

Founders NEIGHBORS

A publication for
FOUNDERS VILLAGE
Residents



August 2024

Member Notification Information

COMMUNITY LEGAL NAME:

Founders Village Master Association, Inc.

DATE DECLARATION RECORDED:

August 12, 1985

FISCAL YEAR: January - December

ASSESSMENT:

\$55 (billed quarterly)

ASSESSMENT INCLUDES:

Community Center, Pool, Social Activities, Covenant Enforcement, Trash Disposal, Newsletter

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE:

PCMS Management Company
7208 S. Tucson Way, Suite 125
Centennial, CO 80112
303-224-0004 Office
303-224-0002 Fax

DOCUMENTS:

The Master Declaration Of Covenants and Residential Improvement Guidelines can be viewed at the Founders Village website at:

www.foundersmasterhoa.com

See forms located in the columns on the left.

ADVERTISING:

kerri@porchlink.com

Target Your Market With
Neighborhood Newsletters!



Advertise in the September issue of

Founders Neighbors

Deadline to advertise is

August 20th

E-mail kerri@porchlink.com
for rates and information.



Ridge House Summer Hours

Monday – Sunday 10am – 8pm

Ridge House Fall Hours Starting August 7

Monday – Friday 4pm – 8pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 8pm

Fitness Classes

Tuesday & Wednesday at 5pm ZUMBA

Thursday at 11am BUTTS & GUTS

Family Float and Flick Night Friday August 9th

The movie starts at dusk.

Sit poolside in a float and enjoy a flick under the stars.

Access System

Residents wanting access to the clubhouse or pool must verify residency (Driver's License - with Founders address printed on the license, utility bill, warranty deed or lease) in person at The Ridge House to receive the registration link.



Get outside this summer!

Summer is the perfect time to get outside and make the most of where you live. The great outdoors is a place where memories are made and Castle Rock's parks, trails and open space are a big part of what makes our Town a great place to call home. For many people, hiking or biking the Town's trails is at the top of the summer list. Well-planned trails, abundant open space and beautiful parks have become a hallmark of the Castle Rock community. Our residents enjoy access to 25 parks, over 130 miles of trails, and over 6,900 acres of open space in Town.

One of the things that makes Colorado a uniquely attractive residential destination, is the beauty of its native landscapes. Open spaces are essential resources for public health and the environment; they provide places for recreation, cultural enrichment, learning, exercise, and relaxation, as well as crucial support for wildlife, clean air and water. "Native" simply means what vegetation grew here before people arrived and introduced irrigation, herbicides, pesticides and lawn mowers. Native grasses conserve a precious natural resource – water.

NATIVE GRASS AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT – The Town manages 104 miles of trails, and more than 4,000 acres of open space that define the region's most prominent features. The care of native grasses is significantly different than the protocols used for turfgrass maintenance.

Beauty band mowing – Beauty band type mowing creates a buffer along roads and paths. Beauty banding creates fire breaks and better access for fire responders. Mowing of large areas is done in the fall, at the end of the growing season, to reduce fire fuel buildup before the winter high wind season.

Weed spray application – Newer native grass areas should not have preventative herbicide, as it prevents growth and germination. Post-emergent spray (for weeds that have already surfaced) works best. Spot spraying targets the weeds and reduces the risk to the desirable native. As native areas develop and improve, additional post-emergent applications can be performed. Generally, this means two applications per year.

Irrigation – Once native areas are established, watering can be reduced, then eliminated. This can take 3 to 7 years, but once established the native grass will thrive on natural precipitation, and expensive irrigation cost will be eliminated.

NATIVE LANDSCAPING BENEFITS – One reason that native grass areas are planted is to encourage wildlife in urban areas. The taller grasses can provide shelter, nesting sites and food for birds, small animals, pollinators, butterflies and other desirable wildlife (including snakes). Many urban wildlife species, like coyotes or raccoons, are less likely to be pushed into neighborhoods as un-mowed native grasslands provide preferential food and shelter. If managed properly, native grass areas will not increase populations of problem insects. In fact, increased numbers of predatory insects will more than balance out any increased numbers of mosquitoes and flies.

Negative impacts of frequent and untimely mowing – Mowing too frequently can result in high levels of insect mortality, including many native bee and pollinator species that local gardeners rely on. Frequent mowing can disperse local wildlife into neighboring residential areas to seek food and shelter. Untimely mowing can also reduce native seed dispersal, which increases the likelihood of noxious and invasive weeds out-competing native plant species.

