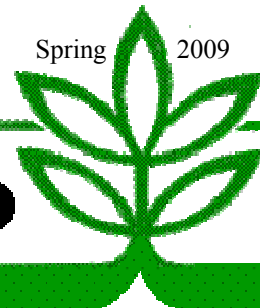


From the Ground Up



A Gardening and Native Plants Quarterly

Colorado State University Extension-Pueblo County

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FABULOUS FAMILIES

CACTACEAE by Dr. Neal Osborn, PhD, Botany
Professor Emeritus, CSU-Pueblo

We associate the cacti with xeric conditions but they may have originated in the tropics of South and Central America, where today there are still cacti with persistent leaves, with or without spines, and epiphytic (growing on another plant, but doesn't depend on it for nutrition) as well as terrestrial. Cacti exhibit a variety of growth forms including small trees, shrubs, herbs and vines. Although many cactus species are adapted to dry conditions, the majority are intolerant of sub-freezing temperatures.

The arrangement of the spines on the cactus stem is unique to this family. The spines, when present, are in radiating clusters called areoles. The spines are modified leaves that, while no longer photosynthetic, offer protection from predators, partially shield the stem surface from the sun, and reduce water loss. In some young cacti, the spines point downward forming drip points that deflect rain to the base of the plant. The stem, which now is the photosynthetic structure, is succulent and may be globular, cylindrical or flattened in shape.

The cactus flower is one of the most showy and beautiful of all plants. The colors are usually bright and gaudy (pollinated during the day) or white or cream (pollinated during dusk). The flowers consist of many sepals that merge into many petals, both of essentially the same color, producing a spectacular blossom. There are numerous stamens (may be over 60) and a large, green pistil.

The open design of the flower renders the stamens and pistil easily accessible to pollinators. While some cacti are pollinated by bats, a few rodents and birds, the majority are insect pollinated. Insects are not as abundant in dry climates so there are fewer chances of pollination. The cactus flower is designed to attract the attention of insects by its large size, dazzling colors, numerous stamens and a large pistil. Some of our local Prickly Pear cacti have stamens that are thigmotrophic (seismonastic) that close up over an insect as it moves around within the flower. As it struggles to get out, it becomes covered with pollen (very clever). You may have noticed that blooms of our cacti have no odor. Fragrance requires high humidity for transmittance so it would be of little use in our climate. Those cacti that have a fragrance bloom at night when the humidity is higher. The fruit that forms is dry or fleshy berry. 🍷



Echinocereus triglochidiatus
Claret cup cactus
Foothills in western Pueblo County
Photo: L. McMulkin



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In Memory of Sue Sadler, November 14, 1925-March 14, 2009

by Pat Myers, Colorado Master Gardener, Class of 2001



The Colorado Master Gardener program lost a true friend on the 14th of March. Sue Sadler joined the program in 1982 and became the Master Gardener coordinator soon after. She held that position for 24 years, retiring in 2007.

Sue was a perfect example of what a Master Gardener represents. As the coordinator, she gave everyone her support. She shared her knowledge, expertise, and along the way, she helped each one of the Master Gardeners realize the importance of the program in our community. She “cultivated” approximately 950 Colorado Master Gardeners during her time with the Pueblo County Extension office.

Those of us who trained under her and knew her as a friend will miss her beautiful smile and giving ways. Happy Gardening Sue. Until we meet again. 🍷

Sue Sadler Memorial Scholarship

The Pueblo Farmers’ Marketeers have designated one of their annual scholarships as the **Sue Sadler Memorial Scholarship**, in honor of Sue’s unwavering support of the local farmers’ market.

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please send your check to Farmers’ Marketeers, PO Box 1396, Pueblo, CO, 81004. For more information, call Farmers’ Marketeers President Jim Weeks at 561-0911. 🍷

BOOK REVIEW By Patricia Stuckey, Apprentice Colorado Master Gardener, Class of 2009

Plant-Driven Design by Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer Ogden, Timber Press, 2008

This book got good reviews by Panayoti Kelaidis (Denver Botanic Gardens) and Pat Hayward (Plant Select program). The premise of the book, in my opinion, is that there are two groups of people: Those that understand architectural landscape design but don’t know their plants (so they stay with generic safe choices); and a second group of people who know and love their plants but don’t understand design (so they don’t use their plants for the best effect). This book is supposed to help both these groups and bring them together. I think there is a third group that knows art and the use of light and color that the Ogdens included without mentioning.

