



Evergreen Garden Club

# WILD IRIS



JUNE 2022

Dearest EGC members,

It has truly been an honor serving as garden club president these past two years!

What I have found, is that the path to gardening is filled with mistakes and even some dead plants along the way, but mostly the great many pleasures of gardening.

The most important and joy filled part of this journey, is the wonderful, thoughtful, energetic, and generous people we meet along the way! We share the not-so-common bond of a love of gardening.

I am sincerely honored to be able to spend time with all of you.  
Hope you have a wonderful summer.

See you in the garden,  
Cherie Luke

**TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2022**  
**BERGEN FIRE TRAINING CENTER**  
**Social time starts 9:00 a.m.**  
**Meeting starts 9:30 a.m.**  
**MEMBER PLANT SALE &**  
**CRAZY GARDEN HAT CONTEST!**



# **DON'T MISS THE JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> EGC MEETING PLANT SALE & CRAZY GARDEN HAT CONTEST!**

After the business meeting,  
we will have a members-only plant sale.  
Please bring in plants, plant divisions, seeds, bulbs, etc.  
for purchase by other members.

We will also have a donation table. Please bring garden related items  
for the donation table. All proceeds will be donated to EChO.

Please note that due to a lack of storage space, any item  
brought for the donation table that is not taken home by  
someone else, must be taken home by the donor.

There will also be a crazy garden hat contest!  
The board will select a winner in each category:  
'funniest', 'most unique', and most 'gardeny' hat.



**May 10, 2022**

**Evergreen Garden Club  
May 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; Julie Ann Courim, Technology Officer and Janet Gluskoter, Secretary.

Not in attendance: Kim Gustafson, 2nd Vice President and Helen McLeman, Treasurer

**President's Report**

Cherie announced that she has tomato plants available for purchase. All proceeds will go to the local Master Gardeners scholarship fund.

We acknowledged the long list of May birthdays, sang and wished them well.

New members in attendance; Pat Korbel & Mimi.

**Secretary's Report**

Thank you to Hannah for taking the April board meeting minutes and to Janice Theobald for taking the April general minutes which were approved by the board and submitted to the Wild Iris.

**Treasurer's Report**

Julie Ann presented on behalf of Helen. The Garden Tour financials report will be available at our Sept meeting. Treasurer will keep the list of tickets purchased for reference at the check-in station.

Members were reminded to use the Amazon Smile website when shopping with their Amazon membership and to designate the garden club for community rewards on their King Soopers loyalty membership, as well as the opportunity to purchase a Safeway card, (see Cindy Gibson) for donations to EGC.

**Vice President's Report**

Hannah informed members to prepare for the crazy garden hat contest and plant sale coming up at our June meeting. We will be sending out a pole to the members to find out if you are removing dandelions in your garden or not. According to the bee speaker we had, they are the first flower available to the bees in our area but not essential. Hannah will be organizing a 'share your garden' event for members only. Contact Hannah if you are interested. Another event to take place after our garden tour will be a visit to the Harmony Village Cohousing community in Golden.

**2nd Vice President's Report**

No report.

**Technology Officer's Report**

Julie Ann has updated our website and is asking all members to send photos of your garden to be posted to our social media sites.

There will also be a "pre-tour" on Tuesday, 7/12 as a practice run.



May 10, 2022

Evergreen Garden Club  
May General Meeting (Continued)

**Committee Reports**

**Public Gardens Coordinator** Annell Hoy

All gardens have been assigned volunteers.

Annell has Garden Tour tickets available for members to sell as well as brochures and small flyers to hand out. It was agreed to only print out approximately 50 map inserts.

**Hospitality** Jan Parks

Jan and husband, Steve, will provide/drive the truck at the rodeo parade on June 18th. We need volunteers to walk with our group.

**EChO table** Donna Moore

No report

**Garden Tour Coordinator** Louise Heern

Louise stated that everything is on schedule for the tour.

There will be a reception at the Evergreen Art Gallery on Saturday, 7/09.

There will also be a “pre-tour” on Tuesday, 7/12 as a practice run.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Gluskoter, Secretary  
Evergreen Garden Club



**GArdeN**



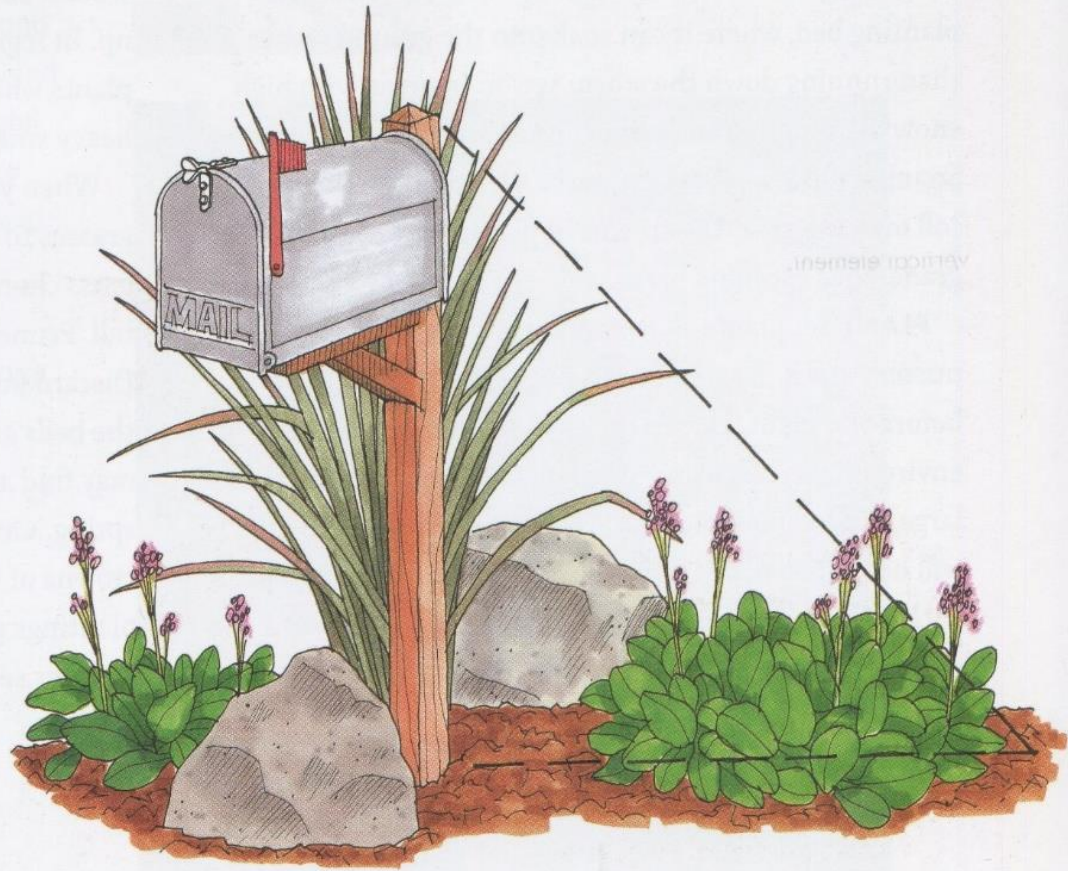
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT ANDREW SCHULMAN'S  
**MAILBOX GARDEN DESIGN TIPS**

**A**s an American landscape icon, the roadside mailbox is second only to the white picket fence. Your mailbox is probably the first thing passersby and visitors encounter as they approach your home, so a clever design for the garden that surrounds it goes a long way toward setting the tone for the look and feel of your property. For that reason, knowing what it takes to design a good mailbox garden is useful information for nearly every homeowner. Many mailbox gardens, however, are afterthoughts, and they look shabby because people fail to put the same amount of effort into designing them as they do the rest of the garden. You can turn your mailbox into an attractive focal point if you keep in mind a few specific design considerations.

