



Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS



MARCH 2022

Hello Wonderful EGC Members,

Spring is knocking at the door and I hope it won't be long before our dormant, colorless yards explode with blooms and color.

As the snow melts and bare spots appear in the garden, I have high hopes we will soon see the foliage of bulbs emerging from the frozen ground and maybe a few blooms as well.

I hope you have a glorious beginning to spring!

“Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished”

Lao Tzu

Love, peace and gardens!

Cherie Luke

EGC President

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY

March 8, 2022

9:00 a.m. Social Time

9:30 am Meeting Begins

BERGEN PARK FIRE TRAINING CENTER

THE MARCH PROGRAM

JEFFCO OPEN SPACE

By

**Jennee Hancock
History Educator &
Failed Gardener**

**February 8, 2022
Evergreen Garden Club
General Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Cherie Luke at 9:30 via Zoom. Board members present were Hannah Hayes, Vice President; Kim Gustafson, 2nd Vice President; Helen McLeman, Treasurer; and Janet Gluskoter, Secretary. Not in attendance: Julie Ann Courim, Technology Officer

President's Report - Cherie stated that we still need another garden for the tour in July. She has one possibility but would like to ask everyone to help find one more. We acknowledged all February birthdays and wished them well.

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

Treasurer's Report - Helen stated that there were no expenditures this month. Payments received for one returning member, two new members and one business.

Vice President's Report - Hannah stated that our March speaker is still undecided.

2nd Vice President's Report - Kim mentioned that two new members were added to the online directory. Kim would like to ask everyone to bring a friend to upcoming meetings to help increase membership.

Technology Officer's Report - No report.

Committee Reports

Public Gardens Coordinator Annell Hoy - No report.

Garden Tour Coordinator Louise Heern - No report.

Guest Speaker Dave Wann, The Zen of Gardening; Dave is the author of nine books on sustainability and one novel. Dave gave a great presentation on Harmony Village, a cohousing community in Golden and invited the club to come for a tour.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Gluskoter
Secretary Evergreen Garden Club

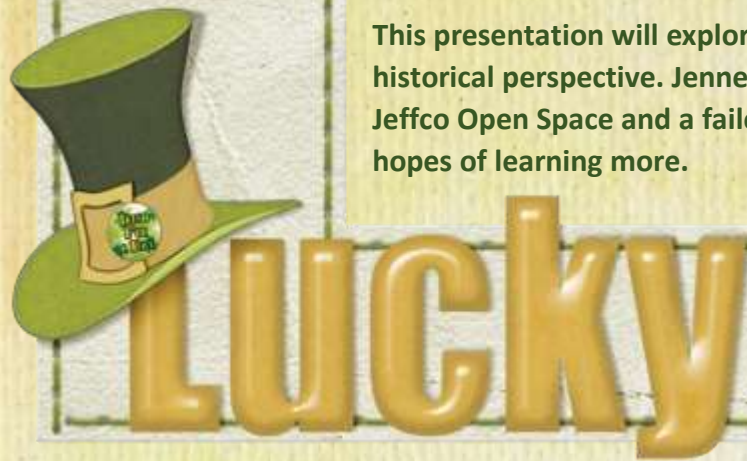


Guests are Welcome!

**WE'RE BACK IN THE BERGEN FIRE TRAINING CENTER
FOR THE UPCOMING MARCH MEETING!
WHAT CAN A PERSON GROW IN THE FOOTHILLS?
JOIN US FOR THE PRESENTATION AND FIND OUT!
TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2022**

Today's gardens are filled with a variety and bounty perhaps unimaginable in the past. Yet modern gardeners can appreciate the challenges and choices of those who worked the soil in earlier times.

This presentation will explore cultivation in the foothills from a historical perspective. Jennee Hancock is a history educator with Jeffco Open Space and a failed gardener who just keeps trying in hopes of learning more.



JARED'S  **NURSERY**

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS AT JARED'S

March 5th and 6th Seed Starting

Have you had problems with starting seeds? Come in and get your questions answered and leave with great tips and tricks.

March 19th and 20th - Orchid 101

This mini workshop will cover the basics of orchid care.



Gilpin County - Colorado State University Seedling Trees, Shrubs & Native Perennial Wild Flowers

Orders are due by April 15, 2022; Pick up in late May
at <http://gilpin.extension.colostate.edu/programs/natu/seedling-trees/>

Chokecherries, Native Plum, Nanking Cherry, Red-Osier Dogwood, Wax Currant, Aspen, Blue Spruce, Englemann Spruce, Mountain Mahogany and Antelope Bitterbrush are often offered; follow the link above for details



A note from
Annell Hoy

Community Garden Leaders it's March!

