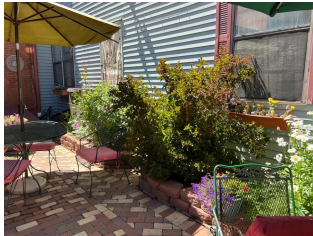




*September
2026
Newsletter*

Our first meeting of the season 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 first meeting of the season. We'll 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. We will also review the member handbook and the budget for 2026-2027. Smokin' Yards will be catering the lunch at a cost of \$15.00 per person. If Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, we'll move the gathering inside the museum. RSVP is not required.

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

[Click here.](#)



A huge bouquet of thanks to our amazing garden crew—**Susy Foley, Tobi Howell, Linda Campbell, Coleen Cunningham, Michelle Tyler, and Ileana Lavender**—for rolling up your sleeves, pulling weeds, and helping the Chee Chee Garden (at the Idaho Springs Visitor Center) bloom even more beautifully. Your hard work and green thumbs are truly appreciated!

A sweet thank you to **Kathy Burns** for keeping our gardeners fueled with tasty treats and refreshing water.

And, of course, a garden full of gratitude goes to **Nancy Spletzer**. Thank you for planting the seeds of such a wonderful community project. The Chee Chee Garden continues to blossom into a place everyone can enjoy. 🌸🌿

For more CGC info, go to [The Columbine Garden Club website](#)

CGC 2026-2027 MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 10 at The Underhill Garden, 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
(See front page of newsletter for details)

Thursday, October 8 at Tommyknocker Brewery, 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Our special guest, Annemarie Fusell from Wildlife Restoration Volunteers, will share the inspiring story of the organization, highlight the meaningful work they do to restore wildlife habitats, and describe the many ways volunteers are making a real difference in Colorado's natural spaces.

Thursday, November 12 at Tommyknocker Brewery, 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

We'll be creating beautiful stained glass mosaics. Be sure to bring an item you'd like to decorate—flower pots, picture frames, trays, stepping stones, or any other project you've been saving for a special touch.

Saturday, December 12, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Please join us as we celebrate the season at our annual Christmas party, graciously hosted at **Debbi Novotny's** home. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy good food, great company, and holiday cheer with garden club friends. Spouses are welcome.

Thursday, January 14, 2027 at Tommyknocker Brewery, 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Join us for a fun and relaxing afternoon of popcorn, friendship, and a great film – "Every Little Thing", a documentary about the incredible work of a hummingbird rescue organization.

Thursday, February 11, 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

We're excited to announce that Charlie Resanovich has graciously offered to host our February meeting at the historic Castle Eyrie! Charlie, along with Michelle Tyler, will share their knowledge and enthusiasm for birding while introducing us to the Great Backyard Bird Count, taking place the following weekend.

Thursday, March 11 at Tommyknocker Brewery, 12:00 - 2:30p.m.

Shamrock Bingo—a festive twist on a classic favorite.

Thursday, April 8 at Tommyknocker Brewery, 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Join us for an inspiring presentation all about dahlias, featuring our very own gardening expert, **Debbi Novotny**.

Saturday, May 8 – Bake Sale and Plant Giveaway at Project Support Senior Center, Idaho Springs, in conjunction with the Social Ethics Club.

Thursday, May 13 at Tommyknocker Brewery, 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Join us as we explore the fascinating world of foraging! Learn how to safely identify edible wild plants and mushrooms, discover what nature has to offer throughout the seasons, and gain tips for harvesting responsibly while respecting our natural environment.

Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Plant Sale!

Thursday, June 3 (Member/Guest Happy Hour) and **Friday, June 4** (Sale open to the public)

UPCOMING CLASSES IN OUR AREA

4 SEASONS OF NATIVE BEAUTY AT CHATFIELD FARMS

Presented by the Denver Botanic Gardens

Friday, September 18, 11 – 12:30 p.m.

Learn how to start thinking about a garden that creates beauty during all four seasons, paying particular attention to the winter months. This is an outdoor class that includes walking the gardens.

\$38, \$32 DBG member

Chatfield Farms Welcome Center, 8500 W Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Littleton, CO 80128

Dress in layers to stay comfortable. Class meets in all weather conditions. Bring water and snacks. The instructor is **Curtis Manning**, a horticulturist, landscape designer and contractor. He is the owner of Curtis Manning Design and co-owns and operates Meadow Pro.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

SPOOKY PLANT PATHOGENS – Presented by CSU Extension

Wednesday, October 14, 12 - 1 p.m.

Join Drs. Jen Rushton and Emily Luna, from CSU, for a Halloween-themed dive into the world of plant diseases. We'll explore fungi that resemble monsters, bacteria that ooze like slime, and other chilling plant pathology phenomena. Perfect for anyone who loves plants—and a good scare! Online/free.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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.

[Click here for more info](#)

DAVE'S GARDEN "PlantFiles"

PlantFiles is the most complete online plant database, with information for new and expert gardeners alike. Look up plant info, see photos, get freeze/frost dates, research insects, check out birds and more! You can even add plants that are not listed!