OPEN SPACES ARE FOR EVERYONE – While open space tracts are generally intended to be used and enjoyed by everyone, an adjacent property owner does not have the right to disturb or alter the open space behind their home. Please do not mow, plant vegetation, or add play equipment to the open space behind your home; any/all violation(s) will require restoration of the area at the violator's expense.

Help ensure all trail users can enjoy the natural beauty around Castle Rock by keeping a few simple things in mind: stay on the trail – please do not trample the natural habitat along the soft-surface trails by straying from the path. Always keep pets on a leash – interactions with wildlife like snakes and coyotes don't usually end well for pets. And last, dirt, yes. Mud, no – stay off wet or muddy trails. Leaving tire or shoe prints on muddy trails damages the surface and could require costly repairs. Please use one of the Town's many paved trails instead.

Poison ivy: leaves of three, let it be – While you are out enjoying the trails and open spaces be on the lookout for poison ivy. Poison ivy is a glossy-leaved and grows in inches-tall patches to shoulder high thickets.



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Poison ivy thrives in various habitats, from weedy ditch banks and shady riparian areas, to leafy tangles among rock piles and the edges of trails in the foothills. The flowers are small, not showy or eye-catching. Although leaves may be attractively bronze-colored when they first appear in spring, and turn brilliant red in fall, for most of the year they are mere patches of plain green leaves. It is poison ivy's glossiness and slightly drooping leaves that are the best giveaway. Poison ivy berries appear in late summer or early fall; they are as poisonous to humans as the rest of the plant. Same plant, many forms; a tricky feature of the species is that poison ivy plants can grow in many shapes and sizes. When mature vines climb up a tree, their shape can mimic that of the host tree.

Wildlife encounters – While wild animals contribute to our enjoyment of nature, they can also damage property and threaten human health and safety. While enjoying open spaces, you may encounter many different types of wildlife. Wildlife is naturally wary of people; however, continued exposure to people can decrease this natural fear over time. Hazing (or scaring) uses deterrents or negative stimuli to move wildlife out of an area and is an important part of keeping wildlife wild. Try yelling, or noisemakers as a negative stimulus; vary your hazing techniques so wildlife does not become desensitized to one hazing method.

Bears in early summer – Yearlings leave mom and search for food, shelter and a place of their own. Adult males travel far and wide looking for mates. Nursing moms venture farther from home base searching for food.

Safety tips for pet owners – Most wildlife are not interested in humans or pets. However, there are times when wildlife and pets have negative encounters. Large dogs can be viewed as a threat to wildlife with young. Small dogs and cats can be viewed as potential food sources. Minimize your risk and negative interactions by staying alert when walking at dawn or dusk with pets; consider carrying an air horn or noise maker when you walk with your pet.

Report a wildlife sighting – If you would like to report a sighting, call Castle Rock Animal Control at 720-733-6063 or the Police Department non-emergency number at 303-663-6100, or 911 if it's an emergency. You also can contact the Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Northeast Region Service Center at 303-291-7227.

ROOFING Do's and Don'ts

Roofing is an old industry, but knowing the do's and don'ts can save homeowners from making big mistakes. As part of the roofing industry, we've been part of helping customers recover from those mistakes. Please read the following in order to avoid the pitfalls of replacing a roof.

1. Always get an inspection before filing a claim.
2. Not all hail storms are insurance claims.
3. A zero-pay claim is still counted as a claim even if the insurance company doesn't pay anything, so let us help you schedule a free inspection to determine if there is enough damage to file a claim.
4. Not all roofing companies are created equal.
5. Roofing companies should be local so they can be held accountable for their work.
6. Crews from all over the country chase hail storms to make quick money, but many will come and go as quickly as the storm and well before you know if there are any issues with their work.
7. Don't sign contracts or commitments with door-to-door roofers.
8. Inspections should always be free and non-binding.
9. DO NOT write a check to a roofing company before your materials are delivered.
10. A roof needs at least two days of 50-degree heat to seal and avoid leaking, so installing a roof in the winter should be avoided when at all possible. If it's necessary, time it according to the upcoming weather.
11. A permit should always be pulled and posted by the roofing company before installing a roof. This ensures that someone from the city/county inspects the workmanship and materials for quality and code adherence.
12. If you have an HOA, be sure to get approval on the shingle color you choose.
13. Ensure that your color choice is in writing before materials are ordered.
14. Only work with roofers that warranty their work.
15. Ask that a project manager be present during the install to ensure safety guidelines are followed.
16. Most insurance companies require a claim be filed within a year of the storm that caused the damage, and that the work be done within a year of filing the claim.

