Colorado State University Extension – Elbert County Master Gardeners

"Lett-uce" Inform You

April 2009

Come Learn with Us in 2009

April 25, Saturday 9 to 12 Simla (exact location to be determined)
Noxious Weeds presented by **Dr. George Beck**, Extension Weed Science Specialist and Professor at Colorado State University and Kipp Nye Elbert County Extension Director. Topics: Basics about weeds, Weed ID, Integrated Weed Management, Weed Management Plans, Invasion and Spread of Weeds and Weed Control. Location and fee will be provided when you RSVP.

May 16, **Saturday 9 to 12** (exact location to be determined)
Common Weeds presented by your Elbert County Extension Director Kipp Nye. Kipp will introduce you to the most common weeds in Elbert County, lead a weed walk to visually identify them, inform on their toxicity or not, and instruct on how to control or eliminate them. Cost $5.00. Location will be provided when you RSVP.

The following classes are being presented by the Elbert County Master Food Safety and Preservation presenter.

April 4, Saturday 10 to 12 at the Carlson Building in Elizabeth
High Altitude Cooking: Breads, Cakes, Cookies and Candy
Come sample the baked goods and learn how to adjust all of your recipes for altitude. Browse the references and recipes and network with other cooks. Fee $10
May 30, Saturday 10 to 12 at the Elbert County Health Department in Kiowa
Drying Fruits, Vegetables and Jerky
Learn to safely dry and store all your food. Sample some dried goods, receive new information and recipes in the art of dehydrating, energy-free way to store foods. Fee $10
June 6, Saturday 10 to12 at the Simla Municipal Building in Simla
Jams and Jellies: Learn to make all types of jams, preserves, with pectin, with low sugar, and without added pectin. Sample some varieties and receive information and recipes about the easy water bath canning of jams. Kitchen-based class. Fee $10
July 11, Saturday 10 to 12 at the Simla Municipal Building in Simla
Tips for Entering Fairs: Learn how to evaluate your canning and drying efforts for successful entry into county and state fairs. Receive judging criteria for each type of product. Examine some prepared products and take home written reference materials. Fee $10

Please RSVP for all classes by calling the Elbert County Extension Office in Kiowa (303-621-3162) or Simla (719-541-2361).

In this Issue

Colorado Master Gardener

Plants in Their Place

Plants for your Garden: The Colorado 2009 Plant Select® Program

By Dianne White,
Colorado Master Gardener

CORONADO® RED HYSSOP
Agastache 'Pstessene'

Agastache is a genus of 9-12 species most of which are native to the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico. Others are scattered here and there in Asia, Europe and the rest of the U.S. The genus is a member of the mint family of perennial herbs and so has square stems and fragrant foliage.

As if boasting beautiful form, a great variety of nectar rich flowers in a multitude of colors and fragrances from bubblegum to root beer weren't enough, the genus is also a magnet for wildlife. Hummers really like the red and orange flowered varieties while butterflies seem to prefer the blue varieties. Bees aren't choosey and seem to like any they can find.

This year's Plant Select® offering, *Agastache* 'Pstessnee' is the fourth member of this genus to be selected. (*Agastache* 'rupestris 1997, *Agastache* aurantiaca 2001, Agastache cana 2002). Its dainty, tubular, flowers range from brilliant crimson to deep maroon and last from mid-summer to first frost. Growing 15-18 inches in height and 12-15 inches in width, it makes a great border plant. Its USDA zones 5-9 (up to 6000) feet make it a tender perennial in Elbert County, but with a little care it will perform as well as its cousins. Choosing the right place and giving it some winter protection will help Coronado's® chances of overwintering.

The culture for this plant holds true for all the native *Agastache*. They prefer full sun, but will tolerate some light shade. Moderate watering until established and then it is relatively xeric. They are not picky as to soil type seeming to flourish in clay, loam or sandy loam but do somewhat better in well drained locations. They also make a great container plant and mix nicely with other tender perennials and annuals to make showy displays.