I love lists, and this book has wonderful lists of plants for special uses or design purposes. The information that I found most interesting concerned plants that look best when backlit (with light passing through or silhouetting them) versus plants that look best in direct light with the light reflecting off them. In some cases, proper placement for the angle of the light makes the difference between an attractive or unattractive plant. This was a new (but obvious) concept for me that I intend to put to use. I haven’t done much regarding light beyond making sure my Morning Glories face east.

The book does have some minor drawbacks. The plant lists are by scientific name and don’t give hardiness zones. This shouldn’t be a problem for Master Gardeners, but would probably cause problems for a gardening novice. The book is intended for the entire U.S., but the plants mentioned tend to favor the drier Western U.S. There are plants listed that are not hardy in Colorado.

If you like this book because you like lists of plants for special uses, I suggest you also take a look at Planting the Natural Garden by Piet Oudolf and Henk Gerritsen, 2003. This book is mostly lists of plants and plant descriptions – text is minimal and a quick read. I think this book lost a little in translation to English – plant heights are given in centimeters and Hardiness zones are given but show things hardy in zones 6-7 that I know are hardy here in zone 5.

Lauren Springer (Ogden) also wrote The Undaunted Garden, 1994, which is more specific to Colorado and our unpredictable weather extremes. 🍷





In February I attended The International Water Conservation Conference and Xeriscape Expo in Albuquerque, New Mexico. All the speakers were inspiring and several received standing ovations, but I think the keynote speaker, Maude Barlow was by far the most interesting. Ms. Barlow is a co-founder of the Blue Planet Project. She is on the boards of the International Forum on Globalization and Food and Water Watch, and the World Future Council as well as the recipient of six honorary doctorates. In 2005 she received the Right Livelihood Award (known as the “Alternative Nobel”).

Barlow has traveled around the world studying cultures, economics and water issues. She is best known for her advocacy of global water justice. I was struck by her passion for both the people she has encountered on her travels and the ecological systems she has visited. Her perspective on water justice is truly a very global one.

Fact is the same amount of water is on the earth today as there was a million years ago, but the world has never had the population demands and needs for drinkable water. The rate that it is being polluted is unfathomable. Only approximately one to two percent of all the earth’s water has ever been potable. Australia is in water bankruptcy, and many, billions actually, are already faced with polluted, unusable water.

Here in the southwest, where precipitation is so fickle and unpredictable and our semi-arid landscape so fragile, we should be very mindful of our precious watershed and how we use it. The West will always be on the verge of or in a drought cycle and our water resources are finite. We are blessed with water that is drinkable and it was alarming to hear how great the percent of the world’s population does not have drinkable water right now.

Barlow’s main theme was the need to keep water within its natural watershed ecology and maintain it in the public trust. Water has become a commodity being bought up at an astounding rate and exported by global corporations around the world. Exporting water away from its natural watershed ecology is a disaster to both the populations within them and the environment. She gave examples of lakes that had been “purchased” by large corporations in primitive areas that were then literally walled off and secured by armed guards and dogs, so the indigenous people were no longer able to access their natural water source.

During the summer months many people use fifty to seventy percent of their treated drinkable water to irrigate their ornamental gardens. Her point, I believe was to obtain water justice and to minimize our water footprints. We all need to be very conscious of how we use our water and to work diligently to be part of a restorative rather than an extractive culture. 📝

Garden Tip: Hydrozoning by Linda McMulkin, CSU Extension-Pueblo County

Hydrozoning is the landscape practice of placing plants in the landscape according to water needs. The goal of hydrozoning is to increase water conservation by watering according to the needs of the group rather than the needs of the thirstiest plant in the garden bed. For example, don’t plant cactus in your bluegrass lawn or a pine tree next to a willow. Cactus and pines need less frequent irrigation than bluegrass and willows.

Plant water requirements are generally labeled as low, moderate or high. Keep in mind that these designations are compiled using data collected by managers of public gardens and by growers and are not exact measurements. The amount of water each plant needs in your landscape will depend on climate and physical conditions such as wind, heat, sunlight, mulch and the moisture holding capacity of your soil.

