

Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS



JUNE 2021

Summertime!

The sun is rising earlier and setting later in the day. For children, Disney may be the 'happiest place on earth', but for most of us, it's out in the garden in summer. So, savor each day and engage all your senses; enjoy your garden to the fullest, and have a wonderful summer!

Peace, love and gardens,
Cherie Luke
EGC President

**REMINDER! EGC'S JUNE MEETING
IS THE 3RD TUESDAY JUNE 15TH
AT ASPEN RIDGE CHURCH
EVERGREEN**

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE
DATE & PLACE FOR THE EGC JUNE MEETING!**

Our EGC *June Meeting* will be held on
June 15th (the 3RD TUESDAY) at 9:00 am.

It will be held in-person, outside at the Aspen Ridge Church

Located at 27154 N. Turkey Creek Road

Please bring your own chair and beverage.

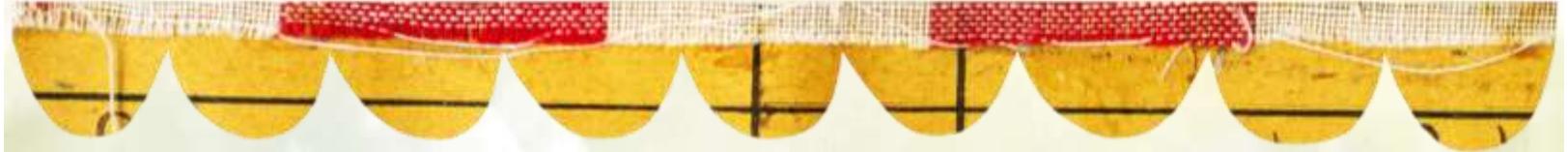
After the business meeting,
we will have a members-only plant sale.

Please bring in plants, plant divisions, seeds, bulbs, etc.
for purchase by other members.

We will also have a donation table. Please bring garden related items
for the donation table. All proceeds will be donated to EChO.

Please note that due to a lack of storage space, any item
brought for the donation table that is not taken home by
someone else, must be taken home by the donor.

There will also be a crazy garden hat contest!
The board will select a winner in each category:
'funniest', 'most unique', and most 'gardeny' hat.



**Evergreen Garden Club General Meeting
May 11, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by President, Cherie Luke at 9:15am on Zoom. Attending was Helen McLeman, Treasurer, Donna Moore, 2nd Vice President, Janice Theobald, Secretary, and Julie Ann Courim, Technology Officer and incoming board members, Janet Gluskoter, Hannah Hayes and Mary Beth Miner. A total of 18 members were on the call. Meeting adjourned at 9:48am.

President's Report Today's public garden workday was cancelled due to bad weather. Please check with the prospective garden leads to confirm the rescheduled date. Our next general meeting is June 15th in person at Aspen Ridge church parking lot and will include a plant sale and crazy hat contest. Bring your own chair and refreshments. 9:00am social and 9:30am business meeting.

If you are interested in sharing your garden this spring, summer or fall please let Cherie or Hannah know, so they can get the information out to the members.

1st Vice President's Report - A used book sale will take place at the library garden on June 26 Community Garden Day. If you have new or used gardening books to donate for this sale, please bring them to the June meeting or contact Hannah to drop them off at her home.

2nd Vice President Report - We have two new members bringing our total membership to 73. A special welcome to Anita Hanson and Velia Mitro.

Treasurer's Report - Insurance bill was paid for \$475 to State Farm Insurance

Secretary's Report - April minutes were approved by the general membership.

Technology Officer's Report - The board approved and confirmed that five yard signs will be made for the upcoming Community garden day. Julie Ann also offered to have the flyers printed in color for this event.

Public Gardens Coordinator - Annell Hoy We need more help at the Post Office and Roundabout gardens. We are asking all members who are able to please volunteer at one or more of our Public Gardens.