Agastache is relatively free of diseases and pests. Fungal diseases such as rust or powdery mildew can affect the leaves during hot humid weather if the circulation around the plant is not good, so giving them a bit of space is advisable. They are well worth a little effort and offer a grand return in fragrance, wildlife attraction and color for your efforts.

For additional information or to find retailers that carry the Plant Select® plants visit their website at PLANTSELECT.ORG.

Ponderosa Pines

(Continued from page 7)

Mistletoe spreads slowly from branch to branch, from tree to tree, choking branch by branch and eventually killing the tree. Common containment consists of removal of the infected branches. As the food source for the mistletoe is removed, the mistletoe will die.

Conifer sawfly is fairly prevalent in parts of Elbert County. About midsummer these about 3/8 inch brownish larvae worms will defoliate the older pine needles; sometimes in epidemic proportions. The sight is bothersome, but rarely will the tree be killed. However, the trees are stressed and are subject to further invasion of diseases. Heavy infestations of larvae can be easily controlled with contact insecticides, dislodge with heavy bursts of water or soapy water if applied to the bodies of the larvae.

Needle miners are tiny caterpillars that feed inside pine needles. The caterpillars will core out about half the old needle, making it look half dead. The needles will eventually drop. Needle miner infestation is not considered a serious problem from the standpoint of tree health, but it does detract from the tree appearance. If control is desired, timing is very critical for foliar spray.

Southwestern pine tip moth feeds on and destroys new terminal growth on young ponderosa pine trees. Usually in this area it is the tip of the tree. Generally this does not threaten the health of the tree, but in a year or two the tree may generate two tree tops, thus creating a forked tree. In my situation, I prefer to cut back one of the tops.

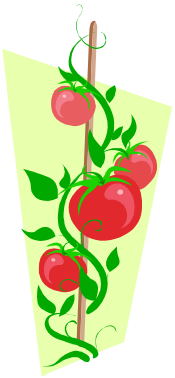
This is a summary of the more prevalent ponderosa pine problems in Elbert County. For additional information you can contact the Elbert County Master Gardeners and request the following CSU Fact Sheets: 5.528 Mountain Pine Beetle, 5.529 Pine Tip Moth, 5.544 Ponderosa Pine Needle Miners, 5.558 Ips Beetles and in Planttalk 2106 Dwarf Mistletoe and 1439 Sawfly on Evergreens or you can access them through the CSU website at www.ext.colostate.edu.

Plants in Their Place

Growing Tomatoes

By Aija Tobiss
Colorado Master Gardener

Tomatoes are an easy and popular vegetable to grow, and there are very many varieties to choose from. Tomatoes require a nighttime temperature of above 32 degrees F. and a daytime temperature of at least 60 degrees F. So the planting time in Elbert County would be around the end of May.



Tomatoes can be started from seed indoors six to eight weeks before planting. When buying plants from a greenhouse, select a plant that is dark green, six to eight inches tall, the stem is about pencil size and has not been pruned back. Also choose VFN resistant plants. VFN indicates that the plant is resistant to *Verticillium* wilt, *Fusarium* wilt, and nematodes. *Verticillium* and *Fusarium* wilts are common soil-borne fungal diseases. Nematodes are not a problem in Colorado due to cold soil temperatures.

Harden off plants by gradually exposing them to outdoors so they tolerate the move from the greenhouse to outdoors. If plants are tall and leggy, plant horizontally in a trench two to three inches deep. Pinch off the lower leaves and leave the two to three sets of leaves showing above the soil. They will root along the stem. Fertilize the transplants with a water soluble plant starter such as MiracleGro, Peters etc. A water soluble fertilizer stimulates renewed growth.

Mulch the plant to conserve soil moisture and to manage weeds. Water in the morning and avoid overhead watering.

