



Real gardeners
Love the process.

A good harvest is
Frosting on the cake.

September-October 2022

It's Time to Order Garden Mix

It is time to think about amending your garden plot for next year. Through BCGA, You can order Garden Mix, an excellent compost/ manure product put together by Don's Garden Shop and used by our gardeners for many years to build and improve soil in this garden. It really works!

The price for Garden Mix is \$55 per cubic yard and \$27.50 per half cubic yard. The recommended amount is one cubic yard per full plot, or a half cubic yard per half plot,



Arrival of the first load of Garden Mix last year

though some gardeners apply more. Those amounts could be doubled, but applying more than that can be counterproductive.

Gardeners are not required to order Garden Mix, though it is highly recommended. Plots where Garden Mix has been added faithfully over the years are noticeably softer, richer, and absorb and retain water better than those in which the soil has not been well amended.

To order Garden Mix, mail a check payable to Bear Creek Garden Association to P.O. Box 38326, Colorado Springs, CO 80937. The deadline for checks TO REACH THE BCGA POST

OFFICE BOX is Wednesday, September 28. It's a good idea to send your check early!

Checks that arrive after September 28 will be returned to the sender. Please do not try to hand a check to a board member in the garden.

The Garden Mix is scheduled to arrive early in the first full week of October. It will be dumped inside the fence by the truck gate. Please do not measure or move what you have ordered by yourself. The county will deliver it to the appropriate plots with a skid loader.

Please clear a space for it on your plot by Monday, October 3.

Donations are Needed to Help Bring Back the Goats

Once again, Lani Malmberg's herd of weed-eating cashmere goats will be coming back to Bear Creek Park later in the fall.

We need your help to raise the funds now for this ten-day grazing. The goats are very popular, with hundreds of people coming to the park to enjoy seeing the skilled border collies managing the herd.

The goats eat broad-leaf weeds in the 20 acres around the community

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ACE Hardware Supports Community Garden

ACE Hardware has very generously supported the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden this year by donating two sturdy Gorilla Garden Carts and a large and well-designed new wheelbarrow to CNCG. In addition, the ACE Hardware store in Uintah Gardens continues to offer a 15% discount year round to gardeners who show a current CNCG badge at checkout.

Thank you to Sage Marler and Danny White at ACE for their significant, ongoing support.

Getting tools sharpened before clearing out the garden makes the work much easier.

Remember that the garden badge entitles current gardeners to a 50% discount on tool sharpening at the Uintah Gardens store. Experts at ACE will sharpen hand tools, stirrup/scuffle hoes and conventional hoes and shovels. They do not sharpen serrated blades.

Zinnias Brighten August Potluck—Kuhlman Shares Jalapeño Recipe



BCGA gardeners showed again what excellent cooks they are when they gathered for the Summer Potluck at the community room at Gold Hill Mesa on August 14.

Jade Layman harvested a huge bouquet of zinnias from her garden and arranged them for the tables.

Kirsten Kuhlman has shared

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Make Way for the Skid Loader!

Where your plot runs along a main aisle, or along the narrow 2' aisle that borders the south edge of the "A" plots, please harvest and clear a couple of feet of space in from the aisle by Monday Oct. 3.

The skid loader the county worker will be using to move Garden Mix for those who ordered it is a bit wider than the aisles, so plants or equipment remaining along those plot edges may be crushed.

By that time in the season, growth and ripening have basically ended anyway. This is a good opportunity to get a head start on clearing your plot.

Picnic — Jalapeño Recipe

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the recipe for her addictive Jalapeño Poppers:

Jalapeño Poppers

- 8 large Jalapeño peppers, stemmed, seeded and halved lengthwise
- 8 ounces of cream cheese
- 1/2 pound bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled
- 1 cup shredded Colby jack cheese
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 3 tablespoons dried onions

Combine cream cheese, bacon, garlic powder, dried onions and 1/2 cup shredded Colby Jack cheese. Stuff this filling into the peppers and arrange them in a baking pan. Top with the remaining 1/2 cup of Colby Jack.

Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes until the peppers are tender and the cheese is lightly browned on top.

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: Todd Hegert (719) 329-8873

Email: bearcreekgardenscs@gmail.com

Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook:

Bear Creek Garden Association

From the Facebook Page: Young Snake in the Dill --Red Amaranth



Candice Hall recently posted this photo of a small bull snake in the dill on the BCGA Facebook page. The bull snakes in the garden can reach 3-4 feet long and are very beneficial because they help to control the rodent and rabbit population.

They are not rattlesnakes. Please help us protect them from harm. Take a look at the article about these snakes in the BCGA Garden Handbook available online on the website: <http://www.bearcreekgardens.org/>



Amaranth Dragon

Red Amaranth is a spectacular plant that has naturalized and comes up all around the garden. The seeds are edible. Photo by Candice Hall.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of members of the Bear Creek Garden Association (originally scheduled for Wednesday, September 14) will be held at the meeting room in the Old Colorado City Library, 2422 West Pikes Peak Avenue on Saturday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m.

