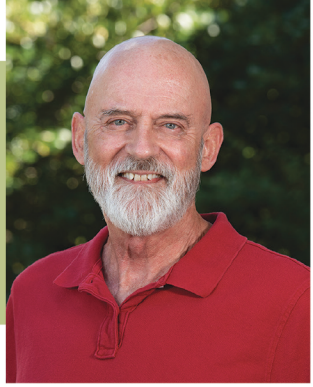


Our in-house horticulturist/arborist, Craig Miller, dispenses practical advice for those seeking to simultaneously conserve water and grow thriving, high-visual-impact, drought-tolerant (xeriscape) gardens and landscapes.



Prairifire Crabapple

Don't Turn Those Sprinklers On Yet!

We need your help!

More than half the water used between May and October is for landscape irrigation. Based on community water-use figures, 40% to 50% of that landscape irrigation water is wasted! This is often due to poor irrigation system design, maintenance, and management — and the fact that past irrigation system design seldom focused on water conservation.

With the irrigation season rapidly approaching, we respectfully ask for your help conserving water resources. Please wait to activate your sprinkler system until as late into the season as possible depending on the weather.

April is the perfect time to turn on your automatic sprinkler system and run each zone through a **test cycle**. Check for leaks or damaged and misaligned sprinkler heads. If you see runoff, reposition or replace the sprinkler heads to water only the grass. But please do not set your system to cycle automatically until at least mid-May.

Research shows that postponing irrigation system start up encourages grass roots to seek water and grow deeper. When hot, dry summer days arrive, a deeper root system means the grass can go longer between waterings. Regular irrigation that begins too early in the season can result in the death of deep turf roots, making lawns less drought-and-wear tolerant.

Once your irrigation system is on, please follow CPNMD's 2020 watering calendar on the homepage of our website at www.cpnmd.org.

For deep roots like this, postpone regular irrigation until mid-May



Xeric Plant of the Month

There are few plants that provide the visual impact during all four seasons than the flowering crabapple. One of the finest specimens available is Prairifire Crabapple (*Malus 'Prairifire'*). In the spring, abundant clusters of single crimson-red buds open to vivid, dark pink flowers. Purple-red leaves turn to green with a red cast during the summer, nicely complementing the dark purple-red, half-inch-diameter fruit.

In the fall, leaves change to a spectacular reddish-orange color. The reddish-brown cherry tree-like bark accents the thick clusters of persistent fruit throughout the winter. There are no littering problems, as birds relish the fruit and will eat it directly off the tree. With a mature height and spread of 15-to-20 feet and excellent disease resistance, 'Prairifire' is an outstanding crabapple selection that will become one of your all-time favorites. Hardy to 8,000 feet.

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

BOARD UPDATE: CPNMD's Water & Wastewater Service-Integration Feasibility Study with the Parker Water & Sanitation District (PWSD) is now roughly eighty percent complete! In separate, regularly scheduled, March 2020 meetings, both we and the PWSD board reviewed preliminary data from the study and unanimously determined that some form of service integration **probably** makes sense for the customers of both jurisdictions. However, additional analysis is required. Consequently, both boards authorized the final phase of the study, the net result of which we anticipate revealing to the community in July. Please be patient. Although a thorough market analysis of CPNMD's assets and financing options is a complex endeavor, we are aiming for a thoughtful, responsible November 2020 ballot question. **Separately**, the despicable destruction and tagging of CPNMD property has reached a new high and constitutes a cost burden for each customer in this district. CPNMD is offering a \$250 water-bill credit to CPNMD customers (students and their parents included) that email and/or text us with **fully decipherable, identity-revealing, date-and-time-stamped photos and names of anyone in the act of defacing or tagging CPNMD property**. When caught, each perpetrator will reimburse CPNMD 150% of their damage-restoration-and-reward costs.



David McEntire
President
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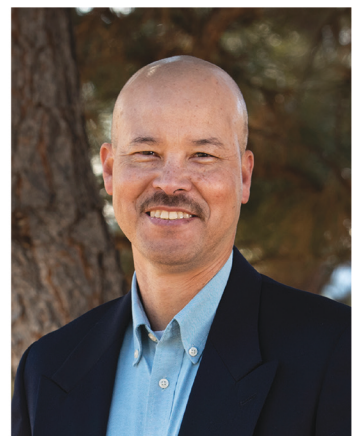
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