Garden Tour Co-Coordinator - Louise Heern reported the date for the 2022 Garden Tour is July 16. We currently have 5 gardens committed for the tour. We would still like to add a few more to the list, if anyone is willing to share their garden in 2022, please contact Louise. Barb Steger and Annell Hoy both offered to assist Louise with questions and ideas regarding the tour.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Theobald
Secretary, Evergreen Garden Club



GARDEN





A Message from
EGC Member,
Diana Aldridge



TO REGISTER visit joy.org/barefoot-mile-events and scroll down to **Mountain Community Barefoot Walk**. Once there, click on **Register Now**; scroll down to the **Leadership Board**, and you will find Blossoms.

Evergreen Garden Club member Diana Aldridge would like to form a team of gardeners (named Blossoms, of course) to walk in the Mountain Area Barefoot Mile to take place on August 21 in Marshdale. The walk is an effort to raise funds to support the global efforts of Conifer-based JOY International, an organization that fights the trafficking of children and young adults, rescuing victims and providing them safe, healing environments. Funds raised at the 15 walks nationwide also support police training, special rapid response teams, awareness campaigns, emergency relief, resources for parents, and community education. If you would like to join Diana and the Blossoms team, or find out more about JOY, please go to their website at JOY.org. If a number of gardeners join the Blossoms team, Diana will provide Blossoms t-shirts for the team to wear at the walk. There is no fee to register for the walk, but of course donations are welcome and appreciated.

Contact Diana at: aldrigediana@gmail.com

EGC Member Michelle Lewis
would like to share her
'First Ever' Tulips
she has ever grown!
You Go Girl!



10 Popular Campanula Species

A Range of Colors, Sizes, Degrees of Hardiness

Written by [David Beaujieu](#) | Published 04/29/21

[10 Popular Campanula Species \(thespruce.com\)](https://thespruce.com/10-popular-campanula-species)



Bellflowers (*Campanula*) are native to the Northern Hemisphere. While a few cultivars have golden leaves and are valued as much for their foliage as for their flowers, most are grown for their floral displays. They are generally low-maintenance (once situated in a suitable location), as long as you avoid one of the types that spread aggressively.

Available in shades of blue, lilac, pink, purple, and white, the flowers are cup-shaped, star-shaped, or bell-shaped, depending on the species and whether or not they are fully open. They are planted in spring, and bloom time is often from late spring until nearly into autumn. While the flowers are not typically large, the plants in this genus are showy due to the abundance of their blooms. There is a *Campanula* well-suited to the needs of almost any Northern gardener since the genus offers a range of sizes and growth habits: There are tall bellflowers great for border plantings, but also bellflowers that stay short and function well as ground covers, edging plants, or rock garden plants, and even more variety than that. Bellflower generally performs best in well-drained soils of a neutral pH and with an average amount of moisture. Give bellflower full sun in the North but partial shade in the South.

There are over 500 species in the *Campanula* genus. Some are annual or biennial; the well-known [Canterbury bells](#) (*Campanula medium*), for example, is a biennial. To help you decide which of these hundreds of *Campanula* are right for your garden, here are 10 [perennial](#) types that are particularly popular, both for their beauty and functionality.

Dalmatian Bellflower (*Campanula portenschlagiana*)



David Beaulieu

Because it stays relatively short, this type of *Campanula* makes a [good edging plant](#) along a walkway. It spreads via underground [rhizomes](#), so it is an effective [ground cover](#). When planted in less than ideal growing conditions, like in soil with poor drainage, it can be short-lived. The flowers are purplish or bluish; when

fully open, they are star-shaped. Grow the 'Aurea' cultivar for golden foliage. The common name is a reference to the region where the plant is native, which was formerly called "Dalmatia."

- **Native Area:** Croatia and Herzegovina
- **USDA Growing Zones:** 4 to 8
- **Height:** 3 to 6 inches
- **Sun Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

Bluebell, or "Harebell" (*Campanula rotundifolia*)



Hans Huber/Getty Images

The ground-level foliage of this popular type of *Campanula* takes the shape of a rosette. In fact, the species name of *rotundifolia* refers to its rounded basal leaves. But the overall plant is upright and can reach 20 inches tall or more. Its light blue flowers are bell-shaped and nod to the ground.

- **Native Area:** across much of the Northern Hemisphere
- **USDA Growing Zones:** 3 to 6
- **Height:** 1 to 2 feet
- **Sun Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

Editor's Note: As part of my CCC Master Gardener's Certificate, we planted a Native Test Garden in the middle of Georgetown. The garden is exposed to the elements and wildlife. The Harebells we included in this garden out-performed all the other plantings. Looks delicate, but tuff as nails.

