



CENTER FOR ReSource Conservation

Garden In A Box

Garden In A Box eNews

March 2015

Gardens are now on sale!
To browse our 2015 Garden In A Box kits, and purchase the gardens of your dreams, [CLICK HERE.](#)



Ask Miss Jean!
Jean Lovell, long-time CRC volunteer and former Master Gardener, tackles your questions!
[Submit your question here:](#)

With March, we welcome spring! Beginning on the 8th our days will be a little bit brighter with Daylight Savings Time, and on the 20th we will celebrate the official beginning of spring with the equinox. It is time to truly invite spring to reign - perhaps with one (or five!) of our Garden In A Box kits! Yes, it's true - our 2015 gardens are officially **on sale!** This newsletter contains information on GARDENS GOING ON SALE, companion planting, a must-see in our April seminar series, and more!!



Please send any questions, comments, or concerns to gardeninfo@conservationcenter.org.

Happy Gardening!

Q. I recently heard of companion gardening. What is that and how could it help in my garden?

A. Companion gardening, or companion planting, is the age-old practice of planting different crops together that are mutually beneficial to one another. When planted in close proximity within a garden or farm plot, companion plants have a superior ability to control pests, support pollination, provide habitat for beneficial insects, promote the garden's natural processes, maximize space, and increase crop productivity.

You can think of Companion Planting in [Three P's](#):

1) Pollination - Planting to attract beneficial pollinators such as birds and predatory insects to your garden.

2) Pest Control - Some plants contain volatile oils that repel insects, such as marigolds, which deter aphids. Other plants disguise themselves with shapes that can prevent insects from recognizing them as palatable.

3) Production - Companion planting will increase your garden's productivity by maximizing space, and providing a habitat for beneficial creatures.

An Ancient Method: Native Americans established the "[Three Sisters](#)" method of planting corn, squash, and beans together in one hill. The corn provides a structure on which the beans can climb, and the beans provide nitrogen for the squash and corn. The squash helps retain moisture in the soil and acts as a weed cover by spreading along the ground.

Examples of Companion Plants:

- Borage and strawberries
- Basil and tomatoes
- Squash and nasturtiums
- Radishes and carrots

2015 GARDENS NOW ON SALE!!



It's that time of year again! Our Garden In A Box kits are now on sale! Transform your landscape and conserve water with one of our super-affordable Xeric gardens. To browse our 2015 Garden In A Box kits and to purchase the gardens of your dreams, [CLICK HERE](#).

In 2014, Garden In A Box transformed over 172,000 square feet of land into water-conserving Xeriscape. When watered and maintained effectively, the nearly 1,900 Xeric gardens that were planted could collectively conserve 1.8 million gallons of water annually!

Water is a precious commodity, and those of us who live in Colorado know that [drought](#) is a common experience. Recorded history shows four droughts lasting ten years or longer between 1893 and 1999; one of those lasted 26 years. Conserving water in as many ways possible helps to make periods of drought less challenging for everyone. One easy and impactful way to do that is by planting a Xeric garden. [GET THAT GARDEN IN A BOX!](#)

AN ABSOLUTE MUST-SEE!

A Water-Wise Seminar with Local Landscape Expert Dr. Tony Koski

Have you signed up for any of the Center for ReSource Conservation's complimentary [Water-Wise Seminars](#) yet?

This April we are offering thirteen seminars on Xerscaping and other

For a comprehensive planting guide check out [Mother Earth News](#). Also be sure to check out the [Pollinators' Paradise](#) and [Colorful Chef](#), two of this year's Garden In A Box kits.

Note: As a volunteer, Miss Jean is one of our most precious resources! She may not have time to answer each question personally, but she recommends the Boulder County Extension Service as a great resource as well. Or, check with your own local Extension Service - they're there to help!

MARCH XERIC Plant of the Month!



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The March Xeric Plant of the Month is the **Edelweiss Flower**, or *Leontopodium alpinum*, a selection from Garden In A Box's [Mountain Shadows](#)

garden. This well-known mountain flower is native to the alpine regions of Europe and is a celebrated symbol of Austria and Switzerland. Its white spiked florets are covered with tiny dense hairs that appear to be an adaptation to altitude and harsh temperatures. The plant's scientific name Leontopodium, is adopted from the Latin word for "Lion's Paw," and is undoubtedly named so for its woolly and wide flower. Edelweiss was traditionally used as a remedy against abdominal and respiratory diseases, and it was believed that giving the flower to a loved one was a promise of dedication.



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sustainable land use topics at no cost to the community. Seminar topics and locations vary and you can see the entire calendar [here](#).

This month we are extremely excited to highlight the [Turf Management for Water Conservation](#) seminar with guest speaker Dr. Tony Koski! Dr. Koski has been the Extension Turf Specialist and a professor at Colorado State University since 1988. An expert in the field of turf and soil management for the Rocky Mountain region, he is basically a local celebrity when it comes to turf! He is also an instructor

in the Colorado Master Gardener program. We can't wait to hear him speak in Brighton on April 14th! **This seminar is not to be missed!** Sign up for this and our other Water-Wise Seminars [here](#)! But hurry - these popular and informative seminars fill up quickly!



Dr. Tony Koski

ReNew Our Schools: Results Are In!

Did you know that CRC works with local schools? [ReNew Our Schools](#) is a month-long energy conservation competition in which K-12 students vie for renewable energy prizes for their schools. With the mentoring help of local energy experts, students measure, evaluate, and improve energy consumption practices in their homes and schools. This student-led program empowers them to learn real-world concepts, work with professionals on a real issue, and become leaders - skills that will enhance the rest of their lives.

Each year up to 14 schools within a single Colorado school district are chosen, divided into three cohorts, and the challenge begins. Schools are judged on a combination of electrical savings in the school, energy saving recommendations for the school, and behavior changes in participating homes in the school community. Prizes worth up to \$25,000 are awarded for energy improvements in each grouping. This February's competitors were from the St. Vrain Valley School District. And the winners are Sunset Middle School, Longs Peak Middle School, and Mountain View Elementary School! Never before have we witnessed such a neck and neck race - Longs Peak and Sunset came in only .78% apart!! Because this was too close to call, we have decided on a tie for the top performer in the secondary school category, and both Longs Peak and Sunset were awarded first place. We heartily congratulate all those students who participated.

Whether or not your children were involved in ReNew Our Schools, you can encourage them to become more aware of saving energy at home and elsewhere in their lives. And, while you're at it, get them involved in gardening, and conserve water, another limited resource.