Time to check in with your team members for this summer.
If you need help with new volunteers, please let me know.

New and existing members – if you would like to help in one of our community gardens this summer, or would like recommendations for placement, please contact me at annell517@yahoo.com

Many Thanks and Happy Gardening Soon!
Annell Hoy





**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!
2022 EGC
GARDEN TOUR
JULY 16, 2022
10:00 AM -
3:00 PM**

EGC GARDEN TOUR JULY 16, 2022

The EGC Garden Tour committee is about to ramp up planning for our upcoming tour on July 16, 2022 from 10 am until 3:00 pm. Each member is encouraged to help with this fun, major fundraising event for the club!

Please contact Chairperson Louise Heern for details.
louiseheern@gmail.com

Designing with Conifers: Layers of Texture for your Garden



This is part of an article written by Jay Sifford, a Garden Designer in Charlotte, NC who is a frequent contributor to the popular Houzz website. To save time and space, I have eliminated the conifers from his article that are not suited for our high altitude; however, I hope you will find the rest of his article informative and inspiring. Below is the link should you like to read it in its entirety or search for others.

<http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/44942725/list/designing-with-conifers-layers-of-texture-for-your-garden>

Texture is a component of an exceptional garden, one that is composed of many different layers, offering new discoveries with each visit. We all inherently know what texture is but sometimes have difficulty defining it. Texture is the feeling, appearance or consistency of interwoven elements like raw silk or burlap. When we use the term, we generally use it to describe highly textural things that exemplify three dimensions and beg us to touch them.

Many plants exhibit a high degree of texture. Think of exfoliating bark on birches and fields of switchgrass dancing in the wind. Conifers exhibit more texture than most plants commonly found in the garden. Let's look at some of them and how to use them to introduce texture.



Jay Sifford Garden Design

How to Use Conifers to Emphasize Texture

Contrast with hardscaping and art. Conifers can be used to contrast a hardscape; doing so further highlights their texture. This weeping Norway spruce (*Picea abies* 'Pendula', zones 2 to 8) contrasts beautifully with these highly textured boulders. Notice how the vertical lines of the spruce draw the eye to notice the horizontal and vertical texture of the stone.

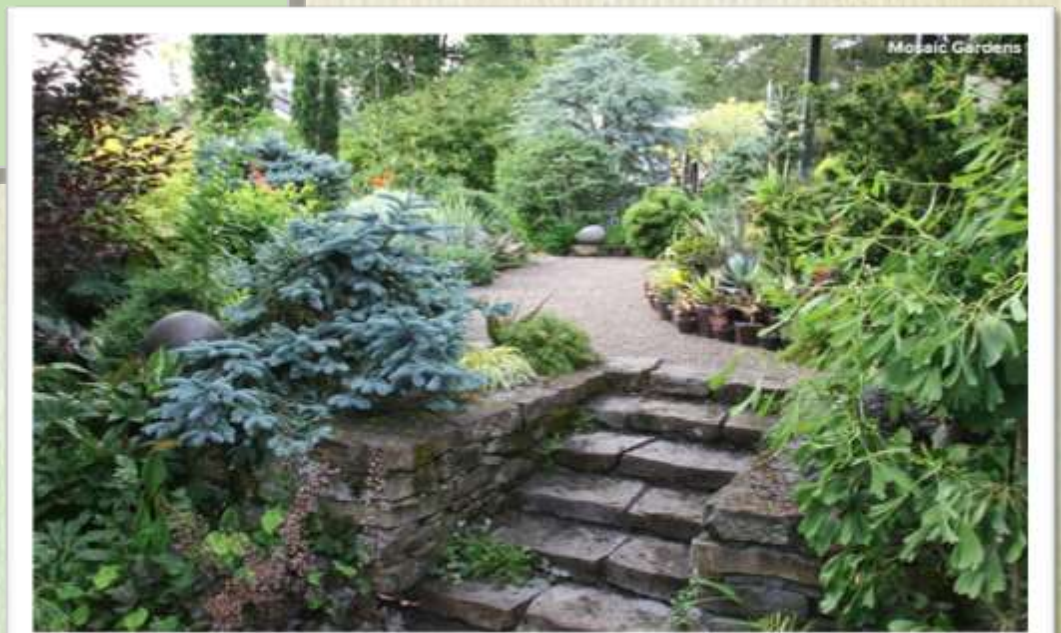
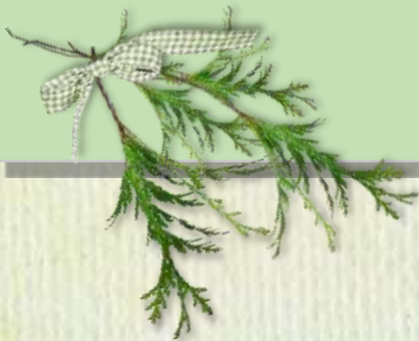
Conifers can also complement and contrast sculpture and oversize pottery with great effect.





