

# Horticulture Update

Alison O'Connor, PhD



LARIMER COUNTY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION





# Horticulture Programming is all virtual

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Since March 23, all Larimer and Weld Extension classes for the public and Master Gardeners have been taught via Zoom



10 classes



732 participants



Classes have been taught by agents, specialists, and Master Gardener volunteers!



# New Classes for May and June!

Classes taught by:  
Amber Webb  
Amy Lentz  
Tony Koski  
Alison O'Connor

CSU Extension  
FREE Gardening Webinars

Classes held  
Wednesdays at 3:00pm

May 13: Growing and Preserving Herbs  
May 20: Patio Gardening: Veggies and More  
May 27: Watersmart Tricks and Tips  
June 3: The Native Lawn of your Dreams  
June 10: Berries for the Colorado Garden  
June 17: Some Like it Hot: Perennials  
June 24: The Basics of Food Preservation

Registration Required: [csuhort.blogspot.com](http://csuhort.blogspot.com)  
Click on "Gardening Webinars"



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# Gardening questions have surged

- Since March 23, 2020
  - Alison's email: too many to count
  - Ask an Expert: 159 submissions
  - Larimer CMG email account: 79
- Is it the year of the lawn. And browning evergreens.



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# Why are my evergreens browning anyway?

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- Cold snap last October (70-degree temperature drop in 24 hour period)
- The driest January on record since 2003
- HARD freeze on April 12 (lows in the single digits) as plants were pushing new growth
- What should you do? Wait and see.



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# So many turf questions!

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- Cranberry girdler damage from the fall
- Dog spots
- Turf mites
- Slow green-up this spring
- No, crabgrass has not germinated yet



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# An Update on the Master Gardeners

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- They are on a current postponement of all face-to-face programming through May 15
- Many CMGs have found ways to get volunteer hours
  - Teaching
  - Providing resources to friends and neighbors
  - Submitting written information and/or videos to post
  - Staffing the CMG email account
- The current recommendation is to do the best they can to complete volunteer hours
- (There is no shortage of continuing education!)

## Meet Your Master Gardeners: Bill and Mary

Dedicated volunteers since 1991



Do you have gardening questions? We're here to help. Email your questions to [LarimerMG@gmail.com](mailto:LarimerMG@gmail.com)



1. Favorite volunteer activities? Making Tree Team visits.
2. We're Master Gardeners because: We enjoy helping people understand gardening in this unusual area and helping with their problems.
3. Our favorite plants: Bill's is the bigtooth maple; Mary's is the sweetgum tree
4. My proudest gardening moment is: Our greatest gardening triumph was to

## Meet Your Master Gardeners: Khursheed

A dedicated volunteer since 2003



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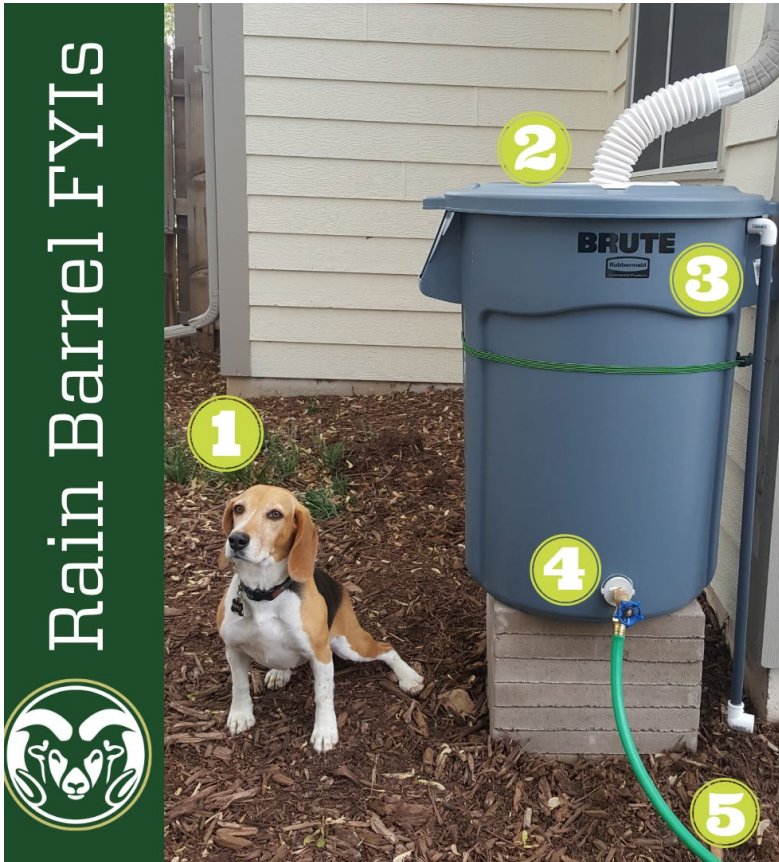
1. Favorite volunteer activity? Presenting on aspects of gardening to local gardening groups.
2. I'm a Master Gardener because: It gives me the opportunity to continue to learn and share fact-based information with friends and the community.
3. My favorite plant is: Currently it's the hellebores since they are just starting their flower show. I also love the fragrance from the Carol Mackie daphne and peonies.
4. My proudest gardening moment: Gardening, while humbling, is infinitely rewarding. It brings me joy that others enjoy the garden we have created.
5. When I'm not volunteering, I'm: Working with students, staff, faculty, and animals entrusted to our care at the CSU Vet School.



## Master Gardener Apprentices

- The CMG Apprentice training moved online in mid-March and all classes were completed virtually
- Larimer County: 9 new Apprentices and 2 out-of-state transfers
- It's highly likely these individuals will transition to the two-year Apprenticeship program (complete 60 hours over two years)





# Rain Barrel FYIS



## Got Snow Mold?

You're not alone.

North-facing lawns or spots with piled snow for more than 60 days during winter can trigger gray snow mold. The good news is that it's harmless to the lawn. Use a leaf rake to "fluff" up the area and add some air circulation. The spots will recover lickity-split. Visit [www.PlantTalk.org](http://www.PlantTalk.org) for more information.

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## Awesome Evergreens for Your Landscape

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### Taylor's Sunburst lodgepole pine

[Pinus contorta var. latifolia 'Taylor's Sunburst']

#### A true Ram Fan.

This narrow upright form of the native lodgepole pine is unique in that the candles (new growth in spring) are a bright yellow-gold and provide a strong contrast to the existing deep green pine needles.



Other hortie stuff: Canva fun!



## CSU Extension Information is Hot

- PlantTalk Colorado ([planttalk.org](http://planttalk.org)) had a 300% increase in website hits in April 2020 compared to April 2019
- CO-Horts blog has doubled the hits/views compared to 2019



# GROW & GIVE

MODERN VICTORY GARDEN PROJECT

GROW FOOD. SHARE THE HARVEST.

[GrowAndGiveColorado.org](http://GrowAndGiveColorado.org)

- Master Gardeners and the public can sign up to grow produce with the intent to donate it to local food banks

Free CSU  
Online  
Vegetables  
Course

**LEARN MORE.  
GROW MORE.**

**VEGETABLES**  
ONLINE COURSE

**FREE MAY 1 - 31**



CertifiedGardenerCSU.com  
PROMO CODE: GARDEN2020





Questions?