

## Charles W. (Chuck) Bliss

Chuck Bliss spent 30 years serving Boulder County residents as Agriculture Agent and Director of the Colorado State University Extension Office. He was a lifelong Colorado resident, born in the Greeley area and a graduate of Colorado A&M (now Colorado State University). He was hired by Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service in 1954 and retired in 1984. The county's population doubled in population during his years, resulting in a direct increase in questions to the office.

During his time in the Extension Office, he assisted Boulder County residents in managing their properties from small urban backyards to large farms and ranches, growing backyard vegetable and field crops, recovery post floods and dealing with livestock health and diseases. He even managed to answer a question of how to "de-quack" a duck. His work included the 4-H Youth program and the Boulder County Fair and Rodeo.

In appreciation of all his work for Boulder County citizens, we are honored to dedicate the Trial Garden in his memory.



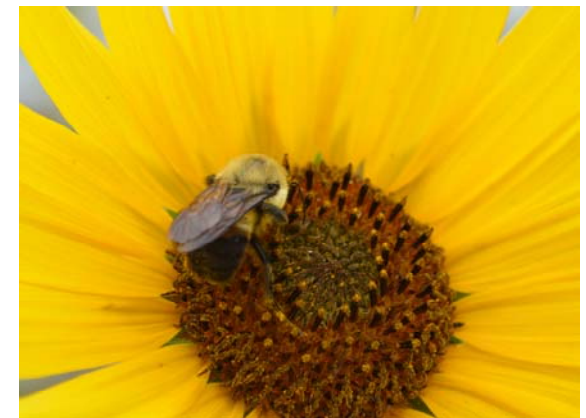
### Harvey Sprock Memorial Mix

Harvey Sprock was a Natural Resources Conservation Service employee. He was born on a ranch near Calhan, CO and spent his career providing holistic, sustainable grazing information to rangeland owners and professionals. He wrote the majority of the Colorado range site descriptions which are used for decisions on native rangelands. When he passed away, Pawnee Buttes Seed Company put this mix together in his honor.

**Local seed companies** that have provided seed for the plots: Pawnee Buttes Seed, Applewood Seed, Granite Seed, Green Cover Seed.



## Charles W. (Chuck) Bliss Trial Garden



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# Trial Plots



The Trial Garden was designed to provide a visual display of different native and introduced grasses, cover and field crops and pollinator plants and how they grow in our climate and soils. The garden is used for plant identification and land management classes and for public information and viewing.

The garden was planted mid-November 2014. Many of the plant varieties are native species and thrive in Colorado conditions with little to no irrigation. The plots receive limited irrigation to mimic our normal climate conditions. The crops and pollinator plots do receive irrigation.

Each fall and spring different annual field crops, cover crops and pollinator mixes are planted. Soil tests are performed periodically to document how the use of cover crops changes soil structure and organic matter.

*For a current list of the plant species and sources in the Trial Garden, please pick up a plant list from the Extension or Conservation District Offices in the Natural Resources Building.*

# Grass Trials

The grass trials are intended to allow visitors to see what the native grasses and common pasture grasses look like and their growth habit.

Four of the plots are clipped at 1", 2" or 4" at various time intervals to show the effects of proper grazing heights and intervals versus overgrazing.



# Cover Crop and Field Crop Trials

Cover crops improve soil health by increasing organic matter, providing cover, conserving soil moisture, reducing soil erosion and providing forage and habitat for soil organisms, pollinators and other wildlife.

Each year, we plant corn, sugar beets, barley and wheat so that visitors to the garden can learn to recognize common field crops grown in the county.



# Pollinator Trials

Landowners want to do something to help save both native pollinators and honeybees. One of the best things they can do is to provide additional forage and habitat for them. We trial locally available pollinator mixes. The mixes are changed periodically to reflect changes in mixes that are available.

# Ozone Bio-Indicator Plants

While the upper atmospheric level ozone layer protects us from harmful solar radiation, ground level ozone is toxic to both plant and human cells. Several plants, common milkweed, cutleaf coneflower, specific varieties of snap beans and potatoes, have been identified as indicator plants for ozone levels. These plants will be monitored and data entered into a national database to track ozone levels.