



Evergreen Garden Club

# WILD IRIS



JUNE 2020

**Dear Members of The Evergreen Garden Club,**

**I am writing to give you the most current update about the Evergreen Garden Club's guidelines related to work in our designated Public Gardens. The Evergreen Garden Club Board of Directors and Lead Public Garden Coordinator, Cherie Luke, have made the decision to follow current Jefferson County guidelines and updates. While Jefferson county still recommends only leaving home for essential activities, what is an essential activity is vague and there are many health benefits to getting outside, safely in community.**

**Current Jefferson County guidelines allow gathering of groups of less than 10 people while following social distancing requirements and with travel for recreation limited to 10 miles. Each EGC public garden lead will organize groups to meet these guidelines as they relate to the unique landscape of each of our public gardens. Work in the public gardens is always voluntary, so take care to determine if this is the right time for you to participate. High Risk Individuals are encouraged to follow Jefferson County "stay at home" orders. Guidelines related to Covid-19 are subject to change at any time so I encourage you to go to [covid19.colorado.gov](https://covid19.colorado.gov) or google: Jefferson county "safer at home" orders, to obtain regular updates.**

**The EGC Board of Directors, our Pubic Garden Coordinator, Cherie Luke and Louise Heern through our Wild Iris Newsletter, are all making our best attempts to provide consistent guidelines for our club activities in this rapidly changing and confusing environment. I hope this helps clarify our current position. We will continue to send out updates as we organize our efforts.**

**Thank you all for your participation in this wonderful group! We look forward to our time together in our meetings and in our gardens as conditions permit.**

**Blessings for health and happiness! Garden on!**

**Carol Herczeg  
EGC President**

**Evergreen Garden Club  
General Meeting  
May 11, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by President, Carol Herczeg from her home using Zoom technology. In attendance were the President, First Vice President, Peggy Bertrand, 2nd Vice President, Donna Moore, Treasurer Helen McLeman, Secretary Janice Theobald, and Technology Officer Susan Garcia. In addition, 12 club members were on the call.

**President's Report**

Carol started the meeting with a welcome and we sang Happy Birthday to the members with May birthdays. She asked for any notice from committee chairs that cannot fulfill their duties for next year. Jan Parks will take over as Chair for Hospitality with Annell Hoy continuing to help.

Cherie Luke asked for volunteers to take over Natural Resources and Public Garden Coordinator as she will be stepping up as our new President.

Jan Parks has first aid kits completed and ready to distribute to each of our Public Garden Leads. She will contact them directly and deliver them. In this rapidly changing and confusing environment, our Board has agreed on a new policy for working in our Public Gardens. Effective immediately, we will allow Community Garden Leads to determine when and how they will start up work in each garden, as long as they are respecting and following Jefferson County guidelines related to Covid-19. Carol will send out an email with clarity and guidelines as well as the website for Jefferson County which she encourages everyone to refer to as these restrictions are subject to change at any time.

**1st Vice President Report**

Peggy contacted Denver Botanical Gardens and they are closed indefinitely. She will keep us informed if she hears when they will open to the public.

Ron Harper was scheduled to be at this meeting to sharpen tools. He is willing to make house calls to sharpen tools, knives, chain saws etc. minimum of 10 items per visit for \$5 per tool. More details will be in the May issue of The Wild Iris.

We are hoping to once again have "Garden Shares" this summer but no details yet on when or how we will do that. If you are interested in opening your garden to members, later this summer, please let us know.

Peggy has chosen a short video for today's program on the topic of growing micro greens and sprouts.

**2nd Vice President Report**

Donna gave membership update. No new members at this time.

**Evergreen Garden Club Minutes (Continued)**  
**May 11, 2020**

**Treasurer's Report**

Helen discussed the budget. Several bills came in and were paid. Not much activity at this time. Helen did a brief overview of the King Soopers Community rewards program and encouraged everyone to link their King Soopers card to Evergreen Garden Club so that we can continue to get rewards. We received a check for \$168.31 for last quarter.

A question came up regarding Amazon's Community rewards program. Helen will continue to look into this option.

**Secretary's Report**

April minutes have been approved as they appear in the Wild Iris.

**Technology Officer's Report**

Susan was happy to announce she will be retiring and Julie Ann Courim will replace her as Technology Officer next year.

A short video was presented on growing Micro greens and Sprouts. Discussion followed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Theobald, Secretary  
Evergreen Garden Club



Working in the Dam Garden  
Finally, Spring!

Bonnie Rose



Dee Sacks

Julie Ann Courim



John Zabawa & Janice Theobald

Hiwan Herb Garden  
Finally, Spring!

**THANK YOU! To the EGC members  
who gave their time and effort getting  
the Community Gardens ready for summer!**



**Cindy Gibson & Lori Redman  
working hard in the Hiwan Herb Garden  
and practicing social distancing!**

Photo by Cherie Luke

# PRUNING EVERGREENS

Reprinted from *The Science of Gardening*

By David Whiting with Robert Cox, Carol O'Meara & Carl Wilson, Colorado State University Extension.

Artwork by David Whiting and Colorado State University Extension

Most types of evergreen trees and shrubs need little to no pruning. Pruning may make the new growth bushier, but will not effectively control size. Select plants based on mature size to minimize pruning needs. If frequent pruning is necessary to keep plant growth in bounds and prevent interference with a walk, driveway or view, consider replacing the plant. Evergreen trees and shrubs are pruned according to species growth characteristics.

## **PRUNING EVERGREEN TREES**

On evergreen trees, avoid pruning the central leader (trunk). This results in the development of multiple leaders that are prone to wind and snow damage. If the central leader is killed back, select one branch to become the new leader and remove potentially competing leaders.

Never allow codominant trunks (trunks of similar size) to develop. If multiple trunks begin to develop, select one and remove others.

For structural integrity on evergreen trees, all side branches should be less than half the diameter of the adjacent trunk (less than one-third is preferred). If the diameter of a side branch is too large, prune back part of the needed area to slow growth or remove the branch entirely back to the trunk.

