



BOULDER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Community Garden News



Dear Gardeners,

Its great to see everyone out and working the gardens so early this year. Remember that May 15th is the date in which all plots must be clearly weeded and cared for. This regulation helps us determine if we can offer a plot to the many people on our wait list.

We would like to encourage visitors. If you see someone you don't know wandering around the gardens, please ask them to sign into the guest book. Better yet, ask them to have someone from the office give them a quick tour. We know that people are interested in the community garden, and it feels like a great opportunity to know we are here and what we do.

We strive to make the garden be a friendly and welcoming place. If you feel that someone is not happy with our garden policies or practices, we want to hear about it! Please ask them to address the Garden Coordinator or the Extension staff directly. We are open to hearing!

Make sure you know how to turn off the water main in case of irrigation emergencies. I am pleased to show you at your convenience!

Please consider sharing the cultivation of mint, rhubarb, horseradish and or dill instead of planting new plants. We have an abundance of these in the garden and they can be quite invasive!

Happy Gardening!

Allison Appelhans
Garden Coordinator
303 678 6924



CSU Extension

The Extension office provides assistance and programs for citizens in five main areas: Agriculture, Horticulture, Family and Consumer Science, Natural Resources and 4-H Youth Programs.

Colorado State University Extension Mission Statement:

Empower Coloradans to address important and emerging community issues using dynamic, science-based educational resources.

Please feel free to use our website as a reference tool for all things gardening and more. <https://boulder.extension.colostate.edu/horticulture/>

For Fact Sheets on Many Subjects

<https://extension.colostate.edu/publications-2/>

2019 Garden Policies <https://boulder.extension.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2019/03/Community-Garden-Policies-2019-1.pdf>

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Community Service

Thank you Archie and Mark for your ingenuity and tenaciousness with the hops-trellis make-over project. HOPFULLY we will stay up this year!

Let the Garden Coordinator know if you are interested in any of the following projects or have ideas of your own. **Please do not start projects without approval.** We have had issues where two or more people were doing the same tasks which was counterproductive.

Water Measurement Project

This year we will be measuring water consumptions with water meters on plots with two very different irrigation methods. We will also be measuring and recording precipitation from rain/hail events this year. If you are interested in helping with either of these projects, please let me know.

Seed/Start/Division Swap

There is still time! Would someone be interested in organizing a swap meet? Gardeners who grow a few extra starts or divisions (seeds, veggies or flowers) could share. This could be a fun mixer and also an opportunity to try some new varieties. I will get some sort of container out there for extras. *Try to leave something if you take something. :)*

Weeding Trial Plots or Common Areas

This is such a worthy project even though it may not be the most fun. Keep one or more of these areas tidy and weed free for the season; hops, grapes, berries, parking lot, compost dumpster area, gazebo and tool shed.

Wheelbarrow, Tool and or Tiller Maintenance – Ongoing project.



Healthy Garden Tips

When to Water Your Vegetable Garden & Watering Chart

By Catherine Boeckmann - March 5, 2019

How much water is really needed? When is the best time to water your vegetables? Learn tips on watering your garden.

According to some experts, less is often more when it comes to watering your vegetable crops. In areas without drought, a common mistake new gardeners make is watering too much!

Start With Good Soil

Healthy soil is the basis of healthy plants. You can't just dig up dirt and put in plants. If you add a little compost, you are well on your way to making rich, well-balanced soil.

Regular applications of modest amounts of compost - 1/4" per season - will dramatically improve your soil's water retention and help suppress disease.

When to Water

Don't just water without thinking. Feel your soil! When the soil sticks in your hand and you can form it into a ball, it is moist enough. But, if it barely holds together in the palm of your hand, or if the surface looks hard, baked, or cracked, it is probably dry and it's time to water.

It's best to water early in the day so the foliage dries off by evening. When foliage stays wet for a long period of time, disease problems can build up. Believe it or not, sometimes the best time to water is during or immediately after a rainfall, especially if the rain shower amounts only to a half-inch or so of water. The reason for this is that

you want to add sufficient water at the same time to ensure penetration down to 5 or 6 inches. If you wait another day or two to water, you will be adding only surface water, which evaporates rapidly. With only frequent, light watering (or rain showers), you never build up a reserve of water in the soil.