Some sources for information on plant water needs:

- CSU Extension Fact Sheets: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/pubs.html#garden>
- SE Colorado Water Conservancy District, www.secwcd.org
- X-rated Gardening: <http://www.xratedgardening.com/perennials.htm> 📝



Garden Tip: Saving Money at the Garden Center

In the March 17 issue of Horticulture Magazine, Pam Baggett says that we can save money on our spring garden shopping by avoiding impulse purchases. She suggests that we visit a garden center twice. The first time, take a camera and a note pad, but not your wallet. Record plants and prices and use that information to determine what will fit into your landscape (consider sun, soil and irrigation). Then go back and buy those plants that will thrive in your garden. 📝

AN UPLIFTING DAY by Edith Brideau, Colorado Master Gardener, Class of 2007

If you pay attention to the news, you may believe that there is little to be cheerful or optimistic about lately. But the recent Third Annual Western Landscape Symposium provided an opportunity to focus on some positive things for a change. More than 100 gardening enthusiasts, many from the Pueblo area but some traveling from as far as Swink and Denver, were treated to a day of fun, education and inspiration.

Emcee Paul Fanning of the Pueblo Board of Water Works, set the tone for the day with his warm welcome to the audience and introductions of the day's speakers.

Bill Zwick, Landscape Architect for the City of Pueblo, provided an overview of the City's beautification efforts. The City's Western Landscape Vision aims to create a special sense of place and enhance the most visible areas of Pueblo in a waterwise fashion. This aids economic development efforts and makes Pueblo a more comfortable community in which to live. Bill displayed numerous photos of projects throughout the city, featuring waterwise perennials, alternative turf, and drip irrigation systems.

The keynote speaker was Jim Knopf, an expert in water conservation and native plant landscapes. Jim lives in Boulder, where gardening conditions are quite different from ours. He encouraged us to break the northern landscaping habit by utilizing native plants and others that are well suited to our environment. He praised the City's ongoing efforts in this area. He displayed numerous photos of landscapes in Tucson, Phoenix, Santa Fe and Grand Junction, featuring plants that would thrive in Pueblo. While his morning talk touched on all seven principles of Xeriscape, he emphasized that the two most important principles are grouping together plants with similar water requirements and irrigating properly. He encouraged us to study the foothills to learn how plants thrive in sun or shade, wet or dry conditions.

Ryan Kinnison, Farm Manager for Southwest Farms, taught one of the morning breakout sessions. He acknowledged that conserving water should be everyone's goal because the question is no longer if we will have a water crisis, but when it will occur. He noted, however, that turf can provide environmental, recreational and aesthetic benefits and—if selected, installed and maintained properly—need not be a drain on our precious water supply. He was responsive to the audience's interest in renovating their existing lawns and provided detailed instruction in seeding over existing turf.

After lunch, Linda McMulkin, CSU Extension Horticulture Coordinator, and Zack Stanifer, grower for Campbell's Flowers and Greenhouse, shared their knowledge of plants that do well in our area. They encouraged us to plan landscapes using our own gardening style but to be realistic about the amount of time/effort we will expend in maintenance and the physical factors of the site. A handout identified all plants shown in their beautiful slide show and also provided helpful references and a list of demonstration gardens in Pueblo County. 📝

Garden Tip: Lawn Care by Linda McMulkin

Colorado State University turf experts recommend core aeration for established lawns at least once per year. Aeration relieves soil compaction, reduces the build up of thatch, improves water infiltration and increases oxygen to the roots. Cores should be 2 to 4 inches deep and no more than 4 inches apart. Irrigate the lawn a day prior to aeration so plugs pull from the ground more easily. It is best to leave the cores on the surface and let them disintegrate, returning nutrients and organic matter to the turf.

Common turf problems in the spring include winter kill and mite damage. Lack of winter irrigation and warm temperatures contribute to both of these problems. Please see CSU Fact Sheets 7.199, 7.202 and 5.505 (www.ext.colostate.edu) for more information.

Remember to sharpen your mower blades now and again about every month during the growing season. Sharp mower blades result in a clean cut at the top of the grass blade, reducing the torn/shaggy look that results from dull blades. 📝



UNDERSTANDING HERBICIDES by Marvin Reynolds, Director, CSU Extension-Pueblo County

Herbicides are chemicals that kill plants or inhibit their natural growth. Most often we think of herbicides as “manmade” chemicals. Some chemicals can be naturally occurring. Herbicides are most effective when used with good cultural practices. The best selection of ecological, agronomic and economic factors can improve effectiveness.

