Land to Capture Rainwater
Let it Soak In, Not Run Off**

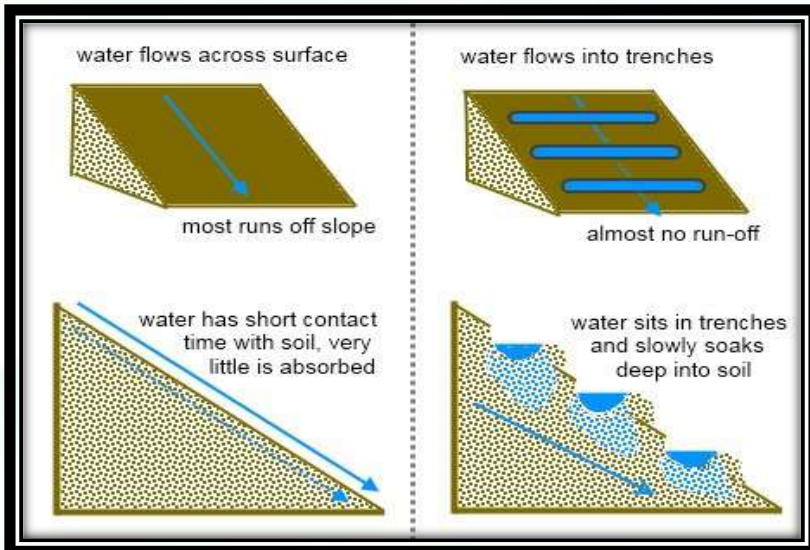


landfxdesign.blogspot.com



PLANT BY PATIOS!

Make depressed planting area by a patio to take advantage of runoff, or just plant nearby



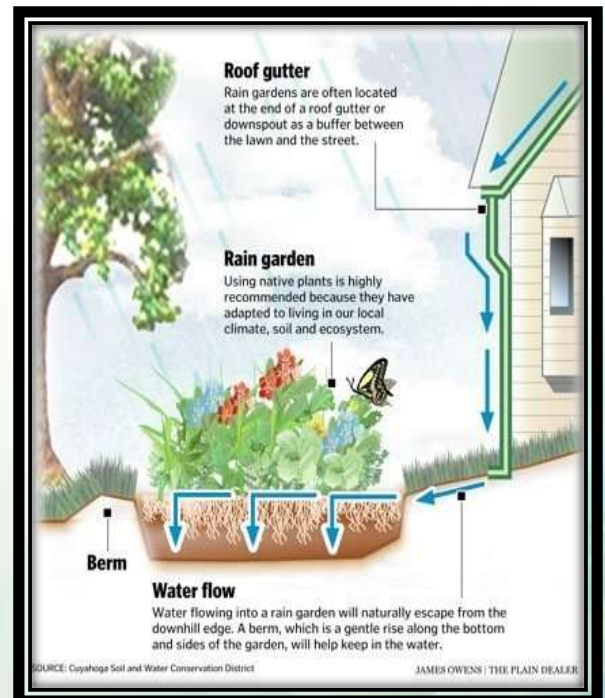
Simply
Splashing!

Slow Down Water with Small Berms on Slopes

Don't be fooled by Colorado rains!

Move the mulch around your un-established plants after a rain to ensure they actually received adequate moisture!

Line pots and even planting holes with a plastic bag with a few holes punched in it.





CISTERNS AND WATER CAN BE PURCHASED

Be sure you locate it within reach of the water truck's hose.



Dormant and bare-root plants can be planted early to take advantage of late spring moisture.



Enhance the garden with other elements. Instead of a thirsty basket full of annuals, hang a wind chime!