## **REMOVING LARGE BRANCHES ON EVERGREEN TREES**

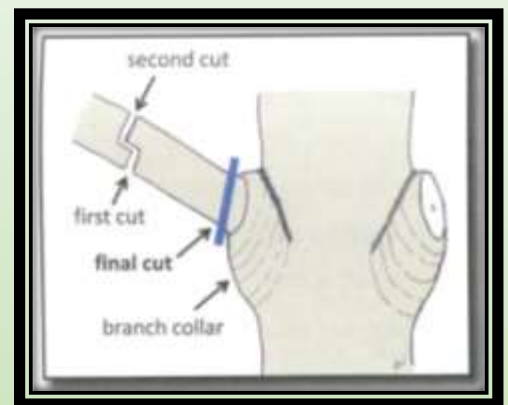
New needles will not grow from branches without needles. When a side branch is removed on an evergreen, cut back to the trunk just outside the **branch collar** (the enlarged connecting area on the trunk around the limb).

Do not cut into or otherwise injure the branch collar. Do not make flush cuts. Remove the branch using a three-cut method (Figure 33-1).

Cut 1. Coming out twelve to fifteen inches from the trunk, make an undercut a third to halfway through the branch.

Cut 2. Moving a couple of inches out past the first cut, make the second cut from the top, removing the branch. This double-cut method prevents the weight of the branch from tearing the branch below the branch collar.

Cut 3. Make the third and final cut just outside the branch bark collar. Take extra caution to not cut into or otherwise injure the branch bark collar.



**Figure 33-1** On evergreen trees, remove large branches back to the trunk using a three-cut method. Make the final cut just outside the branch collar. Needles only grow from the growing tips out and will not develop on the interior branch wood without needles.

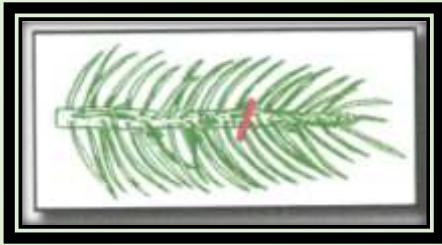


## **PRUNING SPRUCE, FIR AND DOUGLAS FIR**

Spruce (*Picea* spp.), fir (*Abies* spp.), and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) generally need little to no pruning.

On young trees, pruning is useful in situations where bushier new growth is desired. Because these species produce some side buds, branch tips can be removed encouraging side bud growth. Prune late winter or early spring.

(Figure 33-2).



**Figure 33-2** Pruning spruce and fir back to a side bud or side branch will encourage growth of side branches.

Spruce, fir, and Douglas fir that are overgrowing their space are somewhat tolerant of being pruned back as long as they are not pruned back past the needles. However, with constant pruning, the branches may begin to show needle browning and dieback. In situations where the branch must be pruned back past the needles, remove it back to the trunk.

In landscape design, small to mid-size evergreen trees, with their pyramidal form, generally look best with their lowest branches allowed to drape to ground level.

On large trees, primary growth occurs at the top with minimal growth at the lower levels. Due to slow growth, pruning of the lower branches may give a “pruned look” for a long time. On large trees, limb up lower branches only if they are in the way.

Very slow-growing species, like the dwarf Alberta spruce (*Picea glauca* var. *albertiana* “Conica”), blue nest spruce (also known as dwarf black spruce {*Picea mariana* “Nana”}), and bird’s nest spruce (*Picea abies* “Nidiformis”) are rather intolerant of pruning.

## **PRUNING PINE**

Pines generally need little to no pruning.

On young plants, if a more compact new growth is desired, “pinching” may be helpful. Using the fingers, snap off one-third of the new growing tips while in the “candle” stage (in the spring, when young needles are in a tight cluster). Avoid using pruners or a knife, as they will cut the remaining needles, giving a brown tip appearance (Figure 33-3).

Because pines produce few side buds, they are intolerant of more extensive pruning. If the terminal bud on a branch is removed, growth on that shoot is stopped, with additional growth occurring only from existing side branches. Do not shear pines.

Like other evergreen trees, small to mid-size pine trees look best (from the landscape design perspective) with their lowest branches allowed to drape down near ground level. When a lower branch has to be pruned back for space issues, remove it back to the trunk.



**Figure 33-3** On pines, for bushier new growth “pinch” growing tips by snapping off one-third of the “candle” tips with the fingers. Because pines produce few side buds, they are intolerant of more extensive pruning.

## **PRUNING JUNIPER AND ARBORVITAE**

Juniper and arborvitae generally need little to no pruning.

They may be pruned at any time except during subzero weather. The best time is early spring, prior to new growth.

The best pruning method is to cut individual branches back to an upward-growing side branch. This method of pruning is time-consuming, but keeps the plant looking young and natural (Figure 33-4).

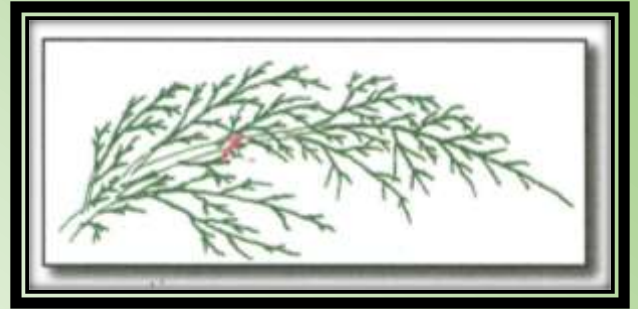
While shearing is quick and easy, it is not recommended, especially after midsummer. Shearing creates a dense growth of foliage on the plant's exterior. This in turn shades out the interior growth, and the plant becomes a thin shell of foliage. Frequently sheared plants are more prone to show needle browning and dieback from winter cold and drying winds.

Any pruning that tapers in toward the bottom of the plant will lead to thinning of the lower branches due to shading. To keep the bottom full, the base of the shrub needs to be wider than the top portion.

It is common to see junipers and arborvitae that have overgrown their space. Because new growth comes only from the growing tips, branches cannot be pruned back into wood without needles. If the shrub is pruned back to bare wood, it will have a permanent bare spot.

