

# NoCo Bloom

MAY 2024



LARIMER COUNTY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



THE GARDENS  
ON SPRING CREEK



# CULTIVATING SUCCESSES

BEST NEW  
PLANTS


TALKIN' TOOLS

LEARN THE  
LINGO

# Welcome Back Gardeners!

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HLA Department Head  
Colorado State University

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Horticulture in Larimer County

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Executive Director  
The Gardens on Spring Creek


 **Madeline Bechtel**  
Graphic Designer  
City of Fort Collins

At the start of another gardening season, we dream, we plan, and we prepare. Spring gives us a chance to start fresh. To up our game and try new things.

With so many factors out of our control, it's wise to focus our time and energy on the areas of our gardens that we can more readily affect. This edition of NoCO Bloom is designed to provide you with a few new tools, including new plants, language, and technology, to work on whatever challenges – including spring snows, summer drought, or the dreaded “h-word” – Mother Nature might throw your way. Here's to another growing season filled with joy, learning, and perhaps...

**...a tad less hard work!**



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture  
301 University Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80523-1173  
Bldg. Shepardson 111  
970-491-7019 | [hortla.agsci.colostate.edu](http://hortla.agsci.colostate.edu) 



**CSU EXTENSION IN LARIMER COUNTY**  
1525 Blue Spruce Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80524-2004  
970-498-6000 | [larimerextension.org](http://larimerextension.org) 



**THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK  
CITY OF FORT COLLINS**  
2145 Centre Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80526  
970-416-2486 | [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens) 

**NoCo Bloom**

PLEASE NOTE: If you are a gardener living in Weld County and needing help, visit [www.WeldMasterGardeners.org](http://www.WeldMasterGardeners.org) or email the Weld Garden Help Desk directly at [weldmastergardeners@outlook.com](mailto:weldmastergardeners@outlook.com).



# THE HIGH-TECH LAWN

How could your front lawn ever be considered “high-tech?” While lawns are often maligned these days, the technology initially developed for managing golf courses and sports turf has been adapted to be used on the home lawn scale. For those of you who are into the latest and greatest in smartphones, smart home gadgetry, gaming, or VR technology, here are some cool, high-tech ideas for managing your lawn more efficiently — some of which may even reduce your water bill significantly.

The technology of using soil moisture sensors to run irrigation systems becomes better and better every year, with major irrigation companies like **Toro** offering sensors that will tell your irrigation controller to turn on and off based on the moisture level in the grass root zone. It’s similar to how a thermostat turns your furnace or air conditioning on and off without you having to do anything except set that sweet spot that makes you comfortable (or that desired greenness level, in your lawn’s case).

For running your irrigation system, the **Rachio** controllers (made right here in Colorado by a Denver-based company) are among the very best you can purchase. **Rachio** smart controllers are EPA WaterSense certified, use local weather data to determine when to water, can be run using Alexa and an excellent phone app, and will work with soil moisture sensors to fine-tune water application to all parts of your landscape. This company’s website and customer support are second to none; they will even recycle your old controller!

While European lawn owners are far ahead of us in using robot mowers, robotic mowing is catching on quickly in the U.S. The technology is advancing rapidly, evolving from less expensive models that require a border wire to keep the mower inside your lawn’s borders and away from your petunias (think invisible dog fence technology), to more expensive mowers that use high-precision GPS, cloud navigation, or camera technology to mow the lawn.

These silent electric mowers can run at night, detecting and avoiding objects in their path. And when their battery runs low, they’ll park themselves in their charging port, resuming mowing automatically after charging. The best-known companies selling robotic mowers for home lawns are **Husqvarna, Luba, Worx, Toro** and **Stihl**. 🌱