When using chemical herbicides, the first thing to keep in mind is your personal safety and the safety of those around you. Safety starts with reading the label of the product you chose to use. This label is the law. It explains when, how and where to use the chemical.



Herbicides can be separated in different ways. One of the most common is by the time of use in relation to plant growth. Herbicides that are used before a plant begins to grow are called pre-emergent herbicides and herbicides applied after the plant emerges from the soil are called post-emergent herbicides.

Another way to identify herbicides is by recognizing what type of plants the herbicide will be effective against. Some herbicides are effective on grasses, some on broadleaf weeds and others will have some effectiveness against grasses and broadleaf weeds. Herbicides that will affect a small select number of plants are called selective herbicides. Those that will affect a large number of plants are called non-selective herbicides.

No herbicide will be effective against all plants. The label of the chemical herbicide will tell you about the plants that herbicide will be effective in controlling and the type of place that specific herbicide can be used in, such as in a lawn or orchard.

Some common herbicides used in urban and rural areas include 2,4-D (2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) and Roundup (Glyphosate). 2,4-D is often used in the lawn to control broadleaf weeds. It isn't effective in controlling most grasses common to our area.

2,4-D is a selective herbicide. It will control many broadleaf weeds, but doesn't control grasses. 2,4-D may show some impact on grasses but it doesn't usually kill the grass. With water and proper care and some properly timed fertilizer the grass will continue to grow. It may be set back and slow growing for a time. It has a high LD₅₀ designation. Because it does, it can be purchased by the average person.


The LD₅₀ designation is a determination of how much of a chemical will generally kill 50% of the test animals in an experiment. The higher the number the safer the chemical is. This chemical is not a restricted use chemical.

Another classification of herbicides is a soil sterilant. Soil sterilants are chemicals that are non-selective herbicides with a kick. The kick is that they are used when there is no desire that a plant grow now or in the foreseeable future. These chemicals are used in parking lots or other areas where plants are not wanted.

Roundup is a non-selective herbicide, but not a soil sterilant. It will control many grasses and broadleaf weeds. As a non-selective herbicide, glyphosates are a good choice as they have a shorter replanting interval than many other chemical herbicides. That means that the time from when the chemical is applied until new plants can be planted in the same soil is shorter than many other chemicals. Roundup has a high LD₅₀ designation.

There are many ways chemicals are classified based on their risk to people, animals or the environment. All chemicals if used improperly can cause harm. That is why reading the label is so important. Non-restricted use chemicals are those that are least toxic for people, animals or the environment. Restricted use chemicals are considered more toxic to one or more of the three listed risk categories. Commercial use only chemicals are the most toxic that a person may come in contact with.

The average person can purchase non-restricted use chemicals. These are often found in the lawn and garden section of stores. Restricted use chemicals require training and certification before the average person can purchase and use them. These chemicals have a higher risk factor (LD₅₀) than the non-restricted chemicals. They will be used by specially trained individuals in a controlled environment.

Chemicals can be part of an integrated management plan for managing weeds or unwanted vegetation. For more information about herbicides and where they may fit in your management plan contact the Horticulture department and Colorado Master Gardeners at the Pueblo County Extension Office. 






IS IT NATIVE OR JUST EVERYWHERE? By Linda McMulkin

We see them all the time. Plants such as Downy brome, bindweed and Russian olive are frequently found along roadsides and rivers, as well as in our landscapes. And I bet you know that all of those plants are non-native and on the noxious weed list. But what about all of the plants that we have accepted as part of our local plant community, even though they are as alien as the ones listed above?

The sources of non-native plants in natural areas include agriculture, landscapes and accidental introduction. Many of the plants found along roadsides in southeastern Colorado escaped from agricultural land and include grasses used in pastures and plants used as medicine, food or honey production. Some were planted in gardens for their attractive flowers or foliage. And while many of the escapees have played nicely in natural settings, others have become thugs, out competing native flora and destroying the native ecology.

Why should we care if a plant along the road or hiking trail is native or alien? Financially, it costs taxpayers and landowners about \$4.5 billion annually in damage to livestock/wildlife forage, weed control efforts and reduction in property values. From an ecological standpoint, native plants, which provide food and shelter for native birds, mammals and insects, are being displaced by introduced species, which have invaded 17 million acres of public lands in the western US.

