



Excluding grasshoppers is working pretty well for some gardeners. Use row covers, secure down tightly to the soil.

July—August 2025

Gardeners are Resilient—and Plants “Really Want to Grow”

The worst hail storm in over 25 years hit the garden on July 6th, reducing some lush early summer plantings to skeletons.

Gardeners who had erected various covers for hail protection fared much better than those who had not, but the overall damage was both significant and disheartening.

The best advice when hail strikes is Wait – Weed – Water – and Fertilize gently. Only four days after the storm, Rose Bergles led a class at the nearby picnic pavilion on Mid-Summer Planting. She advised the 28 gardeners who attended the class to think about how they feel when they themselves are ‘under the weather’. “Rest, drink water, eat lightly to support your recovery – the plants need the same thing” she said, and she noted that they try so hard to recover.

Gardeners were encouraged to be patient, replace plants that were destroyed with short season/ cool season crops like lettuce, radishes, kale, spinach, bush beans and cucumbers.



Hailstone at Bear Creek Park 7/6/25

At the time the hail struck, we still had three months of growing time before the garden closing date. Will tomatoes come back enough to give us a harvest? Well, maybe some will. Stay tuned. One thing never changes - we love working in our plots and being together at the garden.

Kirsten Kuhlman

In June we lost a much-loved gardener, Kirsten Kuhlman, who passed away after a long and valiant battle with cancer.

Kirsten will be remembered as a buoyant spirit who took great joy in life, loved ones, and the garden.

She gardened with her best friend, Lisa Kirwan, who was with Kirsten every step of the way in Kirsten’s cancer treatments over the past few years. Through it all, Kirsten’s spirits never flagged,

Lisa said, “Everyone who met Kirsten in the garden could always count on a boisterous hello or goodbye and ‘have a great day!’. Our gardening family close to us also saw the quiet side of my dear friend. Most people in their cancer journey, when it becomes painful, would have stayed home and had a pity party, but not our girl. She was out there trying to plant stuff even though she was in pain.”

Both Kirsten and Lisa were new to gardening when they first rented a plot together, but they went all in and learned quickly. Kirsten insisted they give their garden plot a name. “We came up with “Paradise”. “We’d say ‘we’re going to meet at Paradise’, or ‘we’re going to go water Paradise’, or ‘we just want to go sit in Paradise”

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Notes for New Gardeners

As we move further into the rainy season, please clear weeds off of your aisles, paths and berms. Spread them on your plot (under the straw if you have a straw mulch) so that they will be tilled in this fall, adding more organic matter to your soil. There’s a caveat here: tough stems, mallow in particular, and weed seed heads should be taken home and disposed of.)

Keep berms around your plot built up to control the flow of water, and be sure to maintain berms across the east-west aisles so that gardeners at the east end don’t get a flood of water coming down their way, eroding aisles and invading their plots in rainstorms.

Gardeners are doing a good job of keeping the garden gates locked all times and locking their cars. So far this year we have had no reports of theft. Thank you for taking time to lock up so we don’t lose purses, produce or garden equipment like wagons or wheelbarrows.

CSU Harvest Season Classes



The Colorado State University Extension office offers four harvest season canning/pickling classes of interest to gardeners. Safe home canning requires an understanding of science, and CSU folks are the experts! These classes are popular, so sign up early.

Aug. 7 - Intro to Pressure Canning

Aug. 18 - Jam and Canning Basics Workshop

Aug. 25 – Home Food Preservation: Salsa Class

Sep. 18 - Fermentation Technique Class Featuring Sauerkraut

Sign up for these classes on Eventbrite at: <http://bit.ly/458ZhmK>

CSU Information: <http://bit.ly/3ITG2WT>

Garden Calendar

July 12 — BCGA Summer Garden Class with Rose Bergles at the Pavilion near the garden 9:00 –10:30 a.m.

July 19 — Garden Workday 8 a.m.— Noon. Work to be done includes weeding aisles and some plots.