## PRODUCT QUICK LINKS



Toro



Hunter



Rachio



Husqvarna



Luba



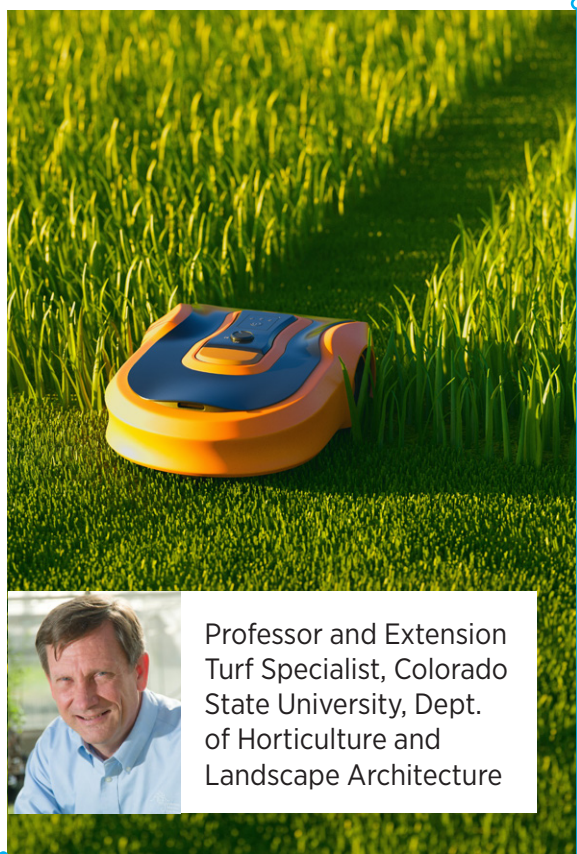
Worx



Toro



Stihl



Professor and Extension Turf Specialist, Colorado State University, Dept. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

## events ‘n classes

### COMMUNITY WIDE RESOURCES

**Grow and Give Program - Grow Food & Share The Harvest**  
Colorado State University Extension, [growgive.extension.colostate.edu](http://growgive.extension.colostate.edu) (includes vegetable growing tips)

**Larimer County Colorado Master Gardener Q&A Booth at the Extension Office** Every Tuesday and Thursday, April 18 to October 19, [larimermg@gmail.com](mailto:larimermg@gmail.com) or 970-498-6000, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, 10:00am - 1:00pm, Free, [LarimerExtension.org](http://LarimerExtension.org)

**Larimer County Colorado Master Gardener Q&A Booth at the Larimer County Farmers’ Market** Every Saturday, May 20 to October 28, 200 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free, [LarimerExtension.org](http://LarimerExtension.org)

**Master Gardener Q&A Booth at Greeley Farmers’ Market** Every Saturday, May 4 to July 6, Union Pacific Depot, 902 7th Ave., Greeley, 8:00am - 12:00pm, Free, [greeleygov.com/activities/fm](http://greeleygov.com/activities/fm)

**Master Gardener Q&A Booth at Milliken Market Day** Saturday May 18 and June 2, Union Pacific Depot, 1109 Broad St., Milliken, 3:00pm - 6:00pm, Free

June 1 to July 6 » **Master Gardener Q&A Booth at Windsor Farmers’ Market** Every Saturday, June 1 to July 6, Farmer’s Market Pavilion at Boardwalk Park, 100 N. 5th St., Windsor, 8:00am - 12:30pm, Free, [recreationliveshere.com/213/Farmers-Market](http://recreationliveshere.com/213/Farmers-Market)

**Weld County Master Gardeners Help Desk** Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until October 31st, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Walk-ins welcome during Help Desk hours, 525 N 15th Ave., Greeley, [weldmastergardener@gmail.com](mailto:weldmastergardener@gmail.com), 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free, [WeldMasterGardeners.org](http://WeldMasterGardeners.org)

### COMMUNITY-WIDE EDUCATION

May 8 » **Superior Shrubs for the Colorado Landscape**  
Presented by Dr. Jim Klett, Extension Gardening Webinars, 12:00pm - 1:00pm, Free, registration required, [planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars](http://planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars)

May 10 » **How to Buy a Plant**  
Presented by John Murgel, Extension Gardening Webinars, 12:00pm - 1:00pm, Free, registration required, [planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars](http://planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars)

May 17 » **The Insect Eras Tour**  
Presented by Lisa Mason, Extension Gardening Webinars, 12:00pm - 1:00pm, Free, registration required, [planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars](http://planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars)

May 24 » **Unique Annuals for Pots**  
Presented by Rachel Durken, Extension Gardening Webinars, 12:00pm - 1:00pm, Free, registration required, [planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars](http://planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

