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 \* "In some Native languages the term \*  
 \* for plants translates to 'those who \*  
 \* take care of us'." \*  
 \*  
 \* - Robin Wall Kimmerer \*  
 \* Braiding Sweetgrass \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

January– February 2023

**Everybody is Growing Vegetables—Purchase Seeds Now**

The surge of interest in growing your own vegetables that started during the pandemic is continuing. At the moment, seed companies and garden centers are well stocked with seeds, so now is the time to make plans and purchase seeds, before the popular varieties are sold out.

BCGA gardeners often purchase from Colorado-based seed companies which offer varieties suited to our climate and shorter growing season.

Some local garden centers stock seed from Botanical Interests and the Pueblo Seed and Food Company. Many seed companies provide beautiful catalogs and sell online.

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.

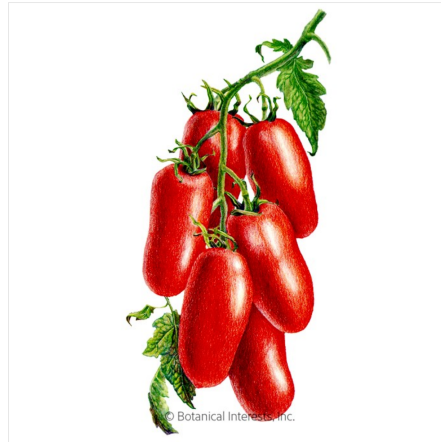
<https://www.botanicalinterests.com/>



Purple Top Rutabaga  
 - Botanical Interests

Burrell Seed Growers, LLC (Rocky Ford, Colorado) This company, which has been producing and selling seed since 1900, is dedicated to preserving heirlooms and open-pollinated seeds.

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San Marzano Roma Tomato  
 - Botanical Interests

**Garden Launches Online Registration System**

The garden takes a big technological step forward this season with new online capacities that will allow members to take care of registrations, liability releases, fee payments, and purchases via our web platform.

The website will still be at [www.bearcreekgardens.org](http://www.bearcreekgardens.org) and will look much the same on the public end, but a new web platform and data base on the backend of the system will allow us to bring garden members the kinds of conveniences we have all grown accustomed to online. The platform will be safe, secure, and available only to garden members.

**Goats Arriving —  
 Volunteers are Needed**

Lani Malmberg and her goats are expected to arrive in mid-February from Silt, Colorado. In December and January they were in Grand Junction and Rifle, riding out winter storms and waiting until the roads were good

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**Plots Are Available**

Plots are available for new gardeners each year because there is always some turnover in the garden.

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.

Returning gardeners will receive a registration package via email, just as they have in past years. That email will contain a link that allows gardeners to create their own individual account and complete the registration process online. No more printing registration forms, filling them out by hand, mailing them through the Post Office, trips to a notary public to get unconditional liability forms notarized, etc. All of that will be done much more quickly and conveniently via the web platform.

The process will be similar for new gardeners, though new gardeners must first go through an inquiry process and phone interview to be invited to register for a plot.

Garden helpers must also register and complete the unconditional liability release online.

The system will also include a "store", allowing plot owners to purchase straw and garden mix quickly and conveniently online, which should encourage wider use of these products and help build and sustain the soil in the garden.

**Gardeners to Gather for Winter Potluck February 19th**

Come to the potluck to see those garden friends you have missed during the winter!

Returning BCGA gardeners, their families and their helpers are invited to the Winter Potluck on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. at the Gold Hill Mesa Community Room, 142 South Raven Mine Drive.

Please bring a main dish **and** a salad or dessert to share. BCGA will provide plates, cups, utensils, napkins, coffee, cocoa and lemonade.

Todd Hegert will discuss the new online registration process and will answer questions about it.

**Seed Catalogs Needed.** We always give away seed catalogs at the BCGA Spring Garden Class at the Bear Creek Nature Center in March. If you have any seed catalogs (older ones are fine) that you can donate to BCGA, please bring them to the potluck.



**Spring Garden Classes Sprout Up**

Well-known local community garden leader Larry Stebbins (aka “the Garden Father”) is teaching spring classes after a long hiatus during the pandemic, but you had to be nimble to get into the first one on Feb. 18 this year.

Larry announced this first class on January 4 and it was sold out on one day. If you would like to attend one of his upcoming classes, make sure you

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**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](mailto:bearcreekgardenscs@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.bearcreekgardens.org](http://www.bearcreekgardens.org)

**Facebook:**

Bear Creek Garden Association

**Purchase Seeds Now**

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They proudly offer generous seed packets at modest prices. Antique drawings of vegetables grace some of their packets.

<https://burrellseeds.us/>

**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/](http://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 8120’). 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 and historic grains.

<https://farmdirectseed.com/>

Seed companies outside Colorado that BCGA gardeners like include:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds (MO)

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

Johnny’s Selected Seeds (ME)

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

Native Seed/SEARCH (AZ)

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

Seed Savers Exchange (MO)

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

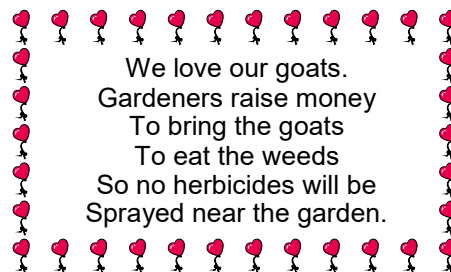
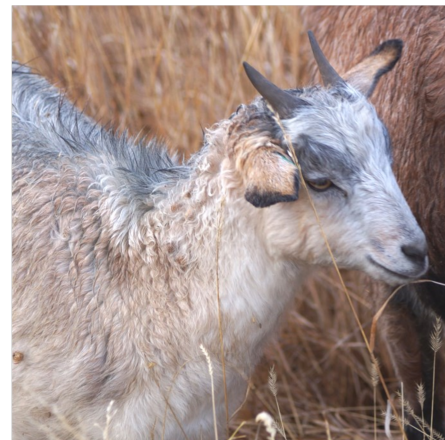
Terroir Seeds (AZ)

<https://underwoodgardens.com/>

Follow this link for an article about growing seedlings by the CSU Extension Service: <https://bit.ly/39el4xt>.