For shrubs that are getting too large, it is better to prune them back as they begin to overgrow the site. Pruning back severely overgrown shrubs generally gets into wood without needles. Consider replacing severely overgrown plants with smaller cultivars or other species.

Junipers and arborvitae growing in the shade are rather intolerant of pruning due to slow growth rates.



**Figure 33-4** Pruning junipers and arborvitae back to a side shoot hides the pruning cut.



### **HELP!**

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

[Cherie7651@gmail.com](mailto:Cherie7651@gmail.com)





A big THANK YOU!  
To Jan & Stephen Parkes  
for generously  
providing a first-aid kit  
for each of the  
community gardens!

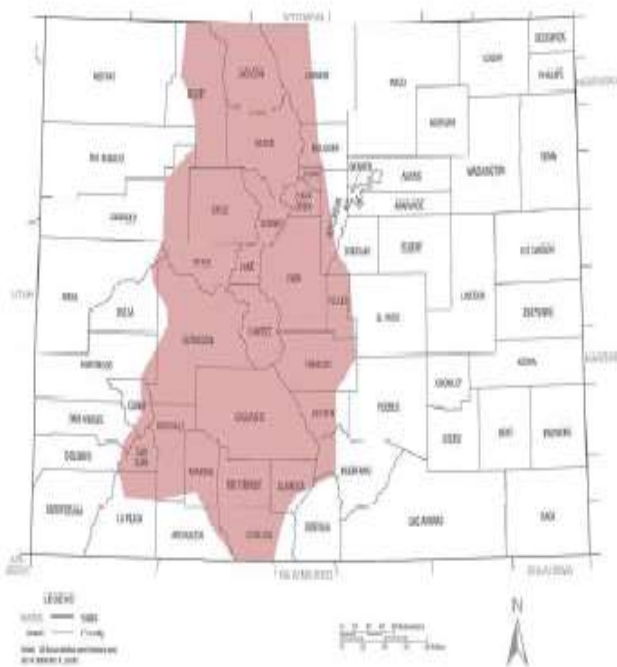


Best Wishes to all our EGC  
June, July and August  
Birthday Boys and Girls!

# Low Water Native Plants for Colorado Gardens: *Mountains 7,500' and Above*

Published by the Colorado Native Plant Society [www.conps.org](http://www.conps.org)

## Mountains 7,500' and Above Region



This range map is approximate. Please be familiar with your area to know which booklet is most appropriate for your landscape.

### The Colorado native plant gardening guides cover these 5 regions:

Plains/Prairie

Front Range/Foothills

Southeastern Colorado

Mountains above 7,500 feet

Lower Elevation Western Slope

This publication was written by the Colorado Native Plant Society Gardening Guide Committee: Irene Shonle, Director, CSU Extension, Gilpin County; Nick Daniel, Horticulturist, Denver Botanic Gardens; Deryn Davidson, Horticulture Agent, CSU Extension, Boulder County; Susan Crick, Front Range Chapter, Wild Ones; Jim Tolstrup, Executive Director, High Plains Environmental Center (HPEC); Jan Loechell Turner, Colorado Native Plant Society (CoNPS); Amy Yarger, Director of Horticulture, Butterfly Pavilion. Scientific names are from the *Flora of North America*.

Photo credits: Gardening Guide Committee members or otherwise listed.  
Map: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Front Cover (Silvery Lupine) and Back Cover (Prairie Smoke) Photos© Jane Hendrix



Terrace Garden - Wallflowers and Blue Mist Penstemons  
Photo by Irene Shonle

## Introduction

This is one in a series of regional native planting guides that are a collaboration of the Colorado Native Plant Society, CSU Extension, Front Range Wild Ones, the High Plains Environmental Center, Butterfly Pavilion and the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Many people have an interest in landscaping with native plants, and the purpose of this booklet is to help people make the most successful choices. We have divided the state into 5 different regions that reflect different growing conditions and life zones. These are: the plains/prairie, Southeastern Colorado, the Front Range/foothills, the mountains above 7,500', and lower elevation Western Slope. Find the area that most closely resembles your proposed garden site for the best gardening recommendations.

## Why Native?

There are many benefits to using Colorado native plants for home and commercial landscapes. They are naturally adapted to Colorado's climates, soils and environmental conditions. This means that by choosing native plants gardeners can work with nature, rather than trying to grow plants that are not suited to our local conditions and may prove to be difficult to work with.

When correctly sited, natives make ideal plants for a sustainable landscape. Native species require less external inputs such as water and fertilizer, and are more resistant to pests and disease when the planting site mimics the plant's native habitat. Landscape water use accounts for about 55 percent of the residential water used across the state of Colorado, most of which is used on turf. Planting less-thirsty natives could lessen the burden on our water systems.

Another great reason to go native is to restore habitat. 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. Research has shown that landscaping with natives on a large or small scale, helps maintain biodiversity that otherwise would be lost to development. Thousands or millions of gardens planted with natives, even in urban areas can provide food, shelter and other important resources for wildlife, including mammals, birds and native pollinators.

Growing native plants does not exclude using adapted non-native plants. There are many non-native plants that are adapted to Colorado's climate and can be used in a native landscape as long as moisture, light and soil requirements are similar. Even if a site has a non-native landscape that requires additional inputs (such as an irrigated landscape on the plains), dry-land native plants can be used in non-irrigated pockets within the non-native landscape. These native "pocket gardens" can be located in areas such as median strips and next to hardscapes that are difficult to irrigate. Note that in years with less than normal rainfall, non-irrigated landscapes may suffer in appearance without supplemental water.

Gardening with native plants also prevents the introduction and spread of noxious weeds. Many noxious weeds were intentionally introduced as garden plants that belatedly were found to escape the confines of the garden and crowd out native plants.

Some communities regulate landscape appearance or the type of plants which may be used. Before initiating any new landscape design, check with local municipalities and/or homeowners' associations to discover any regulations that may affect your design.

Finally, using native plants in landscapes helps provide a special sense of place, celebrating Colorado's uniqueness and beauty, rather than a generic landscape. A garden with native plants feels more harmonious

with its surroundings than a landscape transplanted from another locale.

