



Thomas Jefferson, Plantsman

Thomas Jefferson was an avid gardener and plant collector who brought flower and vegetable varieties from Europe to Monticello, his home in Charlottesville, Virginia. Beginning in 1986, his garden has been restored. The Monticello Center for Historic Plants has now made seeds for many of Jefferson's plants available to gardeners. See <https://bit.ly/34mIOjI>

January-February 2022

February is a Perfect Time to Purchase Seeds

Seed companies and garden centers are stocked up with a generous supply of seeds to choose from, so now is the time to plan your garden and purchase seeds. Consider purchasing from Colorado-based seed companies, which offer many varieties suited to our shorter growing season.

The principal Colorado-based seed companies are:

Beauty Beyond Belief (BBB) (Boulder) A small farm offering a wide variety of heirloom, organic, open-pollinated vegetable, flower and wildflower seeds. <https://bbbseed.com/>



Blue Lake Bush Bean
Botanical Interests

Botanical Interests (Boulder) A family-owned business that offers over 600 varieties of heirloom and organic seeds. Artistic renderings of vegetables are showcased on their seed packets. The packets provide detailed information on growing the plant. <https://www.botanicalinterests.com/>

Burrell Seed Growers, LLC (Rocky Ford) This company, which has been producing and selling seed since 1900, is dedicated to preserving heirlooms and open-pollinated seeds. They proudly offer generous sized seed packets at modest prices. Antique drawings of vegetables grace some of their seed packets. <https://burrellseeds.us/>



Better Boy Tomato (Hybrid)
Burrell Seed Growers

MASA Seed Foundation. (Boulder) MASA is a bio-regional seed bank supported through small-scale production of seeds and produce. It promotes recovery of heirloom seeds, pushing back against the industrially-controlled food system that has GMO seeds as its driving force. MASA's website explains its mission and provides information about a wide range of edible plants and herbs. Seeds are pricey but they do support a cause. www.masaseedfoundation.org/

Miss Penn's Mountain Seeds. Penn and Cord Parmenter are mountain food and seed growers and high altitude gardening teachers at their farm in Westcliffe, Colorado (elevation 8,120'). They are passionate tomato growers and promote intensive gardening to maximize production in a small space. <https://bit.ly/3Lh2oOT>

Pueblo Seed & Food Co. (aka Farm Direct Seed) Vegetable varieties developed at Hobbs & Meyer Farms located in the Arkansas Valley east of Pueblo and in Cortez, Colorado. This company specializes in southwestern native corn, beans, garlic, chile peppers and a wide range of other vegetables.

Plots Are Available Now

Each year there is some turnover among gardeners. Individuals interested in renting a plot should call Todd Hegert (719) 329-8873 as soon as possible to get registration information.

Plots are assigned to new gardeners on a first-come, first-served basis.

Plot sizes and fees are:
20 feet x 20 feet \$75.00
20 feet x 40 feet \$120.00

The plot fee includes water and spring and fall tilling. First year gardeners pay a \$25.00 cleanup deposit which is returned if the plot is appropriately cleared at the end of the season.

Registration Deadline

Returning gardeners must register by February 28th to claim their plots.

Plant Extra Seedlings

If you plan to start seedlings under lights this year, please plant extras for the BCGA Plant and Tool Sale on Memorial Day Weekend.

When doing spring cleaning, remember that all sorts of garden tools and equipment are also welcome at the sale. Please donate them!



Proceeds from this sale will go to the BCGA Goat Fund to help us bring Lani's weed eating goats back to the park again this year.

"A Garden Experience—Growing Organic" is a 30 minute film about the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden made by local filmmakers Nancy Bentley and John Atkinson, with original music composed by George Ulrich. Watch it (free for Prime members) at <https://amzn.to/34G7nHL>

(Continued on page 2)

Garden Calendar

March 12—BCGA Class—"Organic Vegetable Gardening". See article -->

April 9-10—Orientation for New Gardeners. The 90 minute session will be repeated. Details to be announced.