June 12 » **Waterwise Turf Species: Pros and Cons**  
Presented by Dr. Tony Koski, Extension Gardening Webinars,  
12:00pm - 1:00pm, Free, registration required, [planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars](http://planttalk.colostate.edu/webinars)

**DENVER**

June 13 » **Plant Select Annual Conference**  
Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York St., See website for further  
details, \$85, In person, Tickets are required, [plantselect.org/annual-conference-2024](http://plantselect.org/annual-conference-2024)

**FORT COLLINS**

**Volunteer in the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden**  
Offered through Engage Fort Collins, learn about xeriscape  
landscaping by doing. Free, View shifts and sign up on  
website, [engage.fcgov.com](http://engage.fcgov.com)

May 6 » **Converting Spray to Drip**  
Fort Collins Utilities, 222 Laporte Ave., 5:30pm - 7:30pm,  
Free, Sign up on website required, [fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events](http://fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events)

May 8 » **Weed Management Practices for Sustainable Landscapes**  
Fort Collins Utilities, 222 Laporte Ave., 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Free, Sign up on website required, [fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events](http://fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events)

May 11 » **Tai Chi**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:00am - 10:00am, \$15 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

May 11 » **Gardening For Insects – Or Not!**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:00am - 12:00pm, \$10 in person/\$5 virtual, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

May 11 » **Rotate to Rotary**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:30am - 12:30pm, \$10 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

May 11 » **Embodied Climate Action — Cultivate Critical Hope through Connection to Self, Nature, and Community: An Awakening to Climate Grief**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, \$10 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

May 11 » **Composting 101**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, \$10 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

May 15 » **How to Design and Garden for Pollinators**  
Fort Collins Utilities, 222 Laporte Ave., 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Free, Sign up on website required, [fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events](http://fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events)

May 18 » **Larimer County Farmers' Market begins!** There will be special events on Opening Day. Every Saturday, May 18 to October 26, 200 W. Oak Street, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free admission, [larimercountyfm.org](http://larimercountyfm.org)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

# BEST NEW PLANTS

*ish*

## FOR YOUR COLORADO LANDSCAPE

FRESH CHOICES FROM PLANT SELECT® (PLANTSELECT.ORG)

### DWARF LEADPLANT

(*Amorpha nana*)



This is a compact version of the native leadplant that performs well in sunny locations — and thrives on moisture provided only by Mother Nature once established. Reaching a height and width of three feet, this is a great substitute for Russian sage and is a wonderful shrub for pollinators. Blooms are purple and smell of honey. Introduced by Plant Select® in 2020.

### WINTER FIRE® SEDUM

(*Petrosedum rupestre* 'Rice Creek')

If you've planted 'Angelina' sedum with its chartreuse summer leaves and orange fall color, then consider Winter Fire®, whose green leaves turn burgundy during the winter. Like most groundcover sedums, this plant will gently fill in gaps and is perfect for rock gardens and hot, dry spaces. Introduced by Plant Select® in 2022.



### CRYSTAL FROST™ ARIZONA CYPRESS

(*Hesperocyparis arizonica* 'Fandango')

Think beyond junipers and consider this beautiful Arizona cypress, with its bluish-silver needles that look like sparkling frost, ultimately growing into a smaller tree, up to 25 feet tall and 15 feet wide. This hardy cultivar is drought tolerant and makes a nice habitat for birds. Introduced by Plant Select® in 2024. Availability may be limited



**BEST ANNUALS FROM THE CSU TRIAL GARDENS**  
(FLOWERTRIALS.COLOSTATE.EDU)



**events 'n classes**

**STONEHEDGE BEGONIAS**  
(*Begonia hybrids*)

This new series from Benary® are not your typical wax leaf begonias! These hybrids can get up to 24-30" tall and flower from the early summer through the whole season, right up until frost. The hold the flowers up above the foliage and can do well in partial sun to shade conditions. The dark foliage provides for an excellent contrast to the pastel-colored flowers. Definitely a new wave of the wax-leaf begonias that won't disappoint!