By increasing your knowledge of plants in Colorado, you can become part of the defense against plant species that could damage or destroy natural settings in our area. Control weeds in your personal landscape and reduce the spread of invasive plants by brushing your hiking boots, equipment, pets, and washing your vehicle between visits to different natural settings.

Become familiar with Colorado native plants using the many resources available, including plant keys and picture books. Most reference books tell whether a plant is native or alien, and some indicate which are potential problem species. Good online references include the USDA Plant Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>), the CSU Herbarium (<http://herbarium.biology.colostate.edu/database.htm>) and the Colorado Plant Database (<http://www.co.jefferson.co.us/coopext/intro.jsp>). Other good online references are the Colorado Native Plant Society (www.conps.org) and the Colorado Weed Management Association (www.cwma.org). 

Preserving the Harvest 2009

CSU Extension Food Preservation series.

Food Preservation Classes:

6:00-8:00 p.m. Cost: \$8.00 per class

Locations: CSUE=CSU Extension, 212 W. 12th Street, Room 220, Pueblo, CO 81003
CTK=Christ the King Church, 1708 Horseshoe Dr., Pueblo, CO 81001

Date	Class	Location
May 6	Jams and Jellies	CTK
May 28	Freezing and Dehydrating	CSUE
June 10	Water Bath Canning (Fruits and Tomatoes)	CSUE
June 30	Pickling Foods (Including Vegetables, Fruits and Relishes)	CSUE
July 23	Pressure Canning (Vegetables)	CTK
August 12	Review of All Canning Processes	CSUE

If you need any special accommodation(s) to participate in this event, please contact Colorado State University Extension at 719-583-6566. Your request must be submitted at least five (5) business days in advance of the event. Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Pueblo County cooperating. Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.





Gardening Book Sale at Books Again

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Large Selection of Oldies but Goodies \$1.00 each
All other Gardening Books Buy One Get One Free
At all times -- Most Books 75% off the original price

FIVE MISTAKES I MADE THE FIRST YEAR GROWING PRODUCE by Burt Carney, Apprentice Colorado Master Gardener, Class of 2009

My wife and I purchased an acre of formerly irrigated farmland east of Pueblo, Colorado, to build a retirement home and to grow fruit and vegetables which we want to sell to supplement our retirement income. Gardening had been my hobby for years, but I had never really grown much that you could eat. The first year on the new property I planted 43 dwarf and semi-dwarf fruit trees of all kinds, and rows of blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries. In another area several varieties of melons and many types of vegetables were planted. While most of the attempts were met with success, with hindsight, I realize that I made at least five “mistakes” during my first year’s effort. Perhaps you can learn from them!

Get Information from Your County Extension Office

While I did a lot of reading and looked at a lot of plant and tree catalogs in planning my “farm,” I realize now that I missed a great source of local information by not utilizing the services of the county Extension office. With a phone call or visit I could have found out about the best varieties of fruit and vegetables to grow in my area, the amount of “chill hours” needed by various types of fruit trees, the frost-free dates for planting a garden, taken advantage of the free information they have on many topics, and checked out the classes that they offer at a modest fee. You can find their phone number and location in the blue “government” pages of most phone books. Knowledgeable and friendly people will help you!

Get a Soil Test

Get soil tests on various parts of your property where you want to plant trees and grow a garden. I didn’t until after everything was planted. The Extension office can give you the names of some reputable soil testing services or you can “Google” soil testing and get a list. Soil tests run around \$25 for each sample. I found out that my soil had an alkaline range of up to 8.0 pH which is pretty high, but fairly typical of soil in drier areas such as the southwest. It could also use more organic matter. The test report indicated the existing levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash, and if any needed to be added, how much to add per square foot, and a lot of additional information. I learned that the pH in my garden would be problematical for the blueberries unless additional steps were taken—steps that would have been easier to take if I had done them before the original planting of the bushes. A high pH can also increase the chances of plants and trees having iron chlorosis which causes the yellowing of plant leaves. Additional phosphorus was needed in one of my garden areas to encourage greater flowering and fruiting in plants.