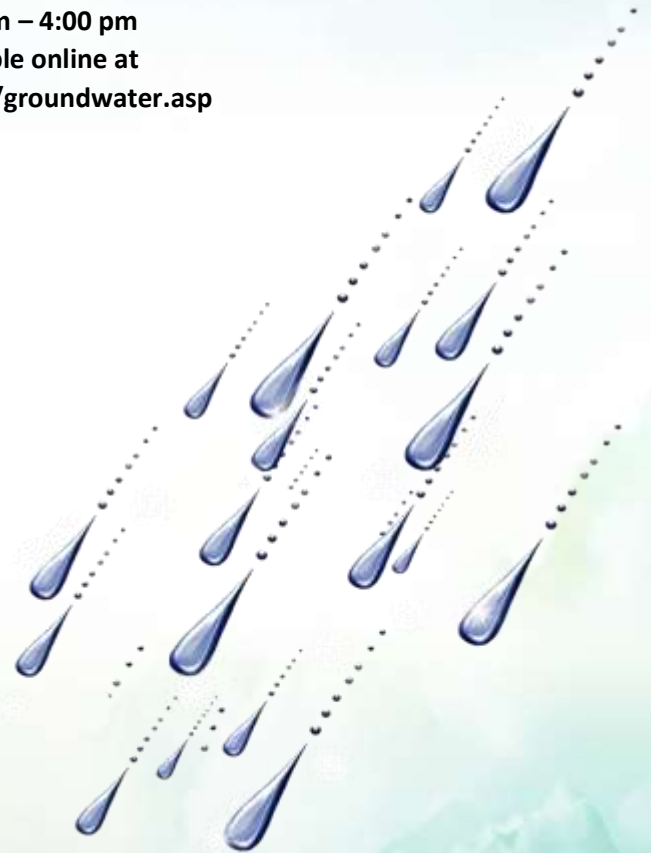
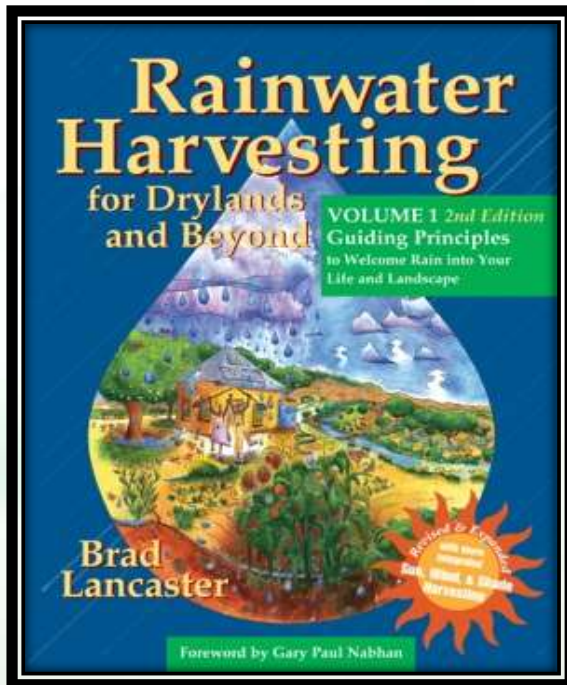
FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on ground water and your right to use it, contact:

Ground Water Information at the Colorado Division of Water Resources

303-866-3587 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Information is also available online at
water.state.co.us/groundwater/groundwater.asp



Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, Volume 1, 2nd ed.:
Guiding Principles to Welcome Rain into Your Life and Landscape

By Brad Lancaster

Vol 2 - Earthworks



**CERTIFY YOUR BIRD-FRIENDLY GARDEN – APPLY TO
BECOME A HABITAT HERO**

Do you have a wonderful, pollinator-friendly garden? Let's get you the recognition you deserve and inspire others!

Anybody can be a Habitat Hero – even you! Habitat Heroes are individuals who make a positive impact in our Colorado and Wyoming communities by increasing natural areas, providing homes and food for wildlife, and creating small areas of wildlife habitat that can connect larger green spaces together. Whether the landscape you tend to is a residential yard, a few pots on a balcony, a public park or schoolyard garden, Habitat Heroes believe in growing a healthy community for birds, wildlife and people! *Does this sound like you? Then let's make sure you get the recognition you deserve and your efforts, big and small, inspire others!*

APPLICATION: A NEW component of our application process is a tiered approach, so that you can be recognized for replacing a section of turfgrass with native plantings or you're a seasoned green-thumb enthusiast that is wildscaping the last corner of your yard. [Apply Now!](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Our updated webpage addresses the FAQ's of the application process and includes; tips and components that make up a Habitat Hero Garden, benefits package, and more! [Learn more about Audubon Rockies Habitat Hero Application Process](#)

**APPLICATION...LEARN HOW TO APPLY AND RECEIVE
RECOGNITION ON YOUR WATER-WISE AND BIRD-FRIENDLY
GARDEN!**

CONTACT: Jamie Weiss, Habitat Hero Coordinator
at jweiss@audubon.org or (970) 416-6931
Learn more at <http://rockies.audubon.org>

Audubon Rockies is a regional office of The National Audubon Society, with dedicated staff in Colorado and Wyoming. Audubon is a nonprofit conservation organization. Through science, education and policy, we protect birds and their habitat. Where birds thrive, people prosper.