Lose Your Guilt About Wilt

Another sign is that the plants may wilt and look especially droopy. However, temporary wilting during the heat of midday does not mean that it's time to water. Some plants go through an obvious midday slump, especially on very hot days, which is an indication of the plant's natural adaptation to its environment. Visit your garden again in the early evening and see if the wilted plants have regained some turgidity. If they have come back - that is, if they look perkier - do not water.

Watering Guide: Critical Times to Water & Gallons Needed

To address the big watering question, below is a chart that tells you critical times to water each vegetable crop as well as the number of gallons of water needed.

This watering guide (next page) assumes summer vegetables and good, moderately-rich soil. Water less often in cool spring or fall months. Water more often in hotter, dryer periods.

How to Measure Your Water

Another way to figure out how much to water, follow a general rule of thumb of one inch of water per week.

How to Water

What you want in a healthy plant is deep root penetration, and the only way that you're going to get deep roots is if there is water down deep. Start at the very beginning: Saturate each plant hole when you transplant seedlings. When you do water, make sure that you get the soil saturated enough that the moisture percolates several inches down.

**Average yearly
precipitation for
2010-2018 is
25.19"**

**From 2000 - 2010
it was 19.04"**

<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/boulder/Boulder.mm.precip.html>

The disadvantage of using a sprinkler is that foliage is wetted by water dispersed via overhead application. This could lead to foliar diseases since the foliage remains wet for extended periods of time. An alternative is to lay the hoses directly on the ground near the plant so the water goes where it is needed. A board or rock placed under the water flow will prevent the water from eroding the soil. A good way to direct the water to the plants is to dig a little trench around the plants and allow water to flow into it.

Drip or trickle irrigation is also successful in the home garden. This is done mainly with hoses or plastic tubes with small holes in them that deliver a relatively small amount of water directly to the root zone; by supplying optimum moisture, periods of water stress can be avoided. The hoses or tubes are placed down the rows and water slowly trickles out. Regardless of method chosen, be sure to apply sufficient moisture.

Don't Forget to Mulch!

Mulching is perhaps the #1 water-conserving technique for areas that receive < 40 inches of rainfall annually. Organic mulches reduce evaporative moisture losses from the soil surface, and because the soil stays cooler, they also reduce transpiration water losses. Lay a thick layer of mulch down on top of soil. (Do not mix with soil.) Renew mulches as needed through the season.



Don't baby your crops: Plants are incredibly adaptable. They have the ability to draw water from deep in the soil. Periodically, take a trowel and dig down several inches into the zone where the roots are most active. If the soil there is still moist, there would be no benefit from watering.

<https://www.almanac.com/content/when-water-your-vegetable-garden-watering-chart>

**Needs a lot of water
during dry spells.**

Needs water at critical stages of development.

Does not need frequent watering.

Vegetable Critical time(s) to water for a 5-foot row		Gallons of water needed
Beans	Flowering & pod development	2 per week depending on rainfall
Beets	Before soil gets bone-dry	1 at early stage; 2 every 2 weeks
Broccoli	Don't let dry 4 weeks after transplanting. Head development.	1 to 1 ½ per week
Brussels sprouts	Don't let soil dry out for 4 weeks after transplanting.	1 to 1 ½ per week
Cabbage	Head development. Water frequently in dry weather.	2 per week
Carrots	Early root enlargement. Before soil gets bone-dry	1 at early stage; 2 every 2 weeks
Cauliflower	Head development. Water frequently for best crop.	2 per week
Celery	Water frequently for best crop.	2 per week
Corn	When tassels form and when cobs swell	2 at important stages (left)
Cucumbers	Flowering and fruit development. Water frequently.	1 per week
Lettuce/Spinach	Water frequently for best crop.	2 per week
Onions	In dry weather, water in early stage to get plants going.	½ to 1 per week if soil is very dry
Parsnips	Before soil gets bone-dry	1 per week in early stages
Peas	When flowers form and during pod-forming and picking	2 per week
Potatoes	Tuber set and enlargement when the size of marbles	2 per week
Radishes	Plentiful, consistent moisture for root enlargement	2 per week
Squash	Water frequently for best crop.	1 per week
Tomatoes	3 to 4 weeks after transplanting & flowers and fruit form	1 gallon twice a week or more