Yellowing of the lower leaves in midsummer is typical of low nitrogen. According to Dr. D. Whiting, **"Keeping nitrogen levels up in mid to late summer is a primary means of Early Blight control and significantly improves yields**." As the first fruits reach about two inches in diameter, fertilize with a water soluble fertilizer according to package instructions.

Some of the popular varieties include *Early Girl*, *Celebrity*, *Big Boy* and *Better Boy*, *Sweet 100* and an heirloom *Brandywine*. I personally have had good success with *Sweet 100, Early Girl* and a large beefsteak variety.

For additional information you can call the Elbert County Master Gardeners and request the following Planttalk #1817 Tomatoes for Home Gardens, Planttalk #1442 Tomato Diseases or you can access these and other sheets through the Colorado State University Extension website at www.ext.colostate.edu.

Basil, Tomato's Best Friend

By Doris Smith
Colorado Master Gardener

In Elbert County Basil is an annual, but it is so easy to grow, there's no reason not to include it in your vegetable or flower garden. As with most fragrant herbs, basil will attract beneficial insects which keep neighboring plants healthier. Many gardening articles claim that tomatoes are particularly enhanced by basil growing nearby.

Basil is easily grown from seed. You'll want to start it indoors first so that you have robust plants to put out, or you can buy the plants in early summer along with tomato plants. Basil also grows well in a container planting.

Basil needs to be watered regularly and deeply. Erratic watering will cause the plant to lose its fragrance and begin flowering early. If you're growing the basil for cooking, it's important to stop it from flowering. As soon as you see the flower forming on the top, pinch it down the stem so that you take off the flower and some leaves. Just pinching off the flower will cause it to immediately flower again, but cutting down the stem will encourage the plant to form more leaves.

Harvest all but the bottom few leaves when the plant is about ten inches tall, and it will continue to sprout new leaves until frost. You can dry or freeze any basil leaves that you don't use fresh. The key is to pinch off the leaves throughout the summer rather than waiting to harvest all at once. The plant will lose its flavor and become bitter as it ages.

A local talk show gardener recommends "Sweet Genovese" for our high altitude. Since basil is sensitive to cold temperatures, you need to be sure it is grown in warm soil. But even with our short growing season, you can grow plenty of basil for year-round use.

Even if you aren't interested in cooking with basil, it's still a beautiful and useful plant in the garden, much like tucking petunias in a bare spot to enjoy for the summer.

In Your Garden

Composting

By Doris Smith
Colorado Master Gardener

Composting kitchen and yard scraps can be as easy or complicated as you want to make it. Even an apartment dweller can make a small compost pile in a bucket with drainage holes, and use the finished compost to refurbish soil in house plants.

Most of us in Elbert County have space outside to build a three foot compost bin. The bin can be built out of hay bales, wood, as long as it's not pressure treated, T-posts and fencing wire, cinder blocks, or any available material. It's a three-sided construct with one open side or at least a gate you can open and reach inside.

The structure should be located in a sunny location near where you'll be placing the composted material and where you can reach it easily to add to it and spray with water. If you have constant wind blowing in your area, you would have better results building a solid wall on the windward side of your bin because winds can dry out your compost and keep it from breaking down.

We installed a compost collector with a removable pail in a kitchen cabinet. It is made specifically so that the pail pulls out when you open the cabinet door, you drop in kitchen scraps; close the door and the pail fits under its own lid inside the cabinet. As needed, the pail can be removed and emptied in the outdoor compost bin. There are several variations on this idea available, but even a bucket near the back door works fine as long as it's emptied and washed regularly.

Many kitchen scraps are useful in a compost pile. Rather than throwing them in the garbage disposal, which empties into the septic tank and then has to be pumped out, it is ecologically better to recycle them through your gardens and outdoor plants which will appreciate the extra nutrients. Cooked leftovers, dairy products, meat, bones, and grease shouldn't be composted. But other kitchen scraps such as vegetable and fruit peelings, except for potato peelings, outer lettuce leaves, coffee grounds and filter, and egg shells work fine. I cut banana peels into small pieces and crumble egg shells to give a better start on decomposing, but then I'm anxious for that compost every year.