*Working to protect birds and their habitat in WY & CO:
[http://rockies.audubon.org/](http://rockies.audubon.org)*

**EGC is looking for host gardens for the upcoming
2021 EGC Garden Tour. If you know of a garden
or have any suggestions, please contact
Annell Hoy at:**

annell517@yahoo.com



Best Wishes
to all of our
EGC May
Birthday Girls!
And Guys!

GALL MAKERS

INSECTS HAVE SOME FANTASTIC RELATIONSHIPS with plants, but few rival the ability to produce galls. Galls are abnormal plant growths produced when certain kinds of insects and mites feed. Dozens of kinds of galls are made on stems and leaves of plants in Colorado. Some of the galls are fairly simple lumps or swellings. Others form into bizarre balls, or cottony or spiny growths.

The exact ways that insects produce galls is still largely a mystery. However, it seems to be done with chemicals found in insect saliva that have effects similar to natural plant hormones. The insects essentially hijack the growth of the plant to create a gall, which they use for shelter and as food for developing insects. Several types of insects commonly make galls in Colorado, usually on trees and shrubs.



Rose stem galls, produced by gall wasp

GALL-MAKING APHIDS AND RELATIVES

ORDER: Hemiptera (Homoptera)

FAMILY: Aphididae, Adelgidae, Psyllidae

In considering tree placement, try not to plant Colorado Spruce close to Douglas Firs; insects mature on the Spruce tree and then once mature, attack the Douglas Fir.

Cut off and destroy before the insects mature in July.



Cooley spruce gall, produced by adelgids

PERHAPS THE MOST commonly observed gall is a cone like distortion at the tips of blue spruce branches. This is produced by the **Cooley spruce gall adelgid** (*Adelges cooleyi*), a type of "woolly aphid" in the Adelgidae family, so named because it is covered with long, waxy threads. Aphids in the



Cooley spruce gall adelgids exposed within gall

Aphididae family (*Pemphigus* spp.) produce swellings of the twigs and leaves of cottonwoods and poplars.

All of these gall-making aphids have complicated life cycles that take place on different kinds of plants. In the case of the Cooley spruce gall adelgid, fertile females spend winter on the spruce, laying their eggs just before bud break. The newly hatched insects feed on the new plant growth causing it to form the characteristic gall, which they live inside until they are fully developed. Then, winged forms emerge and fly away to their second host, the needles of the Douglas fir.



Above: Hackberry nipplegalls, produced by psyllids



Left: Hackberry nipplegall psyllid

WHY I HATE MAY!

A somewhat humorous but hopefully helpful note from the editor

I HATE MAY – Why? Because, at least up here in the world of Floyd Hill, it snows in mid to late May every – single – year. And I don't mean a dusting. It's a heavy, wet, deep snow that freezes itself to every branch – blade - and promising bud in the garden. And, it's combined with "UNSEASONAL" freezing temperatures that often last overnight and sometimes two nights. Just long enough to damage and nip every – tender – shoot - and - bud. (Meanwhile, down the hill, the crabapples are in full bloom and all the garden centers are open.)

Every year is a little different, but typically, by mid to late May the warm mountain sun has coaxed the Chokecherry to leaf out and fill with flower buds. The Lilac bushes, while not many leaves are present, are full of huge purple buds. The tender new shoots of the peony bushes are a good foot or so out of the ground and some even have little tiny flower buds tucked inside their leaves; quite a few of the Iris' are budded. Many of the Alliums are about to bloom. There are flower buds on the little dwarf plum tree. (Luckily, the Aspen's aren't so easily fooled.) So, for the past **nine** seasons, when May snow and freezing temps are predicted, I run in a dozen different directions trying to save all of the above, even though every year I say I'm not going to do it anymore!

