



OCTOBER  
2024  
Newsletter

OCTOBER MEETING - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10  
IDAHO SPRINGS ELKS LODGE  
1600 COLORADO BLVD.  
12:00 LUNCH AND MEETING

Lunch cost is \$13.00, payable at the meeting

If you “plant” to attend, please RSVP not later than **Sunday, October 6** to Linda Yowell at 303-898-8017 or via email, rickyowell7682@msn.com

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETING TOPICS for 2024

October 10 – Putting Your Garden to Bed by Linda Campbell

November 14 – Native Gardening and Landscaping by Casey Grimm

December 14 – Holiday Party at Debbi Novotny’s from 1-5 p.m.

January 9 – “Dinner & Movie”

February 13 – Tree Trimming & Pruning by David LaCroix

March 13 – Make a Terrarium with Debbi Novotny

April 10 – Rain Barrels

May 8 – Rock Painting with Larrice Sell and Wendy Binninger

Weeding Party at the Chee Chee Bell Garden

Located at the Idaho Springs Visitors Center

Friday, October 11, 10:00 a.m.

Bring weeding implements!



This garden has really filled out since its installation in 2019!

## Fading, Off-Color Pine Needles Normal in Autumn

This article was produced and published by Colorado State Forest Service News,  
a division of Colorado State University

Although thousands of evergreen trees in Colorado's high country, foothills and communities are beginning to display fading yellow or brown needles, most are simply going through a natural shedding process – they are NOT being damaged by bark beetles or any specific tree insect or disease.

Colorado evergreens shed their older, interior needles as part of an annual growth cycle. Needles on the lower portions of the crown or closest to the trunk are most commonly shed, but trees stressed due to drought or root damage may shed more needles to keep the tree in balance with its root system. Soon-to-be-shed needles typically yellow first; then, they turn a reddish-orange or brown color before dropping off. Trees can have varying levels of needle shed, even within the same property or general area.

In Colorado, ponderosa and lodgepole pines, as well as some spruce and fir species, are the trees that are most commonly reported to be shedding needles in September and October.

Evergreen trees that shed Fall needles have a different appearance than trees infested by bark beetles. The needles on a beetle-infested tree typically change color throughout the entire tree (as opposed to only the older needles in healthy trees), initially starting with an off-shade of green and turning to reddish-orange by the following summer. In addition to changing needle color, bark beetle-infested trees will show other signs of attack:

- popcorn-shaped pitch tubes on the trunk
- boring dust resembling fine sawdust collecting in bark crevices and at the base of the tree
- regular woodpecker activity

This fall needle drop is frequently mislabeled as “needle cast,” but that term actually refers to a fungal disease of spruce and fir trees. There is no need to spray or otherwise chemically treat pines and other evergreens exhibiting normal fall needle drop.

For more information about tree and forest health, contact your local [CSFS field office](#) or visit [csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/](https://csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/).

## Gilpin CSU Extension Hires New Part-time Office Assistant

Nancy Santagata is a chemist by training and former educator. She is excited to share her knowledge of mountain life with local residents through the Extension office. She resides in Clear Creek County where she and her husband are building a log cabin – largely themselves. Nancy spends her spare time learning and exploring, and, of course, managing weeds. It is recommended that you make an appointment or call ahead prior to visiting the Gilpin CSU Extension office. The staff are not always available to assist the public.

(Hey CGC Members - If you know Nancy, please invite her to attend one of our meetings!)



### **PUMPKINS AND PROTEAS PAIR PERFECTLY**

**From Resendiz Brothers, Protea Growers LLC, Fallbrook, CA**

Ready to 'treat' yourself and make your own gourd-geous centerpiece?

Choose a pumpkin with a fresh, healthy stem, no bruises, and a flat bottom so it won't roll. Cut off the top and set it off to the side. Scoop out all the seeds and pulp. Place a block of floral foam in water and wait until it is completely saturated. Then insert the foam inside the pumpkin, leaving just a few inches between the top surface of the foam and the rim. Insert flowers and foliage directly into the foam, working all around the perimeter of your pumpkin. In this design, there is a mix of proteas, grevillea flowers, everlastings, amaranths, Australian pine, eucalyptus and a textural lotus pod. Marigold in Idaho Springs would be a great source for flowers – call Tara a week in advance so she can special order the proteas for you.