



MAY
2025
Newsletter

MAY MEETING – THURSDAY, MAY 8

IDAHO SPRINGS ELKS LODGE

1600 COLORADO BLVD.

12:00 LUNCH AND MEETING

Rock Painting with Wendy and Larrice

Lunch cost is \$13.00, payable at the meeting

If you “plant” to attend, please RSVP not later than **Sunday, MAY 4** to
Linda Yowell at 303-898-8017 or via email, rickyowell7682@msn.com

APRIL MEETING NOTES

- Welcome to new member Ileana Lavendar.
- Club Member Nancy Santagata (pictured at right) of CSU’s Gilpin County Extension office gave a great presentation on rain barrels.
- Info on the upcoming plant giveaway and bake sale, and the June plant sale was provided.
- Tobi Howell provided an update on the Elks Lodge Landscaping project.
- Dues for the 2025-2026 year are payable now. The cost is \$12 for a single or \$20 for a couple.



MAY 8 MEETING – ROCK PAINTING

All paint and tools will be provided. If you bring an image, Larrice will outline it on a rock so you can fill it in. Bring your own river rock. It should be smooth. Bring a cute quote if you would like. This will be our final meeting for this Spring. Meetings resume in September. If you have meeting topic suggestions, please forward them to elkrunmiller@msn.com.



PLANT GIVEAWAY AND BAKE SALE WITH THE SOCIAL ETHICS CLUB

Saturday, May 10

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Project Support Senior Center
1402 Miner Street, Idaho Springs

Start some seeds or take some cuttings now! Contributions of plants and baked goods are needed. Houseplants, vegetables, succulents, seeds, perennials or other plants are welcome contributions. Bake sale items should be cut or plated and wrapped or bagged for our grab-and-go buyers.

To volunteer to work the sale, contact
Kris Miller at 303-567-9653

CGC PLANT SALE

IDAHO SPRINGS ELKS LODGE #607
1600 COLORADO BOULEVARD

June 5-7, 2025

June 5 – 8 a.m. (or so) - Plants arrive. Volunteers are needed to help unload the truck at the Elks Club parking lot

June 5 – 3 - 5 p.m. – Member/Guest Pre-Sale with happy hour in the Elks Club bar from 4-6 p.m.

June 6 and 7 – Public sale from 10:00 to 4:00

Volunteers will be needed during the sale hours – shopper's helpers, water faeries, cashiers. The sale will be held in the Idaho Springs Elks Lodge parking lot. To volunteer, please sign up for a time slot at the May meeting or contact Kris Miller at 303-567-9653.

ELKS LODGE #607 LANDSCAPING PROJECT

The installation of the plants, and final touches to the Elks garden will take place during the month of June. All volunteers, ideas, and plant donations are welcome and encouraged! If you have any questions or would like to be notified of the planting schedule, please contact Tobi Howell at tobiannah03@gmail.com or 772-341-2349. Thank you so much!

HSIS UNIQUELY COLORADO GALA

Friday, May 16, 5:30 p.m.

Blackstone Rivers Ranch

\$100 per person. Tickets are available at the Idaho Springs Visitors Center or go to

<http://historicaidahosprings.com/>

MILL CREEK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YARD SALE

at the Dumont School

May 23-25, 9 to 4 p.m.

New Crevice Garden Display Opens at CSU

Article shared courtesy of Plant Select

Full article can be found at <https://plantselect.org/crevice-garden-demonstration/6>

A utilitarian bike rack. Compacted soil. And an island of mulch... For years, that's what existed outside the front doors of the Colorado State University (CSU) Horticulture Center in Fort Collins, Colo. But Ross Shrigley of Plant Select had a vision for something more. He imagined a crevice garden demonstration area that could serve as a teaching tool for both students and the community.

Today, through the help and generosity of many people and organizations, the CSU Horticulture Center (located at 1707 Centre Avenue in Ft. Collins) has its new crevice garden display. The lonely island of mulch has been transformed into a showcase for how to build low-water, western-inspired gardens that support a diverse range of plants, insects, birds and wildlife.



Before

Within the demonstration area, there are different crevice garden styles and materials, including stained concrete ("rescued" from a construction project on the CSU campus just a few blocks away), granite rip rap, flagstone, red rip rap, and veneer (1.5" thick). *Photos by Ross Shrigley, Plant Select*

The new crevice gardens also contain a combination of native and well-adapted plants—from oak trees and sandcherry shrubs being tested in the Plant Select trial program, to water-wise perennials, to unusual rock garden plants. All the plants in the garden have been bare-root planted, meaning the soil was removed from the plants' roots before planting. It's believed this can help the plant roots grow deep and adapt faster to their new soil.



After

"This type of garden solves so many landscape problems and builds natural habitat right into our gardens." -Ross Shrigley of Plant Select

PURPLE POPPY MALLOW

Name: [Callirhoe involucrata](#)

Zones: 4–8

Size: 9 inches tall and 36 inches wide

Conditions: Full sun; dry to moderately moist, well-drained soil

Native range: Central United States



There aren't many perennials that bloom for months on end, but this drought-tolerant member of the mallow family is one of them. It is an excellent ground-hugging plant that stays under a foot tall but can eventually spread to form patches up to 5 feet wide. The vigorous stems feature dark green, palmately lobed leaves. The wow-factor comes from the vivid cerise-magenta, chalice-shaped flowers that appear from mid-spring through fall. These upward-facing blooms reliably attract bees and butterflies. Purple poppy mallow is long-lived when given space to ramble, scramble, and spill, and it is also adaptable to a wide range of soil types. However, it does not transplant readily, due to its deep taproot.