[CLICK HERE FOR DAVE'S GARDEN ONLINE PLANT GUIDES](#)

Pollinators in Vegetable and Herb Gardens

Excerpted from an article by Lisa Mason, CSU Extension Horticulture Specialist, Entomologist

Pollinators are critical for plant reproduction in approximately 1/3 of the human diet, or every 1 in 3 bites of food. Research shows that 87 food crops rely on pollination from animals (e.g., bees and other insects, birds, bats and other mammals, and more). Many of those crops grow around the world like cinnamon, figs, vanilla. What about crops that grow in Colorado gardens?

Cucurbitaceae Family – Gourd and Cucurbit Plants

Squash, gourds, pumpkins, cucumbers, watermelons, cantaloupe and other plants in the Cucurbitaceae family rely on pollinators for plant reproduction. Many of the crops are monoecious, meaning the plants have separate male and female flowers on the same plant. Pollinators transfer the pollen from male flowers to the female flowers. A female flower can be differentiated from a male flower by the small fruit at the base of the flower.

Bees are the primary pollinator for plants in the Cucurbitaceae family. Squash bees (*Xenoglossa* spp. and *Eucera Peponapis pruinosa*) are among the most efficient pollinators of pumpkins and squash. These native bees can be seen flying around in the early mornings visiting squash flowers. Squash bees are underground nesters. If holes are visible in the garden bed or nearby bare soil, watch for squash bees or other native bee nesters. Since these bees live a solitary life, they will not sting or pester humans like some social insects (e.g., [yellowjackets](#)).

Honey bees will visit a variety of cucurbit crops, but often native bees are more efficient at pollinating specific crops. Research on watermelon pollination documented 23 native bee species in the California watermelon crops, and they transferred more pollen than honey bees.

Solanaceae Family – Nightshade Plants

Plants in the Solanaceae family include peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, tomatillos and more. Some varieties of tomatoes and other plants can self-pollinate. The flowers are considered “perfect,” meaning male and female parts are in the same flower. Many of the plants require movement for pollen to be released from the plant. Bumble bees can “buzz pollinate” a plant, meaning they have a specific vibration that will release the pollen from a plant when they are on it. They are among the most efficient pollinators for plants in the Solanaceae family. Greenhouse growers often use bumble bees to pollinate crops in greenhouses.

Herbs

Many herbs will attract a wide variety of pollinators and beneficial insects. Examples of herbs that attract pollinators include lavender, dill, mint, basil, borage and oregano.

Dill, fennel and parsley are caterpillar host plants for the black swallowtail butterfly, an often-welcome visitor in home gardens. Caterpillars consume a significant amount of plant material to complete their development which may alarm home gardeners who wish to harvest the plants for their own use. Consider finding a balance of leaving some plants for caterpillars and protecting the other plants. Netting over the plants designated for the caterpillars will help. Bonus: Netting will also protect the caterpillars from being preyed on by the invasive European paper wasp, a common occurrence in gardens.

Keep in mind, if the goal is to harvest herbs for culinary or medicinal use, consider cutting off the flowers before they bloom. This method will allow the plant to focus on leaf production rather than flowering. When growing lavender, harvest the flowers just before they open. If the goal is to attract pollinators, consider a balance of leaving some plants to bloom for pollinators, while maintaining some plants for harvest.

Other Vegetable Crops

Most other vegetable crops do not require pollination from insects or animals. Some crops like corn plants are wind pollinated. The corn tassel, or the male part of the plant, produces massive amounts of pollen. Pollen grains need to land on a silk (e.g. the “hairs” on the corn), the female part of the plant. Each silk that is pollinated develops into a kernel of corn. Even though corn is wind-pollinated and doesn’t produce nectar, bees can still be observed collecting pollen grains from corn plants.

Build Pollinator Habitat with Your Vegetable Garden

When planning your vegetable garden for next season, consider adding some pollinator-friendly plants nearby to attract a wide variety of pollinators and other beneficial insects. Flowers that produce nectar may also attract insects that will prey on garden pests. When planning for vegetables and pollinators, keep in mind the water and soil requirements. Vegetable plants tend to have higher water and different soil requirements than pollinator-friendly plants.

LET'S FACE IT – MY BACK ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE!



Amy's Greenstalk planter filled with hummingbird-magnet Nasturtiums

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A VERTICAL RAISED BED?

You too can make gardening more accessible and enjoyable with this unique **vertical planter**. It is perfect for growing a wide variety of plants including vegetables, herbs, flowers, root crops, and more. I mix some new potting soil into the old in a wheelbarrow in the Spring, refill the pockets and then plant nasturtium seeds. The show begins in late July or early August.

[Click here to see how it works.](#)

My 3-tier unit has 18 planting pockets, six circling around each level. Each pocket has a 10" depth. Made from high-quality, food-grade, UV-resistant, BPA, BPS & PVC-free plastic. It is 19" wide x 31" tall and holds about 24 gallons of potting mix. It has a drain tube. The basic planter cost is currently \$109.00 and it comes in four colors. They also come with more tiers (5 or 7) for a taller planter, and accessories like plant supports, and even a frost cover. Add a spinner with casters (which I highly recommend) so it can be rotated to get sun to all of the pockets, or moved as needed.