**DEEMPHASIZE THE SORE THUMB**

The first step to a successful mailbox garden is to soften the junction where the post enters the ground. This calls for compact plants with long seasons of interest. Mounding plants with ornamental evergreen foliage—such as perennials like bergenia (*Bergenia* spp. and cvs., USDA Hardiness Zones 3–9), semishrubs like lavender (*Lavandula* spp. and cvs., Zones 5–9), or cold-hardy shrubs like dwarf conifers—fit the bill perfectly.

Planning from the post out is a good way to ensure that the mailbox blends into the plantings and doesn't stick out like a sore thumb. Match the dimensions of the planting bed to the height of the mailbox so that it feels at home in its setting. As a basic rule, imagine the mailbox tipped over and lying on the ground; if it would remain within the boundaries of the bed, then the bed is large enough.



Match the dimensions of the planting bed to the height of the mailbox.

Arrange the plants around the post so that the post blends into the landscape, balancing the plants' size to the size of bed. But be sure the plants don't obstruct the opening or make it difficult to reach inside the box.



## DIVERSIFY HEIGHT AND TEXTURE

Include a complementary vertical element to counterbalance the height of the mailbox and post. Something as simple as a clump of Siberian iris (*Iris cvs.*, Zones 3–9) or blue oat grass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*, Zones 4–9) will do the trick. Be sure to layer your

plantings around the post, massing plants with different textures and diverse forms for eye-catching appeal. Select plants that range in color, texture, and size, but avoid thorny or prickly plants.

Complement the height of the mailbox by adding a vertical element.

## DECORATE THE POST WITH CLIMBERS

Small annual climbers, such as morning glories (*Ipomoea tricolor cvs.*) and sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus cvs.*), will soften the structure of the mailbox post without obscuring it.

Compact perennial vines are not common, but there are a few long-lived options to choose from. Most clematis (*Clematis spp. and cvs.*, Zones 4–11) grow too large for the average mailbox, but some new cultivars grow no more than 3 feet to 4 feet tall each season and are covered with large flowers from early summer until late autumn. Climbing miniature



Add pizzazz to your post by planting a vine.

roses are also great for mailbox posts. 'Sweet Chariot' (*Rosa 'Sweet Chariot'*, Zones 5–10) is a variety that flowers from May until the first frost and is nearly thornless, an

important consideration if you want to remain on friendly terms with your postal carrier.



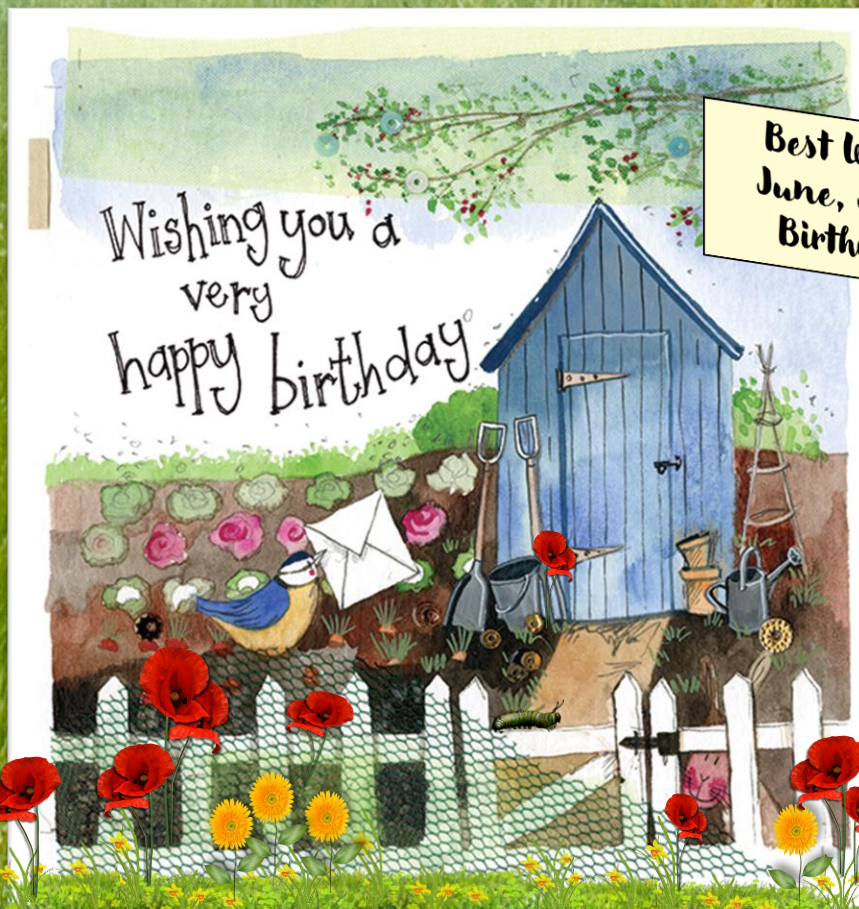
## ***EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE!***

What better way to promote EGC's upcoming High Altitude Garden Tour? Come join your fellow EGC members and walk along or ride in the back of the EGC flower-filled truck in the Evergreen Rodeo Parade on Saturday June 18, 2022.

We need walkers to hand out seed packets and 'Save the Date' cards!

