



November 2023

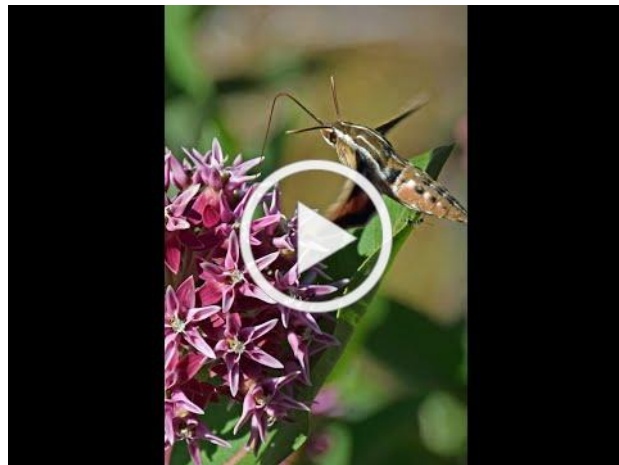
In this newsletter...

- Feature Article: Fostering Biology in our Native Plant Gardens
- Celebrate Native Plants Through Food: Fir Tree and Ginger Ice Cream Recipe
- Chapter Updates: Toolkit Update; Seed Swaps Recap
- Ask CSU Extension Anything (About Native Plants): Green Mulch
- Help Our Chapter Thrive: Colorado Gives Day; Wild Ones Membership
- Upcoming Events (BOTH THIS SATURDAY!): Native Plant Propagation Tips and Tricks; Boulder Regional Native Seed Swap

Become a member today!

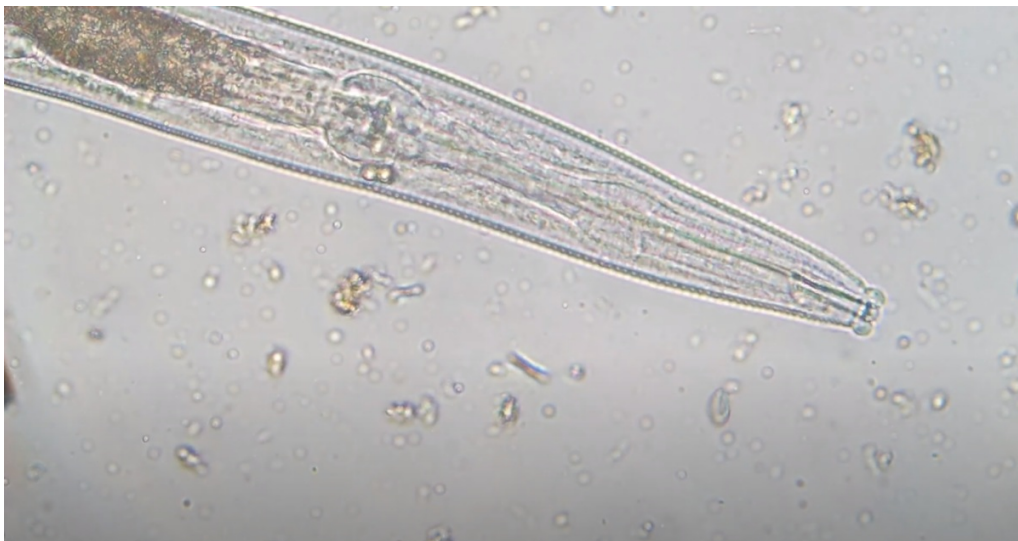
Don't Just Xeriscape - Coloradoscape with Colorado Native Plants!

Please view, like, and share our new video about the benefits of landscaping with Colorado native plants. Thanks to documentary director [Annie Eastman](#) for helping us bring this project to life.



Fostering Biology in Our Native Plant Gardens

By Christine Gust



This article provides an overview of the needs of soil microbes and some specific practices to consider when growing native plants. Most modern practices deplete the biology in soil because we didn't understand the role and importance of a healthy soil food web. Healthy soil reduces water usage, protects plants against pests and disease, controls weeds, and increases overall plant health and productivity. It's important to care for the soil food web in all types of gardening and farming, but the implementation can vary depending on the goals. For example, growing plants native to our region will require different implementation from that for annual vegetables and it'll be different again for an orchard.

[Read the full article!](#)

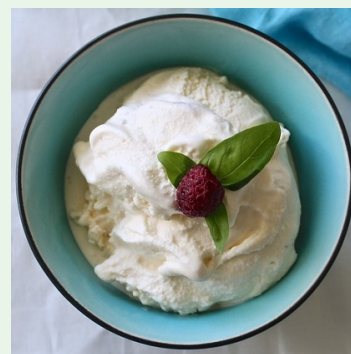
Note: You may learn more about soil biology from Christine on January 24, 2024, when she hosts a Wild Ones Front Range webinar on soils and native plants. Registration details will be published in the upcoming weeks.

Celebrate Native Plants Through Food

By Pam Sherman

Fir Tree and Ginger Ice Cream Recipe

Julia Georgallis, author of the cookbook *How to Eat Your Christmas Tree* from which this recipe is taken (p. 86-7), says this is "hands down my favorite recipe" from her fir tree-eating supper club. A special occasion treat to stimulate conversation on native plant gardening and guardian-ing!