April 16 —Garden Opens (weather permitting)

May 29 — BCGA Plant and Tool Sale

"Water-Wise Vegetable Gardening"

The Horticultural Art Society (HAS) will present this Zoom lecture by Scott Wilson on Saturday, March 5th 10:00—11:30 a.m. Free for HAS members, non-members \$10. Register on the HAS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hasgardens> or send an email to: hasgardens@gmail.com

Potluck—August 14

With an abundance of Covid caution, BCGA cancelled the Winter Potluck again this year. A Summer Potluck is set for Sunday, August 14 at Gold Hill Mesa. Save the Date!

Garden Badges Still Valid

The 2021 Charmaine Nymann Community Garden badge will remain valid right through the winter until the new badges come out when the garden opens on April 16..

Gardeners can show their badges to get discounts at Rick's Garden Center, Good Earth Garden Center and ACE Hardware (Uintah Gardens store only).

The 2021 summer keys should be discarded, as new locks and keys are purchased each year.

Bear Creek Garden Association

BCGA runs the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden (CNCG) located in Bear Creek Regional Park in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit corporation.

Individuals can rent plots to grow organic vegetables for personal use and donation to friends and charities.

Contact us: Todd Hegert 329-8873

Email: bearcreekgardenscs@gmail.com

Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook:

Bear Creek Garden Association

Gardeners to Present Class at Bear Creek Nature Center

Six BCGA gardeners and Dan Hopper from Rick's Garden Center will present a class on Organic Vegetable Gardening on Saturday, March 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Bear Creek Nature Center. This event is part of the Sustainability Series organized by the Nature Center.

Topics include Starting Vegetables Indoors, Best Vegetable Varieties, Organic Pest Control and Fertilizers, Plant Protection, Favorite Tools and Square Foot Gardening. The class is open to the public. Cost: \$4 (\$3 for Nature Center members). To register, call 520-6387 or go to: <https://bit.ly/3gudphy>

Are They Viable?

Many gardeners buy fresh seed each year. They consider the effort a gardener puts into preparing the soil and planting the seed significant enough that they feel new seed is well worth the expense.

Other gardeners disagree. They know that seed kept in a cool place may stay viable for several years, especially larger seed, such as beans and squash. They know that that it probably will germinate pretty well and will produce vigorous plants.

If you are considering planting last year's (or older) seeds, sprout some to see how viable they are. Place 10-12 seeds on a moist paper towel, put inside a plastic bag in a warm place, and see how many germinate and how strong they are.

The Garden Father

Larry Stebbins is a local botanist, author, radio host and educator who has founded twelve (mostly raised bed) community gardens over the years in Colorado Springs. He is a member of the Old Farm community garden in northeast Colorado Springs.

Larry provides a garden blog on his website and has started a new "Garden Podcast" series as well. The first podcast is "Getting Started" (tips for the beginning gardener) and the second is "Raised Bed Gardening" which is not done at our garden but might be helpful for a home gardener. The third, "Fertile Organic Soils" (the whys and hows of building the best organic soil for your garden).

The blog and podcasts can be accessed easily on Larry's website: www.thegardenfather.com

Mama and Baby Goats Were Here for Christmas



Baby Goat Photo Courtesy of Candice Hall

Lani Malmberg brought a herd of 600 cashmere goats, including many mamas and babies, to Bear Creek Park for ten days of grazing in late December.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the BCGA Goat Fund throughout the year to make this grazing possible. Thank you to our many friends of the goats who came to visit Lani and the herd dogs, and thank you to the visitors who kept their dogs on leash for the safety of everyone concerned.

The goats did a fine job of weed and wildfire mitigation in the 20 acres around the community garden.

 * The 2022 BCGA Handbook will be *
 * available on the garden website: *
 * www.bearcreekgardens.org *

February is a Perfect Time...

(Continued from page 1)

tables and historic grains.

<https://farmdirectseed.com/>

Some local garden centers stock seeds from Botanical Interests and Pueblo Seed & Food Co.

Other seed companies that are favorites with BCGA gardeners include:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

<https://www.rareseeds.com/>

Johnny's Selected Seeds

<https://www.johnnyseeds.com/>

Native Seed/SEARCH

<https://www.nativeseeds.org/>

Seed Savers Exchange

<https://www.seedsavers.org/>

Terroir Seeds

<https://underwoodgardens.com/>

and... (bonus points for reading this article) "Where Adventurous Gardeners Buy their Seeds"

<https://nyti.ms/3GuHQyy>