Columbine Roofing and Exteriors is a family-owned and operated local company that has been in business over 40 years. We are backed by Dave Logan and offer a 5-year labor warranty for every roof we build, with shingles that have a long-term manufacturer warranty. We believe in doing it right the first time and offering exceptional customer service.

LET US HELP YOU SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ROOF INSPECTION.



Steve Alley
Independent Contractor

Cell: **303-210-6161**
Ofc: **720-775-8704**

Licensed and Insured
Steve@columbineroofing.com

Questions On Process For Submitting Architectural or Design Review Plans?



Please note the e-mail address for all design review requests and inquiries regarding the submittal process is at designreview@pcms.net. If you have any questions regarding the process for submitting a plan or would like to submit your plan via e-mail, please do so at this address.

PERSONABLE AND PROFESSIONAL ESTATE PLANNING:

- Wills and Trusts
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NADYA LAMBERT
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Contact Us

Phone: (303) 734-7131 | Frontdesk@NadyaLambert.com

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Founders Village Classified Advertising

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Birch Grove Legal PLLC is a legacy planning law firm, with a new office in downtown Castle Rock. Whether you want to support charity, provide for your family, or make sure your business outlasts you, we can help. Call us today at 720.713.7093 to schedule a meeting.

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AFFORDABLE KITCHEN & BATH DESIGN: Quick and affordable kitchen and bath cabinet refacing. Complete kitchen and bath remodeling. Call today for a free estimate: 720-837-4885 or akbdesign2010@aol.com. Member Team Dave Logan



2024 Board Meeting Schedule:

The Founders Village Master Association Board of Directors next meeting is **August 22, 2024** at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please contact PCMS if you would like confirmation of the meeting location and/or the Zoom meeting log in by emailing your address to corpoffice@pcms.net. You can also visit the Founders Village website at FoundersMasterHOA.com for the most up-to-date meeting dates/times.

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Our classified advertising option has been a great success for small, local businesses interested in marketing in an **EFFECTIVE & AFFORDABLE** way!

And it's EASY to do- simply email kerri@porchlink.com with the text for your ad (base pricing for 25 words, \$.50 per additional word) and let us know **which newsletters** you would like to advertise in.

Best of all- new advertisers can try classified advertising in and receive the same ad **FREE** in The following month's issue! **Our deadline is always the 20th of the preceding month.**

There is **no long term commitment**, you are welcome to advertise on a monthly basis depending on your needs. **However, most of our classified advertisers stick with us month after month... for years!**

Why not give it a try?

Email kerri@porchlink.com with any questions. We'd be happy to email you any past newsletters or samples of classified ads for reference.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

EASY AFFORDABLE EFFECTIVE

Rates per issue for 25 words, \$.50 per additional word	# of Homes
Stonegate	\$35 4,600
Stroh Ranch	\$25 2,400
Pradera	\$25 550
ALL OF Parker	\$75 7,550
Blackstone	\$25 1,306
Tollgate Crossing	\$25 1,500
Tallyn's Reach	\$35 2,037
Saddle Rock North	\$25 663
Saddle Rock East/South	\$25 1,566
Murphy Creek	\$20 1,400
The Farm	\$10 1,500
ALL OF Aurora	\$155 9,972
Willow Creek 1, 2, & 3	\$35 1,629
Foxridge	\$25 1,000
Hunters Hill	\$10 275
ALL OF Centennial	\$60 2,904
Sapphire Pointe	\$15 800
Founders Village	\$15 2,200
ALL OF Castle Rock	\$25 3,000
Colliers Hill, ERIE	\$25 1,545



CINC Webaxis Account & E-News Notifications:

Please register your account through the CINC Webaxis homeowner portal located at <https://pcms.cincwebaxis.com/>. You will need your account # to register, which can be found on your welcome letter or most recent assessment billing.