LEARNING FROM MY DUMB MISTAKES!



May 18, 2017

CHOCKECHERRY & OTHER TREES - Very gently shake the branches. It's hard to tell if the snow is just lightly sitting on it, or if it has iced/frozen itself to the branches. If you just take a broom to it in an attempt to knock off the snow, and the snow has iced/frozen itself to the branches, the leaves and branches will just break off. This especially happens on rose bushes as well!

Believe it or not, what doesn't break will eventually pop back up. Depending on the severity of the temps, 50% chance the tree might still bloom. In nine seasons, this Chokecherry has been in full bloom just a few times. (Mainly because I don't have a sheet big enough to cover it!) But those few times, it was beautiful!





IRIS' - DO NOT cover your Iris buds with your Granddaughter's socks! It doesn't work. What can I say – I was desperate! Thankfully, I ran out of socks, because every Iris bud I covered either wilted or broke off; the remaining, **uncovered** Iris buds were just fine and did bloom.



LILACS & OTHER SHRUBS – In a desperate attempt to save all of those Lilac buds, I covered some of the lilacs with a sheet, laid over the top. The weight of the heavy, wet snow crushed the Lilacs into flattened, unidentifiable lumps. (How they actually survived despite myself is still a mystery.) Again, thankfully, I ran out of sheets. The Lilac's that were not covered did pop back up but had very few blooms that season.

When protecting a shrub or small tree, wrap the sheet/burlap or whatever you use, around it like a coat (see figure 3 below) and close it with clips or clothes-pins. That way the majority of the snow will fall down the sides. The dwarf plum tree below was fine and actually did bloom that summer.

Lilac bushes crushed to the ground under sheets



Figure 3 –
Not a religious statue, but a dwarf Plum Tree.
Uncovered Lilacs in front of the fence fared better in other years uncovered.

No, I am not proud and yes, this is what my garden looks like just before the temperature drops and it starts snowing in May.

It is particularly exhausting trying to balance pots and containers over a plant on a steep windy incline!

What I have learned:

Early season Peony shoots are very fragile. Only use a sturdy container or flower pot taller than the shoots over the top of a Peony or other perennial you want to protect. Otherwise, the weight of the snow will crush/break the plant underneath or the wind will topple the taller (garbage cans?!) containers onto the tops of other unprotected plants, causing more damage than the snow. For example, the sheet in the top pic is clipped to the Peony support frames. This may work for frost, but the snow gathered on top and collapsed the sheet into the middle of each frame; most of the Peony shoots broke that year.

In closing, I have learned that I do more damage than the impending storms when it comes to trying to save the spring garden.

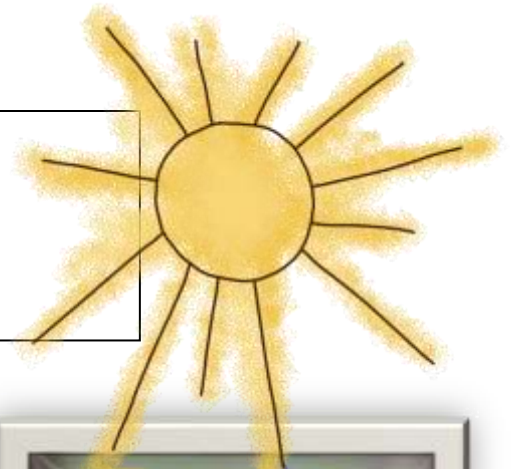
So, from now on larger flowering shrubs and trees like Lilacs are on their own. If they bloom, they bloom, and if they don't, well, it's only **12** more months till next season! They're amazingly resilient.

The Peony bushes are one of the few plants that actually seem to benefit from *safely* covering. Any other favorites that happen to be budding in May I will sparingly cover, and **ONLY** if I can do so safely. Otherwise, just letting nature take its course. Easier said than done!



OPPOSITES ATTRACT!