## Native Plant Gardening in Colorado's Mountains

The mountain region is characterized by short growing seasons, cool nights, strong sunlight, and high winds. The soils tend to be low in organic matter, and often are formed from decomposed granite. They are usually very well-drained. Precipitation is typically higher in the mountains than in other areas of the state, which can make it easier to establish plants and will reduce water needs. Riparian areas and wetlands support a different suite of plants.



Betty Ford Alpine Gardens: Prairie Smoke and Redtwig Dogwood  
Photo by Irene Shonle

Many mountain areas are covered with dense evergreens (lodgepole, spruce/fir). If nothing is already growing under the dense trees, it is probably because the trees are out-competing all other plants. If your goal is to plant herbaceous perennials, you may need to clear trees before planting, in order to reduce competition for light and shade.

Desirable wildlife include numerous butterflies, bumblebees, hummingbirds and songbirds. Deer, elk, moose, pocket gophers, voles, and rabbits are potential problems for gardens.

## Culture and Maintenance

### Soils

Colorado mountain soils, on average, are fairly low in organic matter. The good news is that native plants usually can be successfully grown in unamended soils. This is because natives do not require nutrient rich, high organic content soil, and can often become overgrown or short lived in such soils. To amend excessively well-drained sandy or rocky soils, add 3 percent compost by volume. It may be beneficial to test the soil before planting, especially on a larger project. Soil testing kits are available at your local CSU Extension office.

### Maintenance

Native plants often do not need much maintenance; just the usual pruning of dead or diseased material, and cutting back perennials in the spring. Leaving seed heads on the plants in the fall will not only provide a feast for birds, and protect caterpillar eggs and chrysalises, but will increase plant hardiness and winter interest. Native plants typically do not require fertilizer. Some tasks, such as weeding and deadheading, require the same time investment for native plant gardens as for gardens with non-natives.

### Watering

Plants will need to be watered for at least the first season, with the most critical time being the first three weeks after planting. Once they are established, water can be cut back gradually. After establishment, some natives can be taken off irrigation completely.

Place plants that have higher water needs nearer the house or other highly used areas. These plants can also be planted in swales (lower areas), or near downspouts for passive water harvesting.

### Limiting/reclaiming turf areas

Although grass lawns are popular, they generally use more resources like water, fertilizers, pesticides, and maintenance (mowing) than a landscape of native plants. Lawns also provide no habitat for pollinators and birds. Native landscapes, on the other hand, are less resource intensive, provide habitat and provide more interest and color. Consider either limiting grass lawns to play, pet, or entertaining areas, or replacing lawns altogether if these spaces are not needed.

To reclaim a space formerly devoted to a lawn, spend some time eradicating all grasses and weeds. Grass is easier to kill when it is green

and actively growing in the spring or fall. There are a few options for this. One is to use a glyphosate-based herbicide, another is to cut out all the sod, and a third is to solarize the area. Solarization works best in the heat of the summer in full-sun areas.

Mow the area and remove the clippings, water, place clear plastic on top (burying the edges with soil) and leave it for 4-6 weeks. A final option is to sheet mulch. Cover the area with sheets of cardboard or 12 layers of newspapers. Overlap these materials at least 6 inches so no light penetrates and wet them down to keep them in place. Place 1 inch of compost on top of the barrier layer. Add at least 6 inches more of mulch or compost (grass clippings, straw or leaves). As these materials break down, they will create a rich humus layer while keeping weeds down. Allow at least 4-6 weeks.



This lawn is being smothered by layers of newspapers covered with several inches of mulch (created from a dead tree that was ground up). Photo by Jan Turner

## Wildlife & Pollinators

Providing habitat for songbirds and pollinators is one of the great pleasures of gardening with native plants. To maximize habitat for pollinators, plant a diversity of plants, and aim to provide the longest possible season of bloom.



Butterfly on Rocky Mountain bee plant (*Cleome serrulata*). Photo by Jan Turner.

Many plants will provide nectar for adult insects, but consider the larval stage in planting too. Most native insects have specialized relationships with native plants, and require specific plants to grow from egg to adult. As an example, many butterflies will sip nectar from non-natives, but the eggs need to be laid on specific plants or the caterpillars won't recognize the plant as food.

Purchase pesticide-free plants. There has been recent concern that neonicotinoids are harmful to bees, so look for neonic-free plants.

Birds use native plants for food and shelter, but insects are an overlooked and crucial part of many bird's diets. Far more insects will develop on native plants than exotics, providing food for birds during the critical nesting season. Consider planting a 'thicket' of berry-producing shrubs. If planted in the direction of the prevailing wind, this thicket can also provide a space of calm air for butterflies.

### Inventory Your Yard & Microclimates

For the best garden, spend some time in the planning stage. Identify where you would like to create a new bed, or replant an existing one. Inventory the areas in your yard for sun and shade, and for areas where



CSU Extension Gilpin County Garden in Blackhawk at 9,300'. Photo by Irene Shonle

moisture accumulates. Consider what areas have easiest access from the house, and if there are views you would like to enhance or block. All of these factors create what are known as *microclimates* or small, but potentially significant changes in the immediate environment that will affect your plants.

Knowing these ahead of

time will help you make the most of your site and can guide your plant choices.

### Design for Low Maintenance

Native plants can be used to accomplish just about any design style you're looking for using the elements and principles of good design: color, texture, balance, unity, variety, rhythm, line, form, scale. They can be used for anything from formal designs to the more informal naturalistic plantings that most people think of when they think native.

Choose species based on the soil, light and water conditions of your site and for the size, shape, texture, and color desired. For a more natural, successful and easily maintained landscape, group species

that grow together naturally and have the same cultural requirements. This will improve plant health and appearance and will minimize maintenance.

South-facing areas with reflected heat, will do best with dryland or desert plants. North-facing areas are cooler, moister and shadier, and will do better with forest-edge type plants. West-facing areas are more similar to south-facing, even if they only get a half day of sun, so this is a good spot for dryland, prairie, or chaparral plants. The east-facing side is usually the most benign, and can grow a wide variety of plants.

Plants that have higher water needs should be placed near the house for easier watering, or near downspouts or in low-lying areas where they will get extra water.