Learn About Growing Sweet Corn

On the west side of our property a farmer leases land to grow corn and other farm produce. As it turned out, he planted maize, or animal corn, right up to the edge of our property. Less than four feet away I planted sweet corn. With cross pollination of the two types of corn, my corn wasn’t that great for eating. I learned later that corn has a rather small number of days when pollination occurs. If I had planted my sweet corn before he did, or after his corn was up 6-8 inches, I could have avoided most of the problem. Through an Extension class I learned that I would have a higher pollination rate if my 80-foot single row of corn was planted instead in 4-5 shorter rows in a block pattern.

Gray Landscape Fabric Doesn’t Solve Everything

I tried putting down landscape fabric between the rows of melons, thinking that it would provide a good surface to keep the melons clean as they grew and help keep down weeds. I quickly learned that fabric only works well if you put something on top of it such as gravel, bark, etc. since light can penetrate the bare fabric.



Five Mistakes I Made The First Year Growing Produce (continued from page 7)

I had weeds that pushed the fabric up 6-10 inches in no time. I had to remove it and pull the weeds. Fabric is useful for many tasks, but not this one!

Don't Over Rototill Your Garden Area

After my first year of "farming," I learned through the Extension office that it is easy to over till a garden area, especially if you have clayey soil like I have. Over rototilling can negatively affect the worm population and the tilth of clayey soil. As organic matter such as compost, grass clippings, straw, peat moss, etc. are added to the garden, the small clay particles begin to clump together more around the new amendments creating additional little spaces for air and water movement. Rototilling more than necessary destroys those new spaces that are so helpful to plants growing in clayey soil.

Be Careful How You Plant Trees

In one of the Extension classes I learned that the latest research contradicts some of our long-held ideas on how to plant trees. For instance, community tree surveys have shown that 80% of the trees were planted too deep for good tree health. Most tree varieties have roots that grow more horizontally, than down. When you dig a hole deeper than the tree's root ball, it can affect the long-term survival of the tree since there can be oxygen deprivation and the "drowning" of the roots when there's too much moisture. Here are two other ideas that I learned. (1) Dig the hole 3 times bigger than the root ball instead of the usual two times. Give it sloping sides. A smaller hole with straight sides causes roots to circle the hole instead of growing outward from the tree. The smaller the hole, the greater the tendency for this root girdling. The tree may grow o.k. the first couple of years in a small hole, but a larger hole grows stronger trees over time. (2) Adding a lot of amendments to the tree hole backfill dirt can cause a similar root girdling effect. The roots tend to stay within the diameters of the hole where the "good dirt" is located instead of growing outward for a stronger tree. If amendments are added, be sure to mix them well with both the backfill material and with the sloping sides of the tree hole to break up the hole's interface making it easier for the roots to grow out from the original hole. It is probably best to use less than 20% of added amendments.

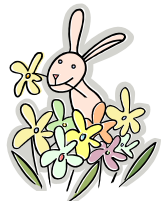
As I continue my "farm project," I'm sure that there will be more lessons along the way, but I hope the lessons I learned this first year might be helpful for you as you start your own projects. ✍

Garden Tip: Wildlife Damage by Linda McMulkin

Wildlife species such as voles, pocket gophers, rabbits and deer have been causing headaches for gardeners in our area. Diagnosing your particular problem is difficult and managing the critter is often even harder.

The best place to find information about wildlife damage is at The Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management at <http://icwdm.org>. The website includes an online damage key with photos, publications on the life cycles and habits of many animals, possible control methods and even a monthly mystery damage photo.

The site contains research-based information from a number of universities. CSU Extension does not have many publications on wildlife, since funding for wildlife management research has not been available in recent years. Management techniques don't change from state to state, so the fact sheets from regional universities will provide most of what you need. Just keep in mind that laws may be different from state to state, so check with local agencies for up to date regulations. ✍



How Do You Say That Botanical Name? by Linda McMulkin

Many people ask how to pronounce the scientific names of plants and animals. Since most of us didn't take Latin in school, figuring out how to say botanical names can be intimidating.

Keep in mind that, while there are rules for Latin, there can be variations in pronunciation, just as there are in English. Remember the to-may-to/to-mah-to song? But if you want some help with botanical names, visit the Fine Gardening Pronunciation Guide at <http://www.finegardening.com/pguide/pronunciation-guide-to-botanical-latin.aspx>, or just Google fine gardening hear latin. ✍





GARDEN WALKS

CATTAIL CROSSINGS by Marilyn Chambers, Colorado Master Gardener, Class of 2000

Anyone who has ever tried to garden in Pueblo West knows what a challenge that is, especially for new residents of Colorado who are used to more rainfall and to soil that is easier to dig. Teaching people that a lovely yard is possible in this difficult location is the focus of 'The Gardeners' of Pueblo West and the reason for the existence of the garden they tend.