**FANCIFILLERS™ CHROME FOUNTAIN** (*Centaurea hybrida*)



This plant was voted as the best novelty plant in the 2023 trials. If you are looking for a great foliage plant for contrasting other foliage and flowers, this is a great option! This upright selection (12-18"), similar to dusty miller, offers pubescent or fuzzy, silver-white leaves that are dissect and provide great texture to your planting. FanciFillers will do well with lower water inputs and handle warm temperatures. Great in full sun and in containers. Introduced by Westhoff.

**LUCKY™ SUNRISE ROSE LANTANA**  
(*Lantana camara*)



Do you like a plant that provides flower power throughout the heat of the summer? And one that is always a-buzz with pollinators? Then try this lantana! This 2023 award winner from Ball FloraPlant, provides a great mix of flower colors, with florets opening an orange-yellow and maturing to a nice medium pink to light magenta color—reminiscent of some of our Colorado sunrises. The deep green foliage, typically free from pests, contrasts nicely against the rosy cluster of flowers. Expect mature plants to reach 12 - 14" wide and tall. Plant a few of these in your landscape border or in your deck containers! 🌸



Alison O'Connor, PhD, CSU Extension in Larimer County, Extension Professor of Horticulture



Chad Miller, PhD, Assistant Professor and CSU Trial Gardens Director, Landscape and Ornamental Horticulture

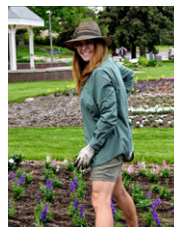
- May 22 » **Designing and Gardening in Dry Shade**  
Fort Collins Utilities, 222 Laporte Ave., 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Free, Sign up on website required, [fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events](https://fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events)
- May 25 » **Tai Chi**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:00am - 10:00am, \$15 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- May 25 » **Forest Bathing**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, \$25 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- May 28 » **Xeriscape Bike Tour: Visit Xeriscape Gardens**  
Offered through Engage Fort Collins, Mid-town starting location will be on the website, 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Free, Sign up on website required, [engage.fcgov.com](https://engage.fcgov.com)
- May 29 » **Designing and Installing Low Water Turf Types**  
Fort Collins Utilities, 222 Laporte Ave., 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Free, Sign up on website required, [fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events](https://fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events)
- May 31 » **NOCO Plant Swap - Plant Labeling and Truck Loading - Volunteers Needed!**  
Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, 2926 E. Mulberry St., 2:00pm - 5:00pm, Volunteer sign up on website, [frontrange.wildones.org/events/?wo\\_event\\_id=7068](https://frontrange.wildones.org/events/?wo_event_id=7068)
- June 1 » **Xeriscape Garden Party & Pollinator Plant Swap**  
City of Fort Collins Xeriscape Garden Party, 300 Laporte Ave., 10:00am - 1:00pm, No cost to attend, Location and other details found at: [fcgov.com/gardenparty](https://fcgov.com/gardenparty)
- June 5 » **Designing and Landscaping in Parkway Strips**  
Fort Collins Utilities, 222 Laporte Ave., 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Free, Sign up on website required, [fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events](https://fcgov.com/utilities/water-conservation-events)
- June 8 » **Notable Tree Bike Tour**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:00am - 12:30pm, \$25 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- June 8 » **Post-Installation Hive Check-up**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:30am - 10:30pm, \$18 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- June 8 » **Waterwise and Native Plant Gardening**  
The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, \$10 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](https://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)
- June 14 - June 16 » **Father's Day Tree Sale**  
Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 9:00am - 5:00pm (Fri-Sat)/10:00am - 5:00pm (Sun), Free admission, [fortcollinsnursery.com](https://fortcollinsnursery.com)
- June 15 » **Pride Day at Larimer County Farmers' Market**  
200 W. Oak Street, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Free admission, [larimercountyfm.org](https://larimercountyfm.org)

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# TALKIN' TOOLS

Hey! You! You, with the blisters on your hands and the crick in your back. You are a caretaker of the plants that provide our community with shade, our food banks with vegetables, our pollinators with nectar, and your body with exercise. Your work is important, and, as such, you deserve great tools to make it easier and more productive — the kind of tools that make you think, “I should have bought this years ago!”