Please contact Louise Heern [louiseheern@gmail.com](mailto:louiseheern@gmail.com)

Or [Jan Parks parksjl54@yahoo.com](mailto:Jan Parks parksjl54@yahoo.com) for details



# EFFICIENT USE OF WATER IN THE GARDEN & LANDSCAPE

*By Larry Stein, Extension Horticulturist &  
Doug Welsh, Extension Horticulturist*

[Efficient Use of Water in the Garden and Landscape - Earth-Kind® Landscaping Earth-Kind® Landscaping \(tamu.edu\)](http://tamu.edu)

**A helpful and informative article about efficient watering by EARTH-KIND**

## **EFFICIENT, RESPONSIBLE WATER USE**

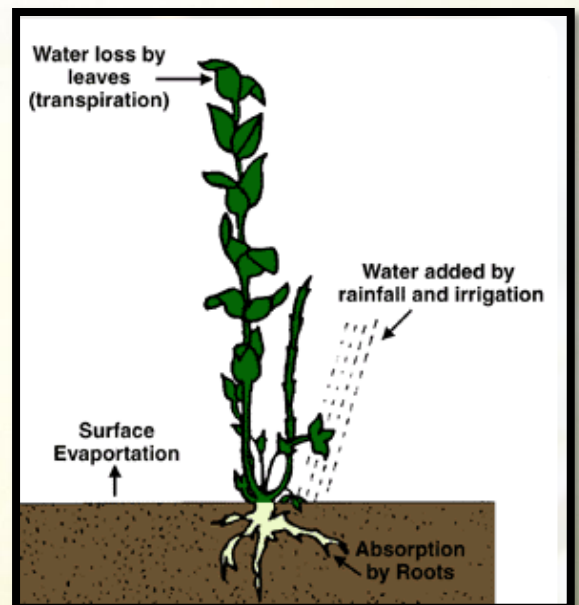
The danger of exhausting valuable aquifers by excessive pumping is paralleled by the threat of polluting the groundwater with industrial, agricultural and home landscape contaminants. Nitrates from excessive and untimely fertilization are especially threatening.

## **PLANTS, SOILS AND WATER**

When water is applied to the soil it seeps down through the root zone very gradually. Each layer of soil must be filled to 'field capacity' before water descend to the next layers. This water movement is referred to as the wetting front. Water moves downward through a sandy coarse soil much faster than through a fine-textured soil such as clay or silt.

If only one-half the amount of water required for healthy growth of your garden or landscape is applied at a given time, it only penetrates the top half of the root zone; the area below the point where the wetting front stops remains dry as if no irrigation has been applied at all.

Once enough water is applied to move the wetting front into the root zone, moisture is absorbed by plant roots and moves up through the stem to the leaves and fruits. Leaves have thousands of microscopic openings, called stomates, through which water vapor is lost from the plant. This continual loss of water called transpiration, causes the plant to wilt unless a constant supply of soil water is provided by absorption through the roots.







The total water requirement is the amount of water lost from the plant plus the amount evaporated from the soil. These two processes are called evapotranspiration. Evapotranspiration rates vary and are influenced by day length, temperature, cloud cover, wind, relative humidity, mulching, and the type, size and number of plants growing in a given area.

### ***WATERING TECHNIQUES***

Proper water methods are seldom practiced by most gardeners. They either under or over water when irrigating.

The person who under-waters usually doesn't realize the time needed to adequately water an area; instead, he applies light, daily sprinklings. It is actually harmful to lightly sprinkle plants every day. Frequent light applications wet the soil to a depth of less than 1 inch. Most plant roots go much deeper. Light sprinkling only settles the dust and does little to alleviate drought stress of plants growing in hot, dry soils. Instead of light daily waterings, give plants a weekly soaking. When watering, allow the soil to become wet to a depth of 5 to 6 inches.

This type of watering allows moisture to penetrate into the soil area where roots can readily absorb it. A soil watered deeply retains moisture for several days, while one wet only an inch or so is dry within one day.

In contrast, there are those who water so often and heavily that they drown plants. Too much water in a soil causes oxygen deficiency, resulting in damage to the root system. Plant roots need oxygen to live. When a soil remains soggy little oxygen is present in the soil. When this condition exists, roots die and no longer absorb water. The leaves begin to show signs of insufficient water. Often gardeners think these signs signal lack of water, so they add more. This further aggravates the situation and the plant usually dies quickly.

**\*\*\*With our super dry conditions and sometimes compacted soils, water sometimes pools or takes a few minutes to absorb. Thoroughly moisten the soil, move on to the next, and then come back and water again to allow the water time to reach a desirable depth, instead of running off.**

**To avoid repetitive or non-pertinent information, parts of this article have been left out. To read this article in its entirety, please follow the link in the heading above.**



How Soil Feels and Looks

Soil Moisture Level	Coarse (sand)	Light (loamy sand, sandy loam)	Medium (fine sandy loam, silt loam)	Heavy (clay loam, clay)
No available soil moisture. Plants wilt. Irrigation required. (First Range)	Dry, loose, single grained, flows through fingers. No stain or smear on fingers.	Dry, loose, clods easily crushed and flows through fingers. No stain or smear on fingers	Crumbly, dry, powder, barely maintains shape. Clods break down easily. May leave slight smear or stain when worked with hands or fingers.	Hard, firm baked, cracked usually too stiff or tough to work or ribbon* by squeezing between thumb or forefinger. May leave slight smear or stain.
Moisture is available, but level is low. Irrigation needed. (Second Range)	Appears dry; will not retain shape when squeezed in hand	Appears dry; may make a cast when squeezed in hand but seldom holds together.	May form a weak ball** under pressure but is still crumbly. Color is pale with no obvious moisture.	Pliable, forms a ball; ribbons but usually breaks or is crumbly. May leave slight stain or smear.
Moisture is available. Level is high. Irrigation not yet needed (Third Range)	Color is dark with obvious moisture Soil may stick together in very weak cast or ball.	Color is dark with obvious moisture. Soil forms weak ball or cast under pressure. Slight finger stain but no ribbon when squeezed between thumb and fore finger.	Color is dark from obvious moisture. Forms a ball. Works easily, clods are soft with mellow feel. Stains finger and has slick feel when squeezed.	Color is dark with obvious moisture. Forms good ball. Ribbons easily, has slick feel. Leaves stain on fingers.
Soil moisture level following an irrigation. (Fourth Range)	Appears and feels moist. Color is dark. May form weak cast or ball. Leaves wet outline or slight smear on hand.	Appears and feels moist. Color is dark. Forms cast or ball. Will not ribbon but shows smear or stain and leaves wet outline on hand.	Appears and feels moist. Color is dark. Has a smooth, mellow feel. Forms ball and ribbons when squeezed. Stains and smears. Leaves wet outline on hand.	Color is dark. Appears moist; may feel sticky. Ribbons out easily; smears and stains hand; leaves wet outline. Forms good ball.

\* Ribbon is formed by squeezing and working soil between thumb and forefinger.

\*\* Cast or ball is formed by squeezing soil in hand.

\*\*\* Note from the editor



### *The Wind*

by

Robert Louis Stevenson

I saw you toss the kites on high  
And blow the birds about the sky;  
And all around I heard you pass,  
Like ladies' skirts across the grass--  
O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

I saw the different things you did,  
But always you yourself you hid.  
I felt you push, I heard you call,  
I could not see yourself at all--  
O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

O you that are so strong and cold,  
O blower, are you young or old?  
Are you a beast of field and tree,  
Or just a stronger child than me?  
O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

### ***Helpful Hints for Planting in Windy and Exposed Gardens***

- ***Plant SMALLER rather than bigger. Less transpiration, less water; by the time they get big enough to get buffeted by the wind, they are already anchored as the root system has grown and developed. The plants will catch up in size.***
- ***Strong winds can dislodge young plants before they get a foothold. They can sway in the wind, also known as wind rock, which can cause a hole to develop around the stem which fills with water and kills the plant. Simply use the heel of your foot to firm any wobbly plants when you spot them.***
- ***Don't plant bare-root evergreens. Evergreen plants and shrubs are never completely dormant and can easily lose moisture without a little shelter; drying out long before spring.***



***It's a busy summer for EGC!  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
and we hope to see you there!***

**JUNE 14, 2022** – The last EGC meeting of the year. Refreshments, member plant sale and 'Crazy Garden Hat' Contest – prizes awarded!