(After you submit your website registration request, the system will send you an email to set your password. Please note that this email may go to your junk folder. The link expires after 5 hours. If you miss this window, please contact the bookkeeper at accounting@pcms.net to have a new link emailed to you.)

This site allows you to see your account information, submit ARC requests, file a concern/complaint and receive updates. The email address used for your account will automatically be in the system to receive community E-News updates. If you would like an **additional** email address registered, please provide your property address and the additional email address to corpoffice@pcms.net. Don't miss out on important community events and updates.



Community Website Info

As a reminder, the Founders Village Master Association currently has two websites.



❶ www.foundersmasterhoa.com (No log in/registration required)

VIEW/DOWNLOAD/PRINT THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

GENERAL ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

❷ <https://pcms.cincwebaxis.com> (Registration required)

REGISTER @ <https://pcms.cincwebaxis.com>

VIEW/DOWNLOAD/PRINT THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS /GENERAL ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

VIEW YOUR SPECIFIC HOMEOWNER ACCOUNT: ACCOUNT BALANCE AND MAKE PAYMENTS ON YOUR ACCOUNT

VIEW YOUR ARCHITECTURAL REQUEST HISTORY AND SUBMIT YOUR ARCHITECTURAL REQUESTS

VIEW YOUR COVENANT VIOLATION HISTORY AND ADD NOTES/UPDATES TO THE COVENANT VIOLATION LISTED

SUBMIT WORK ORDER REQUESTS FOR MAINTENANCE ITEMS YOU FEEL NEED TO BE REVIEWED/ADDRESSED EITHER IN THE COMMON AREAS OR CLUBHOUSE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

RECEIVE COMMUNITY E-NEWS UPDATES

Questions?
Please contact
support@pcms.net



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Advertising Policy: This newsletter is published privately for the residents and homeowners of Founders Owners Association, by Compub Media.

Advertisements pay expenses related to publishing this newsletter. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising to any person or company. Publisher does not recommend or sanction any advertisement. Advertisers are expected to treat clients and the community ethically. When hiring anyone advertising in this publication, residents are urged to do their own research. Complaints from residents are given serious consideration.

The Teen Services listing is offered and maintained by The Founders Owners Association, its officials or agents, and is not a service of Compub Media. Any misuse of the listing should be reported immediately to the Founders Owners Association, its officials or agents.



Trash & Recycling 2024 Calendar

 Recycle logo indicates recycle week



Trash carts must be out at 7am until 7pm | Trash Pick-up on Thursdays | Recycling every other week

Green highlighted days indicate trash pick up day, with recycling week remaining the same.

AUGUST 2024							
	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29		

SEPTEMBER 2024							
	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30					

OCTOBER 2024							
	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2024							
	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2024							
	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

HBS Holidays Observed	Memorial Day	Independence Day	Labor Day	Thanksgiving
Trash and recycling pick up will be moved to the following day if pick up day falls on or after a holiday during the week				

RECYCLING GUIDELINES

For the health and safety of our workers, please make sure all recyclable materials in your curbside bins are washed out and clean and follow the below guidelines.

Please

Empty and rinse all containers | Place recyclables loose and unbagged in your curbside recycling container
Flatten all cardboard and paperboard boxes | Place your recycling container 4 feet from parked cars and other obstacles

ACCEPTABLE RECYCLING ITEMS

What items CAN be recycled?

Paper

Mixed paper | Newspapers, magazines, and catalogs | Cardboard
Cartons | Paperboard | Phonebooks and paperback books

Plastics

Rigid plastic | Bottles and containers | Plastics #1-7

NO FOOD RESIDUE, NO PLASTIC BAGS, NO STYROFOAM, NO HARD PLASTIC ITEMS- TOYS, PVC PIPE, FLOWER POTS, ETC.

Metals

Aluminum cans, foil, and pie plates | Steel cans
Loose metal jar lids and bottle caps

Glass NO FOOD RESIDUE

We are now accepting clean and washed out glass in your curbside recycling bin.

NOT ACCEPTABLE RECYCLING ITEMS

What items CAN NOT be recycled?

Please **DO NOT** place the following products in your curbside recycling container.
NO GARBAGE | NO PLASTIC BAGS | NO PLASTIC FILM | NO STYROFOAM®

NO PLASTIC BAGS OR FILM: We cannot accept plastic bags in your curbside recycling bin. Plastic bags can be recycled at most local grocery stores.