[Read more and view the recipe here!](#)

Chapter Updates

Toolkit Update



Thinking about adding more native grasses to your landscape? Check out some of our content about native grasses in our [Toolkit](#) under [Colorado Native Plant Selection](#) / [Native Plants by Form](#).

Seed Swaps Recap

Highlights

500+ attendees (newbies, seasoned gardeners,

Thanks to everyone who participated in our wildly successful annual native

community activists)

~150 native plant species

200 volunteer shifts filled (seed collection/cleaning and event logistics)

Volunteer Shout-out:

Teri Thomson (WOFR Seed Swap Co-Chair) for her long hours dedicated to creating a reliable data base and appealing format for 140+ unique species signs, which will ultimately be posted in our Toolkit for public reference.



seed swaps in November. We partnered with great organizations again to hold three swaps along the Front Range: Denver, Colorado Springs and Fort Collins. The swaps brought in 500+ people and seed of ~150 native species. Newbies were welcomed and oriented on how to select seed and grow native plants for their gardens. Seasoned gardeners delighted in the wide selection to expand the colors, textures and variety of forage and habitat for local fauna in their gardens. Community activists collected seed for community and school gardens to improve public spaces. All this means **MORE NATIVE PLANTS** on the Front Range thanks to the amazing volunteers who filled 90 shifts to collect a base inventory of seed, 50 shifts to clean the seed and 60 shifts to promote and put on these **FREE** events. Bravo!



We enjoyed the ambition, commitment and hope displayed by participants.



REMINDER - If you have some seeds, please don't forget to plant some extra seeds and grow them to share at native plant swaps this summer! Watch the chapter events for live, virtual propagation workshops this spring to learn and grow more.

Be the momentum - help us provide access to native plants for everyone.

Ask CSU Extension Anything (About Native Plants)



QUESTION: What combination of drought tolerant native grasses and sedges would you recommend as a “green mulch” between masses of flowering plants?

Get the answer!

Answer developed by: John Murgel, Extension County Specialist, Horticulture and Natural Resources, Douglas County, Colorado State University Extension



**Have a question about native plants?
Ask it here!**

Help Our Chapter Thrive

Give Where You Live - Colorado Gives Day Campaign ends December 5th!

As a 100% volunteer-led organization, your donations allow us to provide FREE resources and community around [Coloradoscaping](#) with native plants. This year's FREE offerings have included:

- Over 7,500 plants at the Native Plant Swaps.
- Over 170 unique species at the Native Seed Swaps.
- How-to resources & tips in our online Toolkit.
- Over 100 gatherings & volunteer opportunities along the Front Range to promote Coloradoscaping and build community.

By donating now, your gift's impact will be multiplied since it will help us:

- Unlock a \$2,000 match challenge sponsored by our volunteer Board of Directors.
- Earn an increased share of the Colorado Gives Day incentive fund.

All donations made through the Colorado Gives Day campaign fund the local Front Range Chapter of Wild Ones!



[Donate today!](#)

Become a Member, if You're Not One Already!

We are a membership-based and member-led chapter. Please show your support for helping more Front Range residents convert their outdoor spaces into native plant Coloradoscapes by becoming a member today. Household memberships start at just \$40, with Limited Income/Student memberships available for \$25.

[Join today!](#)

Additional benefits of becoming a Wild Ones Front Range member include:

- Discounts on and early notification of educational programs
- Invites to member-only local gatherings
- Access to our member-only Facebook group

Members Corner

2024 Board of Directors Vote

We will be sending out our proposed Board of Directors Slate for the 2024 term to all members during the week of December 11th and we need your vote! You will have the opportunity to vote for or against the slate via a Google Form. Thanks for your

support.

Join our Wild Ones Front Range Members Group

Connect online with other members through [this group](#). You will need to provide your Wild Ones member number to be accepted.

Members, Help our Chapter Flourish!

Our member-volunteers keep our chapter running smoothly. Check out some of our priority openings below. By joining us, you will make a high impact on our chapter while having fun working with other passionate native plant people! [Email us](#) to express your interest and learn more.

- ***Short term position: Create Blog Posts for Archived Newsletter Articles***
We are looking for 2 more volunteers to convert our old newsletter articles into blog posts so the content is more searchable on our website. There is so much useful information in these articles that we want to make accessible! Volunteers should be detail oriented and comfortable working in Word/Google Docs. We will provide training, instructions, and support.
- ***Regional Coordinators for Northern Colorado & Denver Metro***
We are looking for members in each of these regions to become Regional Coordinators. In this role you will organize 2 or more local member gatherings each year. At least one gathering will be a garden crawl, where members can learn from each other's successes and challenges.
- ***Volunteer Relations Coordinator***
As a volunteer-run chapter, we need to continue recruiting and retaining passionate volunteers to help our chapter thrive. Have you helped to run or know of a successful volunteer program before? Or, are you willing to help us research some volunteer program best practices and apply them for our chapter? If so, please get in touch.

Upcoming Events

Check out our website's [Events](#) section for registration links and full event details!

Native Plant Propagation Tips and Tricks

Saturday, December 2

Members Only

Boulder Regional Native Seed Swap

Saturday, December 2

WOFR December Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 20

Members Only



Wild Ones Front Range Chapter | <https://frontrangewildones.org/>



Wild Ones Front Range | 6931 S Adams Way, Centennial, CO 80122

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