Planttalk Colorado

Buying & Hardening Transplants

Bedding plants for flowers and vegetables are available as seedlings, known as transplants. They're sold by garden centers, nurseries and through the mail. Carefully time your purchases according to local average weather conditions for planting. Purchased transplants can be temporarily sustained in a bright window or under energy-efficient grow lights if necessary. Plastic packs of vegetable transplants

When buying transplants, the condition of the plant is often more important than its variety. Transplants purchased through the mail (usually a unique heirloom variety not found locally) will often arrive appearing stressed and should be immediately planted according to the instructions provided by the grower. These transplants should quickly rebound to a healthy state.

A good transplant would be at least as wide as it is tall. It should have a stocky stem with dark colored (usually green), thick leaves and, if possible, it should not be flowering, although, if purchasing more mature transplants, they will likely be flowering. Choose the best, healthiest plants that are free of disease and insects. Use caution when buying transplants after a cold, wet spring because they may not have been sold quickly enough. Avoid tall, thin and pale plants that have not received enough light or water. Also, some vegetables that are now sold as transplants are actually better when grown from seed sown directly into the garden.

The outdoor environment can be very harsh for a transplant. So, harden the transplants before planting to increase

their chance of survival. Place them outdoors where they will receive direct sunlight but out of the wind for a few hours each day for a week. Gradually lengthen the amount of time outside each day. Move the plants inside at night if temperatures drop to near freezing. Keep them watered and plant them as soon after hardening as possible according to planting guides for the area. In windy locations, consider protecting transplants from battering winds.

For more expert advice on over 500 topics, go to <http://planttalk.colostate.edu/topics/vegetables/>



Around Town

Sunday May 5th: Harlequin's Garden Plant Sale.

Saturday and Sunday May 4th and 5th, May 11th and 12th, May 18th and 19th (8am - 4pm) Growing Gardens Community Plant Sale. Located at the Growing Gardens Greenhouse 1630 Hawthorn Avenue Boulder, CO

May 10 - 11 Spring Plant Sale Denver Botanic Gardens, (8am - 6pm) on Friday and (8am - 5pm) on Saturday; Free admission to the Gardens and plant sale. 720-865-3501

May 11 Loveland Garden Club Plant Sale & Antique & Artisan Market All Saints Episcopal Church, 3448 N. Taft Ave., Loveland; Time: 9 am - 2 pm; Annuals, perennials, vegetable starts, herbs, silent auction, bake sale, and vintage garden collectibles.

May 11 "Vermicomposting" by John Anderson Harlequin's Gardens, 4795 N. 26th St. In Boulder; Time: 1 p.m.; Fee \$15; Pre-register by calling 303-939-9403 **Worms will be available for purchase at the class for \$40. There is a \$5 discount if pre-ordered by April 30. Call 303-939-9403 to pre-order.

May 11 (9am - 12pm) The Boulder Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale will feature plants for sale from The Orchid Society of Boulder, offering perennials, annuals, herbs, shrubs from members' gardens and some veggie seedlings, along with some gently used garden items. The sale benefits local civic projects. Unitarian-Universalist Church, 5001 Pennsylvania Ave., bouldergardenclub.org.

May 11-12 (10am - 5pm) Gardens on Spring Creek spring plant sale is an event where Northern Colorado gardeners can find perfect additions for a beautiful landscape, bountiful veggie garden, or lively containers. Choose from thousands of annuals, herbs, perennials and vegetable starts grown by staff horticulturists and students from CSU and Front Range Community College. Some extended walking is required to take in all of the plants at this event; Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave., Ft. Collins; fcgov.com/gardens/spring-plant-sale.

May 19 "Tomato Tutelage: What You Need to Know to Grow Great Tomatoes!" By Kelly Grummons

Harlequin's Gardens, 4795 N. 26th St. In Boulder; Time: 10 a.m.; Fee \$20; Pre-register by calling 303-939-9403

