



Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS



APRIL 2017

Greetings! Happy Spring and Happy Moisture!

I'm anxious to get out in my garden. Maybe, rake up the pine needles and watch the bulbs come up.

Those of you who attended the last meeting were treated with a wonderful program by our own Louise Heern on Gardening at High Altitudes. It was great to see the room filled with so many guests and potential members. A big welcome to all of you!

Please come to our next meeting April 11th. There will be a speaker from the Nature Center. See you on the 11th!

Joan

**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY
April 11, 2017**

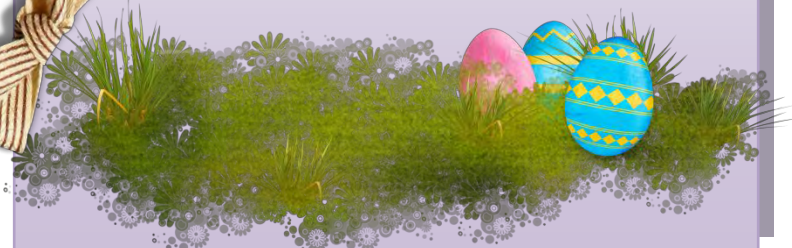
**BERGEN PARK FIRE
HOUSE
9:00 a.m. Social
9:30 a.m. Meeting**

THE PROGRAM FOR APRIL

Habitat and "Wisecaping"

The best landscaping ideas for bringing birds and wildlife to your back yard.

Colleen Kulesza from the Evergreen Audubon Nature Center will present this informative program.



**Evergreen Garden Club Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by President Joan Evashevski. Board members present were 2nd Co-Vice President, Annell Hoy, Secretary, Gloria Owens, Treasurer, Jane Wingquist, Susan Garcia, Tech Officer and Susan Blake, Past-President. Absent: 1st Vice President, Lindy Doty, and 2nd Co-Vice President Linda Berteau.

Cindy Gibson introduced 23 new guests. New members who joined are: Susan Beaudoin, Cate Esstman, Jennifer McGarth, Louise Sprot, Loretta Tsu, and Nicole Weary.

The President announced the March birthdays: Lucy Ginley, Ruth Alford, Jane Wingquist, Roseann Paslay, Marnie Chisholm. She also announced an invitation received from Center Stage to see the dress rehearsal of "Enchanted April," March 23rd at 7:30 p.m. There is no fee.

Secretary: Gloria Owens read a note from EChO Food Bank thanking the Evergreen Garden Club for the donation of 259 pounds of hearty soups, cornbread and other groceries. She also sent March birthday cards to five members listed above. The minutes of the February General meeting was approved as printed in the Wild Iris.

1st Vice-President: No report

Directory: Annell Hoy announced there were addendum updates to the directory available at the Welcoming Table.

Hospitality: Annell announced the Irish centerpiece was donated by Gayle Gordon.

Treasurer: Jane Wingquist stated there is \$2,561 in checking account and \$16,829 in savings account. She also announced receiving a flyer for a European Garden Tour for May 2017. Anyone interested regarding details were to see her. She also made a payment of \$52.00 to Forest Heights School for school bags. Jane announced any new visitors who wished to become members could go online and pay membership on our website, write a check or pay with a credit card to see her following meeting.

Publicity: No report

Natural Resources: Mary Dickoff announced to plan early gardens and to water gardens now due to lake of snow and dry winter. She stated the Foothills gardeners were planning a seed party Friday, 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Evergreen Garden Club Meeting Minutes (Con't)
March 14, 2017

Tech Officer: Susan Garcia announced her home sold and she will be moving to Virginia. She said she would need a replacement Tech Officer.

Public Gardens: Lynn Dimmick announced Peggy & Dale Fetchenier have stepped down as chair of the Evergreen Dam Garden. Anell Hoy has been appointed as the new chairperson.

Nominating: Anell Hoy announced Cherie Luke has accepted nomination to be 1st Vice President. Cindy Gibson has accepted nomination to be Secretary and Kris Waggoner accepted treasurer. Jean Lipson accepted to be at the Welcoming table. She stated we still need someone to accept Tech Officer.

Earth Day: Diane Aldridge announced all is ready for Earth Day at the Lake House on April 22, 2017.

Rodeo: Anell passed a clipboard around for persons who are interested in being a walker for the rodeo parade on June 17, 2017. Jan and Steven Parks donated 2000 bags for seed packing day May 4th from 9 – Noon at the Fire Training & Rescue Center. She also needs participants to carry the banner as well as handing out seeds. She is looking for an old antique truck for the parade.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Lynn Dimmick introduced Dick Swain who spoke on “Go Farms.” Also Louise Heern, a Master Gardener spoke on “High Altitude Gardening and understanding the challenges of gardening in the mountain community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gloria Owens, Secretary

THANK YOU!!