NO NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTICS: We accept plastics #1-7 but there are some plastics that are not recyclable. These products include Styrofoam, hard plastic items including toys, plastic chairs, flower pots, PVC pipes and any other plastic products that are not listed in these guidelines.

NO LIQUIDS OR FOOD RESIDUE: Please completely empty and rinse out all containers before recycling.

NO CERAMICS OR OTHER GLASS PRODUCTS: Do not place glass, ceramics, china, dishes, mirrors, light bulbs, Pyrex, porcelain, or window glass in your curbside recycling container.

NO SCRAP METAL: Do not place scrap metal items of any size in your curbside recycling container.

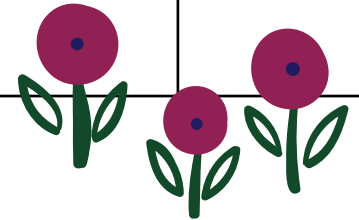
NO ELECTRONICS: Do not place electronic devices in your curbside recycling container.

NO HAZARDOUS WASTE: We do not accept hazardous waste such as oil-based paint, automotive fluids, car batteries, fertilizers or pesticides. Latex paint recycling locations can be found on PaintCare.org.

The Ridgehouse at Founders Village Calendar

Phone: (720) 733-2778 | Email: fvridgehouse@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h2>August 2024</h2>				1 Buts&Guts 11 am	2	3
				4	5	6 Zumba 5 pm
11	12	13 Zumba 5 pm	14 Zumba 5 pm	15 Buts&Guts 11 am	16	17
18	19	20 Zumba 5 pm	21 Zumba 5 pm	22 Buts&Guts 11 am	23	24
25	26	27 Zumba 5 pm	28 Zumba 5 pm	29 Buts&Guts 11 am	30	31



Complaint Procedure

Who May Submit Complaints? Complaints regarding alleged violations of the Covenants, Design Guidelines or Rules and Regulations may be reported by members of the Board of Directors, members of the Community or the Association's Manager.

How Complaints Should Be Submitted. Complaints by a member of the community shall be in writing and must include a contact name and email address or phone number in case there is an inquiry from the Board or management office regarding the complaint submitted. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted. Your name and contact information will not be provided to the person you have made a complaint about; it is only needed for the management team. The member must have observed the alleged violation and shall contain the nature of the alleged violation, the location of the alleged violation and the date it was observed, photos are very helpful. A complaint may also be submitted by any member of the Board of Directors or by the Association Manager after a walk through or inspection of the Community.

You may send your concerns to PCMS via email at support@pcms.net or via fax at 303-224-0002.

Advertising Rates per issue

Prepay for 5 issues, receive the 6th issue free!

Business Card	1/4 Page	Half Page	Full Page
\$25	\$50	\$80	\$125

SEPTEMBER

ADVERTISING

DEADLINE

August 20th

EMAIL KERRI@PORCHLINK.COM FOR MORE INFO

Founders Teen Services

Teen Services Update: If you have previously registered your teenager for the Teen Services listing in the newsletter publication and your teen is no longer interested in having their name listed or has moved out of the community, please send an email to corpoffice@pcms.net and request that your teens name be removed from the list. The Association has received a few calls indicating that they have tried calling several of the teens listed and were told they are now at college or moved, etc.
List updated July 2024.

To add your name to Teen Services please contact corpoffice@pcms.net.
Give your name, street, telephone and the services you provide.