The garden centers and hardware stores are filled with shiny, appealing tools, but how do we determine which ones will be most helpful? The internet is a good place to start — with qualifications. Many reviews are written by people who receive free merchandise in exchange for reviews. The best way for those reviewers to get more products is to write a favorable review, and that reviewer may not even be a gardener, so their input can have little value. Instead, look for independent testers like Wirecutter from the New York Times or Consumer Reports.



By Bev Shaw, CSU Extension Master Gardener in Larimer County



gardener preferred

bypass pruners



anvil pruners

## PRUNERS

Pruners are one of the most important tools in garden maintenance. They come in two forms: bypass and anvil. Bypass pruners work like scissors where the blades pass each other. Anvil pruners are like knives on a cutting board, where a blade comes down on a flat surface. This process crushes the stem or branch, leaving a messier cut that needs to heal. Bypass pruners are easier on the plant and the gardener. It's easy to tell which one you have just by looking, and if you have anvil pruners, it may be time to upgrade. A quick search of those independent testing sites will direct you to Felco or Corona pruners, which may last you a lifetime. Keep them sharp! Replacement parts are available online or at some independent garden centers. Your hands and plants will thank you.



rubber wheels

tip test!

## WHEELBARROWS

Research will help you narrow down wheelbarrows on the market. Wheelbarrows have more maneuverability than garden carts (which have two wheels instead of one). Air-filled tires bounce over steps and curbs better than solid ones — if you've struggled with steps before, go backward! Wheelbarrows are best purchased in person after a lap down the aisles of the hardware store. Make sure the nose of the wheelbarrow doesn't get in the way when you tip it up, then select the one that Goldilocks would choose — not too heavy, not too light. Pick the one that's best for you.

## HORI HORIS

Cue the trumpets for the glory of the hori, probably the most essential garden tool on any gardener's belt! A hori hori (which means “to dig-to dig” in Japanese) serves as a trowel, weeder, knife, and fairly serious weapon. It's impossible not to feel capable and in control when you face your garden with a hori on your hip. The best ones have stainless steel blades. Purists will lean toward the wooden handle on a tool from Japan (store it out of the sun so the handle lasts longer), while budget-conscious shoppers will find a variety of plastic-handled horis available on the market.

stainless steel blade



caution!!!

Which tool do you own that makes you most crazy? For me, it's hose-end sprayers, plural, because they keep breaking. Research has led me to an all-metal hose-end sprayer that I look forward to using this spring. Never again will the plastic seams of my sprayer burst, soaking me unexpectedly.

When I head into a garden, I have my phone, lip balm, pruners, and a hori in a tool belt. This very short tool list lets me accomplish most maintenance tasks (and keep moisturized lips). Of course, if I'm planting or mulching, I'll need other equipment, but these are the basics. Spend some time considering which tools are on your list, then head to a hardware store to peruse the electrician and carpenter's belts. Avoid the large open pouch to save yourself from digging for the right tool. Get one that holds exactly what you need (your hori may be in a separate sheath on your belt), not more, and head out to the garden. **Happy shopping — you deserve the best!** 🌻

## events 'n classes

### June 15 » **Trees of the Gardens Tour**

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 10:30am - 12:30pm, \$25 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### June 15 » **Embodied Climate Action: With Earth's Support**

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, \$10 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### June 18 » **Xeriscape Walking Tour: Visit Xeriscape Gardens**

Offered through Engage Fort Collins, Old-town starting location will be on the website, 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Free, Sign up on website required, [engage.fcgov.com](http://engage.fcgov.com)

### June 22 » **Junior League of Fort Collins Garden Tour**

Centennial High School, 330 E. Laurel St., 8:30am - 1:00pm, \$30, [jfortcollins.org/jlfc-events/junior-league-garden-tour](http://jfortcollins.org/jlfc-events/junior-league-garden-tour)

### June 22 » **Exploring the Seasons with Yoga & Breathwork: Summer Solstice Workshop**

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:30am - 12:00pm, \$55 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

### June 26 » **Concert w/The Samples (Benefit for Project Self-Sufficiency)**

Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 E. Mulberry St., 6:30pm, \$27 ADV/\$32 Door/ Kids 12 & Under Free, [fortcollinsnursery.com](http://fortcollinsnursery.com)