From sharp and spiky to soft and fern-like, conifers are studies in textures. These Colorado blue spruces (*Picea pungens* cvs. USDA zones 3 to 7) in the background anchor this garden and exhibit a coarse texture, while the white pines (*Pinus strobus* cvs, zones 3 to 8) and the Alberta spruces (*Picea glauca* 'Conica', zones 2 to 7) bring in a soft, fuzzy textural quality that draws us in. The chartreuse junipers low in the foreground have a deceptively soft, airy quality, as these are, in fact, less desirable to touch.

It is the artistic blending of these textures that gives this garden depth and interest. It is what makes you pause to take a second look. Like an artist uses a variety of brushes, paints and palette knives to craft a painting, you can use a variety of conifers as your tools to craft a sensual and personal garden. Here are some suggested plants with which to stock your palette.



highlight mixed beds. When used in this way, conifers contrast beautifully with other edibles. Frequently, in fact, their high contrast with neighboring plants elevates them to the status of living sculpture.



Arborvitae. The arborvitae is another member of the cypress family and a useful tool in creating artistic textural gardens. Like the *Chamaecyparis*, it generally exhibits flat, textural fern-like foliage. While we generally picture the taller pyramidal arborvitae that are commonly used for hedges, there are several dwarf and rounded forms available. Mr. Bowling Ball (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Bobozam', zones 3 to 7) and Little Giant (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Little Giant', zones 3 to 8) are two suggested cultivars.

The three Mr. Bowling Ball arborvitae shown here play off the textural stone birdbath and take on a sculptural quality, planted unexpectedly in a gravel

seating area.



Junipers. This group of shrubs and small trees is probably the most maligned group of conifers in existence. Highly textural, many juniper s— like this Grey Owl cultivar (*Juniperus virginiana* 'Grey Owl', zones 2 to 9) — exhibit sharp foliage that conjures up painful childhood memories of hiding in the bushes.

Many of the newer juniper cultivars are user friendly and highly recommended. For color and texture, junipers are unsurpassed. Consider planting them with columnar spruces or firs for contrast.



Contrast conifers with one another. Because conifers have such varied sizes, shapes, colors and textures, it is exciting, and often intimidating, to use them together to create vignettes of high contrast and interest. Bedmates such as this Slowmound mugo pine (*Pinus mugo* 'Slowmound', zones 2 to 8) and this Curly Tops false cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Curly Tops', zones 4 to 8) provide year-round structure and high contrast based on size, shape, color and texture.

Don't be shy about using different conifers in close proximity. Your garden may just thank you.

IT'S TIME TO CLEAN YOUR BLUE BIRD HOUSES!



Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird. Photo:
Vicki Jauron/Audubon Photography Awards

HOLE-Y WARS!

The popularity of bluebirds has been a bonanza for Tree Swallows, which use nest boxes built to the same dimensions. However, since suitable nest sites are usually in short supply, there can be intense competition.

Thoughtful hosts often reduce friction between bluebirds and swallows by setting up two identical nest boxes about 10 feet apart. If bluebirds occupy one box, they'll drive away all other bluebirds, and if swallows occupy the other, they will drive away all other swallows, leaving one pair of each to nest in peace.



Habitat Hero

MAR
02

Habitat Hero | Wednesday, March 2, 2022 - 12:00pm Mountain

Wildscaping 101

(Online Event)
Learn the basics of bird-friendly gardening.

[Details »](#)

APR
20

Habitat Hero | Wednesday, April 20, 2022 - 12:00pm Mountain

Building Habitat Mosaics

(Online Event)
Discover a new app for growing the scale of native gardening.

[Details »](#)

Stay in the Know

Sign up for emails to stay up to date on how you can help and enjoy birds in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah.

Sign Up



Follow the link below for details on these online events!

[Habitat Hero](#) | [Audubon Rockies](#)

Best Wishes to all of
our EGC March
Birthday Boys & Girls!