We would like to thank the following members for volunteering to fill the upcoming Evergreen Garden Club Board positions for 2017-2019.

Nominations and approval by the membership will be at the June 13, 2017 meeting.

1st Vice President: Cherie Luke
Secretary: Cindy Gibson
Treasurer: Kris Waggoner

Technology Officer: Vacant



THANK YOU!

**Jan and Steven Parks for
Donating 2000 Bags for
Seed Packing day May 4th!**

About Those Pocket Gophers...

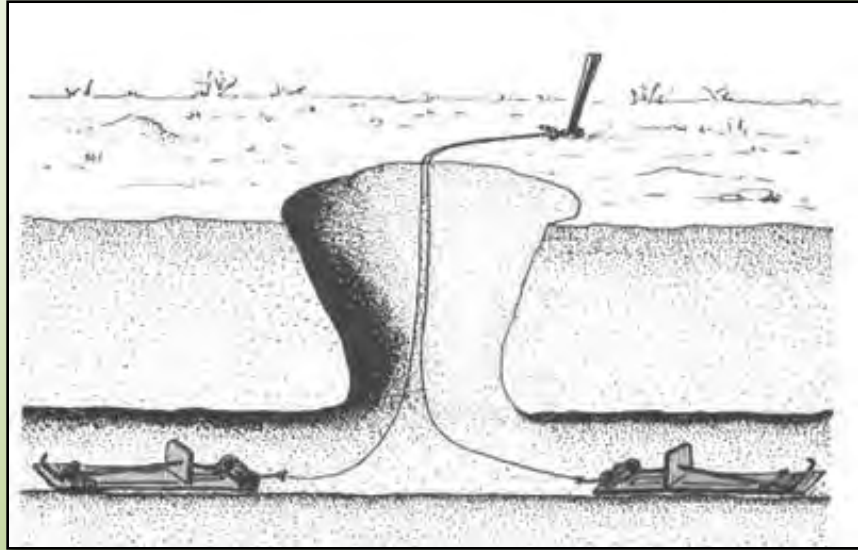
In an attempt to 'move things along' during the High Altitude Gardening Presentation last month, I feel I may have gotten a little ahead of myself and missed mentioning some important/useful information in regards to eliminating Pocket Gophers. Here's a more 'complete' re-cap!

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



Eliminating Pocket Gophers

Pocket gophers are typically too large for snap traps. There are multiple pocket gopher traps available on the market and said to be the most humane way to eliminate them, however, you must ensure they are placed correctly in the plug or tunnel and secured.



Before you put time and energy into either trapping or poisoning, make certain the burrow is active! To do this, 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.

PLUG



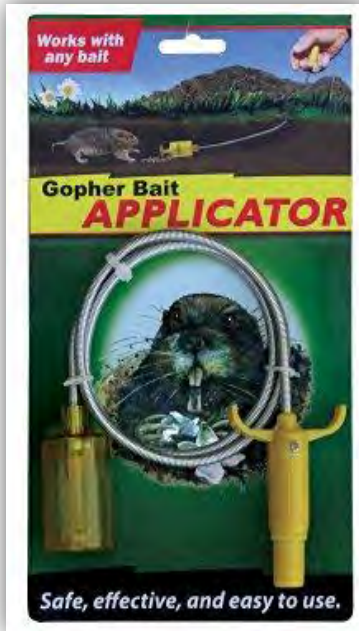
Eliminating Pocket Gophers

**** If you decide to use a rodenticide, choose the most effective, least toxic available to minimize potential non-target poisoning. Four rodenticides are registered for pocket gopher control in Colorado:**

