



A Few Plots Are Still Available

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

Join us! Call Todd Hegert (719) 329-8873

March—April 2025

Interest in Gardening Growing this Spring

This spring there is a surge of interest in gardening, as people are building garden beds at home and signing up for garden classes and plots in community gardens in increasing numbers.

A January 8, 2025 story on CNN titled *Why More Americans are Gardening as Trump Returns to the White House* commented that:

"President Trump has promised to deport immigrants who have crossed the border illegally, many of whom play a crucial role in helping get food from farms onto store shelves. He has also threatened to institute blanket tariffs, with some of the steepest rates on Mexico, a top source of produce for the US. This means that Americans could be forced to pay a lot more for fruits and vegetables. To get around that, more Americans want their own food supplies to tap into, creating a budding trend of people doubling down on gardening."

This full article can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3DV6fCa>.

However, there may be more to this uptick in gardening than saving money at the grocery store. The burst of interest in vegetable gardening that we experienced during the Covid pandemic was driven by



the desire to get outside, work in the soil and interact with nature and other gardeners as a soothing antidote to a time of fear and high levels of stress.

In today's conflicted political atmosphere, spending time planting and tending our vegetables and enjoying garden friendships will be quite nurturing for all of us. In spite of the usual challenges (heat, hail, insects) gardening makes us happy.

Garden Stats

Board member Todd Hegert has managed a steady flow of inquiries this spring, and so far 37 new gardeners have signed up for plots. There are 87 returning gardeners. Only a few open plots remain to be rented.

Rules Updates

Here's a quick recap of the changes to the Garden Rules made by the board last November.

Hose reels, sound devices, artificial lighting, bird houses and bird baths are not allowed in the garden.

Nicotiana has been added to the list of prohibited plants and popcorn has been removed from that list.

Germination inhibitors such as corn gluten may not be used for weed control.

Notes for New Gardeners

As we say every year, the early bird rarely gets the worm at the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden! Be careful with early planting. Talk to your garden neighbors who have some experience gardening here.

Planting seedlings of cool weather lovers such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage and kale purchased in a garden shop is OK in mid-April, but they must be covered with a white plastic milk jug or other protection until they start to grow vigorously. Get jugs by asking at coffee shops. Cut off the bottom and a little of the top and stake down in the garden so they don't blow around. Don't use clear plastic or glass containers — they heat up too much on a sunny day.

Sun, wind and cold spring nights will take a heavy toll on greenhouse-raised plants that are not provided with this protection. Don't leave tender plants struggling—protect them.

Also, don't hurry into planting tender tomato, pepper, eggplant and tomatillo plants in May when freezing temperatures are still likely in our area. Watch the weather. Tender plants can be set out around the first of June.

Likewise, hold off on planting seeds for beans, squash and corn until the soil has a chance to warm up. Chilling can permanently damage these vegetables. They may survive, but they probably will not produce as well as they could.

The BCGA Garden Handbook, available on the home page of our website, lists recommended vegetable varieties and planting dates.

Walls of Water. Experienced gardeners know that a tomato plant must be protected with a Wall of Water in order to survive and thrive at this garden. Peppers love them too.

Purchase them now (the brand name product is the best) since they can be hard to find later in the spring. They can be repaired and re-used for many years and are available at garden centers, big box stores and online. It is best to leave them in place all summer.



The Garden is Tilled

Dale Arellano from El Paso County Parks, who has tilled the garden many times, did a beautiful job on March 26. Thank you, to Dale, Parks Director Todd Marts and all of the Parks staff for your ongoing support.

Garden Calendar

April 12 — New Gardener Orientation

Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 9:30—10:30 a.m.

April 19 — Garden Opens. Returning Gardeners come between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to purchase their badges and keys. New gardeners come as scheduled in small groups starting at 1:00 p.m.

May 17 — Garden Workday. 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 Noon. Bring your own tools.

May 24 — BCGA Plant and Tool Sale

For BCGA Gardeners only. 9:00 — 11:30 a.m. at the garden. Gardeners who start tomato, pepper, basil, broccoli and other seedlings at home under lights are encouraged to start extra plants to donate to the sale. Please bring donated plants, tools and garden equipment between 8 - 9:00 a.m. so that they can be priced.



The Horticultural Art Society's Spring Plant Sale will again span two weekends: May 9-10 and May 16-17, starting at 9 a.m. The sale takes place at 224 Mesa Road in Monument Valley Park near the HAS Demonstration Garden.

Flowers, vegetable starts, herbs and a wide range of perennial shrubs and even trees from some of Colorado's best greenhouses will be available at reasonable prices. The stock is resupplied for the second weekend.

Come early, as this is a very popular sale. Many experienced HAS members will be on hand with advice.

Learn more about HAS on its website: www.hasgardens.org

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 vegetables for personal use and for donation to friends and charities.

Contact: Todd Hegert (719) 329-8873

Email: hello@bearcreekgardens.org

Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook Page:

Bear Creek Garden Association

Garden Badge 2025



The Garden Badges and keys change each year. Keys and badges will be sold for \$2.50 each (\$5.00 for a set) to new and returning gardeners at the garden on Opening Day. Please be sure to bring cash or a check for this.

The following garden centers offer discounts year round when gardeners present their current year badge:

Rick's Garden Center, 1827 West Uintah Street, 10% discount.

ACE Hardware, Uintah Gardens Shopping Center, 1830 West Uintah Street. 15% discount on purchases, 50% discount on tool sharpening.

Cheyenne Mountain ACE Hardware, 1785 South 8th Street. 10% discount.

The badge should be shown at the cash register to receive these discounts. Please do not expect the clerk to remember that you had a badge last time you came in if you forgot to bring it with you today! BCGA thanks these stores for their ongoing support of the garden.

Garden Tools Class



Garden Tools and Maintenance
Saturday, April 5 - 10:00 a.m.—Noon
El Paso County Extension Office
17 North Spruce Street
10:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon

In-Person. Cost: \$12.51. Space is limited, register here: <https://bit.ly/3FTMImc>

Eva Hughes Joins Board

The board has welcomed Eva Hughes as its newest member, replacing Heather Moser, who is moving out of state. The board members are:

Todd Hegert
Bill Harmon
Sharline Arellano
Rose Bergles
Don McFadden
Justin Zabor
Eva Hughes

Advisors: John Poyzer and Karen Stith

All About Water

The Garden Rules state that watering with a hose must be done before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.

The board has suspended this rule for now. Gardeners may water at any time of day. However, please do try to water in the morning or evening rather than in the heat of the day to use the water efficiently. We want you to water your plants generously to encourage good growth, while being aware that the water bill is BCGA's largest garden expense.

Gardeners are encouraged to use straw mulch to reduce evaporation. Gardeners order straw in mid-May and it is delivered to the garden in early June.

The water at the garden is the same city water we have in our homes. It is piped underground from the County Parks building to the garden. Please be sure to shut off the faucet and disconnect your hose before leaving the garden.

Gardeners should be aware that the weather will determine when it is safe for BCGA to turn the watering system on, so it is possible that the water will not be on at opening day. Once it is on, there may be times when it will be turned off briefly to protect it from a significant freeze. It's Springtime in the Rockies!



Colorado State University's Extension Service (CSU Extension), in cooperation with Denver Botanic Gardens and Green Industries of Colorado, provides good research-based information about growing all kinds of vegetables in the Colorado climate.

This link will take you to the Vegetable Gardening page on the CSU website <https://bit.ly/432j1cu>