Notes from Landscape Design 101



ROUND FLOWER WITH SPIKE
1/3 – 2/3
ONE SHOULD DOMINATE



**POINTING UPWARDS WITH
FACING DOWNWARDS**



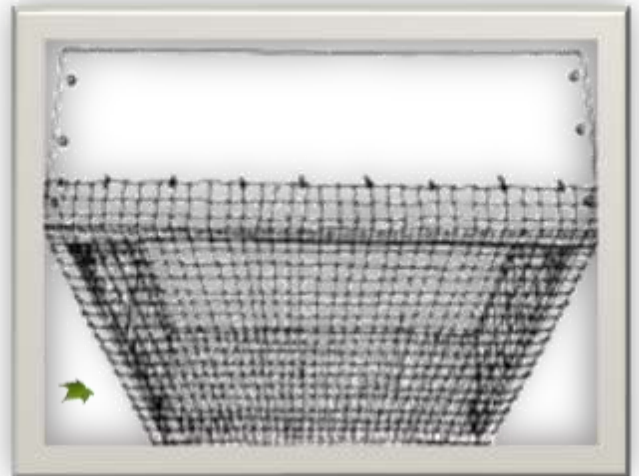
RAISED BEDS – THE EASY SOLUTION

There's a simple solution to dealing with soil that is too shallow or drains poorly: heap soil on top of it and grow above grade. To form the sides of a raised bed, use landscape timbers, decay-resistant wood, brick, concrete block or stone; or simply make a firm mound with sloping sides and a surrounding ditch. Plan to have the soil surface within the raised bed one foot or more above the normal grade outside.

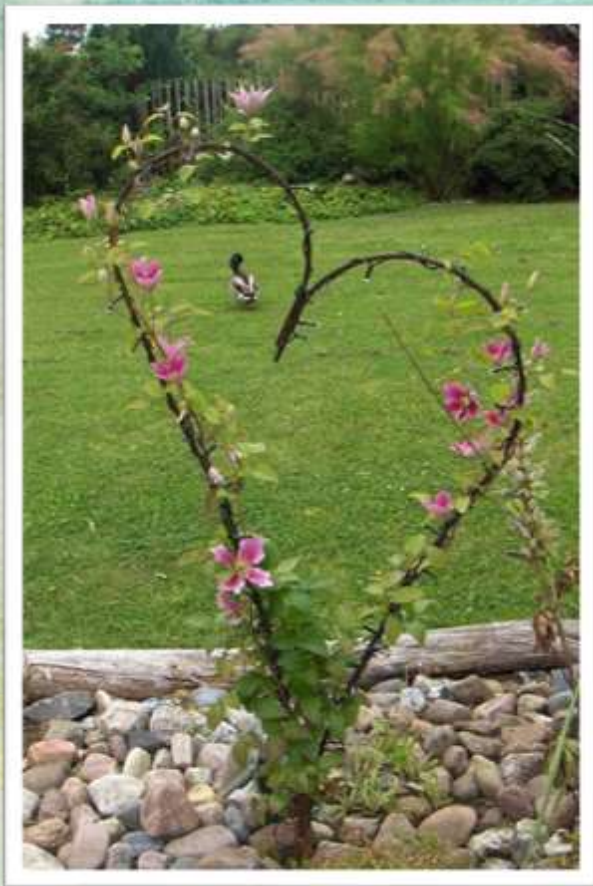
Dig a 4-inch layer of organic material into the existing soil, going down a foot or more if you can. Then add topsoil (taken from another part of the garden or purchased), and dig it into the improved native soil, adding another 4-inch layer of organic matter at the same time. Water the bed deeply and let it settle before you plant. If it sinks significantly, mix more topsoil into the bed.

Resource: *Sunset 365 Days of Garden Color*

If possible, line the bottom of your raised bed with ¼ inch wire cloth before filling to keep the pocket gophers and voles from coming up from underneath.



FROM OUR MEMBERS:



Indoor Vertical Gardening!
Bean plants ready to be rolled
out once the threat of
frost has passed!

Submitted by →
Helen McLeaman

Outdoor Vertical Gardening!

Submitted by
Cindy Gibson ←



The Woody Creek Garden
An inspiring Aspen garden transformation!
Submitted by Kristina Sherwood
<https://www.aspensojo.com/home-and-real-estate/2013/07/nurture-nature>

Blessings for health, comfort and peace during this pandemic.
Please send any corrections or submissions for the
Wild Iris to louiseheern@gmail.com