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

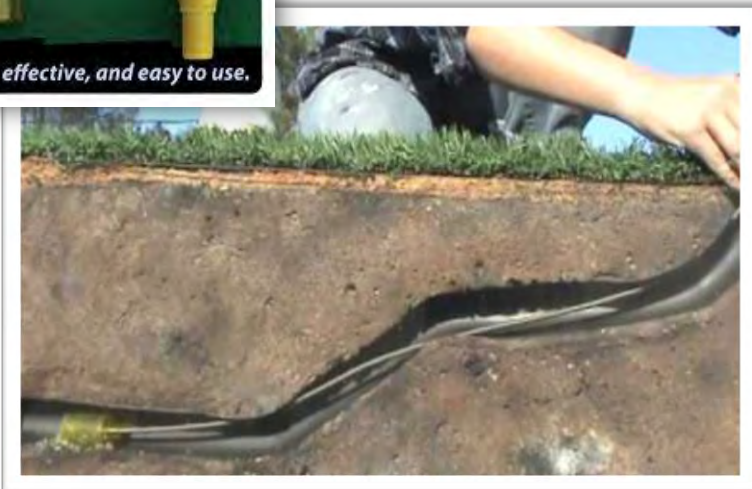
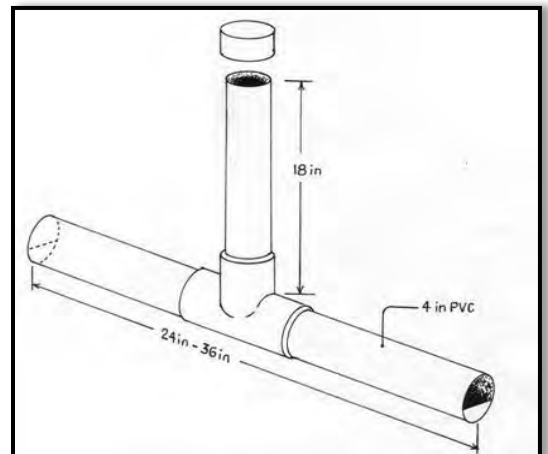
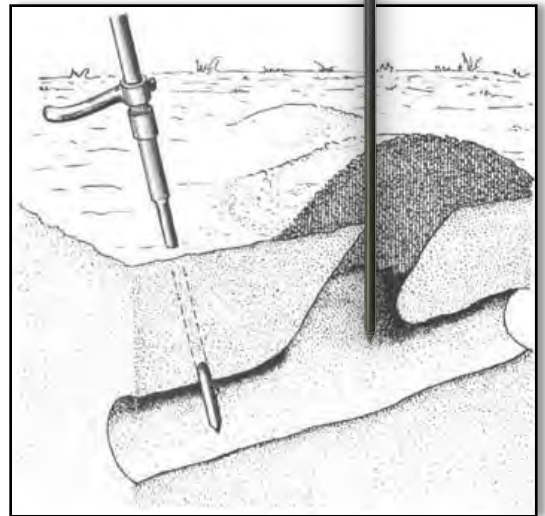
NOTE: BEFORE USING ANY RODENTICIDE, READ AND FOLLOW THE LABEL TO MINIMIZE HARM TO CHILDREN, PETS AND OFF-TARGET WILDLIFE.

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



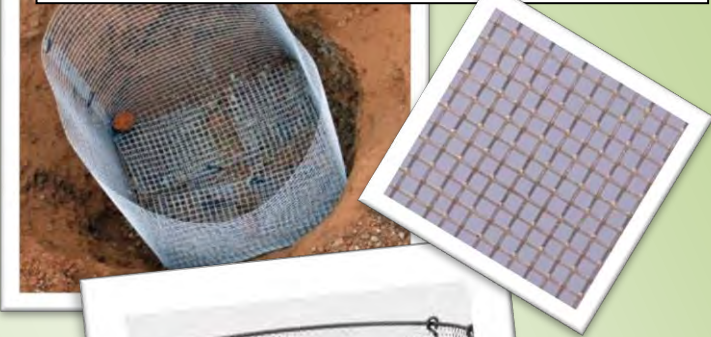
Care must be taken to ensure that the poison is actually placed in the tunnel.

There is equipment you can purchase for this reason.



Preventing Pocket Gopher Damage

Line the planting hole with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch hard cloth wire from Home Depot



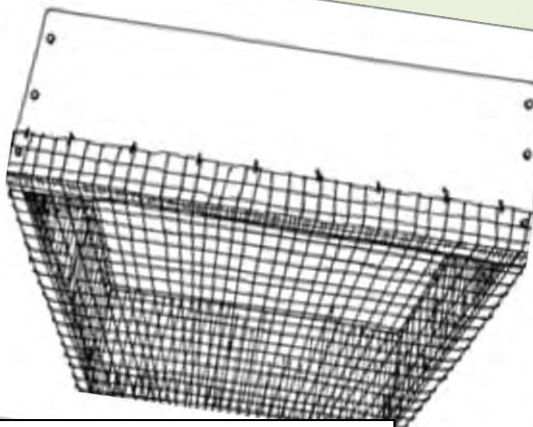
For shrubs, plant the large metal laundry basket from Target directly into the ground.



Plant small & medium wire baskets from the Dollar Store directly into the ground.



Line the bottom of raised beds.



