

# Xericscaping

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**ENGAGEMENT  
AND EXTENSION**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

# What is CSU Extension

- Mission of Jefferson County Extension is to provide research-based information and innovative services that aid in developing youth, further the local production and consumption of healthy foods and enhance plant life and natural resources.

**J E F F E R S O N**  
C O U N T Y C O L O R A D O



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**EXTENSION**

# What we will cover...

- What is xeriscaping?
- Creating/converting a garden
- Irrigation
- Plants Choices
- Maintenance
- Demonstration gardens
- Questions?



DBG Perennial Walkway

© Saxon Holt / PhotoBotanic

# What is xeriscaping?

- “A style of landscape design requiring little or no irrigation or other maintenance, used in arid regions”
- Drought tolerant plants
- Limited and efficient irrigation



# Zeroscaping vs Xeriscaping



# Starting a new garden

- Start small
- Keep plant sizes in mind
- Bloom times
- Fall is a great time to plant
  - Watering less



# Soil Amendments

- Colorado has clay soil
  - Tough to work
- Compost
  - Helps break up the clay
  - Can help with water penetration
- Fertilizer vs soil amendments?
  - CSU factsheet 7.235 on soil amendments
- Soil Samples
  - [CSU SPUR](#)



# Converting sod?!

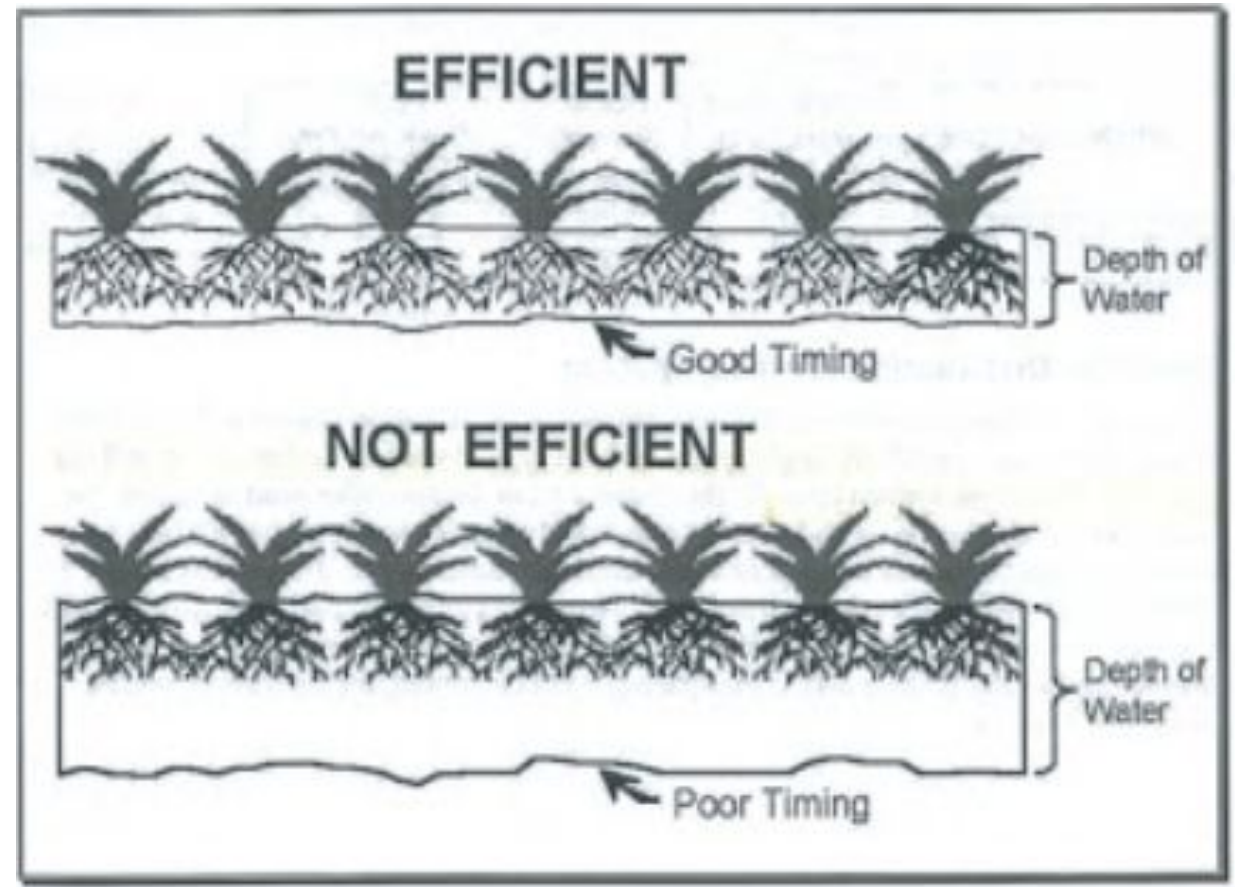
- [Landscaping with Native Plants](#)
  - Specific grants for converting sod to natives
- Bluegrass alternatives
  - Buffalo grass & Blue Grama
  - Dog tuff
  - Tahoma 31
- Sod cutting the area
- More open soil = more potential for weeds
- Careful of your trees