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of 10

Creeping, or "Rampion" Bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*)



 Vadim Zhakupov/Getty Images

Although popular, you should avoid planting the rampion bellflower wherever it is considered [invasive](#) (check with your local county extension regarding its status in your area). Its long taproot makes it hard to eradicate. Like Dalmatian bellflower, it spreads via rhizomes, but it is a much taller plant.

Where it is not considered invasive, it can be admired for its lavender-blue flowers, which grow up one side of the stem. The flowers droop to form the classic bellflower "bell."

- **Native Area:** Europe and western Siberia
- **USDA Growing Zones:** 3 to 9
- **Height:** 2 to 4 feet
- **Sun Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

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of 10

Peach-Leaved Bellflower (*Campanula persicifolia*)



 Liudmyla Liudmyla/Getty Images

If you want a white bellflower, one option is the peach-leaved bellflower. It grows fast, but the trade-off is that it tends to get leggy. Some gardeners grow it in containers and grow other plants around it to hide its gangly stems. Others grow it in [a woodland garden](#), where its shade tolerance is valued. Yet another popular

use for it is in [cottage gardens](#). The flowers are usually lilac or white.

- **Native Area:** Europe, Asia
- **USDA Growing Zones:** 3 to 7
- **Height:** up to 2 feet
- **Sun Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

Spotted Bellflower (*Campanula punctata*)



 magicflute002/Getty Images

Options for a pink bellflower include another Siberian native. Spotted bellflower is an upright plant that grows in clumps. The bell-shaped flowers can be either white or pink. The blooms have purple spots inside, thus the common name. It is more sensitive to the heat of summer than many types of *Campanula*, thus the narrow range of

zones for which it is listed as a perennial. While heat gives it trouble, this type of *Campanula* is no pansy: It can spread vigorously and is too aggressive for the tastes of some gardeners.

- **Native Area:** Siberia and Japan
- **USDA Growing Zones:** 5 to 7
- **Height:** 1 to 2 feet
- **Sun Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

Editor's Note:

Despite the Zone 5 hardiness, this plant thrives and re-seeds in my garden at 8,700 feet on an East-facing exposure. It is one of my favorites and has returned every year since planted.

Although it is labeled as deer resistant, it is planted in a fenced area so hard to confirm.

Carpathian, or "Tussock" Bellflower (*Campanula carpatica*)



 skymoon13/Getty Images

Like the Dalmatian bellflower, this one gets its common name from its place of origin: the Carpathian Mountains. Its cup-shaped flowers most often come in a bluish color. To keep it thriving, provide it with mulch in summer to keep its roots cool; divide its clumps (in spring) every two years or so to revitalize it; deadhead

it to promote reblooming; and remove lower leaves that brown up as summer progresses.

- **Native Area:** Carpathian Mountains of Europe
- **USDA Growing Zones:** 3 to 8
- **Height:** up to 1 foot
- **Sun Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

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of 10

Serbian Bellflower (*Campanula poscharskyana*)



hsvrs/Getty Images

This Serbian native makes a good ground cover due to its short stature. Its lilac-blue flowers start out bell-shaped but later open to become stars. Its leaves are oval to heart-shaped. As with other bellflowers, watch out for snails and slugs, which will eat the leaves but are easily [trapped](#) or repelled.

- **Native Area:** Serbia
- **USDA Growing Zones:** 3 to 8
- **Height:** 6 to 12 inches
- **Sun Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

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of 10

Earleaf, or "Fairy Thimble" Bellflower (*Campanula cochleariifolia* 'Bavaria Blue')



Josette Taylor/Getty Images

Fairy thimble is native to mountainous regions of Europe, from the Pyrenees, through the Alps to the Carpathians. It is more tolerant of alkaline soils than are many other types of *Campanula*. It is also one of the most cold-hardy types. This mat-forming perennial stays short, so it makes a good ground cover,

including in rock gardens where the soil will be kept moderately moist. For the species, flowers can be dark blue, lavender, or white. A popular sky-blue cultivar is 'Bavaria Blue.' The species name of *cochleariifolia* refers to the shape of the tiny basal leaves, which some see as resembling little ears (thus one of the common names for the plant as well).