Once the structure is built, dig holes in the ground with a garden fork to loosen the soil. This will allow microbes in the soil to interact with your compost and allow worms to escape into the ground if the compost heats up too much. A compost pile will get very hot in the center as the materials are breaking down.

Then layer some very small branches on top of the ground, and begin layering whatever you can to the pile. For best results, it's recommended that you put layers of green, brown, green, brown material and keep the pile moist, but not soggy as you go. Green would be grass clippings, kitchen scraps, or animal manure. Brown would be dead leaves, dead flower stalks or garden scraps in the fall. Since it's difficult to collect sufficient amounts of green and brown at the same time, although this is the ideal combination, a compost pile works with whatever you have at the time.

During the winter, you may simply add only kitchen scraps and a poinsettia plant. In the spring, cover with a thin layer of soil, since everything decomposes faster underground, and add any plant refuse from cleaning and restarting your gardens. The compost will work faster if you cut tall flower stalks into smaller pieces. All summer add whatever disposable material you have.

For usable compost the first year, stop adding to it in July and start another compost pile in a different area. Then every couple of weeks, turn the first pile over, watering if needed to keep moist. Warm sun, moisture and oxygen will break it down into a rich friable soil to add to your garden late summer just as it needs refreshment.

This is why most books recommend three compost bins, one to collect in, one to layer in and one to turn over the layered material. It's a matter of how fancy you want to get with it. There are also thermometers and moisture meters to check on the pile's progress, but they aren't necessary. One bin added and never turned will eventually decompose. It just takes a lot more time.

A caution if using manure in your compost; dog and cat feces should never be used. However, chicken, rabbit, llama, goat, cow and horse manure compost well as long as those animals were not being medicated. If medicine went into the animal, it will be present in the manure and (Continued on page 5)

In Your Garden

Composting

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should be disposed of separately. Also, be sure to use aged manure and let it compost for more than a year to prevent E. coli or other bacteria from entering your garden soil, particularly in a vegetable garden. You don't want to throw any plant material that has been sprayed with chemicals into your compost bin either. Also, do not put tomato plants or potato vines in your compost or any diseased plant.

You will be delighted with the compost you create yourself, your garden will be healthier for it, and you've saved yourself hauling bags home from the garden center and then disposing of the plastic bags they came in. Your septic tank and the landfill will last longer from this small effort you make to recycle.

For additional information on composting, you can contact the Master Gardeners at the Elbert County Extension office and ask for these information sheets: Planttalk 1615, Planttalk 1612, Planttalk 1622, Planttalk 1623 and Fact Sheet 7.212 or you can access them through the Colorado State University Extension website at www.ext.colostate.edu

Garden Soils and Amendments

By Audrey Steffan
Colorado Master Gardener

With spring finally here, most of us are ready to get out and start digging, amending and planting. Here is some helpful information on the many different kinds of soil amendments available today.

A soil amendment refers to any material "mixed into soil" and mulch is a material "placed on the soil surface".

Compost - is any organic material from leaves to manure to municipal waste that has broken down into a rich dark crumbly substance called humus. In Colorado, the term compost is unregulated and could refer to any soil amendment regardless of microorganism activity. Compost is one of the best things to add to the soil because it fertilizes and improves textures but composted manure can also be high in nitrogen and salts.

Garden Soil, Topsoil - a fairly new garden term, garden soil can be a blend of many things including soil, sphagnum peat moss, fertilizers, bone meal and manure to name a few. Topsoil is any relatively decent quality soil scraped from the top layer of earth and packaged. Quality can vary radically.

Potting soil - is a lightweight soil blend with amendments such as compost, perlite, vermiculite, charcoal, and/or sphagnum peat moss. Generally a good mix for container plantings which drains freely but also retains moisture well.