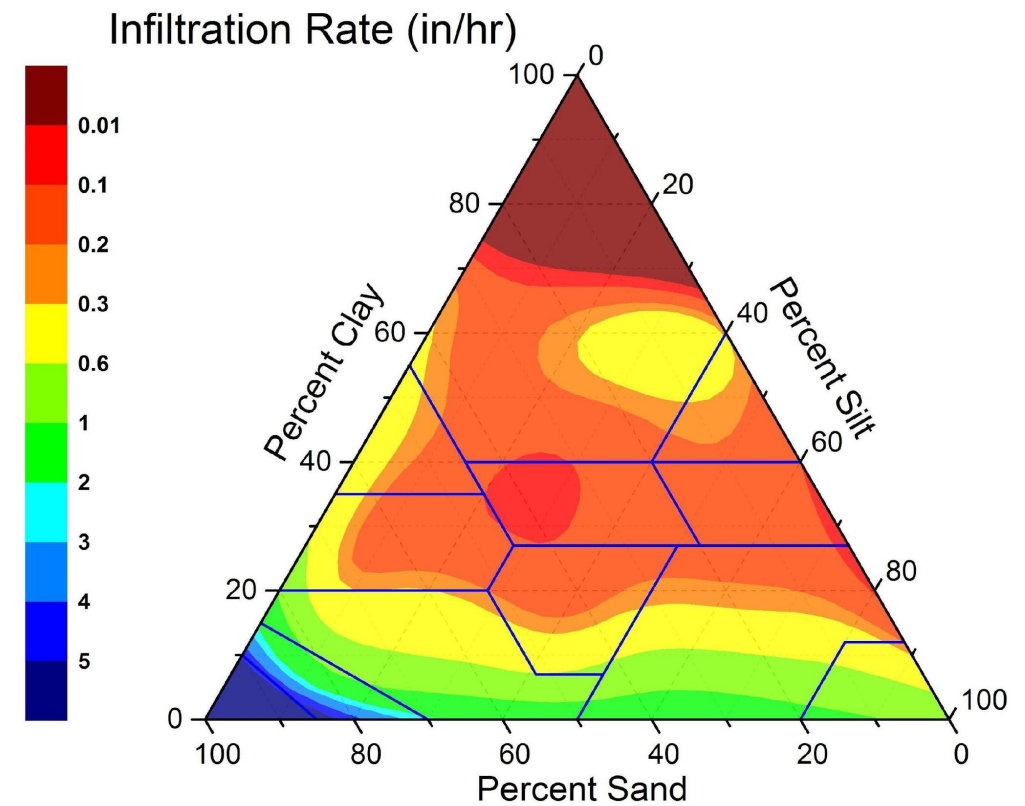
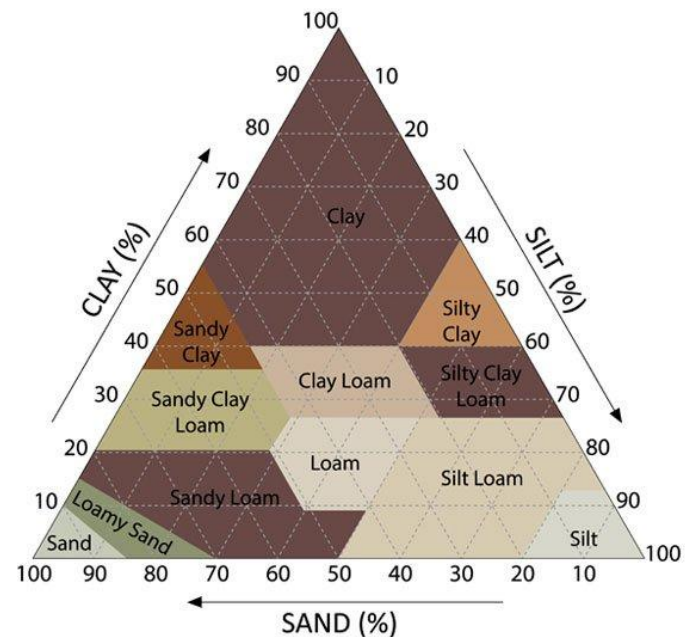
# Irrigation