Individuals who rented one or more plots at the garden in 2022 and finished the season in good standing by following rules and clearing their plots are current members of BCGA.

This will be a short meeting with annual reports, election of board members and conversation.

Notes for All Gardeners



Requests. Gardeners who have managed their plots well and wish to return next year are entitled to keep the same plots.

Those who want to rent more, less or different space in 2023 should email a request to BCGA now to get on the Requests List. If a plot is available and two gardeners request it, the earlier request prevails.

CNCG Badge is Valid All Winter. The 2022 garden badge will remain valid through the winter until the new badges come out at the opening of the garden in April 2023. Remember that you can show your badge to get discounts at Rick's Garden Center, Good Earth Garden Center and ACE Hardware (Uintah Gardens store only).

Keys. When the garden closes, the winter locks are placed on the garden gates. Gardeners can discard their 2022 keys because new locks and keys will be used in 2023.

Clearing Your Plot. As the season draws to a close, please be pro-active about clearing your plot well before we get to the Closing Day, October 15.

Dumpsters are stationed in the parking lot just outside the north gates. They will be emptied on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays for the rest of the season.

Use them early and don't wait until the last minute when they fill up fast.

Do not pile refuse around the dumpsters. When dumpsters are full, pile vegetable matter on your plot until there is space in the dumpster for it.

Tilling will be done by the Parks Department soon after the garden closes. All living plants must be cleared from plots. It is OK to leave straw, Garden Mix and light, dry vegetable matter on the plot to be tilled in to improve the soil, but all cornstalks and other heavy-stemmed plants like cabbage and broccoli must go into the dumpster along with all their roots.

Fibrous vines, leaves, roots, and stalks, including squash vines and leaves, tomato plants, eggplant and pepper stalks and their roots and any vegetable matter that is diseased must also go into the dumpster.

All gardens must be cleared and all equipment removed by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 15.

Garden Calendar

Sept. 17—Workday 8:00 a.m.—Noon

Oct 8—9—15— Garden Closing Workdays. 8:00 a.m. until done.

Oct. 15 —Garden Closes. All plots must be cleared by 5:00 p.m.

Oct. 22 — Annual Meeting of Members of BCGA. 2:00 p.m., Old Colorado City Library 2422 West Pikes Peak Avenue.

Dahlia Fundraiser

Second-year gardener Dianne Reitan, who, in her short time at the garden, has developed a passion for growing dahlias, will be providing dahlia bouquets from her plot on Saturdays between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on September 17 and 24 and October 1 and 8 to raise money for the goats. She is asking \$10 per bouquet, but additional donations for the fundraiser are very welcome.

Dianne took a few of her blooms to the annual Colorado Dahlia Society Show on September 10, and was awarded a First Place blue ribbon in the Waterlily Amateur Category of the show. Congratulations, Dianne, and thank you for turning your lovely flowers into a fundraiser for the goats!

Donations Needed for Goat Grazing in Bear Creek Park

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garden so that the Parks Department can avoid spraying herbicide near the garden to control weeds. The herder stays on site full time in a camper trailer, and the goats are usually penned inside the garden fence at night for safety.

(In 2021, however, the soil was so dry because of the drought that the goats



started coughing from the dust raised by 2000+ hooves when they went into the garden, so they were sheltered inside an electric fence line set up along Bear Creek at night.) The photo shows an elementary school class visiting the goats.

BCGA needs help to bring the goats back this year. The form below can be used to send donations. Checks should be made out to Bear Creek Garden Association. BCGA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you to the El Paso County Parks Department for its generous, ongoing support including but not limited to allowing the herd to do this work in the park, fencing some trees and shrubs for protection, asking the public to keep dogs on leash in the park and hauling water to the herd while the goats are here.

Join the "Friends of the Goats"

The Friends of the Goats is a group of gardeners, former gardeners and goat lovers in the community who donate to BCGA to bring the goats back each fall.

Lani Malmberg and her goats have been coming to the park each year since 1998. The cost of ten days of grazing plus trucking is approximately \$11,000. A small portion of garden plot fees is used for the grazing, but the lion's share comes from donations.

Join the Friends and receive the Friends newsletter in the fall. To read an August 2022 article in Denver's 5280 Magazine about Lani's goats, click this link: <https://bit.ly/3eGt2oe>



Skilled senior gardener Randy Rick-ey, who has planted a plot at the garden every year since 1986, shared with us this charming scrapbook-style card that he recently received from his daughter, Mary Kyle.

Friends of the Goats

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phones: (home) _____

(cell) _____

E-mail address: _____

Please make checks payable to Bear Creek Garden Association

Mail to Bear Creek Garden Association, Post Office Box 38326, Colorado Springs, CO 80937

Bear Creek Garden Association is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All donations are tax-deductible.