- **Native Area:** Alpine regions of Europe
- **USDA Growing Zones:** 2 to 9
- **Height:** Up to 6 inches
- **Sun Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

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of 10

Milky Bellflower (*Campanula lactiflora*)



Tom Meaker/Getty Images

The "milky" in this bellflower's name refers to the fact that it comes in white, in addition to pale blue (*lactiflora* is Latin for "milky flower"). This is another type of *Campanula* that dislikes hot weather, so it is not a suitable choice for the South. As a tall bellflower, it works well in the back row of a perennial

bed. If you want a shorter cultivar (suitable for the middle row of a perennial bed), grow the 'Pouffe' cultivar (1 to 1 1/2 feet tall).

- **Native Area:** The Caucasus
- **USDA Growing Zones:** 5 to 7
- **Height:** 3 to 5 feet
- **Sun Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade



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Great (Giant), or "Broad-Leaved" Bellflower (*Campanula latifolia*)



may1985/Getty Images

Not to be confused with *Campanula lactiflora*, the species name for *Campanula latifolia* is Latin for "broad-leaved." This is another one of the tallest types of bellflower, so it works well in the back row of a perennial bed. Not only its height but also its deep purplish-blue flowers make it one of the shower types of

Campanula for the landscape. But it readily re-seeds, a quality that, in some regions, may earn it the "pest" label. Check with your local extension office before planting.

- **Native Area:** Europe, the Himalayas, Siberia, western Asia
- **USDA Growing Zones:** 4 to 8
- **Height:** 3 to 4 feet
- **Sun Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

The Glorious Sunflower
Taken from Serenity in the Garden Blogspot
Submitted by Cherie Luke

The Glorious Sunflower - the Fourth Sister in a Native American Garden

May 16, 2021



In one of my earlier blog posts I wrote about the Native Americans' **Three Sisters Garden** (corn, beans and squash)

but I neglected to tell you of the Fourth Sister...a very important member of this family!



This is from Hubpages:

"Fourth Sister, didn't look anything like her other sisters, although she was as tall and as slender as First Sister (corn) . That seemed fair to all, because Third Sister and Second Sister shared similar but different features. They could climb and run, while their other two sisters were forced to stand tall and proud."

Mother Sun explained that each sister had her job and each had to benefit from and protect one another. But Fourth Sister's job was most important of all -- for she was the **guardian of the North**, planted firmly, to protect others from the robbers who soon would come.



The fourth sister was the elegant sunflower.





The Sisters are known to the Native Americans as the “mothers of life” but they all need each other to survive.

- Corn uses the nitrogen supplied by the nitrogen fixing roots of the beans and provides a place for the beans to climb.
-
- The squash suppresses weeds and keeps the soil shaded and moist.
-
- The prickly leaves of the squash provide a deterrent from four legged raiders of corn.



So, what does the Sunflower do?



The Sunflowers keep the birds from devouring the corn

Tayo Sunflower

How? Well, true sunflowers exhibit the heliotropic habit of following the sun through the day but when they are full of sunflower seeds they stay facing the east.

Thus when sunflowers are planted to the north of the garden patch, **the birds see the sunflowers first thing in the morning sun and dine on the sunflower seeds rather than the corn kernels....**