### July 6 » **New Moon Intentions Insight + Sound Workshop**

The Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, 9:30am - 12:00pm, \$55 in person, [fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes](http://fcgov.com/gardens/adult-classes)

## FREDERICK

### June 22 » **Master Gardener Q&A Booth at Frederick in Flight**

Centennial Park, 630 Eighth St., 5:00pm - 9:00pm, Free, [frederickco.gov/234/Events](http://frederickco.gov/234/Events)

## LOVELAND

### **Native Plant Sale**

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 100+ species of native plants available, Pricing and ordering online, [suburbitat.org](http://suburbitat.org)

### May 9 » **HPEC Warm Season Vegetable Class**

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 6:00pm - 7:30pm, Free, [suburbitat.org](http://suburbitat.org)

### May 11 » **Guided Interpretive Trail Walk**

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 9:00am - 10:30am, \$10 Donation Suggested, [suburbitat.org](http://suburbitat.org)

### May 18 » **Fishing with Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr., 9:30am - 11:00am, \$10 Donation Suggested, [suburbitat.org](http://suburbitat.org)

### May 25 » **Chapungu Sculpture Park: Interpretive Garden Walk**

Chapungu Sculpture Park, 6105 Sky Pond Dr., 10:00am - 12:00pm, \$10 Donation Suggested, [suburbitat.org](http://suburbitat.org)

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## LEARN THE



by Bryan Fischer, Curator of Plant Collections and Horticulturist, The Gardens on Spring Creek

It can be overwhelming to look at a plant's name when shopping. What does it all mean? Believe it or not, botanical Latin names weren't created to add complexity to gardening; they arose from a need! Perhaps the quickest way to understand this is to consider the plant referred to as "sage." I can think of several plants referenced by the common name, ranging from western big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and culinary sage (*Salvia officinalis*), to ornamental garden sages, like meadow sage (*Salvia x*). To avoid confusion, botanists employ a name system devised over 300 years ago, consisting of two name parts that are a bit like using a first name and a last name.

Just as everyone in my family could appear on a roster under "Fischer," all pines fall into the genus *Pinus*. A second, more precise name, much like my first name, "Bryan," is applied to each species in the group to distinguish them from one another. So, just like "Fischer Bryan," the name for the species Mugo pine is written as *Pinus mugo*. Since it's Latin, it is italicized for clarity. Only the genus is capitalized. Clear as mud?

There's a logical origin to these names. Typically, the genus name is the Latin name for that plant (if it was present in ancient Rome, as is the case for the genus *Pinus*), a person's Latinized name (often the person doing the classifying or someone they wanted to honor), or a Latin descriptor for a feature of that whole group of plants.

The second name typically describes the plant's physical appearance, where it grows, or it is another person's Latinized name. A quick trick to know which it might be is to check the name's ending: species-level names originating as the names of people typically end in "i" or "ii," pronounced "eye" or "ee-eye," respectively.

# LINGO

These names are often worth an internet search; knowing the origin of the name, like the fact that Western poison ivy's scientific name (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*) translates to Rydberg's (*rydbergii*, botanist involved with its scientific naming - poor guy!) toxic (*toxico*) tree (*dendron*, like dendrology), makes it much more memorable. Don't hesitate to break such words apart online, and you'll start to find patterns.

Memorizing a few of these word parts or tricks makes scientific names memorable and useful. It also helps turn these initially daunting names into quick references for understanding main plant features and differentiating similarly appearing or named plants when shopping, in text, and in talks. And, remember: if you're letting fear of pronunciation hold you back, Latin is a dead language. So, if you're being understood, you are succeeding! 🌸



TO GET YOU STARTED,  
**HERE ARE SOME COMMON WORD PARTS**  
 USED TO MAKE SCIENTIFIC NAMES BY THE PLANT COMMUNITY:

**ENGLISH**

**LATIN**

Silver .....	Argentus
Gold .....	Aureus
Green .....	Viridis
Red .....	Rubrum
Yellow .....	Flavus
Leaf .....	Folium
Flower .....	Flora
Fruit/Seed/Seedhead .....	Carpel
Big .....	Majior
Small .....	Minor