**JUNE 18, 2022** – Walk in the Evergreen Rodeo Parade! And pass out seed packets to promote the upcoming EGC Garden Tour.

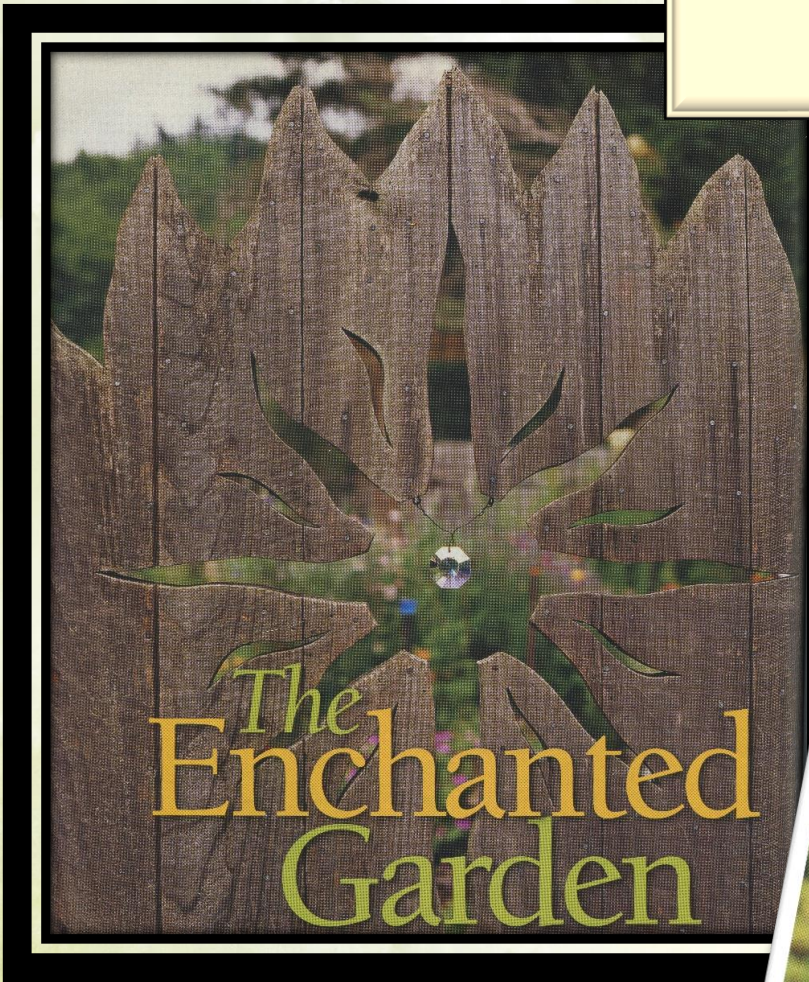
**JULY 9, 2022** – An evening reception at the Evergreen Art Gallery featuring a 'Blooming Evergreen" art sale from local artists promoting and benefiting the EGC Tour

**JULY 12, 2022** – The EGC Garden Pre-Tour for all hosts and Tour volunteers

**JULY 16, 2022** – The 2022 EGC High Altitude Garden Tour  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

***Members are encouraged to 'Share your Garden' this summer. Detailed info on all of the above events throughout the newsletter.***

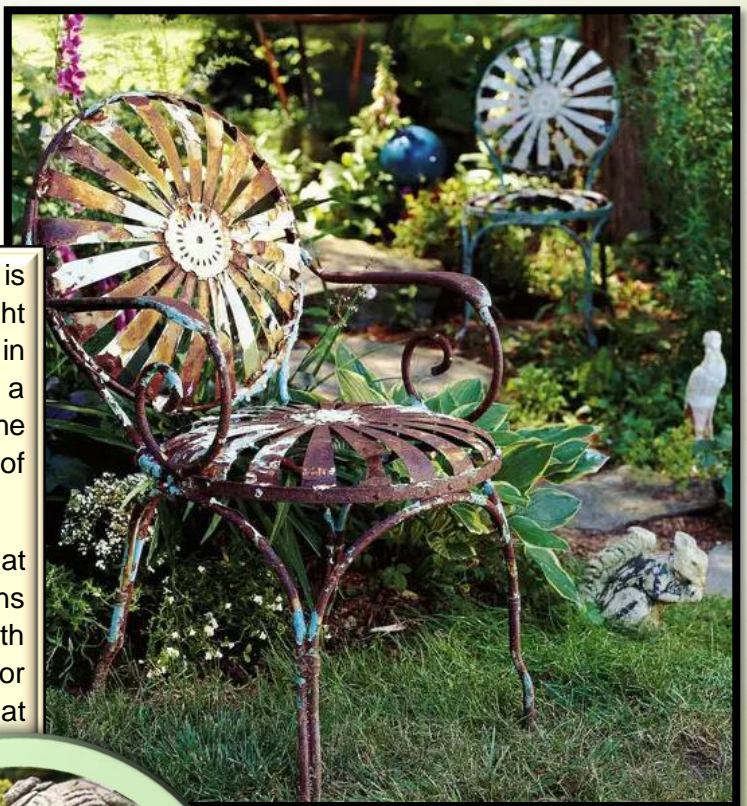
Inspiration for a more whimsical garden





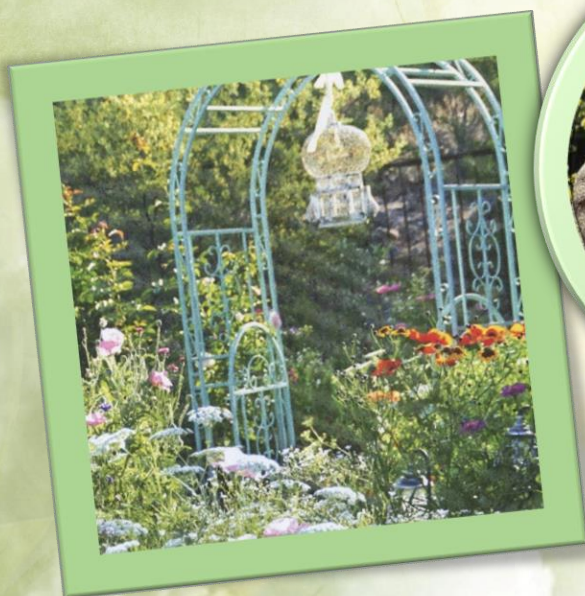
One of the benefits of whimsical landscaping design ideas is the ability to meld garden styles without feeling chaotic. To do that effectively, pick a single pattern or bright color for uniformity, or one large element that adds a focal point, such as this oversize, folk-art style sculpture.

