



*August 2026
Newsletter*

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 10th



12:00 – 2:30p.m.

Underhill Museum

1414 Miner St.

Idaho Springs

Join us at the beautiful Underhill Museum Garden for our gathering, weather permitting. We'll also be hosting a **seed and bulb swap** for outdoor plants, along with an **indoor plant swap**, so bring your extras and discover something new to take home. Tommyknockers will be catering the lunch at a cost of \$15.00 per person. If Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, we'll move the gathering indoors to Tommyknockers. Watch your email the morning of the meeting. RSVP is not required.

For dates and other information on our 2026-27 meeting schedule,

[Click here.](#)

"Blooms & Beverages" Garden Tours #1 & 2

Photos are posted on our website!

[Click here!](#)

Thanks to Nancy Spletzer, Ileana Lavendar, Stephanie Blocher and Sandy Meier for hosting us!

Gilpin County Extension Master Gardeners Bulb Sale

October 4, 2026, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Nederland Farmers Market [80 E 2nd St & 85 E 1st St Nederland, CO 80466](#)

Add variety to your landscape while supporting the Master Gardener program!

Shop for a variety of mountain-hardy iris, daffodil, and snowdrop bulbs, all of which are deer/rodent resistant. Proceeds benefit the Colorado Master Gardener program.

More details will be available prior to the sale.



Thanks to Ileana Lavendar, Tobi Howell and Kandy Lukow, (pictured above), Suzy Foley, Victoria Stevens, Michelle Tyler and Amy Tomlinson, who all came out to divide iris at the Elks Garden on Saturday, July 25th. We had a great time learning how to do the dividing and planting.

Thanks to those of you who have left plants at the Elks Club for the garden. It would be helpful if you would email <mailto:ahtomlinson@me.com> when you drop them off so they can be planted in a timely manner. Also please identify where you left them, what the plants are and who donated them. Thanks!

UPCOMING CLASSES AT THE DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

Growing Healthy Flower Gardens for all Seasons

Friday, August 21, 9:30 to noon

Discover the art and science of growing a thriving cut flower garden that keeps your home vibrant through every season. This hands-on class offers clear, practical guidance for choosing productive, pollinator friendly varieties and preparing and managing your growing space for long lasting blooms. The focus is on tools and inspiration to design a healthy, resilient cutting garden, ideal for those new to flower gardening or those refining their approach.

Price: \$45, \$37 member

Location: York Street

Instructor: Angie Andrade

To register for this class, [click here](#)

Preserve The Bounty - A Comprehensive Guide

To Food Preservation

Saturday, August 29, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

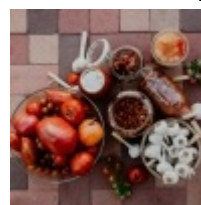
Are you a home gardener or an avid farmers market shopper? Have you always wanted to learn how to extend the shelf life of fresh, seasonal produce? Join us for this three-hour interactive workshop and learn the five primary food preservation techniques that every gardener should understand. Discover the basics of lactose-fermentation, cellaring, freezing, canning (water bath, steam and pressure) and dehydration. Learn the benefits and challenges of each technique, the equipment needed and best practices for food safety. In this workshop, make your own jar of fermented pickles to take home and get to taste a variety of locally grown, preserved snacks.

Price: \$71, \$66 member

Location: York Street

Instructor: Jenny Cavanaugh

To register for this class, [click here](#)



AN INTERESTING ENCOUNTER WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Recently, CGC members divided some of the large clumps of tall bearded iris at the Elks Garden. The clumps were tightly knit, which prevented the rhizomes from growing in the right direction. Iris rhizomes need sunlight, not just the foliage attached to them. Usually, a rhizome grows at a right angle to the foliage, allowing the it to stay near the surface of the soil. In some cases, the rhizomes we dug up were growing vertically. This meant that most of the rhizome was buried deeper than recommended. What to do??? High Country Gardens encourages customers to email them with plant questions. Here is the question posed, and their almost immediate response. Turns out it was generated by artificial intelligence.

“Hi- My garden club just divided some TB iris. The clumps were large and over-crowded. I believe this caused some of the rhizomes to grow straight down below the fans, rather than at a right angle. As a result, the bottom tip of the divided rhizome is planted 4" deep or so, rather than 1-2" deep. I'm wondering if these will bloom without the majority of the rhizome being exposed to enough sunlight. Your thoughts would be appreciated.”

“Hi -

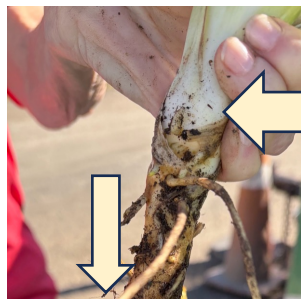
Thanks for explaining that so clearly. With bearded iris, the rhizome does best in full sun and fast-draining soil, and the shoulders of the rhizome should sit just above the soil surface. If the divided rhizome is angled downward so the bottom tip sits about 4 inches deep, that deeper tip is less of a concern than the position of the main body of the rhizome. The key question is whether the upper portion of the rhizome, especially the shoulders near the fan, is still close to the soil surface and getting sun. If most of the rhizome is buried, blooming may be reduced and the plant can also be more prone to rot. If the shoulders are exposed or just barely covered, it has a much better chance to establish and bloom normally.

Our general planting guidance for bearded iris is to plant the rhizome so its shoulders are just above the soil surface.

Best regards,

High Country Gardens AI Agent”

Email your questions to <mailto:plants@highcountrygardens.com>



The vertical
rhizome

The shoulder is the area between where the roots start and the fans attach. This area should be exposed or just barely covered, according to the AI response.