



*June 2026
Newsletter*



GARDEN PLANT SALE

**June 5th and 6th
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



at the

IDAHO SPRINGS

VISITOR CENTERS PARKING LOT

Herbs, Vegetables, Bedding Plants

Perennials, and Annuals

Hanging baskets, and planters



MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2026-2027

From Left: Anne English -Treasurer, Michelle Tyler – Secretary
Tobi Howell – Vice President and Kris Miller, President

WANTED!

Hosts for the 2026 “Blooms & Beverages” Garden Tours

If you would like to invite the garden club to your garden for about an hour to share your garden and a light snack and drinks, please contact Tobi. Ideally we will visit three homes each day of the tour.

tobiannah03@gmail.com

CGC MEMBER/GUEST PLANT SALE AND HAPPY HOUR THURSDAY, JUNE 4

The Member/Guest Plant Sale will be from 3-4:30 p.m. at the parking lot of the Idaho Springs Visitors Center

Happy Hour will be at Slaymaker Cellars from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Slaymaker Cellars, an award winning Meadery, is located at 1428 Miner Street in Idaho Springs

What is mead you ask?

Mead is "Honey Wine". Traditional winemaking techniques are used to ferment the honey into mead.

If you signed up to help at the plant sale, Kris will be contacting you



Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and soil and sky as canvas.



THE CGC SEED LIBRARY PROJECT HAS SPROUTED!



The club has initiated a new seed library, which will be located in the Idaho Springs Public Library. Seed packets are free for the taking. At the May meeting, club members labeled and filled seed packets which will go into the drawers along with an info sheet on each seed variety. The seeds were selected to be compatible with our elevation. Thanks to Anne English, Tobi Howell and Kerri Tierney for obtaining supplies, seeds and the cabinet. Larrice Sell made the lovely sign.



columbinegardenclub.com

Check our website for info on all of our past and future events!

If you would like to add the garden club events to your own calendar, use the "Subscribe to Calendar" button at the bottom of the "What We're Planning" page. There are four calendar types that are supported. If you have trouble and need help adding to your calendar, please contact Tobi Howell for help.

There are no monthly meetings until September.

tobiannah03@gmail.com or 772-341-2349



RESTORATION OF ALVARADO CEMETERY FLAGPOLE IS COMPLETED

Thanks to a donation from CGC, the flagpole, which blew over during one of our many Spring wind events, has been re-established, complete with solar powered night-time lighting.

HOW TO ATTRACT BENEFICIAL INSECTS TO YOUR COLORADO GARDEN



What are beneficial insects? Really any species that aids in the health or well-being of your garden - ladybugs, lacewings, mantids, bees or butterflies. To attract these insects, plant some early blooming plants that are sure to draw them in. Use plants of different sizes. For example, oregano and thyme are useful for ground beetles, as they provide them with places to hide. Praying mantids like to hide behind plants, and they are very useful because they eat pest insects. Zinnias and sunflowers are very good options for your garden because they attract big pollinating insects such as predatory wasps and robber flies.

Here are five categories of plants that are great attractants:

The Asteraceae family –asters, ageratums, chrysanthemums, dahlias, cosmos, marigolds

The carrot family

The legume family

The Mustard family

The Verbena family – some are annuals often found in hanging baskets or planters

Simply planting flowers (especially natives) attracts beneficial insects. The protein/carbs in pollen/nectar are a valuable meal to a diversity of predators and parasitoids. Lured to your garden by the smell of your floral appetizers, they begin to patrol in search of a main course. For many parasitic wasps, pollen and nectar are filling enough. But their young can only gestate inside the many soft-bodied insects that inhabit our gardens. After filling their bellies, they look for a suitable “nursery.” Just like us, insects have favorite foods other than other insects. Some beneficials prefer the aesthetics and flavor of blanketflower, coneflower, and black-eyed Susans while others prefer the spire-shaped flowers of gayfeather, goldenrod, and penstemon. The larger parasitic wasps need somewhere large and flat to land, like common yarrow and milkweed.

Not only do these beneficials have different palates, but they also have different sleep schedules! Some insects are more active in the early morning hours, while some can only be found at dusk. Similarly, different flowers have their peak nectar flow at different times of day. Encouraging floral diversity also ensures a continuous nectar supply, attracting beneficial insects from dawn till dusk.

In addition to planting tempting floral options, leave some cover for your beneficial friends. Piles of twigs or leaves provide protection from weather and predators farther up the food chain. Shallow water sources are helpful.

RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC NURSERY POTS

Plastic plant pots typically can't be recycled because they're often made of #5, #6, or another rigid plastic that's difficult for many recycling facilities to process. Some programs may also limit the size of allowable recycled containers. Gardening centers, including Lowe's and The Home Depot, will gladly take your plastic nursery pots off your hands and put in the work to recycle the material properly or reuse your donated pots to sell future plants.

TALL GARDEN PHLOX



Popular perennial garden phlox boasts 2 to 4-foot-tall stems topped with massive clusters of 1" flowers in midsummer and sporadically through fall. Plant garden phlox (*P. paniculata*) in full sun and well-drained soil. Rarely browsed by deer, it is a showy slow spreader that is easily divided and re-located to other areas of your garden. Strong stems are resistant to wind. Moderate water, prefers ground vs. overhead watering to prevent mildew. Deadhead when primary bloom cluster is brown but watch for other flower buds along the stem that will come out later. Phlox comes in a variety of colors depending on the grower. Good in Zones 4-8.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR REGION

Composting in the Mountains Workshop

May 29, 2026, 5-7pm, in person

Gilpin County Exhibit Barn, 230 Norton Drive, Black Hawk, CO

Participants will learn various outdoor composting systems that work in the mountains, including indoor vermicomposting (composting with worms). We will discuss how to avoid problems with critters, bears, and other composting issues. Learn how to build and maintain a successful compost. Workshop includes a demonstration of worm composting, and building an outdoor compost pile to apply the composting principles discussed. Dress for the weather, compost pile building will be outside. Presented by Gilpin CSU Extension. Free workshop. [Register here to save your spot](#)

Water Conservation and Rainwater Collection in the Mountains

June 13, 2026

10 am – 11:30 am

Gilpin Exhibit Barn, 230 Norton Dr, Black Hawk CO

How has Colorado's drought impacted our area and what can residents do? We will discuss the state of Colorado drought, how the county is conserving water, and learn water conservation practices to reduce indoor and outdoor water use. Rainwater collection laws and practical uses in the mountains will be described. Hosted by Gilpin CSU Extension. Free event, [register here](#).

Native Gardens at High Altitude

June 16, 2026, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm, In Person

Mountain Native Demonstration Garden, Hiwan Heritage Museum

28473 Meadow Drive, Evergreen, CO

Tour and explore Mountain Native demonstration garden in Evergreen, CO where the Colorado Master Gardeners will teach uses for native plants in our gardens and landscapes that are adapted to our elevation, soils, and climate. Sponsored by Jefferson County CSU Extension. Free. All ages welcome. [Click Here to register for this workshop](#).

Invasive Pest Alert: Asian Jumping Worms Confirmed in Colorado

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) wants to alert residents about a new aggressive, invasive species found in the Hilltop neighborhood of Denver. The worms are an annual species, but their cocoons (about the size of a mustard seed) survive the winter and are easily spread in soil, mulch, and on equipment. CDA is encouraging vigilance to prevent the spread of this invasive pest. Since there are currently no effective eradication methods for this pest, CDA is launching a public education campaign to emphasize prevention and prompt reporting to slow the spread of this pest. CDA is asking landowners to be on the lookout for any signs of the invasive jumping worms and report any suspected sightings. [Learn more about Asian Jumping Worms at CO Department of Agriculture](#).

Mill Creek Valley Historical Society's Giant

YARD SALE

Memorial Day Weekend

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

May 22rd, May 23rd, May 24th

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at the Dumont School

150 Dumont Lane Exit I-70 234 east. 235 west

Everything must go! No more donations.



Proceeds to benefit Mill Creek Valley Historical Society

Idaho Springs Phase One Water Use Restrictions

Beginning May 1

(Resolution Number 9, Series 2026)



**LIMIT WATERING GRASS TO THREE DAYS A WEEK
BEFORE 10 A.M. OR AFTER 6 P.M.
NO MORE THAN 15-20 MINUTES**



WATER TREES, SHRUBS, VEGETABLES AND OTHER PLANTS AND LANDSCAPING WITH A HAND-HELD HOSE OR LOW-VOLUME NON-SPRAY IRRIGATION BEFORE 10AM OR AFTER 6PM



An irrigation system may be operated outside the watering schedule for installation, repair, or reasonable maintenance, so long as the system is attended throughout the period of operation and water waste does not occur.



WASH VEHICLES WITH A BUCKET
At locations other than commercial car washes, washing of personal vehicles shall be done using a bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle.



Power washing is limited to three (3) days a week, except for immediate health or safety reasons. Cleaning without water should be done prior to power washing.



Little changes make big differences!



for more information: www.idahospringsco.com 303-567-4421