**Design Tip:** Position a main element in a place of honor: at the end of a winding path, amid a riot of flowers, or at an entrance. This placement showcases the piece and creates a sense of arrival for visitors.



Part of adding whimsical landscaping design ideas is incorporating patina or layering to gardens. That might mean including practical items, such as a chair, in impractical places, such as in the middle of a flowerbed. The purpose is not so much to use the piece as it is to highlight the beauty and originality of the item, such as these Carre pillow-style chairs.

**Design Tip:** Nestle real resting places in niches and at the ends of pathways to create focal-point destinations for whimsical elements that combine the practical with the unexpected. Splash the seating with color, or position a vignette so it is primarily visible from that spot.



Whimsical landscaping design ideas often come from found bits and pieces. Grouped together, those items have impact. It doesn't matter that they were intended for completely separate purposes. Here, a fire-hose winder, a rusted children's pedal car, and a fencing fragment add texture to a collection of pretty flowers.



The art of getting motivated to incorporate your own whimsical landscaping design ideas is figuring out how to use items as vignettes to draw the eye or create a focal point. Repetition of similar pieces is one visual trick; here, a grouping of old watering cans, tilted in the same direction, adds a fun, festive face to an otherwise bare shed wall.





If flowers can't provide the color you want, especially in shady areas, whimsical landscaping design ideas might do the trick. Here, a collection of blue bottles adds pop and vibrance; the collection resembles a cloudlike sculpture.

**Design Tip:** Insert color in uncommon forms. Arrange bright-color bowling balls along a path. Coat old garden tools with vibrant hue and tuck the collection beneath of a group of ferns or hostas. Create an edging of bright tiles along the perimeter of a foliage grouping.

**Design Tip:** Salvaged windows can be useful and beautiful garden accents. Use them to top cold frames. Hang window frames on a fence or wall as [garden art](#). Add a shelf to a window frame and suspend it in the garden; rest potted plants on the shelf and surround the vignette with larger plants.



Ordinary grapevine wreath can give an interesting organic twist to a variety of garden elements, including a birdbath. Here, grapevine is twisted around a shallow ceramic bowl. Loops of copper wire suspend the birdbath from a branch. Twigs tucked in here and there add to the natural look.



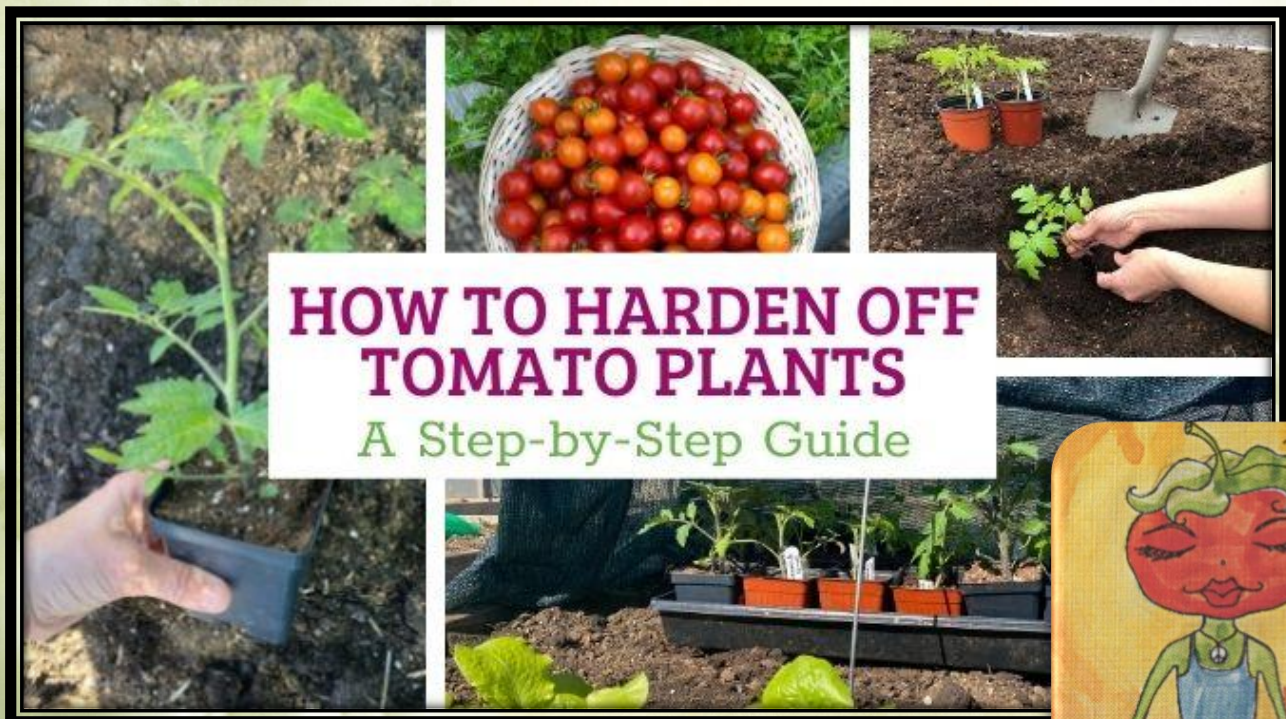
# SHARE YOUR GARDEN!

BIG OR SMALL,  
MANICURED OR WILD  
ABANDON, CONTACT  
HANNAH HAYES AT  
[chialater@gmail.com](mailto:chialater@gmail.com)

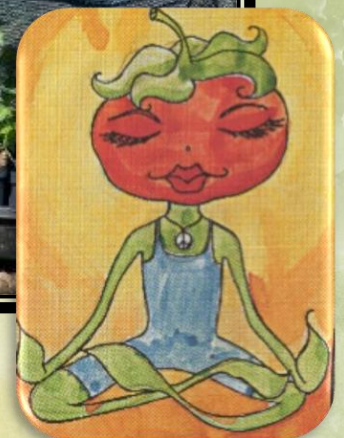
TO RESERVE A DATE THIS  
SUMMER TO SHARE  
YOUR GARDEN WITH  
FELLOW EGC MEMBERS.



Cut and paste the link below for a step-by-step 'How To' by Jessica Walliser  
<https://savvygardening.com/how-to-harden-off-tomato-plants/>



Submitted by Cherie Luke



While there are different options on how to get rid of pocket gophers, 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. For a more entertaining tutorial on how to use the black box, cut and paste the link below into your browser. If she can do it in a mini skirt and boots, so can YOU! Good luck!

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



## GOT POCKET GOPHERS?



Before you put time and energy into trapping, 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 un-covered, it is not active; move on to the next mound of dirt.



# Naturally Printed with Leaf Pounding

By JOHANNA LOVE



Professionally patterned fabric is gorgeous, but I don't always have a swatch on hand for quick gift wrap. I often gift family and friends with all-natural, organic bath products, so making naturally printed gift wrap that is also organic fits the bill. For those of us with gardens full of plants and flowers, we have all the natural-printing materials we could ever need right at our fingertips. To create custom fabric, you simply need leaves/flowers, fabric, a hammer, a hard surface, and a few minutes worth of elbow grease.

