

CASTLE PINES NORTH

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT™

Craig's Corner

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.



Are you struggling to wrap your head around your sprinkler system?

Castle Pines North Metropolitan District and Resource Central can help with a free sprinkler consultation. Resource Central Technicians will run a few tests to check your sprinklers' efficiency and diagnose any problems your system might have. At the end of your consultation, you'll receive a customized watering schedule designed to reduce water usage and keep your lawn healthy and beautiful all summer long! Consultations last about 75 minutes and could help you save thousands of gallons of water each year. It's easy to sign up and get long-lasting results! Simply sign up at www.ResourceCentral.org/sprinklers or call (303) 999-3824.



CONSERVATION MADE EASY

Once your irrigation system is up and running, be sure to follow CPNMD's 2020 Watering Calendar, on our website at www.cpnmd.org.

Xeric Plant of the Month

Creeping Thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*) comes in many different varieties and makes an amazing lawn replacement. This "steppable" groundcover not only gets by on minimal water, but is about as low maintenance as you can get!

Hardy and drought resistant, creeping thymes produce small but attractive and prolific flowers June, July and/or August (depending on cultivar). Though unsuited for heavy traffic areas, thyme lawns stand up very well to light to moderate traffic.

Many different varieties of thyme can be used to create a lawn - you can go with a monoculture, as is pictured here, or mix different cultivars to create more visual interest. "Reiter", "Pink Chintz", "Coccineus", "Albus", "Wooly" and "Elfin" are varieties that work well in this application.

Before planting a thyme lawn, it is very important to kill or otherwise remove the grass. Once the ground is properly prepared, plants can be placed about 6-12" apart. Plants should be watered in thoroughly, then watered deeply about once a week (more in extremely hot or dry conditions) until they are well established (2 to 3 years).

Come on, you KNOW you always wanted a lawn that doesn't need mowing, right? Well here it is!



The first year it sleeps...



The second year it creeps...



The third year it leaps!

Craig Miller can be reached at craig@cpnmd.org and 303-688-8550.

BOARD UPDATE: Due to the highly contagious coronavirus that causes COVID-19 disease, **all facilities** within CPNMD's three parks (Coyote Ridge Park, The Retreat Park, and Daniel's Gate Park), including the skatepark, basketball courts, playground equipment, and picnic tables, remain closed until further notice. Each park features large **NO TRESPASSING** signs to that effect. However, you and your four-legged companions may otherwise use CPNMD's parks and trail system, while steadfastly adhering to a **minimum** six-feet of social distancing. To print a map of CPNMD's parks and trail system, please visit www.cpnmd.org/trail-map. **Separately**, the Master Association (MA) continues assessing a \$325 transaction fee on the purchase/sale of homes in CPNMD's jurisdiction. We respectfully ask MA leaders two questions. First, when will the MA either dissolve or, alternatively, reorganize to serve the two small neighborhood enclaves of Claremont Estates and Huntington Ridge, per their request? Second, when and how will the MA equitably distribute or refund hundreds-of-thousands of dollars in excess revenues it collected over the years from Castle Pines homeowners? We look forward to the MA's definitive action, on both fronts, prior to our May 18, 2020, board meeting.



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