July 31 — Deadline to Spread Straw.

August 16 — Garden Workday 8 a.m. — Noon. Time to come out and help!

August 29 — Dumpsters to Arrive - Cleanup begins.



What is that Plant You're Growing? Unique Neighbors

Some of our BCGA gardeners from other countries plant vegetables that were commonly grown when they gardened as children with parents and grandparents. These vegetables are not commonly available in Colorado supermarkets.

Koreans plant a leafy chrysanthemum used in stir-frying. Kenyans grow a non-toxic variety of nightshade, the leaves of which are harvested for summer dishes and frozen for use over the winter. Beware—the variety of nightshade (leaves and berries) that pops up as a weed in this garden may not be safe to eat.

In September 2021 journalist Debbie Kelley talked to several of our Kenyan, Nepali and Korean gardeners and wrote an excellent article for *The Gazette* titled "Plants Native to South Korea, Kenya Take Root in Colorado Springs Community Garden" about what they gladly grow at this community garden.

Photographer Chancey Bush came to the garden with Debbie to collect some great photos to go with her story. The article is available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/45s96NY>

"Early on a Saturday Night" - Rose Jennings waters her nightshade, a crop grown by gardeners from Kenya. See other photos of the garden and gardeners posted on the Bear Creek Garden Association Facebook page by photographer (and gardener) Candice Hall.

Rainfall:

The nearest Weather Underground Station on the internet, located in Skyway about 250 feet higher than the garden, will show how much rain we have received. It's a reasonably easy site to use. Go to: <https://bit.ly/3SIGY29>

Master Gardener Program:

Colorado State University (CSU) operates a Master Gardener program to train volunteers to provide research-based garden information to the public.

The annual deadline to apply to join the next class is August 31. Information is at: <https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/>

Kirsten Kuhlman

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Lisa said. "I truly hope I continue with a plot in the future to honor her."

Kirsten's obituary notes that she was deeply devoted to her children and grandchildren, for whom "she would have moved mountains".

The obituary also notes that Kirsten had a close-knit circle of friends she fondly referred to as her "tribe".

She found joy in live music—especially her favorite band, The Grateful Dead, and was energized by nature. She spent many happy hours in her community garden plot, where she found peace and purpose.

A group of gardeners attended her memorial service. She will be remembered with great affection at the garden.

Volunteers Shine at Workdays -- Some Plots Are Relinquished

Thank you to all the volunteers who have come out to help at our recent workdays, always scheduled on the third Saturday of the month. A few plots have been neglected and then relinquished, leaving volunteers with a mess of weeds to clear up, and the volunteers have taken on that task with vigor and camaraderie. Thank you to everyone who has been helping!

Anyone who has medical or family issues that have caused them to get behind in caring for a plot can contact BCGA and ask for help.

If you are finding that your plot is getting overgrown and you just want to give it up, please contact BCGA – don't let the weeds get further out of hand before admitting that gardening just isn't for you. Please clean it up if possible. If volunteers are going to have to keep the weeds down for the rest of the season, we'd rather get on it sooner than later, especially with all the wonderful rain we have been having that is causing weeds to leap.

Randy and Rose Recommend...

[Reprinted from the July-August 2024 BCGA Newsletter]

Veteran gardeners Randy Rickey and Rose Bergles both recommend using pyrethrin, an organic plant-based spray, to deter grasshoppers.

Randy uses Bonide brand pyrethrin, available through Amazon. He also recommends Natural Pyrethrin Concentrate, available online from WalMart.

Rose uses PyGanic pyrethrin spray, available through Amazon. She combined it with some Fels Naptha soap and Texas Pete Hot Sauce.

Both Randy and Rose warn gardeners that they must never use any product containing "permethrin" which is a synthetic rather than organic, substance. It is much stronger and not safe for use in a vegetable garden. Permethrin is not permitted in our community garden.



Mallow is a Thug. The rain we are having will encourage it to grow up to 3 feet tall. It is a perennial, with a tap root. Dig it up!

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.

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