Potting mix, potting medium - While some bags of "mix" or "medium" contain soil, most are soilless, meaning they are a blend of sphagnum peat moss, perlite, vermiculite and fertilizers. They are an ideal mix for containers since most are sterile and often used for seed starting. Specialty mixes are available for plants with different needs, such as orchids, cacti and bonsai.

Sphagnum peat moss, peat, - Sphagnum peat is a good soil amendment which is harvested from bogs in Canada and northern US. Colorado mountain peat is not an acceptable soil amendment being to fine in texture and generally has a higher pH level. Peat breaks up heavy soils and makes sandy soils more moisture retentive. There is a concern about the environmental impact of harvesting sphagnum peat moss.

Biosolids - are the treated solid material left over from the waste treatment process. They are available from some communities or sewer treatment districts in bulk or at garden stores in bags. An environmentally sound way to reduce municipal waste but are extremely high in salts.

For more information on Soil, Fertilizer and Soil Amendments go to the Colorado State University website at www.cmg.colostate.edu/gardennotes/htm.

Low-Maintenance Gardening

Native shrubs are wonderful in low-maintenance gardening and there are lots to choose from for our area. Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) is a good one for Zones 3 - 7. Ninebark is a plant in the rose family Rosaceae. Ninebark has clusters of white to pinkish flowers that look like spirea blooms from May to June. Ninebark develops reddish drooping fruit clusters that the birds love in the fall. In the winter the bark peels away in strips to reveal reddish brown inner bark. The shrub can grow to 10 feet tall and wide.

Insects and Other Creatures

Beneficial Insects in the Garden

By Steve Delgadillo
Colorado Master Gardener

Beneficial insects play an important role in reducing and controlling populations of both plant and insect pests by acting as predators or parasites to these detrimental organisms. There are also insects that are innately beneficial because they act as pollinators or produce products (such as bees that pollinate and produce honey) that are useful to humans.

Biocontrol is a natural means of controlling pests that exploits the innate tendencies of particular living organisms (in this case insects) to regulate the population of another living organism or organisms (plant and insect pests). When utilized optimally, beneficial insects can significantly reduce the need to use chemicals that can harm not only the intended pests, but also the environment, other plant life, and animal life that is not the intended target of the pesticide. Because of the role that they play, beneficial insects are of great interest in the fields of biology, agriculture, and environmental sciences. They are also of great commercial interest since they can be mass-reared and sold for profit and can significantly improve crop and garden yields.

Attracting and maintaining a population of beneficial insects are important to managing insect pests in your garden with a minimum of pesticide sprays. Tiny parasitoid wasps are aggressive beyond their size when it comes to pursuing aphids and caterpillars. Lacewing larvae and ladybug larvae and adults make inroads on aphid populations. Ground beetles prey on a variety of ground-dwelling pests.

These various beneficial insects consume large numbers of pest insects, but their diets are not limited to other insects. In fact, many of the beneficial species have periods in their life cycles when they survive only on nectar and pollen. Therefore, planting a variety of insectary plants will ensure an adequate supply of nutrients to keep beneficial insects going strong. Insectary plants also include those plants that provide shelter for beneficial insects, another critical requirement.

Most gardens today are too small for a hedge row. An alternative is to plant a border of dwarf fruit and flowering trees mixed with flowering shrubs and perennials. Such a border could be a landscape feature and screen the vegetable garden from view. At the same time, it would provide many of the benefits of the traditional hedge row.

Plan an insectary border for successive bloom from early spring through fall, providing nectar throughout the season. This will not only satisfy the needs of many beneficial insects, but also provide color in the garden. Avoid vigorous chemical control of pests found in the insectary border; after all, you don't want to kill beneficial insects. Also, any pests in the border may become hosts for beneficial insects should prey levels become low in the garden you are trying to protect. Including plants of different heights can be very important. Ground beetles require the cover provided by low-growing plants. Lacewings lay their eggs in shady, protected areas, so providing such places near crop plants is a good idea.