Where I live, Japanese maple and bougainvillea are basically evergreens, but you can use any part of any plant for a project like this. For the best results, leaves (in this case maple) or veiny flower petals (in this case bougainvillea) have interesting textures that are preserved even after a heavy pounding.

## Supplies

- Hammer/Flat rock
- Leaves
- Natural plant-fiber fabric: 100% cotton/linen/hemp, etc., white/light colored
- Scissors
- Wood surface

## To Make

Cut the fabric to the size needed for wrapping the gift. Lay the fabric flat on a wood surface. Place the leaves along one half of the fabric, and fold the other half over the top; this will give you a mirrored leaf print, essentially like a Rorschach inkblot test. Hold the fabric flat with one hand while pounding repeatedly over every part of every leaf. You will see the leaf stain soak through the fabric if you have pounded one area enough. Once all the parts of all leaves have stained through the top fabric layer, unfold and pull away the plant matter. Pull away the threads of the fabric edges to add a frayed touch.



## Tips

- A toothbrush or pipe cleaner could help you gently brush away any extra plant matter that sticks after pounding.
- If you want to make the leaf print more permanent to withstand washings, presoak the fabric in water with a fixative (1 cup of vinegar to 4 cups of water), and complete the pounding while the fabric is wet. The project that appears here was completed with dry, untreated fabric.



*"In the spring, at the  
end of the day, you  
should smell like dirt."*

— Margaret Atwood

# GARDEN FOLLIES

## ATTACK OF THE APHIDS

By Louise Heern – a garden journal flashback  
Reprinted from the Firestarter



*Early September, 2012*

I have a small stand of lupine. Five little plants total. The first season they started out late, but beautiful, and then the chipmunks ran up the stalks until they bent, and proceeded to eat all the flower buds, seed heads, whatever was available at the time, smashing the remainder of the plant in the process.

The second season they started out beautiful, but voles ate most of the roots before I realized what was going on and they never fully recovered. I dug up what I could salvage, planted them and two replacements in wire baskets and smothered them in vole repellent. Under my watchful eye, they grew 8 to 10 inches high, with hopeful little flower spikes peaking up from their centers. Somewhat of a victory, even though it was now late September.

The following season they are beautiful. Friday morning I gave them a little water and they looked great. Monday afternoon something was terribly wrong. They looked wilted and had an almost grey appearance. Upon closer inspection, I discovered they were completely covered in aphids! And the base of the plants were so infested that it looked like cottonwood flying in late August! The aphids were so large; I didn't even need my glasses to see them!! Where does this many aphids come from in two days?!?! I knew I should have taken a picture, as I had never seen anything like it!

But my adrenaline kicked-in instead ... Hose in hand, I violently jetted them off the struggling Lupine; but when the force of the jet hit the infested base of the plant, it scattered the aphids everywhere! Determined to win the battle, I got down on all fours to take a closer look. Their fat little neon bodies were alive and well and practically glowing green against the dark brown of the wet mulch. To date, I am still not sure what came over me, but I proceed to single-handedly smash every single one I could find; rolling and smashing the mulch around in my gloved hands to ensure there were no survivors! I am embarrassed to admit that I was actually finding pleasure in this!

Noticing a shadow, I look up to see my husband standing over me; both palms facing upwards, that incredulous look on his face. "Smashing aphids" I offered. "Perhaps you should consider getting a job," he suggested. I guess it wouldn't have looked so bad if earlier in the day he hadn't caught me swatting yellow-jackets off the hummingbird feeders with the fly swatter.

*Fast forward to late June, 2015.*

The little Lupine stand comes back two-fold. It's beautiful. But wait! There are those pesky aphids again! They are covering the entire stand! After several days of smashing I still cannot keep up. Determined not to use insecticide, I do my research. I go to the garden center and purchase 2,000 lady bugs. As directed, I lightly spray the Lupine stand with water, (apparently lady bugs often leave the site in search of water) and to ensure they hang around, I release the lady bugs at dusk (they don't fly at night). I take graphic pictures of the lady bugs devouring the aphids, which by the way, were almost the same size as the lady bugs. Next morning I am very happy to see the lady bugs are still hanging out in the Lupine stand; but by late afternoon when I check back, I count only 8 lady bugs! My Lupine stand now looks like a bomb site; stark empty stalks sporting nothing but fuzzy seed heads and a few dried flower petals. And, somewhere on Floyd Hill, there are 1,992 lady bugs.

Maybe I will look for employment; but I can't work in the summer. There's too much gardening to do!!



***Note from the editor: To date, I still have the stand of Lupine and they still have aphids!***



**Did you know...**



Adam Woodruff

**The more diversity in structure and plant type, the more homes you provide for wildlife. In fact, when you plant for pollinating insects, you plant for so much more! Pollinating insects give us one in three bites of food! In addition, insects comprise 100 percent of a baby songbird's diet. Most songbird populations are in decline at a rate of 1 to 3 percent annually.**







**PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR**  
**EGC BUSINESS PARTNERS**  
**THIS SUMMER!**

**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**



**GARDEN**



## THE 2022 EGC HIGH ALTITUDE GARDEN TOUR JULY 16, 2022

This year's tour will feature six gardens located through the Evergreen foothills. Docents will be in all our showcased gardens to answer questions and provide guidance. Artists and musicians may also be on hand for your enjoyment. For more details please visit our website at <https://www.evergreengardenclub.org/2022-garden-tour>

**A special thank you to all our Committee Chairs and volunteers.  
This could not happen without you!**

Please join us at the **Evergreen Gallery** downtown Evergreen Saturday evening July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm for a reception to benefit the upcoming EGC Garden Tour. Owner, Beth Riser has graciously conducted a call-for-artwork called 'Blooming Evergreen,' in which a community art show will be on display bringing proceeds and awareness to benefit the tour.

### ***A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SPONSORS!***

**STEPHEN PARKS GOLDSMITH  
JAVA GROOVE  
NELLYBELLE GENERAL STORE  
SUNDANCE GARDENS  
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THE EVERGREEN GALLERY  
CREEKSIDE GARDENS  
CANYON COURIER  
JAREDS  
THE HOLLY BERRY**



# NATURAL RESOURCES

By Hannah Hayes

The long wait is over and it's finally gardening season here at elevation. When I'm out in my garden it's possible to leave all cares behind. The fresh air and the sun rejuvenate me and I feel present in the moment with nature. It turns out there's something in our soil, mycobacterium vacate, that has been shown to provide therapy for a variety of ailments. This bacteria lives naturally in our soil. It has been found to increase serotonin and decrease anxiety offsetting depression. Just one teaspoon of soil contains between 100 million and 1 billion bacteria. They improve conditions for plants and us too.

I remember in my early reading about parenting a book called Magical Child. It presented two types of parents—those whose children were always immaculately clean and those who were allowed to play in the dirt. I remember the author quoting a parent who said, "No, no, no. Dirty, dirty, dirty." I vowed not be that parent and let my daughter play in the dirt. I'd like to think it provided an outlet for stress that continues to this day in her beautiful flower-filled yard.