Please send any corrections or future submissions
for the Wild Iris directly to
louiseheern@gmail.com





This Charming Town Is the Wildflower Capital of Colorado — Here's When to Visit to See the Blooms Peak

By Dobrina Zhekova; Dean Fikar/Getty Images

Winter sports enthusiasts and [vacationers](#) flock to Crested Butte for its top-notch skiing (it was just [ranked the second Snowiest Small Town in America](#)). But this quaint Colorado town, nestled in the Elk Mountains, has a lot more to offer even when a thick blanket of snow does not cover it.

Spring and summer visitors heading to C.B., as its residents call it, will find a spectacular display of blooming flowers — a natural phenomenon that has gained Crested Butte the nickname "the wildflower capital of Colorado."

Several mountain ranges, including the Maroon Bells and the San Juan Mountains to the south, have created the fertile soil and favorable climate wildflowers need to thrive. As a result, the vast meadows that surround the town become alive with vibrant pops of color once the snow starts to melt. Glacier lilies, lupines, and numerous sunflower varieties are some of the hundreds of wildflowers that grow here.





So, when is the best time of the year to visit and see the blooms?

"Typically, mid-June to late July is peak flowering [season]," Dr. David W. Inouye, University of Maryland biology professor emeritus, wrote in an email to *Travel + Leisure*. Inouye is also a principal investigator at the [Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory](#) (RMBL), located just north of Crested Butte.

Inouye explained that, in 2022, flowering may start earlier than usual because the region is on track to end up with a below-average snowpack. He added that the higher-altitude areas in Gunnison County — and in Colorado, in general — are where you can find the most diverse and abundant wildflowers.

"Typically, midseason flowers begin to express around the second and third week of July. The greatest abundance of species can be found blooming during this time," Rick Reavis, interpretive guide at the RMBL Visitor Center, wrote in an email to T+L. He added that, according to estimates, there are around 1,500 species of wildflowers in the area.

"Folks typically come to the area expecting to see several types of flowers blooming in the mountain meadows all at the same time," said Reavis. "Although, one may not be disappointed earlier or later in the season. There is a local saying that you can chase spring here in the mountains all the way into late August by following the snowmelt.

Because Crested Butte is entirely surrounded by public land, visitors can freely explore the meadows.

"One of the trails that begin to see wildflowers earliest in the season is Lupine trail, and [it] runs along a south-facing slope just above town," said Andrew Sandstrom, marketing director of the Gunnison Crested Butte Tourism Association. A list of other trails can be found on [Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association's website](#), which regularly posts updated reports on the conditions of more than 60 trails in the area.

7 Types of Fruit Trees

You Can Grow in Your Living Room

by Amanda Simms Re-printed from 'Food52'

There are decorative house plants and then there are edible plants that you tend to in a tiny kitchen garden. But what about in between?

If you're looking for an indoor plant that's both decorative *and* edible, look to the world of fruit trees! While many grow to be enormous in the wild and are native to perpetually sunny conditions, there are a number of dwarf plants that will do just fine—and even fruit! —in a big pot in your living room. Proper care and conditions (and a reliable nursery for sourcing them!) are extra important if you want an indoor fruit tree to prosper, but with freshly grown produce is the goal (and no garden required), we have confidence in your drive. Here's a primer on fruit trees that you can grow indoors.

1. Figs





Figs

FRUIT?

If you want a fig tree that fruits, steer clear of the ever-popular decorative fiddleleaf—which won't even consider it. Instead choose a small cultivar like *Brown Turkey* (also known as Negro Largo or Aubique Noire), which tolerates heavy pruning, is self-pollinating, and can thrive indoors. They'll sprout pretty oblong leaves.

PLANTING & CARE

The size of the pot you choose will factor into how large and productive your tree becomes (opt for a larger planter for more fruit, smaller if you need the fig tree to stay small). Water it about once a week, until it comes out of the drainage holes, and prune when it reaches the size you want.

HABITAT

While inedible fig trees do fine in indirect sunlight, edible cultivars will need to be positioned in bright light—right in line with a northern exposure would be ideal. They don't like the cold at all, so keep away from drafty doors and windows.

2. Lemons & 3. Limes



FRUIT?

If you want to grow lemons and limes inside, opt for a dwarf cultivar that self-pollinates—like *Meyer Lemon* (which doesn't require as much heat to ripen the fruit) or *Kaffir Lime*; they'll yield the quickest crop and the plant will stay a manageable size.

PLANTING & CARE

The best soil for growing healthy citrus trees is slightly acidic and loam-based (meaning 2:2:1 sand to silt to clay). They also like lots of moisture in the air—up to 50% humidity, ideally! —but you can simulate that environment by spritzing them regularly with water from a spray bottle. Let the soil fully dry out before watering.