Be sure to be vigilant for weeds, especially in the first few years of planting, so they don't take over the desirable vegetation. Plant thickly enough that the plants become a living mulch.



Showy Goldeneye (in front of rock), Tansy Aster (*Dieteria bigelovii* syn. *Macheranthera bigelovii* and *Aster bigelovii*) behind the rock, Black-eyed Susan on either side of rock. Photo by Irene Shonle

## Suggested Reading

- Busco\*, Janice and Nancy Morin. 2010. *Native Plants for High Elevation Western Gardens*. Fulcrum Publishing.
- Dorn\*, Robert and Jane Dorn. 2007. *Growing Native Plants of the Rocky Mountain Area*. Lulu (available from CoNPS Bookstore as a book and CD).
- Elliefson, Connie and David Winger. 2013. *Xeriscape Colorado*. Westcliffe Pub.
- "Gardening with Native Plants." 2016. Colorado Native Plant Society. <https://conps.org/gardening-with-native-plants/>
- Hayes\*, Rhona Fleming. 2015. *Pollinator Friendly Gardening: Gardening for Bees, Butterflies and Other Pollinators*. Voyageur Press.
- Nold, Robert. 2008. *High and Dry: Gardening with Cold-Hardy Dryland Plants*. Timber Press.
- "Plant Materials for Pollinators and Other Beneficial Insects in Eastern Utah and Western Colorado." [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/CO/COPMTN\\_75\\_130711\\_comp.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/CO/COPMTN_75_130711_comp.pdf)
- Tallamy\*, Douglas. 2009. *Bringing Nature Home*. Timber Press.
- Cercos Society\*. 2011. *Attracting Native Pollinators*. Storey

\*Items available from the CoNPS Store at the time this booklet was published are marked with an asterisk. Others may be out-of-print and can be obtained from Amazon or the public library.

## Plant List

The plants for each of these guides were selected by experienced gardeners, with further input from members of the Colorado Native Plant Society. We aimed to choose plants that would be relatively easy to find in nurseries and seed catalogs. The scientific names are from Jennifer Ackerfield's *Flora of Colorado* (Britt Press, 2015); synonyms are in parentheses. For a listing of nurseries and seed companies that carry native plants, look for the "Native Plant Vendors" list on the Colorado Native Plant Society (CoNPS) website at <http://conps.org/gardening-with-native-plants/> or consider attending the native plant sales held by CoNPS. When you go to a nursery, be sure to have the scientific name with you to make sure you are purchasing the correct species. Don't forget to ask for pesticide-free plants so pollinators won't be harmed.

## Colorado Native Plant Society Mission Statement

The Colorado Native Plant Society is dedicated to furthering the knowledge, appreciation and conservation of native plants and habitats of Colorado through education, stewardship and advocacy.

Visit CoNPS website at <http://www.conps.org>



## Key to Chart

The chart on the following pages contains a list of plants, listed alphabetically by scientific name (column 2 of the chart), that are native to Colorado and do well in high elevation gardens. The scientific names are from *Flora of Colorado* by Jennifer Ackerfield. Not all plants illustrated in this guide are listed in the chart, but the scientific names are given so you can find them in a nursery. If you have questions, contact CoNPS or one of the other organizations that collaborated to produce this guide.

frt/birds, wl = fruit for birds and wildlife

hp = host plant

hp/hm = host plant for hawk moth

np/bee, btf = nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies

np/bee, btf, o = nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators

n/hb = nectar for hummingbirds

n/hm = nectar for hawkmoths

p/bees = pollen for bees

ss/birds = seeds and shelter for birds

s/birds = seeds for birds

Bloom Time:

spring = SP

summer = S

fall = F



Common Name	Scientific Name	Mature Size	Water	Exposure	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Wildlife Value
<b>GROUNDCOVERS</b>							
Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria</i> spp.	6" x 18"	low	sun/part shade	cream/pink	SP-S	np/bee, btf, o
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	12" x 24"	low	sun/ part shade	pink	SP-S	np/bee, btf, frt/birds, wl
Sulfur Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	10" x 12"	low	sun/part shade	yellow	S	np/bee, btf
<b>PERENNIALS</b>							
Common Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium (lantana)</i>	18" x 18"	low-med	sun	white	S	np/bee, btf, o
Pearly Everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	18" x 18"	low	sun	white	S	np/bee, btf, o
Rocky Mountain Columbine	<i>Aquilegia caerulea</i>	24" x 12"	med	sun/part shade	blue	S	np/bee, btf; n/humbr
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	8" x 15"	low	sun/part shade	purple	S	np/bee
Scott's Sugarbowl	<i>Clematis scottii (hirsutissima var. scottii)</i>	12" x 18"	low	sun/part shade	purple	SP-S	np/bee, btf
Rocky Mountain Bee Plant (Annual)	<i>Cleome (Peritoma) serrulata</i>	3-6' x 3-6'	low	sun	pale purple	S	np/bee, btf; n/humbr
Showy Fleabane	<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>	18" x 12"	low	sun/part shade	lavender/blue	S	np/bee, btf, o
Wallflower	<i>Erysimum capitatum</i>	18" x 18"	low	sun/part shade	yellow/orange	S	np/bee, btf
Blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	12" x 12"	med	sun	yellow/red	S-F	np/bee, btf
Richardson's Geranium	<i>Geranium richardsonii</i>	12" x 12"	med	sun/part shade	white		
Sticky Geranium	<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	12" x 18"	med	sun/part shade	pink/rose	S-F	np/bee, btf, o
Prairie Smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	6" x 12"	med	sun/part shade	cream/pink	S	np/bee, btf, o
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium (Hymonoxys) hoopesii</i>	24" x 18"	med	sun/part shade	yellow/orange	S	np/bee, btf
Showy Goldeneye	<i>Heliomeris (Viguera) multiflora</i>	48" x 48"	low	sun	yellow	S	np/bee, btf
Scarlet Gilia	<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>	12" x 12"	low	sun/part shade	red/pink	S-F	n/humbr
Silvery Lupine	<i>Lupinus argenteus</i>	24" x 12"	low	sun	purple/white	S	np/bee, btf, o
Bee Balm/Horsemint	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	24" x 24"	low-med	sun/part shade	pink/lavender	S	np/bee, btf; n/humbr
Showy Locoweed	<i>Oxytropis lambertii</i>	12" x 12"	low	sun	pink	S	np/bee, btf
Rocky Mountain Penstemon	<i>Penstemon strictus</i>	30" x 24"	low	sun/part shade	blue/purple	S	np/bee, btf; n/humbr
Blue Mist Penstemon	<i>Penstemon virens</i>	12" x 12"	low	sun/part shade	blue/purple	SP-S	np/bee, btf; n/humbr
Whipple's Penstemon	<i>Penstemon whippleanus</i>	24" x 12"	low-med	sun/part shade	wine purple	S	np/bee, btf; n/humbr
Silky Phacelia	<i>Phacelia sericea</i>	16" x 12"	low	sun	purple	S	np/bee, btf; n/humbr
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium viscosissimum</i>	18" x 12"	med	sun/part shade	blue	S	np/bee, btf
Pasque Flower	<i>Pulsatilla (Anemone) patens</i>	6" x 6"	low	sun	lavender	SP-S	np/bee
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	24" x 12"	low	sun/part shade	yellow	S	np/bee, btf; s/birds
Golden Banner	<i>Thermopsis divaricarpa</i>	18" x 24"	low	sun/part shade	yellow	S	np/bee, btf



