

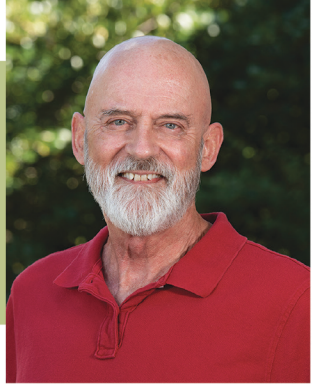
CASTLE PINES NORTH



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.



Plant This, Not That

Here in Douglas County, many of us contend with hungry deer eating our landscape plants. Unfortunately, many of the trees and shrubs we love are very attractive to these animals as a food source. Apple, Linden, Green Ash, Cotoneaster, Strawberry, and Tulip are just some of the species they favor. One solution is to select deer resistant plant material.

As these animals cannot read, and don't know any better, sometimes they just can't resist sampling a different "flavor" from your garden. There is no guarantee that one of these plants won't end up on the menu, but the following xeric plants tend to be the ones that have successfully survived, while others have become dinner:

Trees

- ❦ Winter King Hawthorn (*Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King')
- ❦ Shademaster Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'PNI2835' Shademaster®)
- ❦ Colorado Spruce (*Picea pungens*)

Shrubs

- ❦ Russian Sage (*Perovskia artiplicifolia*)
- ❦ Boulder Raspberry (*Rubus deliciosus*)
- ❦ Moonlight Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) 'Moonlight'

Perennials

- ❦ Autumn Joy Sedum (*Sedum spectabile*) 'Autumn Joy'
- ❦ Penstemons (*Penstemon* spp.)
- ❦ English Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia* 'Munstead')



Xeric Plant of the Month

Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) is a warm season, perennial native grass found throughout the Great Plains of the U.S. and is also the state grass of Colorado. Along with buffalo grass, this was the major native grass species of the short grass prairie. It possesses excellent drought and cold hardiness and is a great xeric substitute for bluegrass in areas where foot traffic is not an issue. Blue grama, with its interesting eyebrow shaped seed heads, forms a very attractive unmowed turf, and when properly maintained, only requires watering once or twice per month to maintain a rich green color. It grows to a height of 10 to 16 inches, but can be mowed for a more formal appearance. Regular mowing, however, will increase watering needs and allow weeds to come in, so it is best left alone until fall, when a late season mowing will help to redistribute the seeds. Hardy to 7,000 feet.



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

BOARD UPDATE

Excerpt from District Manager Jim Worley's Monday, February 24, 2020, report to the board: *"The **Water & Wastewater Service-Integration Study** on which the Castle Pines North Metro District (CPNMD) and the Parker Water & Sanitation District (PWSD) jointly embarked a year ago is nearing completion. Steve Hellman, the Chief Financial Officer at PWSD, and I anticipate briefing you on our analysis, preliminary findings, underlying rationale, and recommended next steps during your regularly scheduled board meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020. We anticipate reviewing multiple alternatives and possible financing scenarios with you, in executive session, at that time. Directors, I am aware that previous administrations tended to overuse executive sessions. In the interest of transparency, I understand your strong preference to avoid them. Recognizing that the board can make no decisions while in executive session and is legally required to take formal action in public – given the highly sensitive nature of our negotiations with PWSD – I respectfully ask that our initial briefing occur in executive session, with the understanding that we will engage our public shortly thereafter."*



David McEntire
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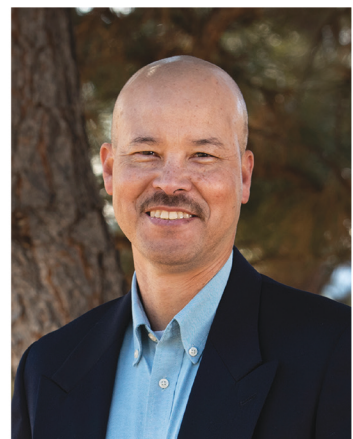
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