ORIENTAL POPPIES (Papaver Orientale)

- Extremely cold hardy – Zones 3-7
- Spring bloomer
- Likes full sun – 6-8 hours per day
- Modest water requirements
- 28-32" tall flower spikes on a 24" wide plant
- Textured foliage
- They go into Summer dormancy so plant amongst taller, later bloomers to disguise yellowed foliage
- Large root ball so plant with lots of room to expand.
- Bee friendly, attracts butterflies, deer and rabbit resistant



"Coral Reef" Oriental Poppy

[CLICK HERE](#) for a video from High Country Gardens on how to plant oriental poppies.

To see a short YOUTUBE video about some of the newest Plant Select plants for 2025, [CLICK HERE](#)

HOW TO PRUNE LAVENDER



While this perennial herb is relatively low-maintenance, it needs to be pruned during the growing season to stay prolific. Not only does cutting back lavender encourage future growth, but it also helps maintain its shape and size. If left to grow freely, lavender will become leggy and untidy.

English lavender is the variety that will survive in our region. It features straight or needle-like leaves with smooth edges and grows to be about 20 to 24 inches tall. English lavender is hardy in zones 4 through 8 and can withstand negative temperatures. It is high in essential oils, making it very fragrant. It blooms on long spikes with small purple buds and flowers that appear in late Spring and (possibly) late Summer.

Prune English Lavender once in Spring and once in Fall.

Spring: Using clean pruners or shears, remove dead, diseased, or damaged stalks. Make sure to cut above the nodes (current season growing points). As you prune, cut back the stems so the plant forms a dome shape. This ensures the best all-round new growth.

While blooming: For drying or fresh use, prune when flowers form on the stem but haven't yet opened. For fresh bouquets, wait until flowers start to open. Only cut the green flower stems, not the woody base. Deadheading lavender can help the plant maintain a cleaner appearance after blooms fade. Remove flowering stalks down to where they meet the foliage (or just above it).

In Fall, do a harder prune, cutting back about 1/3 of the plant. Pruning lavender at the wrong time can impede growth. Do not prune past six weeks before first frost; this can prompt new growth that will be damaged by frost.

Lavender is toxic to humans and pets. It likes well-drained soil, sunny locations and prefers to be on the xeric side of the watering scale. It will occasionally come up as a volunteer from seed but is best purchased as a plant. [CLICK HERE](#) for a video on how and when to prune lavender.

DIVIDING PERENNIALS

Dividing perennials stops overcrowding and revives plants to produce additional blooms and healthier development. It allows plants to grow deeper roots and absorb more nutrients from the soil.

The time to divide most perennials typically falls during the spring and fall seasons, specifically early in the seasons to minimize stress on the plants and allow them to establish new roots before extreme hot or cold temperatures hit. Perennials such as daylilies and hostas flourish when divided early in spring. Irises achieve better results with division in late Summer.



In general, it's best to divide your perennial plants when they are *not* in bloom. Dividing distracts plants from producing flowers. For example, you would divide a peony in the Fall, as late Spring/early Summer is the time it flowers, while in Fall, it re-energizes after the stresses of Summer, when it just hangs on.

Check for Overcrowding – that's your sign!

Watch for signs of overcrowding in your perennials, including fewer blooms, dead spots, and spreading out away from the main plant. If your plants are overcrowded, dividing them will give them more space to grow and allow water to penetrate to the roots.

Completely Dig Up the Plant

The easiest way to divide a perennial is to completely dig up the plant. Shake off any extra soil and take off any dead parts, leaving a clean cut. For larger plants, take a sharp shovel and cut it in half, aiming for one hard and clean slice. For smaller plants, use a knife or shears. Trim extra long roots. Then, immediately replant the pieces and water well. This is a great activity to do with a pal – one to dig and one to lift the plant out of the hole if it is large.

Keep Newly Divided Sections Shaded and Moist

Water the new divisions well and keep them in a shaded area. Newly divided sections should remain shaded and moist for several days if possible, to minimize transplant shock.

WHEN TO DIVIDE PERENNIALS, CONTINUED

Make Sure Your Plants Are Already in Good Health

Before dividing, nourish your plants with extra water and make sure they're in a healthy state. This will give your plants the best chance at rebounding from the stress of replanting. Never divide when a plant is stressed. Avoid dividing when the temperatures are expected to soar within days of doing the work.

Give Your Perennials Plenty of Water

Watering is key to the success of a transplant. Monitor the plants carefully. You just disrupted the root system of an established plant. Give extra water slowly around the base. If you see the plant in stress (such as drooping), give it some extra water. A bit of root boost or granular fertilizer might be beneficial as well.

What To Do With the Divisions

Check around your garden to see where there might be holes to fill in. Divisions can be potted to allow time to find them homes. Watch for new homeowners who appear to be installing gardens – perhaps they can use some free plant material. Contact local garden clubs to see if they are having plant swaps that are needing donations. Place them on the curb – you'll be surprised how fast they will disappear.

Record Your Effort

Take photos of divided plants or record the effort in your Journal.



Tall Bearded Iris before dividing – tightly packed



Tall Bearded Iris after dividing – room to expand



Plentiful flowers!