Common Name	Scientific Name	Mature Size	Water	Exposure	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Wildlife Value
<b>GRASSES</b>							
Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum (Oryzopsis) hymenoides</i>	24" x 12"	low	sun		S	s/birds
Junegrass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	18" x 18"	low	sun		SP	s/birds
<b>SHRUBS</b>							
Western Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	12' x 6'	low-med	sun/part shade	white	SP	frt/birds
Redtwig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	5' x 5'	med-high	sun/part shade	white	S	np/bee, btf, o
Mountain Spray	<i>Holodiscus dumosus</i>	7' x 3'	low	part shade	pink/white	S	np/bee, btf
Shrubby Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	3' x 3'	low	sun	yellow	S-F	np/bee, btf, o
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	15' x 8'	low	sun/part shade	white	SP	np/bee, btf; frt/birds, wl
Golden Currant	<i>Ribes aureum (Ribes odoratum)</i>	5' x 4'	low	sun/part shade	yellow	SP	np/bee, btf; frt/birds
Wax Currant	<i>Ribes cereum</i>	4' x 3'	low	sun/part shade	pink/white	SP	np/bee, btf; frt/birds
Western Wild Rose	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	3' x 4'	low-med	sun/part shade	pink	SP-S	np/bees; frt/birds
Boulder Raspberry	<i>Rubus (Oreobatus) deliciosus</i>	4' x 4'	low	sun/part shade	white	S	np/bee, btf/frt/birds
<b>TREES</b>							
Colorado Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i>	45' x 15'	med-high	sun/part shade			seeds/birds, wl
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	60' x 25'	med	sun			shelter/birds

### CSU Extension, Gilpin County Garden in Blackhawk at 9,300'



Blanketflower,  
Rocky Mountain  
Penstemon, Sticky  
Geranium, Shrubby  
Cinquefoil  
Photo by Irene  
Shonle



Hummingbird and  
Rocky Mountain  
Bee Plant  
Photo by Charlie  
Turner



Rocky Mountain  
Bee Plant, Black-  
Eyed Susan,  
Blanketflower  
Photo by Irene  
Shonle





# Landscape Design #1

This garden is designed to provide season-long nectar sources for native bees and butterflies, as well as a summer of beauty for the gardener. Placing the shrubs in the direction of the prevailing wind will provide a natural windbreak, which is especially important for butterflies. *Garden design by Irene Shonle*



1. Chokecherry  
*Prunus virginiana*



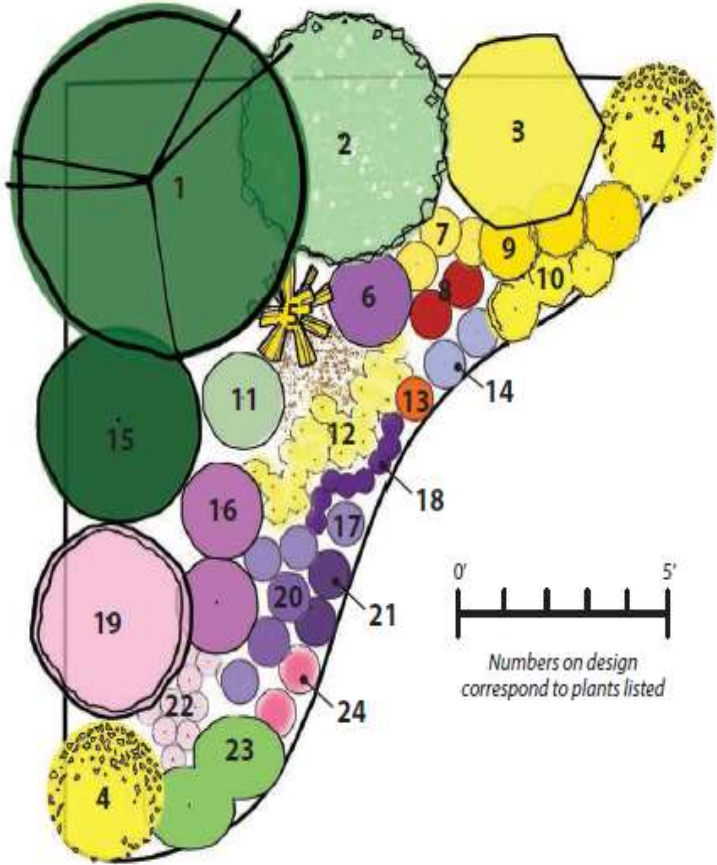
2. Mountain Spray  
*Holodiscus dumosus*