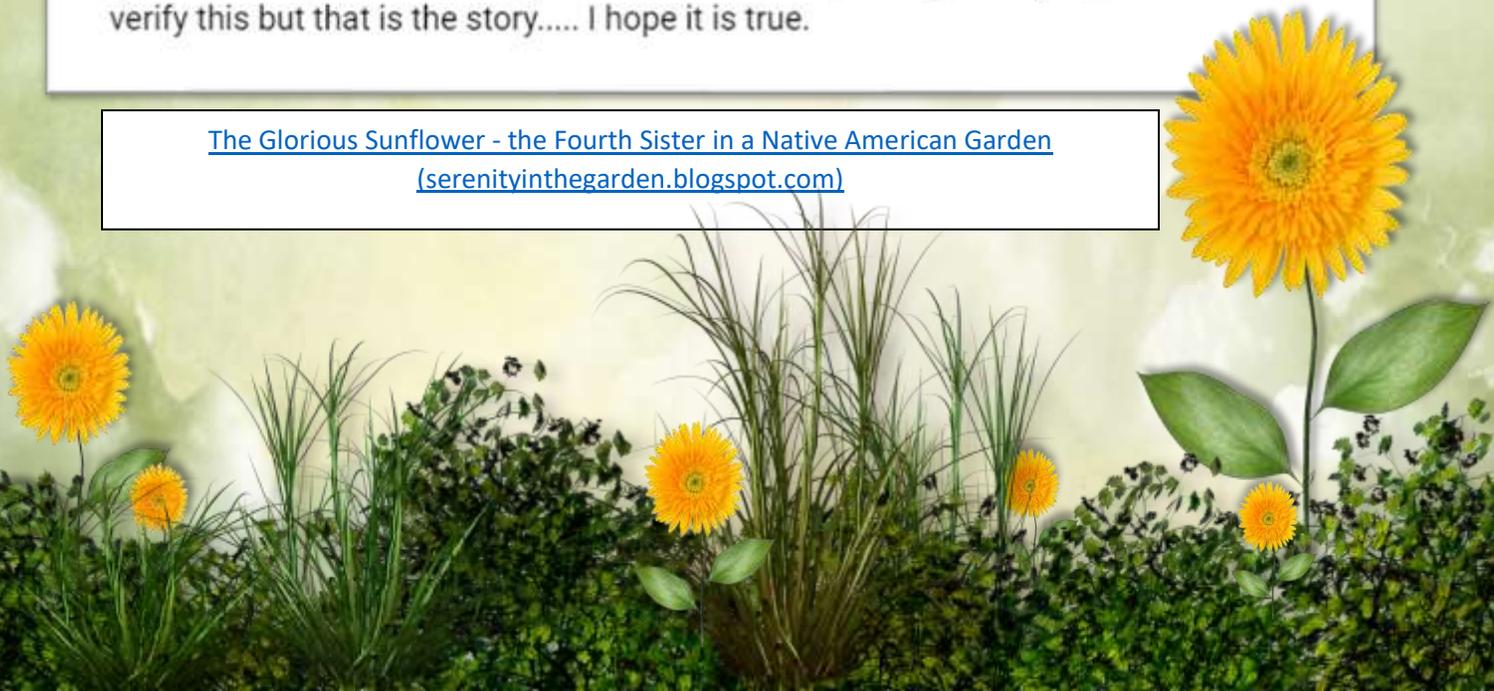
from Rainy Side Gardens

The FOUR SISTERS celebrate the harmony of nature and bring abundance to farmers and happiness to the well fed home.

By the way, the true giant sunflower is used as an emblem of the philosophy of Spiritualism.

They see the sunflower as forever looking to the light and applaud *its unique arithmetic*: supposedly each sunflower has 12 sets of leaves (months in a year) , 52 yellow petals (52 weeks in a year) and 365 seeds (365 days in a year). I cannot verify this but that is the story..... I hope it is true.

[The Glorious Sunflower - the Fourth Sister in a Native American Garden
\(serenityinthegarden.blogspot.com\)](http://serenityinthegarden.blogspot.com)



SHARE YOUR GARDEN THIS SUMMER!
If you would like to *Share your Garden* this summer, please contact Hannah Hayes at chivalater@gmail.com



*Sharing
Our
Gardens*

*Best Wishes to all
our EGC Summer
Birthday Boys &
Girls!*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**ANITA HANSON
VELIA MITRO**



GROUND COVER THYMES



Ground Cover Thymes are not only beautiful and soft to walk on, they are also the perfect way to keep the ground cool and conserve moisture. Once established, ground cover thymes also help to keep weed seeds from sprouting.

