

Our in-house horticulturist/arborist, Craig Miller, dispenses practical advice for those seeking to simultaneously conserve water and grow thriving, high-visual-impact, drought-tolerant (xeriscape) gardens and landscapes. Please email your questions to craig@cpnmd.org.



MANAGING NATIVE GRASSES

When it comes to mowing our district's natural open space areas, less is more! Native grasses are best left alone throughout the growing season. First, taller grasses shade the ground and adjacent vegetation, thereby slowing the moisture evaporation from the soil, resulting in healthier, more vigorous stands of grass. When left in their natural state, stands of taller native grass conserve water better than cut grass and provide wildlife habitat.

During the summer heat, native grasses go dormant and stop growing. Mowing during the growing season weakens native grasses and allows weed seeds to germinate and take over. Letting native areas grow tall helps choke out noxious weeds and reduces the need for herbicides.

So, when you see an open space field of prairie grasses left in its natural state in our district, please know we're not ignoring it! Instead, we use the best horticultural practices to manage the area, inhibit noxious weeds, and enhance aesthetics and wildlife habitat.



XERIC PLANT OF THE MONTH




Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) is noted for its bicolored foliage, rugged, ornamental bark and bold winter texture. Bicolor refers to the distinctive two-colored appearance of the leaves: glossy green on the upper surface, and whitish and velvety beneath. This hardy oak is very xeric in nature, grows well in clay soils, and also does well in damp soils.

Swamp White Oak sets an oblong-shaped acorn approximately 1" long and shiny brown. Growing to a mature height and spread of 40 to 60 feet, this tree attains a broad conical-to-rounded form and provides dense shade. It is easy to transplant and has a relatively fast growth rate for an oak. Fall colors range from russet to orange to red. This tree performs well up to 8,000 feet in elevation.



Thank you in advance for your patience during the temporary lane closures, longer travel times, and inconveniences associated with our joint infrastructure-delivery project with the City of Castle Pines. CPNMD and the City are collaborating to simultaneously replace our water main and rebuild a half-mile segment of Castle Pines Parkway between Yorkshire Drive and Monarch Boulevard. For project updates, please click on the joint City/CPNMD logo on our homepage at cpnmd.org.

In case of a water emergency, help us help you! Please update the contact information for each member of your household in two ways. First, click on the  **UPDATE MY CONTACT INFO** icon in the upper right corner of our homepage at cpnmd.org and submit the brief online form. Second, visit the Douglas County Sheriff's website at dcsheriff.net/codered and sign up to receive emergency **CodeRED** (Reverse 911) calls and texts.

In closing, we extend a special thanks to those who participated in the Inclusion-information sessions, which Parker Water & Sanitation District Manager Ron Redd and his fantastic staff hosted for CPNMD residents on June 17th. Check out our photo recap at cpnmd.org/pwsd-cpnmd.



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