The Pueblo West Xeriscape Demonstration Garden was started in 1999 at a different location. In 2004, other plans for that area made a move necessary, and a setting in the developing park of Cattail Crossings was offered and accepted. As many plants as possible were transplanted from the first location.

The new garden, still in process, was created and is maintained by a group of volunteers who love gardening and like sharing their knowledge. Existing junipers were incorporated into the design, but a Russian olive was removed. First a bed using plants needing moderate water, such as cotoneaster, potentilla, diascia and many more, was built, along with a rose bed which also needs moderate water. It is frequently surprising to people that some of their old favorites can be grown successfully in Pueblo West in a xeriscape setting.

Low moderate beds were next and are still being added to, using blanket flowers, lavender, ornamental oregano and others needing a bit less water. A few low water items have been planted so far, including broom, salvia, and artemisia.

A hillside remains undone and needs a lot of work before it can be planted. Here is where the xeric plants will reside, but obstacles keep preventing the finishing of this steep area.

Design has played a big part as well as showcasing as many suitable plants as possible. 'The Gardeners' of Pueblo West feel this garden is beautiful and are proud of it and invite anyone interested to visit anytime, but especially on Friday mornings during the growing season when they are on the premises and would love to show you around. 📍

Native Plant Master by Linda McMulkin

CSU Extension is taking registrations for the 2009 Native Plant Master (NPM) courses. The NPM courses are taught on site at local open spaces rather than in the classroom, allowing participants to learn about plants in their natural settings.

The NPM program is designed to train participants in plant characteristics, identification techniques, ecological relationships, control of invasive plants, use of natives in home landscapes and land stewardship.

Native Plant Master courses are available in southeastern Colorado in Pueblo, El Paso and Custer Counties. For more information on the program or a schedule of courses, visit http://www.ext.colostate.edu/menu_garden.html and click on Native Plant Master. Applications for the Pueblo County program are available by calling 719-583-6566. 📍



Colorado Gardening Blogs by Linda McMulkin

Blogs are big right now. A blog is a publicly accessible online journal, where individuals or groups can post information, stories, photos and opinions. New information is posted frequently and others can comment on or question what is there. A blogger is a person who maintains the site.

I've been visiting two Colorado gardening sites regularly, as they are maintained by CSU Extension personnel and I trust the posted information. Both of these sites are linked on the CSU Extension Yard and Garden page.

The first is Front Range Food Gardener, <http://fronrangefoodgardener.blogspot.com>, which focuses on fruits and veggies in the home garden.

The second is called Gardening After Five, <http://gardeningafterfive.wordpress.com>, and covers a wide range of gardening topics, including tips on pruning trees, starting seeds and cutting back ornamental grasses. 📍



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EVENTS.

Xeriscape Tours Of Pueblo and Pueblo West



June 6, 2009 in Pueblo *tour only*
 June 7, 2009 in Pueblo West *tour only*
 9AM until 3PM

*There is no charge for this self-guided tour.
 All Tours are Rain or Shine
 Maps will be available at Local Garden Centers*

You are free to visit any and all of the gardens at
 your leisure and in any order you wish on the date
 for that community.
 Colorado Master Gardeners and the Pueblo West
 Community Xeriscape Gardeners will be present to
 answer questions.
 A Xeriscape resource handout and biographies about
 each garden will be available onsite. Many of the
 plants will be labeled.

*The Fourth Annual Xeriscape Tours
 of Pueblo and Pueblo West includes
 Garden Art Pieces by artists from the
 Art on South Main Gallery
 and other local artists.*








The Pueblo Zoo and the Colorado Master Gardeners present their annual Plant Sale at the Pueblo Zoo


MAY 2 - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

"Water-Wise" & Rock Garden Plants, Annuals, Perennials,
 Hanging Baskets, and Unique Species

Perfect Mother's Day Gifts!
 Expert Plant Advice




**FREE
 ADMISSION
 to the
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 SALE**



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