In the photo above five ground cover thymes of varying colors, textures and heights are growing in a pleasing mosaic. **Pink Lemonade Thyme** is the bright green thyme that has the shadow of the tree on it. It flows into the silvery **Woolly Thyme** near the boundary board which separates this garden from the lawn. The taller flowering **Caraway Thyme** is in the foreground to the right of the Woolly Thyme. In the back, **Heretius Thyme** is also in full bloom. If you look closely, you can see a small patch of a slightly bluer thyme in between the two flowering ones. This is the tiny **Elfin Thyme**. It is being threatened by the fast-growing **Pink Lemonade Thyme** which will probably take over both the Elfin Thyme and the Woolly Thyme in a year or so.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT GROUND COVER THYME

[Ground Cover Thymes Choosing, Preparing the Site, Planting Tips \(mountainvalleygrowers.com\)](http://mountainvalleygrowers.com)

Thymes are a blessing and a curse. A blessing because there are so many different kinds and a curse because there are so many different kinds.

Culinary Thymes are pretty easy. There aren't too many and their names are fairly descriptive, like Lemon Thyme.

It is the **Ground Cover Thymes** that tend to confuse. Most folks want to use the **Ground Cover Thymes** to cover the ground. Not much of a surprise there. But different folks have different amounts of ground to cover and different expectations of what a ground cover is. It is important to know the difference between a ground cover thyme that is appropriate for a two-inch space and one that is appropriate for a twenty-foot space. It is also necessary to understand that all ground covers are not flat and lawn like.

Faster growing thymes stuffed into a small space will disappoint with time. They will cover up stepping stones, spreading their stems onto paving searching for ground to root in. Slower growing thymes are more appropriate for small spaces like those between flagstones.

How They Grow

Just like all plants, **thyme plants** spread by growing from one set of leaves to the next. In between the leaves is a stem segment. Some thymes produce sets of leaves very close together while others are spaced further apart. Stem segments grow faster without having to produce tightly knit sets of leaves.



Therefore, a plant like this **Creeping Pink Thyme** with almost an inch of stem between its sets of leaves grows much more quickly than say a **Pink Chintz Thyme** or a **Woolly Thyme** whose leaves are very close together. This increased stem segment also provides a greater rooting zone for the thyme allowing it to spread faster. As long as the ground is moist where that stem segment hits, the plant will root and continue to creep.

Ground Cover Thymes can take light foot traffic. However, just like any plant, if the leaves are repeatedly rubbed, they will fall off and the plant will die. If you have a high traffic area, consider putting in a hardscape walkway with thymes in between.

The Big and the Small of It

Follow the links below or the link above in the title for pictures and growing details for each variety highlighted.

Slower growing thymes for in between stepping stones and flagstones include [Annie Hall](#), [Elfin Thyme](#), [Leprechaun Thyme](#), [Silver Needle Thyme](#), [Pink Chintz Thyme](#), [Mint Thyme](#), [Woolly Thyme](#), [White Moss Thyme](#) and [Highland Cream Thyme](#).

[Elfin Thyme](#) and [Leprechaun Thyme](#) are very small and very flat (about 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch tall). They are the slowest growing of this group and are the logical choices for those two inch spots. They bloom very little which help them to remain closer to the ground.

[Pink Chintz Thyme](#) , [Mint Thyme](#) and [Annie Hall Thyme](#) are slightly taller (1 to 2 inches with the flowers) but have the distinction of putting on a spectacular flowering show. Pink Chintz blooms very early in spring, followed by Mint Thyme, with Annie Hall blooming well into the summer.

[Woolly Thyme](#) and [White Moss Thyme](#) (sometimes called Creeping White Thyme) are also slower growing, very flat and do well between stones where space is cramped. **Woolly Thyme** is the most silver leaved of all the Thymes and never blooms, while White Moss Thyme is a lovely chartreuse with little white flowers in late spring.

[Highland Cream Thyme](#) is our variegated stepping stone filler. Leaves of soft cream and green make this tiny thyme a must have for brightening up dark stones. In hot summer areas, it prefers afternoon shade.

[Silver Needle Thyme](#) has the most unique leaf structure and grows flat enough to make a good flagstone filler.

Faster growing, wider spreading thymes more suitable for large spaces include [Pink Lemonade Thyme](#), [Doone Valley Thyme](#), [Goldstream Thyme](#), [Creeping Pink](#), [Caraway Thyme](#), [Lemon Frost Thyme](#), [Lavender Thyme](#), [Loveyanus Thyme](#), [Reiter's Thyme](#), [Hall's Woolly Thyme](#) and [Coconut Thyme](#).