[Click here to learn more about Greenstalk Vertical Planters](#)

Do you have a product, catalogue, newsletter, website or tool you love? Send the info and a photo if possible, to ahtomlinson@me.com so we can feature it in the newsletter!

*Grow a garden that makes people look up from their phone.
They need the distraction.*

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ECHTER'S GARDEN CENTER

The Colorado Dahlia Show SEPTEMBER 19TH AND 20TH

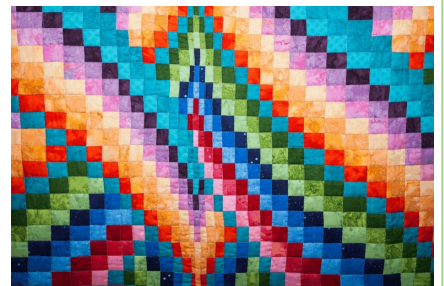


Experience dahlias at their most spectacular!

Presented in partnership with the [Colorado Dahlia Society](#), our annual Dahlia Show features hundreds of dazzling blooms- from perfectly petite pompons to showstopping dinnerplate dahlias in an astonishing variety of colors, shapes, and sizes.

Come admire award-worthy flowers, find inspiration for your own garden, and meet Colorado Dahlia Society members who are happy to answer questions and share their best growing tips.

Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum's Annual Quilt Show OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 4



Experience the artistry, craftsmanship, and creativity of quilting at our annual Quilt Show, presented in partnership with the [Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum](#).

A beautiful collection of quilts will be on display throughout the weekend, showcasing a variety of styles, techniques, colors, and designs.

Visitors are invited to browse the exhibit, admire the incredible detail and handiwork, and vote for their favorite quilts in three categories.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Gardening requires a lot of water, most of it in the form of perspiration.

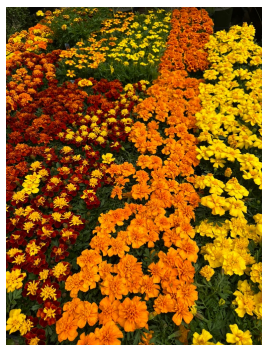
FALL YIELDS THE INGREDIENTS FOR NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL FLOWER MIX

Excerpt From "Save the Seeds From These 6 Popular Flowers This Fall and Grow Them Again Next Year Without Spending a Dime"

By Abby Monteil, *The Spruce*



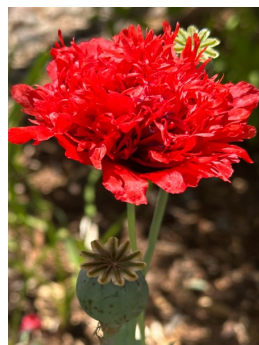
Cosmos



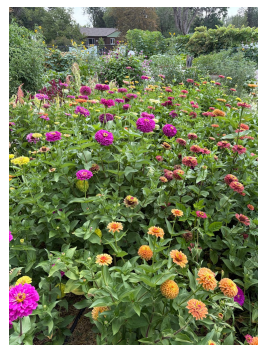
Marigolds



Nasturtiums



Poppies



Zinnias

Some of the most popular annual flowering plants naturally re-seed each year, offering cost-free blooms the following spring. Many also produce easily collectible seeds, which you can store and sow once they're ready.

- COSMOS, with their daisy-like pastel blooms and high heat tolerance, are as lovely to behold as they are easy to re-sow. When their petals fall and their heads dry throughout the summer, remove the seeds and store them in a temperate place until you're ready to plant.
- MARIGOLDS happen to be one of the easiest flowers from which to [save seeds](#). Simply wait until the flowers have dried, then pull apart the seed heads and collect your seeds. Avoid directly sowing the seeds in your garden until the threat of frost has passed. Indoors you can start six to eight weeks before your area's average final frost date.
- NASTURTIUM'S light tan seeds, which grow on their stems and vines rather than in the flower itself, will eventually drop to the ground. While they can easily reseed naturally and quickly the following spring, some gardeners choose to harvest and store them indoors, where they appreciate germinating in darkness.
- POPPIES self-seed regularly, so harvesting their seeds isn't strictly necessary. Although poppy seeds can lie dormant for up to 80 years, the process of collecting and growing them in your own garden can happen much more quickly. Wait for seed pods to fully dry before cutting them. Bag the seeds and store them in a temperate location. The seeds can be planted as early as Fall if you'd like your poppies to bloom earlier the following season.
- ZINNIAS For best results, bag or cage several zinnia flower buds before they bloom to avoid accidental cross-pollination. Once their flower heads are totally dry, gently remove the flower heads and hit them on a clean towel to release seeds. Because there are so many varieties of zinnias, gardeners can even mix seeds from different types of the flower to create a custom zinnia palette.



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COLORADO FALL
**HOME
SHOW**

SEPT. 11 - 13

COLORADO
CONVENTION CENTER

Friday Saturday Sunday

at the Dumont School

Everything must go! No more donations.



Proceeds to benefit Mill Creek Valley Historical Society