3. Golden Currant  
*Ribes aureum*



4. Shrubby Cinquefoil  
*Potentilla fruticosa*



16



5. Sneezeweed  
*Hymenoxys hoopesii*



6. Silvery Lupine  
*Lupinus argenteus*



7. Black-Eyed Susan  
*Rudbeckia hirta*



8. Blanketflower  
*Gaillardia aristata*



9. Showy Goldeneye  
*Heliomeris multiflora*



10. Golden Banner  
*Thermopsis divaricata*



11. Pearly Everlasting  
*Anaphalis margaritacea*



12. Sulphur Buckwheat  
*Eriogonum umbellatum*



13. Wallflower  
*Erysimum capitatum*



14. Blue Mist Penstemon  
*Penstemon virens*



15. Boulder Raspberry  
*Rubus deliciosus*



16. Beebalm  
*Monarda fistulosa*



17. Harebell  
*Campanula rotundifolia*



18. Pasque flower  
*Pulsatilla patens*



19. Wild Rose  
*Rosa woodsii*



20. Scott's Sugarbowl  
*Clematis scottii*



21. Silky Phacelia  
*Phacelia sericea*



22. Showy Fleabane  
*Erigeron speciosus*



23. Common Yarrow  
*Achillea millefolium*



24. Prairie Smoke  
*Geum triflorum*

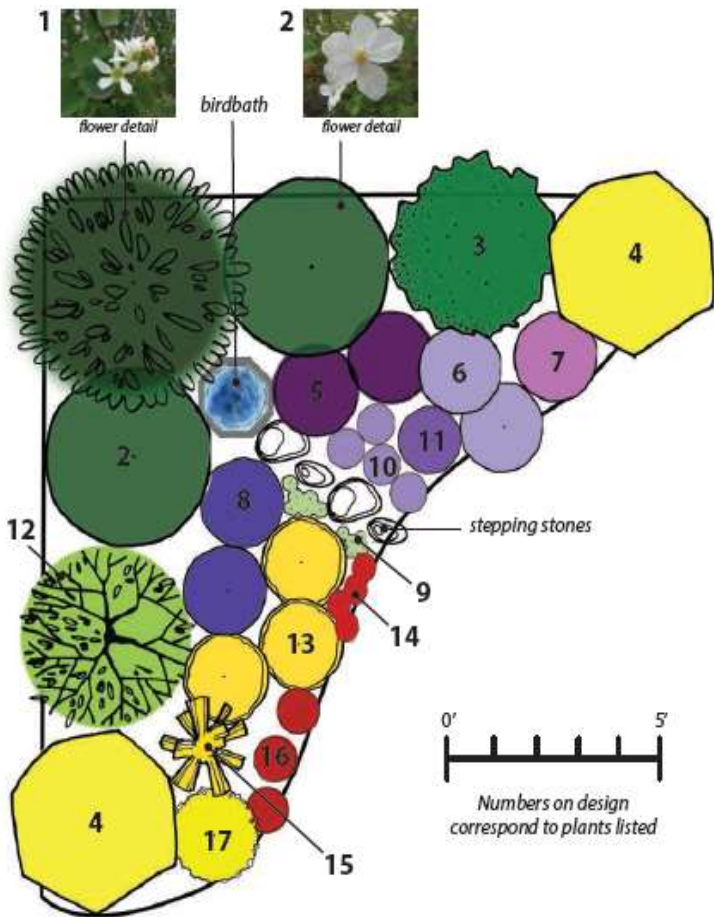
17



# Landscape Design #2

This garden is anchored by shrubs that will produce berries for songbirds and early nectar for hummingbirds. The Boulder raspberry and red-twig dogwood also provide winter interest. Placing the shrubs in the direction of the prevailing wind will provide a natural windbreak. The flowering perennials have been selected for color and to attract hummingbirds during the summer or provide seeds for seed-eating birds in the fall.

Garden design by Irene Shonle.



1. Western Serviceberry  
*Amelanchier alnifolia*



2. Boulder Raspberry  
*Rubus deliciosus*



3. Wax Currant  
*Ribes cereum*



4. Golden Currant  
*Ribes aureum*



5. Whipples Penstemon  
*Penstemon whippleanus*



6. Rky Mtn Columbine  
*Aquilegia caerulea*



7. Beebalm  
*Monarda fistulosa*



8. Rky Mtn Penstemon  
*Penstemon strictus*



9. Pussytoes  
*Antennaria* spp.



10. Harebell  
*Campanula rotundifolia*



11. Silvery Lupine  
*Lupinus argenteus*



12. Redtwig Dogwood  
*Cornus sericea*



13. Black-Eyed Susan  
*Rudbeckia hirta*



14. Scarlet Gilia  
*Ipomopsis aggregata*



15. Sneezeweed  
*Hymenoxys hoopesii*



16. Blanketflower  
*Gaillardia aristata*



17. Showy Goldeneye  
*Heliomeris multiflora*

Butterfly PAVILION

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2017

# 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.



## 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 oversized 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 bedmates. Frequently, in fact, their high contrast with neighboring plants elevates them to the status of living sculpture.



Jay Silford Garden Design

**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.



Jay Silford Garden Design

**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.



**Public Garden Coordinator  
Natural Resources**

***We need your help!***

***We're hoping our Evergreen winds will blow in volunteers for the above positions!***

***Let's keep the Evergreen Garden Club going strong -***

***Add your expertise to one of these positions today!***

***Open Positions Beginning in June 2020***

***If you have any questions about a position, or are interested in taking a position,***

***Please contact Cherie Luke at [cherie7651@gmail.com](mailto:cherie7651@gmail.com)***

# Those Vile Voles!

## **MEADOW VOLES AND PINE VOLES**

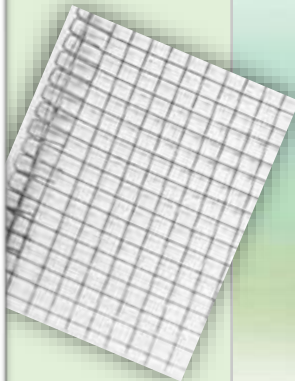
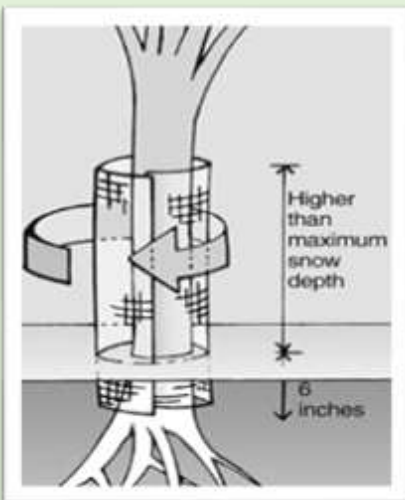
**Meadow voles** are most active above ground. They sometimes live underground where the soil has been cultivated or where a burrow system is already present; for example, an abandoned pocket gopher burrow.