- Supplement not substitute
- Can convert turf irrigation to drip
- Hand water or drip for establishment
- Efficient watering!



# Infiltration Rate

- The rate at which water moves into the soil (inches/hour)
- Clay has an infiltration rate of about 0.3 inches/hour
- What does that mean for running your irrigation...



# Cycle and Soak

- Watering less more frequently
- Breaks in-between
- Reduces runoff
- Reduces pooling
- Works for turf and establishment watering

**Cycle & Soak Irrigation**

TIMBERLINE Landscaping

**ZONE 1**

**ZONE 2**

**ZONE 3**

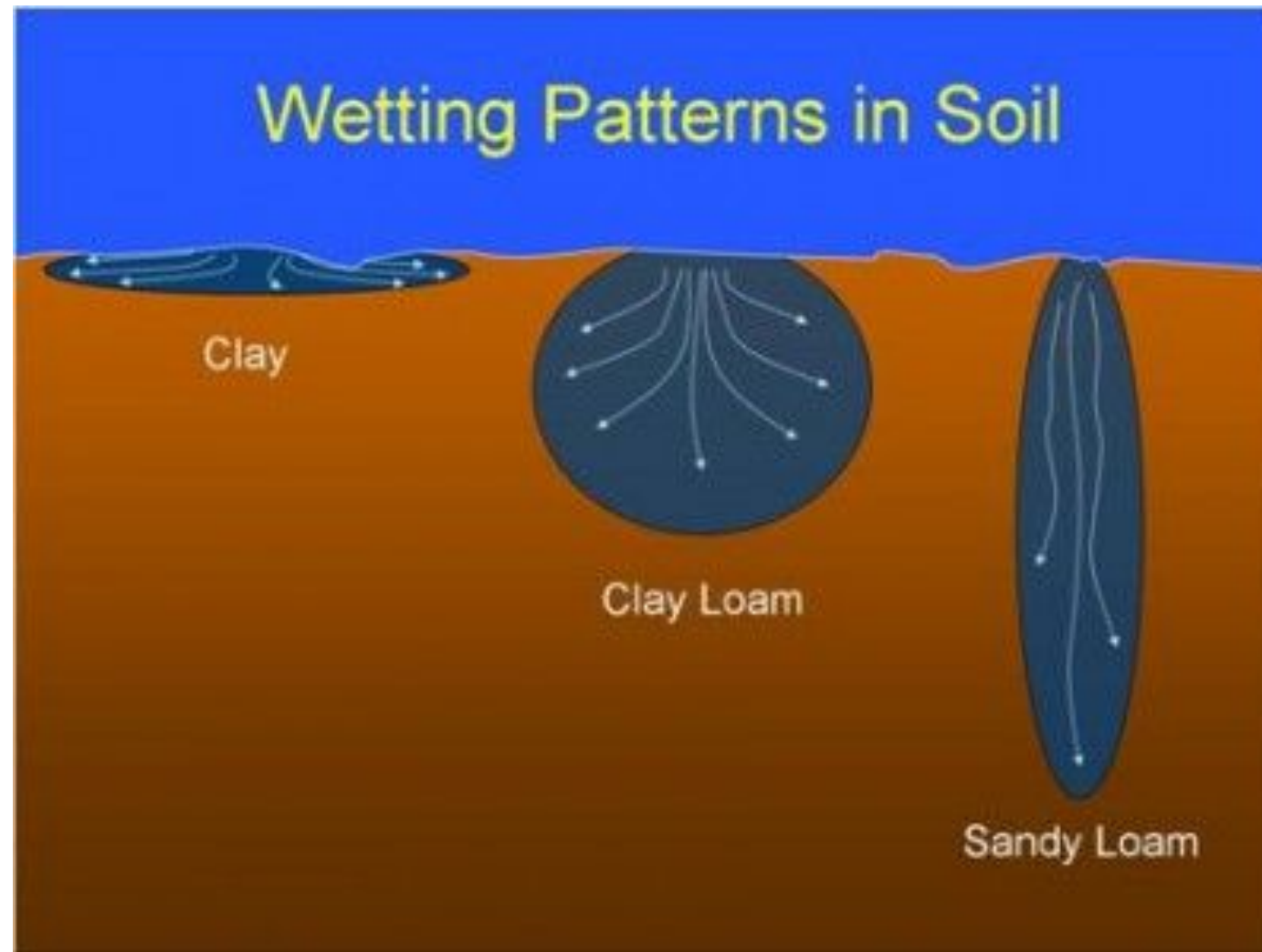
**CYCLE 1**  
Wait 30 - 60 minutes

**CYCLE 2**  
Wait 30 - 60 minutes

**CYCLE 3**  
Wait 30 - 60 minutes

- Alternate cycles between zones
- Be sure to wait at least 30 minutes before you water a zone for the next cycle
- Break up watering into shorter watering times (15 minutes = watering for 5 min 3x)