Selective weeding can encourage beneficial insects by leaving potential food sources in the garden. Allowing certain volunteers to remain in the garden is somewhat like random companion planting. Just know what weeds or volunteers are helpful. Not all blooms are equal -- large, nectar-filled blooms actually can drown tiny parasitoid wasps. Tiny flowers produced in large quantity are much more valuable than a single, large bloom.

Many members of the Apiaceae (formerly known as Umbelliferae) family are excellent insectary plants. Fennel, angelica, coriander, dill, and wild carrot all provide in great number the tiny flowers required by parasitoid wasps. Various clovers, yarrow, and rue also attract parasitoid and predatory insects. Low-growing plants, such as thyme, rosemary, or mint, provide shelter for ground beetles and other beneficial insects. Composite flowers (daisy and chamomile) and mints (spearmint, peppermint, or catnip) will attract predatory wasps, hover flies, and robber flies. The wasps will catch caterpillars and grubs to feed their young, while the predatory and parasitoid flies attack many kinds of insects, including leafhoppers and caterpillars.

Crab Spiders (*Thomisdae*) - catch prey in open flowers. They catch insects, such as fleas, flies, leafhoppers, aphids, caterpillars, and carrot weevils. Crab spiders are capable of camouflage--changing color to match the color of the flower. They can change to white, yellow, or pink within several days. One of the best ways to find crab spiders is by looking in flowers for insects that seem to be at an odd angle - these are insects that are being eaten! Crab spiders are distinguished by their sideways crab-like walk.

In general, most commonly observed Colorado lady beetles (the genera ***Hippodamia, Coccinella, Harmonia, Coleomegilla, Hyperaspis***) feed primarily on aphids. Very small lady

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Insects and Other Creatures

Beneficial Insects

(Continued from page 6)

beetles in the genus Stethorus are important predators of spider mites, although they are not commonly observed. The genera ***Exochomus, Coccidophilus and Chilocorus*** specialize in scale insects.

Flies in the Diptera family **Syrphidae** are commonly known as **hoverflies**, **flower flies**, or **Syrphid flies**. As their common names suggest, they are often seen hovering or nectaring at flowers; the adults of many species feed mainly on nectar and pollen, while the larve (maggots) eat a wide range of foods. In some species, the larvae are saprotrophs, eating decaying plant and animal matter in the soil or in ponds and streams. In other species, the larvae are insectivores and prey on aphids, thrips, and other plant-sucking insects.

The minute pirate bug, ***Orius tristicolor***, is less than one eighth of an inch long, oval to triangular in shape, somewhat flattened and black with whitish marks on the back. Most of the time minute pirate bugs are good guys. They are true generalist predators feeding on many different prey including thrips, aphids, spider mites and many insect eggs. They can consume as many as 30 spider mites per day. They are reportedly important predators of corn earworm eggs in cornfields.

The name "paper wasps" typically refers to members of the **vespid** subfamily **Polistinae**. **Paper wasps** are 3/4 inch to 1 inch (2-2.5 cm)-long wasps that gather fibers from dead wood and plant stems, which they mix with saliva, and use to construct water-resistant nests that appear to be made of gray or brown papery material.

Unlike yellowjackets and hornets, which can be very defensive, polistine paper wasps will generally only attack if the nest is threatened. Since their territoriality can lead to attacks on people, and because their stings are quite painful and can produce a potentially fatal anaphylactic reaction in some individuals, nests in human-inhabited areas may present an unacceptable hazard.

Most wasps are beneficial in their natural habitat, and are critically important in natural biocontrol. Paper wasps feed on nectar, and other insects, including caterpillars, flies, and beetle larvae, and they are often considered to be beneficial by gardeners.

A common green lacewing (scientifically known as ***Chrysoperla rufilabris***) is widely used in various situations to control many different pests. Many species of adult lacewings do not kill pest insects; they actually subsist on foods such as nectar, pollen and honeydew. It is their predacious offspring that get the job done.