While scientists continue to experiment with mycobacterium vacate, its side effects have been remarkable. Patients report feeling happier and able to think more clearly. We are now seeing children who don't spend time outdoors are at greater risk of immune diseases and allergies. The pandemic upped our use of antibacterial products that in the long term weaken our defenses. It's time to set these aside.

We breathe this beneficial bacteria as we garden and it gets into cuts on our hands. Farmer's markets help us escape the ultra cleanliness in the supermarket. Now is the season to overcome our "nature deficiency disorder" and get outdoors. Happy gardening!

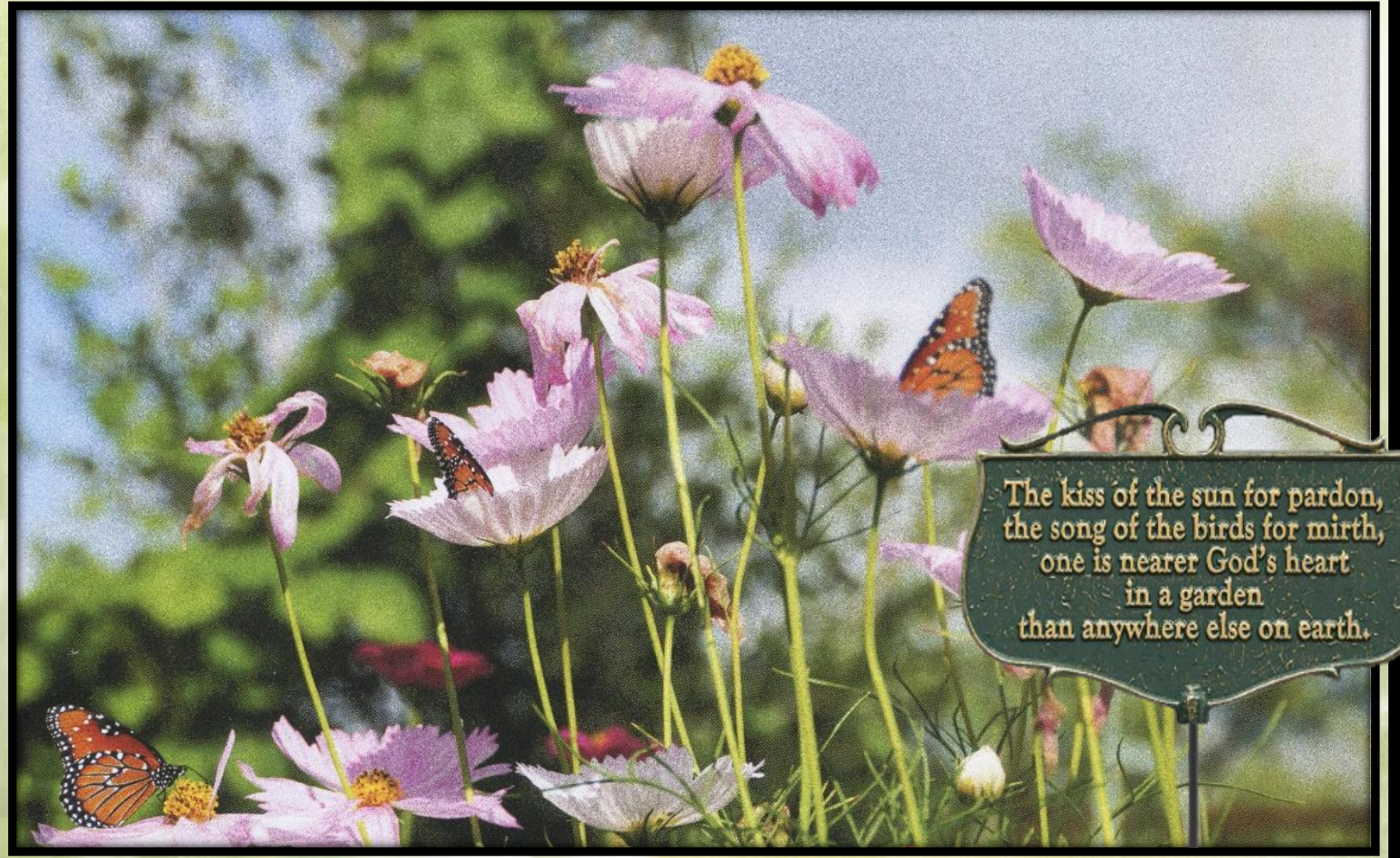
"I am your moon and your moonlight too  
I am your flower garden and your water too  
I have come all this way, eager for you  
Without shoes or shawl  
I want you to laugh  
To kill all your worries  
To love you  
To nourish you."

— [Rumi](#)

*A big Thank You to this year's board,  
committee members, garden leaders  
And all our member volunteers for another great year!*

**THE EGC 2021-2022 BOARD**

Hannah Hayes, Vice President; Janet Gluskoter, Secretary; Mary Beth Mainero, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President;  
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# 12 of the Sexiest Things to Grow in your Colorado (veggie) Garden this Summer

Article by the *Denver Post*

[The 12 sexiest things to grow in your Colorado garden this year – The Denver Post](#)



## PURPLE WONDER STRAWBERRY

This hipster is not your average strawberry. It's a sweet, two-tone treat with burgundy-purple skin hiding a red heart. June-bearing plants produce early, ushering in summer with bountiful harvests. Bred by Courtney Weber at Cornell University; get it at Cook's Garden ([cooksgarden.com](http://cooksgarden.com), \$11.95 per plant).



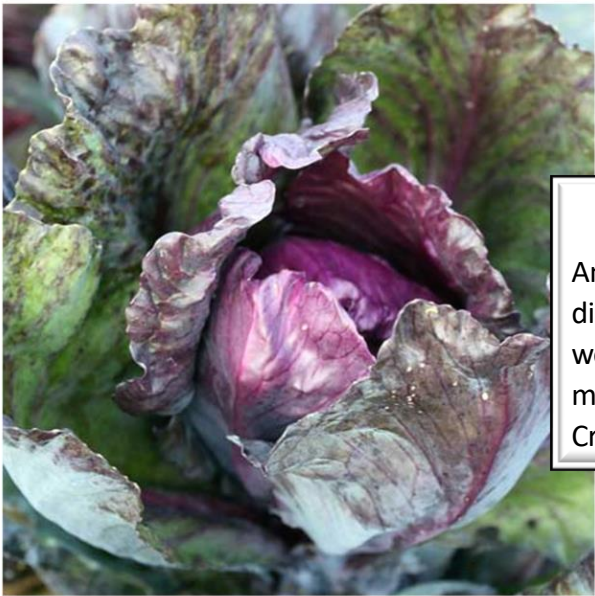
## PHOENIX NASTURTIUM

Herb and edible-flower aficionados will thrill to this new variety of *Tropaeolum minus*. Instead of conventional, rounded petals, Phoenix's flower petals are cut into three or four points, like flames. The result is a stunning display of edible beauty. Well-behaved and compact in the flower bed, this plant changes form if planted in hanging baskets and will give you trailing, floral-flamed stems. Found at Park seed ([parkseed.com](http://parkseed.com), \$4.95).