# Wetting Patterns



# Resource Central

- Irrigation Audits
  - Slow your flow
  - Help with smart controllers
  - Ensure your irrigation system is efficient
- Garden in a box
  - Plants



## GARDEN IN A BOX

### Sunny Slope

~~\$182.00~~ \$145.60



100 sq. ft.



Full Sun

#### Includes:

- 27 starter plants
- 2 plant by number maps
- Comprehensive Plant & Care Guide

**\$25 discounts** on select gardens available from participating cities and water districts. Applied at checkout. [Learn More.](#)

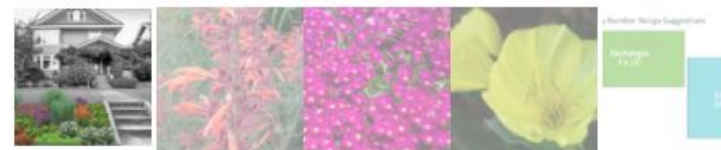


Photo from Resource Central Garden in a Box

# Choosing Plants

- The best part!
- [Plant Select](#)
- Local nurseries
- Think about bloom times
  - Always something blooming!
- Keep maturity sizes in mind



# Moon Carrot (*Seseli libanotis*)

- Blooms midsummer to fall
- Unique blooms
- Mature height 24-36"
- Drought tolerant
- Full sun to partial shade