Since pocket gophers rarely come above ground, some of the most effective natural predators are those that can access their tunnels.



Ermine



Rat Snakes



Determined Terriers!

Something to think about if you have a barn, workshop, large garage or outdoor area or horse property that needs rodent control. Learn more by following the link below.

WORKING CATS PROGRAM IS WORKING

December 13, 2016



DONATE TO DFL



SHARE VIA EMAIL



SHARE SOCIALLY

Finding a job can be a challenging and stressful process, even for people who are talented and personable. For hundreds of highly skilled but unsociable cats that have come to the Dumb Friends League, finding a job has been a lifesaver—literally.

Since 2013, more than 600 feral and semi-feral cats from our shelters have found "employment" at barns, stables and other outdoor settings through our working cats program. We receive these types of cats from various sources, including investigations cases or as transfers from partner shelters that cannot place them due to their behavior. Upon evaluation, if these cats show no desire to associate with people, we enroll them in our working cats program.

Like most shelters, the Dumb Friends League has for years advocated an indoor lifestyle for the majority of cats because it is safer and healthier than living outdoors. However, more shelters like ours are seeing the benefits of adopting out feral or unsocialized cats to caring owners who can give them a job.

"Not that long ago, unsocialized cats at our shelters would not have been candidates for adoption," says Apryl Steele, chief operating officer for the Dumb Friends League. "There's been a sea change in the mentality among both shelters and communities when they realize that these cats are stressed and uncomfortable living indoors, but can thrive in the world outside."

Cats in our working cats program receive a general health exam, spay/neuter surgery, microchip ID, Felv/FIV testing, age-appropriate vaccinations and a rabies vaccination prior to adoption. Patrons adopting working cats must complete our standard adoption application and meet with an adoption counselor to find a good match, and adopters must agree to provide warm shelter, adequate food and water, and regular veterinary care to their working cats.

In fiscal year 2016, we adopted out 406 working cats—an increase of more than 250 cats over the previous year. Says Customer Care Manager Kristin Elliott, "Interest in our program is growing from adopters who prefer a healthy, well-cared-for cat that has been sterilized and vaccinated over a kitten born in a neighbor's barn. We've even had people drive down from Wyoming to adopt our working cats. This program is a win-win for everyone."

Want to adopt a working cat? Learn more and complete our online application on our [working cats page](#) or call us at (303) 751-5772.



Working cat Milkshake on the job (adopted by Tiffany R.)

<http://www.ddfl.org/news/working-cat-program-working/>



EARTH DAY!

April 23, 2016 - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Evergreen Lake House

Join us at the 27th Annual Mountain Area Earth Day Fair from 10 am to 3 pm
Saturday, April 23 at the Evergreen Lake House.
Admission will be free to all ages. Donations will be encouraged.



SPRING

**Come Join Us for
Seed Packing Day!
May 4, 2017 from 9 to Noon
Bergen Firehouse Meeting Center**



**Be a Part of the
Evergreen Rodeo Parade!
June 17, 2017
We need Volunteers to Carry
the EGC Banner as well as
Walkers to Hand out Seeds!**


Please contact Annell Hoy





**APRIL
BIRTHDAYS!**

**CHRYL TWILLEY
IVY PARISH
LOUISE MOUNSEY
JO A. OVERTON
ROSE ZINN
BEV WICKLAND
JEAN LIPSON
STEVEN PARKS
JEFF DAVIDSON
CINDY GIBSON**



**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS!**

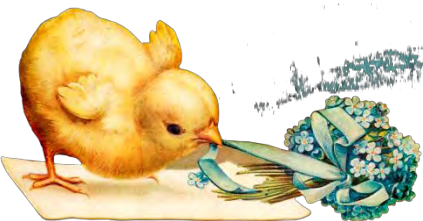
**SUSAN BEAUDOIN
CATE ESSTMAN
JENNIFER MCGRATH
LOUISE SPROT
LORETTA TSU
NICOLE WEARY**



Food, Fun & Fellowship
at the March EGC Meeting!



Pictures by Susan Blake



EGC March Program

It was a full house at the EGC March Meeting and Program with a total of 23 Guests and 31 members!

Dick Swain introduced the group to *Go Farms* – a non-profit with a mission to increase the supply and accessibility of fresh, healthy, home-grown food to local communities.

Yours truly, **(Louise Heern)** gave a presentation on *Understanding & Overcoming the Challenges of High Altitude Gardening*. Per some requests, several slides from the program are included below.



Spring is Here!