Name	Phone #	Baby Sitting	Red Cross Certified	Pet Sitting	House Sitting	Lawn & Chores	Snow Removal
Ryleigh Barratt	720-908-5799	✓	✓				
Ethan Bernacki	303-386-0046			✓	✓	✓	✓
Katie Bernacki	303-386-0047	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Jenny Berson	303-814-1535			✓			
Abby Brown	208-283-6360					✓	✓
Gabriel Clifton	720-427-2191			✓	✓	✓	✓
Petra Dobat	719-648-8635	✓		✓			
Amber Dorr	720-733-8324	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Raya Ellis	970-531-8111	✓	✓				
Eva Gama Gallagher	720-416-9629	✓	✓				
Maddy Glass	720-290-1792	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Liam Hanks	720-937-1067			✓	✓		✓
Lindsay Harrison	303-656-6335	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Kyle Hawkins	303-618-5308					✓	
Alex Heintzeman	303-814-2002			✓		✓	
Casey Helget	303-483-5299			✓		✓	
Luke Helget	303-483-5299			✓		✓	
Eamon Jensen	303-591-9286				✓	✓	✓
Kat Julseth	303-660-1281	✓		✓	✓		
Alyssa Lang	720-733-8691	✓	✓				
Kaylee LeKander	303-886-7793	✓					
Lucas Lockwood	720-364-9272			✓		✓	✓
Sierra Martin	720-550-0408	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Caity Matz	720-346-8126	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Abbie Matz	720-346-8126	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Camilla McFarlin	720-672-0690	✓	✓				
Kayla McNeil	303-660-8204	✓		✓	✓		
Sage NeRoy	740-527-3870	✓	✓	✓			
Phoenix Nielsen-	720-232-5706	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Daniel Rudolph	303-882-8473			✓	✓	✓	
Dayja Shaw	970-624-7831	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tyler Slatten	303-859-7268			✓	✓	✓	
Shelby Tague	720-789-0954	✓					
Camden Truhler	720-525-2859	✓	✓				
Jonathan Wade	303-660-5423	✓	✓	✓			
Christianna Wahl	303-306-8117	✓		✓			
Kloey Wells	918-841-8206	✓		✓	✓		
Kiera Willford	303-518-6720	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Celeste Zarpate	303-910-1624	✓		✓	✓		
Weston Zelem	303-880-8140			✓			



Some (new?) plants to enjoy!

(By Nichole Rairigh, Extension Master Gardener Apprentice)

“Ooh, what is that!?” Finding a “new to you” plant in someone else’s garden can be exhilarating. Color, shape, texture, and presence all contribute to the effect the new plant has on your senses. I am always on the lookout for new things to grow and I wanted to share some plants that were new to me, at least! Each year’s growing conditions (growing extremes!) provide an opportunity to find something new for your garden.

First up is blue flax (*Linum lewisii*). A Colorado native that is easily procured at a garden center or grown yourself. I found the seeds at my local feed store. If the ethereal movement of a tall grass that sways in the garden is appealing to you, but with flowers, then this is THE plant. Each day in spring, a new tiny blue (actual blue!) flower opens going up the stem and sways in the garden, providing movement and flow. Birds use the seeds in the fall and winter too.

<https://gilpin.extension.colostate.edu/programs/mtn-hort/blue-flax/>



Blue Flax

Next up is pineapple mint (*Mentha suaveolens* ‘Variegata’), a fabulous filler. Stay with me here. Mint can be a weed as it spreads readily but this variegated white and green mint is a stunner. Use it in summer drinks or wait until it gets tall and use it in arrangements. The smell and taste of this mint is delicate and delicious. Mint can also be used as a living mulch under trees and in beds where dry shade reigns. No need to haul expensive bags of mulch for a beautiful and surprising look.

Everyone has heard of, or at least seen, Autumn Joy Sedum (*Hylotelephium* ‘Herbstfreude’) but there are so many other varieties to choose from. I have a small full-sun sedum patch where I grow 8 different kinds of sedum. I love Blue Spruce sedum (*Sedum sediforme*) because they look like 3-inch evergreen trees, or try Old Man Bones sedum (*Sedum globosum*) which is self-descriptive. A dark leaf sedum provides surprise interest. Best of all, once established they don’t need any supplemental water. They tend to bloom in autumn when the annuals are slowing down, and pollinators of all kinds love them. To propagate sedum, break off a piece of stem and stick it in the ground. The flowers come in pink, red, maroon, and yellow and they range in size between ground cover and a few feet tall.



Sedum Montage

Finally, a vining plant. There are many fun vining annuals, so try something new each year: including black-eyed susan vine (*Thunbergia alata*), firecracker vine (*Ipomoea lobata*), or ruby moon hyacinth bean (*Lablab purpureus*). My personal favorite is cypress vine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*). Hummingbirds and butterflies love the red trumpet star-shaped flowers. I love the fine soft fern-like foliage. It is delicate and really reminds me of a cypress tree frond. All these can be direct sown from seeds. If you do want to start with plants, buy them early, because it can be a real challenge to disentangle them from the nursery tray.

Petunias, hostas, and geraniums all have their place in the garden but so do more unique plants. Dare to be rare!



Pineapple Mint



Firecracker Vine