# Chocolate Flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*)

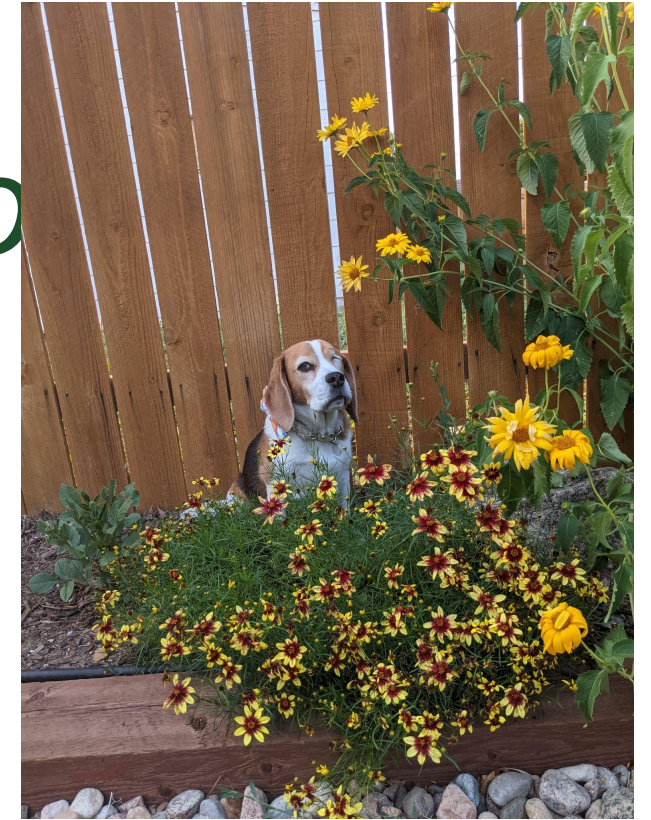
- South Western wildflower
- Blooms all summer
- Yellow daisy like flowers
- Smells like chocolate!
- Mature height 14-18"
- Drought tolerant
- Does best in full sun - can tolerate some shade
- Plant Select
- 





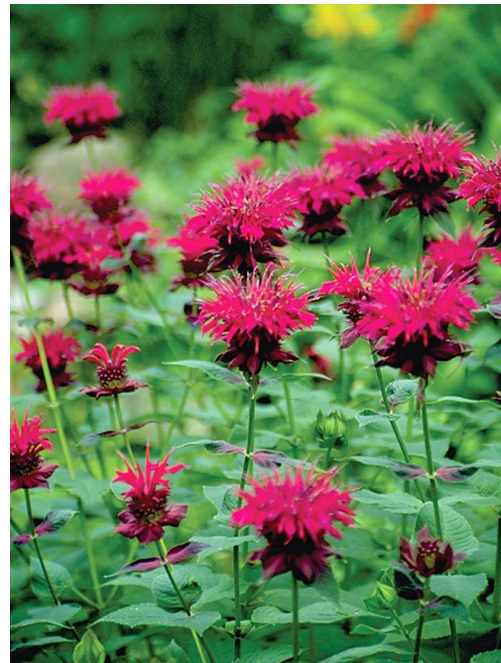
# Coreopsis (*Coreopsis grandiflora*)

- Tons and tons of varieties
  - Colors, flower shapes, double and single flowers
- Mature heights from 12-24"
- Thrive in full sun



# Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)

- Native to Colorado
- Zone 3-10
- Height 2-3 feet
- Bloom from June to September
- Low water requirements
- Full sun



# Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)

- 3 ft tall
- 4 ft spread
- Purple flowers in July to August
- Silver/grey foliage
- SUPER durable plant
- Can handle unamended clay soils



# Mock Orange (*Philadelphus sp.*)

- Variety of cultivars
- June blooms
- Most common cultivar is 'Cheyenne'
  - Plant select!
- Very fragrant flowers
- Full sun!