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Removing spent flowers and cutting back foliage is the only routine maintenance most perennials require. [Learn more](#)
- Landscaping & the Law**
Most restrictions governing private or public landscaping vary greatly from area to area. [Learn more](#)
- Winter Browning of Evergreens**
Brown evergreen needles, needle tips and branch tips are a common sight during the winter and early spring months in Colorado. [Learn more](#)
- Colorado Garden Style**
Gardeners are realizing that the potential for growing plants in Colorado is tremendous. [Learn more](#)

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Updated Monday, February 10, 2014

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- > Pinyon Pine
- > Ponderosa Pine
- > Rocky Mountain Juniper
- > White Fir

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- > "Best of" Trial Garden Winners
- > Geraniums
- > How to Plant a Tree
- > Japanese Beetles
- > Indoor Foliage
- > Ornamental Grasses
- > Pansies for Seasonal Color
- > Planting Pansies and Violas
- > Pruning Trees
- > Renovating a Lawn by Reseeding
- > Renovating the Home Lawn Using Sod

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FACT SHEETS

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Colorado State University

Extension

Native Herbaceous Perennials for Colorado Landscapes

Fact Sheet No. 7.242

Gardening Series | Flowers

By I. Shonle, L.G. Vickerman and J.E. Klett*

Why Grow Native Herbaceous Perennials?

There are many benefits to using Colorado native herbaceous perennials for home and commercial landscapes. They are naturally adapted to Colorado's climates, soils and environmental conditions. When they are correctly sited, they make ideal plants for a sustainable landscape. Native herbaceous perennials require less external inputs such as watering, fertilizing and other cultural factors when the planting site mimics the plant's native habitat.

Using Colorado natives in landscapes may attract a variety of wildlife including mammals, birds, butterflies and other native pollinators. Rapid urbanization in the state is reducing biodiversity (the number of different species found in a given area) as habitat is removed for building and road construction. Landscaping with natives on a large, or small, scale helps maintain biodiversity that otherwise would be lost to development.

The perennials listed in Table 1 were specifically chosen because they require low or moderate amounts of water. Not all perennials listed are available at all nurseries and garden centers, so it may be necessary to contact a number of commercial outlets to find a specific plant. If a perennial is not sold in the trade, asking for it may improve its future availability. Native perennials should not be collected from the wild because this reduces biodiversity, causes a disturbed area that may be invaded by weeds, and may be illegal. Transplanting a plant from the wild to the garden is rarely successful because of root damage and transplant shock.

*I. Shonle, Colorado State University Extension agent, Gilpin county; J. Klett, Extension landscape horticulture specialist; L.G. Vickerman, professor, department of horticulture and landscape architecture; L.G. Vickerman, former Extension agent. First edition 4/2014



Figure 1: *Callirhoe involucrata* (Purple poppy mallow).

Most of the perennials listed in Table 1 are available as container-grown plants. Native perennials often do not have as great a visual impact in the container or immediately after planting as do traditional horticultural species. Over time, however, they will reward the homeowner with their natural beauty.

Where to Grow Native Herbaceous Perennials

Due to Colorado's varying elevation and topography, native plants are found in a variety of habitats. To maximize survival with minimal external inputs, plants should be selected for your site's life zone and the plant's moisture, light and soil requirements. Even if a plant is listed for a particular life zone, the aspect (north, south, east or west facing) of the proposed site should match the moisture requirement. For example, a prairie zinnia, which requires full sun and has a very low moisture requirement, should not be sited with plants requiring higher moisture needs. Similarly, a prairie zinnia should not be planted on the north side of a building, where there is increased shade and moisture could severely affect its growth and appearance.

Growing native perennials does not exclude using adapted non-native plants. There are many non-native plants that are adapted to Colorado's climate and ca-



Quick Facts


- A Colorado native perennial is defined as a plant existing in Colorado prior to European settlement.
- Native plant gardens create wildlife habitat for a variety of birds, mammals and insects.
- Landscaping with native plants makes a significant contribution to biodiversity that otherwise would be lost to development.
- Native plant communities in Colorado vary due to differences in exposure, elevation, rainfall, soils and temperature extremes. Native plant communities may vary from Colorado visually distinct to other parts of the state.

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Extension. 3/04. Revised 4/14.
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Adding Organic Matter

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.

Resource: *The Science of Gardening* by David Whiting





Come visit us in our new location!
We are now together with Sundance by Design at the Evergreen Design Center.
27945 Meadow Drive (behind DaKind Soup, next to Mountain Home)



www.sundancegardens.com

Garden Center 303.670.0358 Sundance by Design 303.670.8211



Please send any questions, corrections, additions or submissions
for the Wild Iris to louiseheern@gmail.com