**Pine voles** favor open woodlands and spend most of their time in underground burrows. They usually have an extensive subsurface trail system that is excavated about 1 to 2 inches deep. These burrows open to the surface and often connect to above-ground runways.

***Voles are active day and night and do not hibernate. They have three to six young per litter and have approximately 12 litters per year. Fallen birdseed in winter can attract voles.***

***Both eliminating voles and preventing vole damage is the most effective way to keep things under control. Yellow-tabbed snap traps work best for eliminating voles. Poisoning voles is not recommended as a poisoned vole can sicken natural predators, and poisons are dangerous around pets and children.***

Tree damage from voles can be prevented by wrapping the tree trunk with hardware cloth. Ensure the squares are no larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and bury the cloth at least six inches below the ground.



## **YELLOW-TABBED SNAP TRAPS WORK GREAT!**

Place traps perpendicular to runways with the trigger end in the runway and bait with small amounts of rolled oats or peanut butter. Set traps in the fall before most damage occurs and be vigilant in spring. Cover the hole with a tent or an inverted flower pot propped up on one side in order to avoid harming birds or other non-target critters.



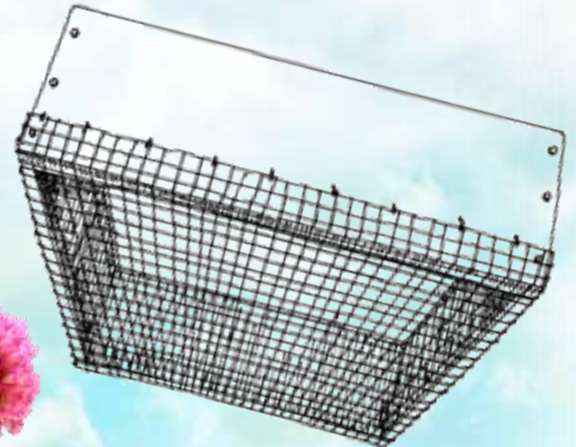
References: CSU Extension; Cornell University



Protect the roots of shrubs and perennials from vole damage by planting the main root-ball in a basket made of hardware cloth or purchase wire baskets from the *Dollar Store* and bury them directly into the ground. Leave a couple inches of the basket above the surface and hide with mulch if the plant doesn't cover it. Larger wire baskets for plants like rose bushes can be purchased at Target. The baskets have an advantage because they have a bottom. Pocket gophers can burrow deeper than voles and can come in from underneath. Below is a picture of a burrowing tunnel that came in from under the fence and completely surrounded the protected plant. Thanks to the basket, this Broom made it another day. **Note:** After years of using these baskets, I have found that some of the more vigorous growing plants may eventually outgrow the basket and choke themselves out.



Baskets from the Dollar Store come in two sizes and can be ordered from their website.



Line the bottom of raised beds with hardware cloth before filling.



Plantskydd is known to be an effective deterrent and comes in granular or spray forms. Safe around pets! Granules work best for burrowing pests, spray works best for deer, elk, rabbits, and chipmunks.





## ***A Note from Forest Heights Lodge***

May 28, 2020

Garden Club has had a long history with Forest Heights Lodge, a residential treatment center for boys, here in Evergreen. Every year, Garden Club members came to share a Christmas party with the boys. Each boy would receive some kind of plant and a “big” cookie to enjoy during the party. Plants included cactus, succulents, Christmas cactus, amaryllis, and a variety of other plants. The boys were taught how to care for them, and interesting facts about growing and planting in general. They got to experience worm farms, and “Buzzy” Tupper Briggs came and talked with the boys about bees and their wonderful culture.

This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we sent our boys home in March so they would be safe with their families. During this time, it has been necessary for us to redirect our mission. We will still be taking care of families and children, but will focus our time and energy on kids from the front range, so we will no longer be a residential and educational center.

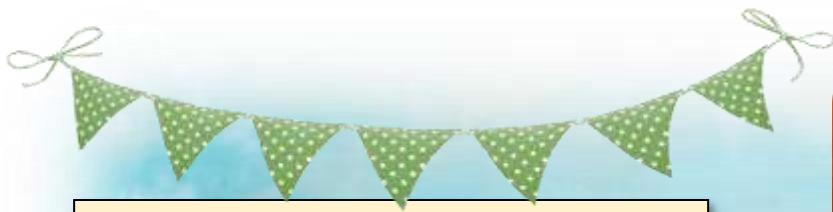
We just want to express our thanks to you for supporting our boys all these years. They enjoyed learning new things and caring for their plants – and trying to stump the Garden Club members with their great questions.

We wish you good health and new creative experiences during this time of isolation.

Jody Olson

Executive Director of Forest Heights Lodge





**MANY THANKS** to this year's board and all our hard-working committee chair-persons and volunteers!  
**We appreciate all you do!**







New plants are added every day. Visit <http://plantselect.org/> for more detailed plant options, free downloadable design plans and so much more! This 52-page guide (below) is available on the website and can be viewed electronically or printed free of charge.

Don't Forget  
Plant Select



After many failed attempts to discourage the elk from eating the potted plants on her deck, Patricia Long of Evergreen mounted *Big Mouth Billy Bass* and it worked!

GO BILLY!

Stay Safe  
& Healthy!

*A special thank you to all who contributed to the Wild Iris.  
Wishing you all a great summer of Happy Gardening!*

*See you in September!  
Louise Heern, EGC Wild Iris Editor  
louiseheern@gmail.com*