GARLIC  
*Allium sativum*



BLACK EYED SUSAN  
*Rudbeckia hirta*



CEDAR PINE  
*Pinus glabra*

LEDUM  
*Rhododendron tomentosum*

**events 'n classes**

June 1 » **HPEC Bird Walk & Bird Banding**  
 High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
 9:00am - 11:00am, \$10 Donation Suggested, [suborbitat.org](http://suborbitat.org)

June 3 - June 7 » **Rugged Research Nature Camp**  
 High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow  
 Dr., 8:30am - 4:30pm, Further information on website:  
[ruggedresearch.org](http://ruggedresearch.org)

June 8 » **Guided Interpretive Trail Walk**  
 High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
 9:00am - 10:30am, \$10 Donation Suggested, [suborbitat.org](http://suborbitat.org)

June 12 » **HPEC Gardening Class: Organic Pest Control & Soil  
 Quality** High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem  
 Willow Dr., 6:00pm - 7:30pm, Free, [suborbitat.org](http://suborbitat.org)

June 15 » **NoCo Wildlife Center: Human and Wildlife Coexistence**  
 High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
 9:00am - 10:30am, \$10 Donation Suggested, [suborbitat.org](http://suborbitat.org)

June 29 » **Kinston Garden Club: Herbs**  
 Kinston HUB, 6402 Union Creek Dr., 9:00am - 10:30am,  
 Free, [suborbitat.org](http://suborbitat.org)

June 29 » **Chapungu Sculpture Park: Interpretive Garden Walk**  
 Chapungu Sculpture Park, 6105 Sky Pond Dr., 10:00am -  
 12:00pm, \$10 Donation Suggested, [suborbitat.org](http://suborbitat.org)

July 6 » **HPEC Bird Walk & Bird Banding**  
 High Plains Environmental Center, 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr.,  
 9:00am - 11:00am, \$10 Donation Suggested, [suborbitat.org](http://suborbitat.org)

**WINDSOR**

May 12 » **Mother's Day Tour**  
 Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd.,  
 south of Eastman Park, 1:30pm - 3:30pm (drop in any time),  
 Free, [recreationliveshere.com](http://recreationliveshere.com)

May 15 » **Treasure Island Demonstration Garden Classes:  
 Growing Small Fruits In Your Garden**  
 Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake  
 Rd., south of Eastman Park, 10:00am - 11:00am, Free,  
[recreationliveshere.com](http://recreationliveshere.com)

June 16 » **Father's Day Tour**  
 Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake Rd.,  
 south of Eastman Park, 1:30pm - 3:30pm (drop in any time),  
 Free, [recreationliveshere.com](http://recreationliveshere.com)

June 19 » **Treasure Island Demonstration Garden Classes: The  
 Nightshade Family: The Edible and the Questionable**  
 Treasure Island Demonstration Garden, 31500 Laku Lake  
 Rd., south of Eastman Park, 10:00am - 11:00am, Free,  
[recreationliveshere.com](http://recreationliveshere.com)



Compiled by Kathleen Atkins,  
 CSU Extension Master Gardener  
 Event information is welcome at  
[nocobloomevents@gmail.com](mailto:nocobloomevents@gmail.com)

COMMUNITY



# SPRING

PLANT SALE

**SATURDAY, MAY 18 & SUNDAY, MAY 19**

Free ticketed admission | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | [fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)

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# ORIGAMI IN THE GARDEN

JUNE 1 – NOV. 3, 2024

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ON SPRING CREEK



City of  
**Fort Collins**



[fcgov.com/gardens](http://fcgov.com/gardens)



LET'S PARTY!

# XERISCAPE

## GARDEN PARTY IS BACK!



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Learn about water-wise landscaping from the experts - local professionals, non-profits, City staff and Colorado Master Gardeners will all be on hand.



### PARTY

Celebrate the art of landscaping with family-friendly activities, live art demonstrations, live music, a prize drawing, food trucks, and more!



### SWAP

Participate in the Pollinator Plant Swap! We welcome donations of any pollinator plants grown free of chemicals, but you don't have to donate to take some home.

**JOIN US AT THE XERISCAPE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN!**

Saturday, June 1 • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. • 300 Laporte Ave.