### **RUBY GLOW ROMAINE**

Love your lettuce, but want to add a bit more pizzazz? Check out Ruby Glow Romaine, shown on Grow's cover. The dark purple leaves are a designer's delight, setting off lighter-colored plants or flowers in the bed. Cooks will love it, too, for its tasty, crisp leaves. Harvest it, then delight in discovering that the heart of each head is an eye-popping combination of lime green and ruby red. Great for container or mountain gardeners; order from Cook's Garden ([cooksgarden.com](http://cooksgarden.com), \$6.95).



### **KALIBOS CABBAGE**

Another purple performer for the garden, this cabbage forms diminutive spires of mauve leaves with snow white hearts. You won't have to plan for cabbage that feeds thousands — the petite, mild-flavored, 2-pound heads are perfect for single meals. Baker Creek Heirloom seeds has them ([rareseeds.com](http://rareseeds.com), \$3).



### **RAINBOW CARROTS**

These carrots hit a market sweet spot for gardeners and foodies alike, wooing them with roots of yellow, orange, purple, and white. If you want to plant a rainbow, you can find a mix at FedCo ([fedcoseeds.com](http://fedcoseeds.com), \$2.60) or at many other seed companies.

But for gardeners who want a carrot of a different color, get Atomic Red from Botanical Interests ([botanicalinterests.com](http://botanicalinterests.com), \$2.69). Atomic Red is delicious raw, but doesn't mind the heat of the kitchen; however you cook them, the colors of their screaming red skin and orange core intensify.



### PEREGION BEANS

These beans may not look like much on the vine, but out of the pod they're considered one of the most beautiful dried beans. Swirled and marbled in hues of mocha, cocoa, and white, they keep their colors through cooking for decorative dishes. Add to that their sublime flavor, and this heirloom from Oregon is worthy of a hardcore foodie's garden. Vermont Bean Seed company has them ([vermontbean.com](http://vermontbean.com), \$2.85).

### TOM THUMB PEA

Mountain gardeners will also love Tom Thumb pea, an English heirloom that's tough enough to take your fickle weather and short season. The dwarf, 8-inch-tall plant loads itself down with pods that are sweet and tender when harvested young, or let the pods swell with full-sized peas to use as a shelling pea. Plant the seeds in containers, cold frames, hoop houses, or planting beds. Find them at Seed Savers Exchange ([seedsavers.org](http://seedsavers.org), \$2.99).



### AUTUMN STAR KALETTES

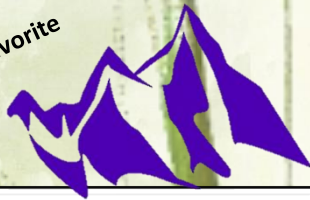
Rounding out the palette of petites is Autumn Star Kalettes, an improvement on the cross between Brussels sprouts and kale. The bicolored Kalettes are best when planted in fertile soils, well-fertilized, and irrigated in dry weather. Buffer them from our intense sun and heat with shade cloth or shade in the afternoon. Harvest when florets are 2 inches in diameter. A Johnny's Selected Seeds exclusive ([johnnyseeds.com](http://johnnyseeds.com), \$6.95).



### GLASS GEM CORN

With kernels that look like dyed pearls, this corn's spectacular beauty created an Internet frenzy when it was first introduced in 2010. Ear after ear is filled with translucent, jewel-colored kernels, which can be used for popcorn, ground into flour, or left to decorate your home. This corn needs room, producing side tillers on 6-to-9-foot stalks, and takes 120 growing days. For best kernel color, harvest once the husks are dry and brown. Found exclusively at Native Seed ([shop.nativeseeds.org](http://shop.nativeseeds.org), \$5.95).

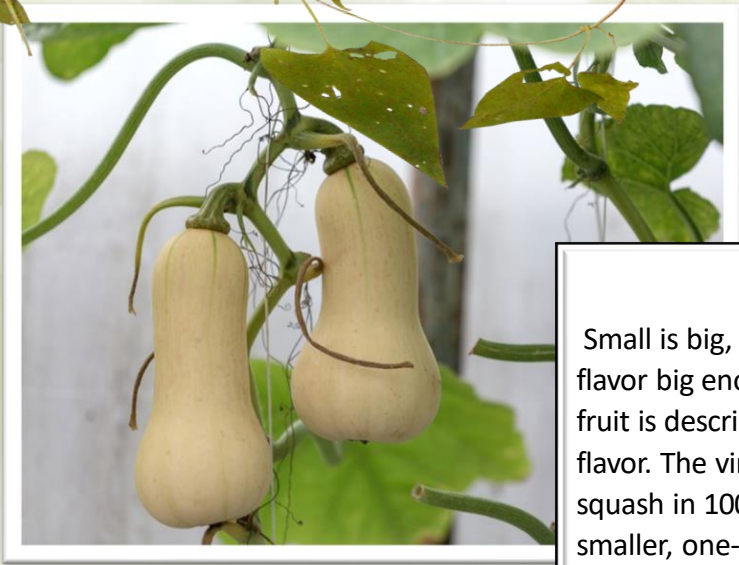
High Altitude Favorite



### CANDY MOUNTAIN CORN

This one will satisfy your sweet-corn tooth even if you live at elevation. Needing only 70 days to mature (and if you can keep the wildlife from getting it), this super-sweet variety is a summer luxury for plains or mountains. Find it at Seed's Trust ([seedstrust.com](http://seedstrust.com), \$4.95).





## BUTTERSCOTCH SQUASH

Small is big, and Butterscotch squash is a mini-butternut with flavor big enough to qualify it as an All-America Selection. The fruit is described as having an unusually rich, sweet, starchy flavor. The vines stay small, producing the one- to two-pound squash in 100 days. Spacing is the key to fruit size; if you want smaller, one-pound fruit, crowd them slightly. Use within three months of harvest because they don't store long. Johnny's Selected Seeds ([johnnyseeds.com](http://johnnyseeds.com), \$4.10).



## CUCAMELON, MEXICAN SOUR GHERKIN

*Melothria scabra*

Cucamelon, Mexican sour gherkin *Melothria scabra*, also called Mouse melon, has tiny, watermelon-like fruits sure to be a conversation piece at summer garden parties. Their cucumber flavor with a tang of sourness gives them a slightly pickled flavor without the brine. Give the 10-foot vine room to ramble and plan on picking the fruit often; the sourness intensifies as they mature. Carried by Botanical Interests ([botanicalinterests.com](http://botanicalinterests.com), \$2.39).

Interested in growing your own Cucamelons? Go to:

[How to Grow Cucamelons \(Mouse Melons\)](http://practicalselfreliance.com)  
([practicalselfreliance.com](http://practicalselfreliance.com))

Wishing you a warm and sunny, happy and healthy garden-filled summer!

Please send any submissions or corrections for the Wild Iris to Louise Heern at [louiseheern@gmail.com](mailto:louiseheern@gmail.com)  
Happy Gardening!