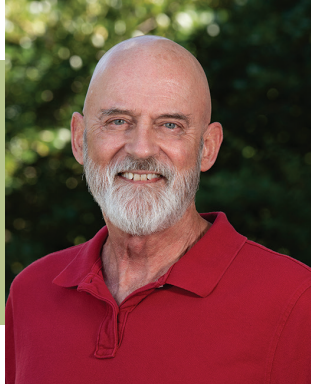


Our in-house horticulturist/arborist, Craig Miller, dispenses practical advice for those seeking to simultaneously conserve water and grow thriving, high-visual-impact, drought-tolerant (xeriscape) gardens and landscapes.



### Don't Forget to Winter Water!

Limited snowfall, low humidity, minimal soil moisture, and variable temperatures often damage trees, shrubs, perennials, and lawns. Many landscape plants grow roots throughout the winter and need moisture to survive.

Most of a tree's absorbing roots are in the top 12 inches of the soil, and root systems can spread two-to-three times wider than the height of the tree. Apply water both within and just outside the dripline, deeply and slowly, so it moistens the critical root zone to a depth of 12 inches. Apply water to many locations under the dripline.

Fall and winter watering (October through March) should be done one to four times per month, depending on weather, temperature, and soil conditions. Consistent moisture is needed; drought-stressed plants are more vulnerable to disease, insect infestations, and branch and twig dieback. Please review *Caring for Trees in Dry Climates* at <http://bit.ly/2dBtTFN>.

### November Cleanup Checklist

- 🌿 **Clean up debris from annuals.** After removing your annuals, consider planting cold hardy pansies for great fall color and early spring blooms. Winter pansies provide a bright splash of color in winter landscapes. Although most pansies will survive cold winters and bloom periodically during warm spells, winter pansies are specifically bred for winter blooming.
- 🌿 **Perennial garden cleanup:** Remove only those leaves and stalks that frost turns to mush, and any diseased plant tissue, but keep ornamental grasses, dried perennial foliage, and seed heads (coneflowers, gaillardia, etc.) that provide winter food to birds. The foliage you leave will also help to insulate the crowns of the plants through the winter, and act as a natural "snow fence", capturing snow at the base of the plants that will help insulate and hydrate plant roots.
- 🌿 **Do not cut roses back now:** Instead, do so in early spring. Hill up hybrid tea roses with soil and wood mulch for winter protection.
- 🌿 **Freshen up mulch to a depth of 2-to-4 inches:** Doing so will help moderate winter soil temperatures, insulate the soil, and add organic material as the mulch breaks down.
- 🌿 **Protect young trees & shrubs from animals that feed on them.** Use open-wire enclosures (chicken wire) or perforated tree guards that allow air and light in.



### BOARD UPDATE:

By default, poor and inconsistent maintenance of privacy fencing on the south side of Castle Pines Parkway between Yorkshire Drive and Shoreham Drive requires us to address privacy fence-related ownership, maintenance, replacement, and liability issues. We are working in good faith with all fence-adjacent homeowners to refine and adopt a formal CPNMD resolution at our November 18, 2019, board meeting. Our working draft resolution is available for review in the RECENT NEWS section of our website homepage at [www.cpnmd.org](http://www.cpnmd.org). We sincerely thank the Master Association for considering our suggestion that it dissolve and thereby save each homeowner \$40 in annual dues and a \$325 Change of Home Ownership Fee.

### Xeric Plant of the Month

There are many different varieties of Ice Plant available, all of which make excellent xeric groundcover. Two selections, in particular, are readily available at local garden centers, and will contribute a splash of low-maintenance color and year-round visual interest.

**Starburst Ice Plant** (*Delosperma floribunda*) is characterized by iridescent purple-pink flowers with large white eyes. This variety blooms continuously May through September.

**Yellow Ice Plant** (*Delosperma nubigenum*) has succulent jelly-bean like foliage and vibrant daisy-like yellow flowers in May and June. In the fall, this plant turns red and remains that way throughout the winter, greening up again in the spring.



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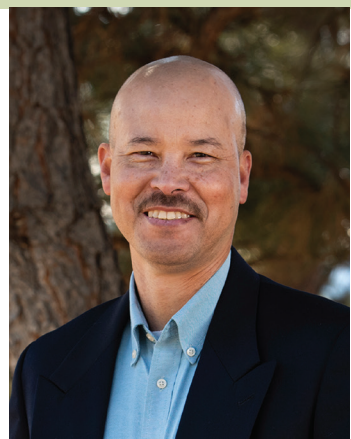
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