For a good article on growing microgreens indoors for salads, see: <http://bit.ly/2SDF0R6>.

**Goats Arriving—Volunteers Are Needed**



We love our goats.  
Gardeners raise money  
To bring the goats  
To eat the weeds  
So no herbicides will be  
Sprayed near the garden.

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enough for truckers to bring them to the Front Range. The goats will be grazing in the park for ten days.

**Gardeners are Needed.** Gardeners assist the herder and parks staff by walking the trails and talking to visitors while the goats are here. These volunteers answer questions about the goats and thank dog owners who keep their pets on leash. They do not engage in any dog owner discipline! They must wear a vest and a garden badge. The volunteers act as BCGA ambassadors, providing extra eyes on the situation and reporting any concerns to the herder.

The herder’s camper will be parked near the garden, and a plastic tub near the door will have a supply of vests and a set of directions for volunteers.

Please take a copy of the Goat Notes from the tub with the vests and read it so that you are well informed and can answer questions.

There is no schedule for volunteers. Come when you can, and remember that your help is particularly useful on the weekends. The park staff and the herder need your help. We need to have volunteers at the park as much of the time as possible. This work counts toward a gardener’s volunteer obligation. Please report volunteer hours to BCGA by email.

### Garden Calendar

**Feb. 19—Winter Potluck**—Gold Hill Mesa Community Room 12:30—3:30 p.m. See p. 2 for details.

**Mar 11—BCGA Spring Garden Class**— Bear Creek Nature Center 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. See details →

**April 1 — New Gardener Orientation** — Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 10:00 — 11:00 a.m. For new plot owners and their helpers.

**April 15 — Garden Opens** (weather permitting)

### Spring Garden Classes Sprout Up

*(Continued from page 2)*

are on his email list and watch your (spam) email folder carefully around the end of February. The upcoming class dates and topics will be announced by email. Larry is an excellent and much loved teacher. His website is [www.thegardenfather.com](http://www.thegardenfather.com).

**Phelan Gardens.** Some of their classes pertain to vegetable gardening. Classes meet at 10:00 a.m. and the cost is \$10. To see the list and register, go to: <https://bit.ly/40BcXDT>

**Rick's Garden Center**—Soil and Compost – Free in-person class on Feb. 19 Register: <http://bit.ly/3xsmG1W>

**Colorado State University Extension** Lunch and Learn Classes are online starting at 12:00 p.m. Cost is \$10. See: <http://bit.ly/3JXxOLM>

Other CSU Extension classes are also available. They include "Gardening in Colorado for Newcomers" on February 15 and "Vegetable Gardening Basics" on March 1, both of which are online. A special in-person class, "Make and Take: Starting Seeds Indoors" is available on March 8 for a \$20 fee. Register for these classes at: <http://bit.ly/3xrLWFT>

### "Tips for Success" BCGA Spring Garden Class



"Organic Gardening – Tips for Success" will be presented by six experienced BCGA gardeners plus Dan Hopper of Rick's Garden Center on Saturday, March 11 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road. This event is part of a Sustainability Series presented by the Nature Center.

Topics include Starting Seeds Indoors, Good Vegetable Varieties for This Region, Organic Pest Control and Fertilizers, Plant Protection, Favorite Tools and Square Foot Gardening.

Pre-registration is strongly recommended. Walk-ins are accepted if space is available. Register online for this event at <https://bit.ly/3179hmd>

The admission fee is \$4.00 (discounted to \$3.00 for members of Friends of the Nature Center and current BCGA gardeners). To get the discount, call (719) 520-6387 and a staff member will help with the registration process and apply the discount. If all places have not been reserved, walk-ins will be welcome on the day of the class.

Returning gardeners who attend this class are encouraged to wear their 2022 garden badges. This is a community class. This is not the orientation for this year's new gardeners, which will take place on April 1.

### A Special Request: GoFundMe Campaign For Kirsten Kuhlman

Gardeners helping gardeners. That is at the very heart of what makes our community garden work.

With that in mind, the BCGA is passing along information about a GoFundMe campaign to help Kirsten Kuhlman, a long-time and well-loved member of the garden. Kirsten is battling Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer and needs treatments that her insurance company will not cover. Kirsten's son has started a GoFundMe campaign to help pay for the treatments.

Kirsten's friend and gardening partner, Lisa Kirwan, is taking her to a cancer center in Arizona that offers her best hope of recovery.

Lisa writes: "My awesome, vivacious gardening buddy, Kirsten, is on a determined journey to beat Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. Please see this GoFundMe link to read the beautiful words her son wrote.

"If you would like to donate, that would be wonderful, but even more beautiful would be words of encouragement that you can leave on the page."

If you would like to help, here is the link: <https://gofund.me/eaccfc93>

The BCGA speaks for the entire garden in wishing Kirsten well.

### 2022 Badges Still Valid

Returning gardeners can continue to show their 2022 garden badges at checkout to obtain discounts on spring purchases at Good Earth Garden Center, Rick's Garden Center and ACE Hardware in Uintah Gardens until the 2023 badges are released on Opening Day, Saturday, April 15th.

Remember that ACE gives us a 50% discount on tool sharpening.

### 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.