HABITAT

No surprise here: Citrus plants need a whole lot of sunlight—8 to 12 hours of it every day. Place your tree in the sunniest spot you have—better yet if it's a room with double exposure (southern and eastern, say). And if you have any outdoor space, they'd appreciate a few months in the fresh air if you have a balmy summer.

4. Olives



FRUIT?

Self-pollinating and prolific (a single tree can produce as many as 20 pounds of fruit a year), olive trees do not require much care compared to other fruit trees. **When shopping for an indoor olive tree, keep in mind that many cultivars are purely ornamental, meaning they won't fruit, but there are great indoor varieties that will:** Consider an Arbequina—which is slow-growing and will drip water through the leaves (called "weeping")—or a Picholine, which is more upright.

PLANTING & CARE

Indoor olive trees need only be watered when the top inch of soil has dried out, and less in fall and winter when they take a natural rest.

HABITAT

An olive tree needs at least 6 hours of solid sunlight each day. Place it near a sunny, south-facing window (but not too close or the leaves will frizzle).



5. Avocados

FRUIT?

To be clear, it's very very tough to get an indoor avocado tree to fruit but it isn't impossible. Instead of growing one from a seed (that is, the pit—see above left), seek out a grafted starter plant that has some tissue from a tree that does produce good-tasting fruit. Naturally small trees—like *Wurtz*, *Gwen*, and *Whitsell*—are your best bet, and they don't have to be cross-pollinated to fruit.

PLANTING & CARE

Add some sand to the bottom of a pot and fill in with regular potting mix so your tree doesn't get wet feet, and water it regularly without letting the soil get sopping wet. Ripe fruit can be left hanging on the tree for a few weeks.

HABITAT

Warm-season plants, avocados like lots of bright light. Right in line with a south-facing window is your best shot at finding it a happy place!

6. Bananas



FRUIT?

Some banana trees produce edible fruit while others produce fruit you can't eat—and again you'll want to get a dwarf plant—such as *Super Dwarf Cavendish* or Dwarf Red—so that it doesn't grow too huge. They're self-fruitful, meaning they don't require a pollinator.

PLANTING & CARE

Your banana tree's soil should be light and peat-y; fertilize it monthly to keep it growing strong. They like lots of water due to their enormous leaves, but you'll want to let the soil dry out fully between waterings. The leaves can be misted to simulate a humid climate.

HABITAT

Lots of bright indirect sunlight is best, so set it up near a southern-facing exposure if possible. Rotate the plant periodically so that all sides get light.



7. Mulberries

FRUIT?

Yet again, you'll want to opt for a dwarf mulberry tree such as *Dwarf Everbearing* if you're growing it indoors. The fruit of a mulberry tree, which will look something like a blackberry but smaller, should be picked as soon as it's ripe—and the tree's fruit supply will ripen over time rather than all at once.

PLANTING & CARE

Regular potting soil works fine, as will regular watering! Mulberry trees are slow-growing and like roomy pots.

HABITAT

A warm, bright, sunny space is best for your mulberry tree; move it to a spot with full exposure from spring through fall, if possible.



THE PERFECT 'COLORADO' COMBINATION TAKEN FROM

'DESIGNER PLANT COMBINATIONS'

By SCOTT CALHOUN



PRICKLY PEARS AND FIREWHEELS

Coupling cactus and perennials takes a little planning. The main considerations are providing good drainage and selecting perennial species that will tolerate an infrequent watering regime in order not to drown the cactus. Here, I've used a substantial member of the prickly pear family in the middle of the planting, where it can stick its Mickey Mouse ears above flowering plants. To contrast with the blue-gray pads of the prickly pear, the bold red-and-yellow tipped daisies of firewheel are well suited to the purpose.





**Beau Jo's Pizza
Baskin Robbins
Chow Down**

**David Hanna Coldwell Banker
The Evergreen Gallery
Frames for all Reasons
HearthFire Books & Treats**

**The Holly Berry
Nellybelle General Store
Prime Lending
Stems
Steven Parks Goldsmith
Sundance Gardens
The Village Gourmet**



Memories Live on Forever in our Hearts

*Louise Mounsey's Celebration of Life will be at the Evergreen Lake House
Saturday April 9, 2022 starting at 11:30 for a couple of hours.
Hope everyone from the Garden Club will come.*

Bring your happy face!

She was less than two months from her 100th birthday.

*She wanted any donations in her name to be made to
Evergreen Garden Club, Evergreen Audubon or Bear Creek Cemetery.*

John & Diana Donovan