# Apache Plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*)

- Plant Select!
- Native
- White fuzzy seed heads
- Mature height 5'
- Drought tolerant
- Full sun



# Shade Trees

- Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)
  - Boxelder bug
  - Sensation is a resistant cultivar
  - Yellow/red fall color
  - 40ft tall



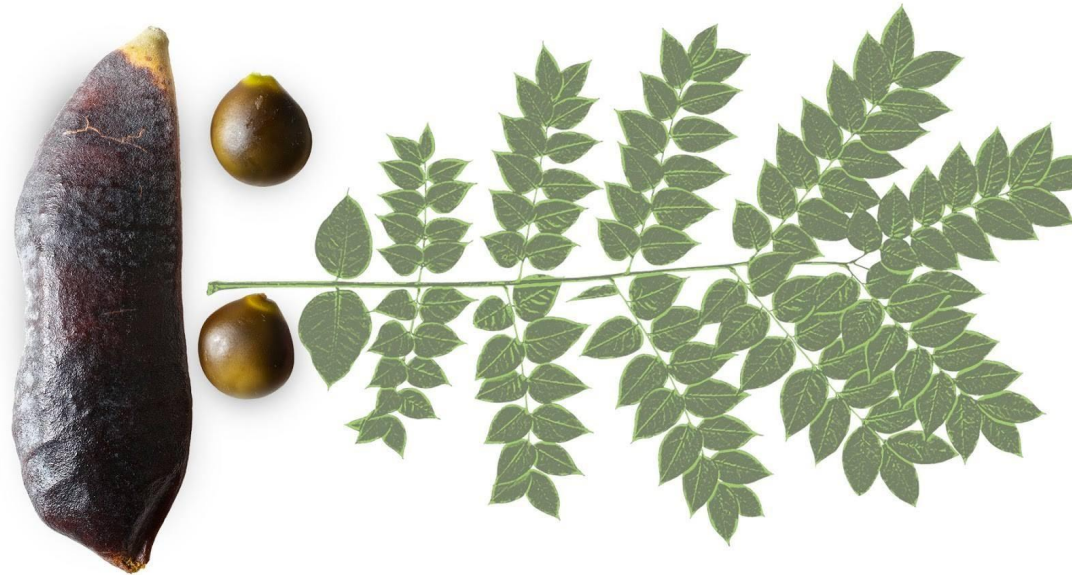
# Shade Trees

- Western Catalpa (*Catalpa sp.*)
  - 50 ft tall
  - Large heart shaped leaves
  - White spring flowers
  - Bean pods in the summer



# Shade Trees

- Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)
  - Espresso is a seedless variety
  - 50ft tall
  - Ridged bark
  - Seedpods persist through winter



