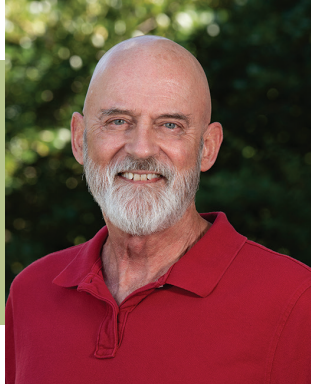


CASTLE PINES NORTH

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.



Principles of Xeriscape Classes Start in January!

For six consecutive Saturdays in January and February, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., please join Craig Miller for a series of six free Xeriscaping classes at Tagawa Garden Center, 7711 South Parker Road.

January 11th - The Basics of Xeriscape

Xeriscape is not rocks and cactus, but a colorful, lower maintenance alternative to the water-hungry landscapes we are used to. Learn the seven principles of Xeriscaping in this introductory class, and take away some great ideas for retrofitting your existing landscape, or installing a new one!

January 18th - Principles of Xeriscape 1 - Design

Xeriscaping offers a way to have beautiful, livable landscapes without excess water use, and all good Xeriscapes begin with a good design. Learn the basics of xeric yard and garden design in this class.

January 25th - Principles of Xeriscape 2 - Soil Preparation

Next to design, soil preparation is the most important part of successful Xeriscaping and gardening. We will dish out the "dirt" on amending soil for a water efficient and healthy landscape.

February 1 - Principles of Xeriscape 3 & 4 - Appropriate Use of Turf & Plant Selection

The most controversial and misunderstood of the seven Xeriscape principles is the concept of appropriate turf. Turf grasses have a place in the landscape, even in a Xeriscape. We will provide you with guidance on this aspect of landscaping, as well as cover plant selection and proper grouping of plant materials in this class.

February 8 - Principles of Xeriscape 5 & 6 - Irrigation & Mulch

Irrigation is necessary in a xeric landscape, at least during the first few years while the plants' root systems are developing. And critical to making efficient use of that water is the appropriate use of mulch. Come find out what you need to know about these two xeric principles.

February 15 - Principles of Xeriscape 7 - Maintenance

Maintaining the landscape cannot be forgotten, even in a Xeriscape. Pruning, occasional weeding and pest management, checking that the irrigation system is functioning properly, and adjusting automatic irrigation systems as the seasons change will be needed. Come learn how to maintain your Xeriscape properly!



Xeric Plant of the Month Turkish Veronica

For the Colorado gardener, there is no finer groundcover than Turkish Veronica (*Veronica liwanensis*). This vigorous fast-growing plant thrives in poor soils, creating a thick green carpet of round, glossy evergreen leaves. With the first hint of warm weather, the plant is covered with small bright cobalt blue flowers that persist May through June. With a little extra water, it can rebloom lightly later in the summer. Turkish Veronica looks great in perennial or rock gardens, and can be used as a groundcover between steppingstones or as a lawn substitute (it is tolerant of light foot traffic). With a height of 1-2" and a spread of 18", this plant is easily propagated by digging and dividing the clump into smaller pieces, spring or early fall. Maximum elevation 8500 feet. Looking to add some low maintenance, late spring excitement and color to your garden? This is it!



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

BOARD UPDATE:

The property taxes that CPNMD assesses in 2020 will remain unchanged at 19 mills. Separately, after securing substantial input from privacy fence-adjacent homeowners on the south side of Castle Pines Parkway between Monarch Blvd. and Lagae Road, we unanimously approved Resolution 2019-01. We also committed, **on a one-time-only basis**, to uniformly stain the entire length of the privacy fence as soon as the weather is sufficiently warm and dry. We again sincerely thank the Master Association board for taking concrete steps to dissolve and equitably distribute hundreds of thousands of dollars in excess revenues to the various sub-HOAs (see page three of last month's Castle Pines Connection). Our next board meeting will occur on January 20, 2020. **Until then, we wish you Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and good health, peace, and prosperity throughout the coming New Year.**



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