Lacewing larvae voraciously attack their prey by seizing them with large, sucking jaws and inject paralyzing venom. The hollow jaws then draw out the body fluids of the pest. Of all available commercial predators, this lacewing is the most voracious and has the greatest versatility for pests of field crops, orchards, and greenhouses.

Lacewing larvae feed on many different pest insects. In general, they attack the eggs and the immature stages of most soft-bodied pests such as: aphids, thrips, spider mites, sweet potato & greenhouse whitefly, mealybugs, leafhoppers, and the eggs and caterpillars of most pest moths.
Remember do not kill these insects but rather leave them alone so they can do their job!

For more information call the CSU Extension, Elbert County Master Gardener office and ask for Plant Talk 1421 Beneficial Insects, or go to Colorado State Extension website www.ext.colostate.edu.

Ponderosa Pines

By Andrejs Tobiss
Colorado Master Gardener

My favorite saying - a tree in Elbert County is a ponderosa pine. Except for town settings where there are mostly planted trees, one rarely sees other tree species. Colorado State University (CSU) recognizes the importance of ponderosa pines by providing us with specifics for various ponderosa pine tree problems. Periodic “health checks” should be given to all your trees, but spring is the best time to check for winter damage and any developing problems. For a number of years we have been in an “on and off” drought situation stressing the trees. Thus far, it seems we are heading for another dry year and potential for more beetles and other diseases.

Bark beetles are the biggest problem in Colorado. Presently we seem to have more problems with Mountain Pine Beetles (MPB) west of Fort Collins and possibly in the Fort Collins area. In Elbert County there are occasional kills from MPB or Ips beetles. MPB has a one year cycle. The beetles fly to a new tree starting in August and the evidence of fading pine needles starts showing the next spring. Ips beetles have several cycles a summer and tree needle damage may show any time during warm summer weather. In Elbert County we seem to have more problems with Ips than MPB. Once the beetles are under the bark, the tree most likely will die. Care must be taken to remove the tree before a new crop of beetles develop and fly to the next tree.

Dwarf mistletoe, if not contained, in a number of years will eventually kill a tree. Dwarf mistletoe is a host-specific, parasitic flowering plant that is spread by forcibly ejected seeds. (Continued on page 2)

Elbert County Extension
PO Box 128
325 Pueblo Avenue,
Simla, CO 80835
Phone: 719.541.2361
Fax: 719.541.2982
elbert@ext.colostate.edu

Branch Office
PO Box 189
Kiowa, CO 80117
Phone: 303.621.3162
Fax: 303.621.3161
elbert2@ext.colostate.edu

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April 2009

Master Gardener Office Hours are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, April through September from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Stop by the Extension Office at the Fairgrounds in Kiowa or give us a call at 303-621-3162 Kiowa or 719-541-2361 Simla. You may also email questions to elbertmg@ext.colostate.edu.

Do you have a friend or neighbor who might wish to receive this newsletter? Please call or email the Extension Office with their name and address. Also let us know if you wish to receive this newsletter electronically. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kipp A. Nye
Elbert County Extension Director
Colorado State University

Announcing Coyote Creek Concerts 2009 Series

The Colorado Master Gardeners sell refreshments at the Coyote Creek concerts each year. We are available to discuss gardening questions at that time.

The concerts are held at the Casey Jones Pavilion at 7:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at local shops for $10 or at the door for $12. Kids under 17 are only $5. This year's concert series has the following lineup:

April 4, Southern Exposure
May 30, Sarah Dashew
June 27, Acoustic Eidolon
July 11, Finders and Youngberg
August 8, Amy Speace
September 26, Spencer Bohren

You can request to be added to the Coyote Creek e-mail list to receive a reminder of upcoming concerts a week ahead of time. You can also find updated information about the concerts on the Web site: coyotecreekconcerts.com