© Roger Latour <http://floraurbana.blogspot.ca/>



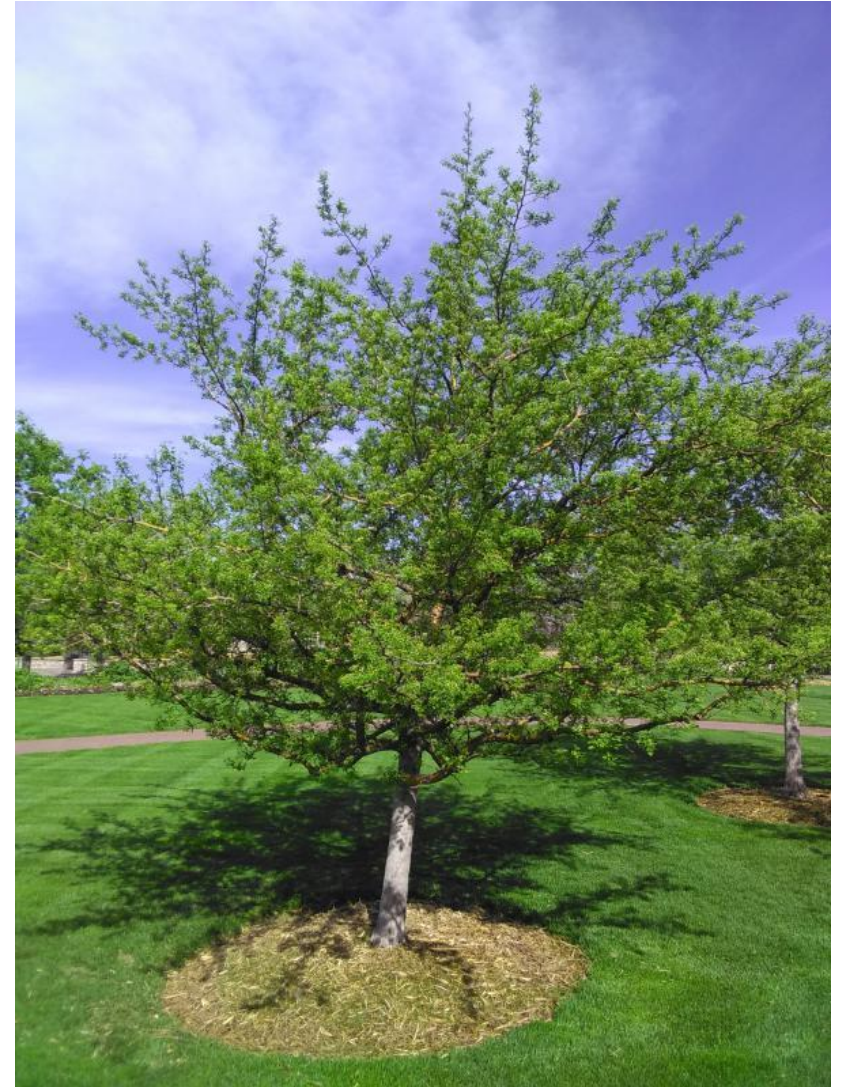
# Shade Trees

- Golden Raintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)
  - 30 ft tall
  - Yellow flowers
  - Lantern like fruit in the fall



# Smaller Ornamental Trees

- Hawthorn (*Crataegus ambigua*)
  - Thornless variety (*Crataegus crus-galli inermis*)
  - White flowers in spring
  - Red berries in the fall



# Smaller Ornamental Trees

- Tatarian Maple (*Acer tataricum*)
  - Mature height 20ft
  - Bright red seed pods
  - Single or multi stem tree



# Smaller Ornamental Trees

- Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambelli*)
  - Native
  - More natural looking
  - 20ft mature height
  - Usually seen in a grouping



# Maintenance and Upkeep

- Labor of love
- More open soil is more space for weeds to establish
- Weed cloth?
- Mulch
  - Rock vs woodchips
- Spring cleanup



# Importance of a Diverse Landscape

- Wildlife
- Pollinators



# Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens

- At the Jefferson County Fairgrounds:
  - Plant Select Garden
    - Plant select plants and a crevice garden
  - Orchard
    - Variety of fruit trees
  - Native Plains Garden
    - Native plant examples
  - Horticulture Garden/Grow and Give Garden
    - Vegetables
- Mountain Native Garden (near the evergreen farmers market)
- Ignition Resistant Garden (Lookout Mountain Nature Center)
- Courage Garden (behind the Jefferson County Courthouses)



# Fire Ecology and Landscaping

Join us for a class on how to safeguard your priority against wildfires!

Learn from experts about the roles of native plants and ecosystem management in fire prevention.

You will learn techniques in how to design and maintain a fire-resistant landscape around your home.

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When: Tuesday, August 20th  
6:00pm - 7:30pm

Where: CSU Extension ECMR  
15200 W 6th Ave. Ste. C  
Golden, CO 80401

Cost: Free!





# Questions?

- Rachel Durkan – Horticulture Specialist ([rmdurkan@jeffco.us](mailto:rmdurkan@jeffco.us))
- Master Gardener Help Desk ([mastergardener@jeffco.us](mailto:mastergardener@jeffco.us))
- Diagnostic Help Desk ([plantdiagnostics@jeffco.us](mailto:plantdiagnostics@jeffco.us))



# Thank you

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