Of these large space thymes those that are lowest and most suitable for areas that you want to look more like a lawn are **Pink Lemonade**, **Goldstream**, **Creeping Pink**, **Lemon Frost**, **Reiter's**, **Hall's Woolly** and **Coconut**.

Caraway Thyme is the fastest growing but it does have a pillowy mounding habit instead of a "looks like a lawn" habit. It can be walked on and is extremely rugged. It cascades nicely down hillsides that aren't too steep. Caraway Thyme is the only culinary Ground Cover Thyme in the bunch.

Lavender Thyme will spread like a ground cover but it does get taller and is more suitable for areas that need cover but don't get walked on too much.

Doone Valley Thyme is one of our favorite ground cover thymes but again it is a bit taller at about four inches with flowers.

Loveyanus Thyme is amazingly beautiful in large spaces. It has the largest flower of all the thymes and works well planted with other ground covers like [Erigeron](#) and [Creeping Golden Marjoram](#).

Flowers Are Fun But...

Most **Ground Cover Thymes**, but not all, bloom for about three to four weeks between mid-spring to mid-summer. **Pink Lemonade** wins the "blooms the longest" award. It waves its lovely pink blooms throughout the growing season. On the other end of the bloom spectrum is **Woolly Thyme** which does not bloom at all. (Don't confuse Woolly Thyme with Hall's Woolly Thyme which blooms profusely).

Obviously if most ground cover thymes bloom for only a short period of time it may be more important to consider the different colors of the leaves. These run from very dark green, like Goldstream and Lemon Frost, to chartreuse, like White Moss Thyme.

PREPARING THE SITE

Thyme needs a sunny (about four hours a day or more), well drained spot to grow prolifically. Too little sun will result in a leggy stem instead of a stem that hugs the ground. To prepare the area it is necessary to remove all weeds and shape the ground. Thyme will not compete with weeds and, if the ground is mounded in spots, the end result will be mounds throughout your landscape. As the thyme knits together over the ground, it will help to keep annual weed seeds from getting light causing them to die. Weeds or grasses that run underground will be a huge problem if not dealt with before planting. Ground Cover Thyme will not keep these aggressive weeds from taking over and all weeds should continue to be removed from the thyme as it grows into new areas.

If soil is amended or graded in preparation, it will need to be watered several times so the soil settles. The soil should not be fluffy or the plants will "float" when they first go into the ground.

At this point it is also necessary to determine how the plants will be watered. Thyme is very shallowly rooted and can dry out quickly, especially when the little plants are first transplanted. Thymes should remain moist but not soggy for best growth. Overhead sprinklers, drip or hand watering can be used, as long as the entire area receives water allowing the stems to root in moist soil.

Once you decide what you will use to water, then you need to decide how far apart the thymes will be planted. This is especially important if you are using a drip system. Two things to consider are economics (how much do you want to spend) and patience (how long are you willing to wait for the thyme to spread). One plant will cover everything if you wait long enough. Normally, we recommend the same spacing for plugs and pots. Flagstone Filler Thymes go in at about every 4-6 inches and Ground Cover Thymes go in about every 12 to 18 inches. The closer they are planted the faster the ground will be covered.

PLANTING AND MAINTAINING GROUND COVER THYMES

Most of our Thymes come in two sizes, a 3-inch pot and the 128-plug tray (which is 128 tiny plants in separate cells in a tray). These containers should be thoroughly watered on the day of planting. The ground should also be wet, but not soggy. Remove the plant carefully from its container. Avoid pulling on the top part of the plant and instead coax the plant from the bottom of the container so the roots are not damaged.

The hole in the ground should be just deep enough to bury the plant at the same level it was buried in in its original container. Firm the plants into their hole by gently tapping down the ground around the plant. Making good root contact with the soil around it will help the Thyme to take off faster.

Keeping plants moist, especially their root zone, after planting is extremely important. If the soil around the root ball is too dry it will wick water away from the plant causing dehydration of the root zone. It is necessary to keep the root balls moist until the roots start to grow into the soil around them. Mulching the bare ground when the Thyme is first planted helps to retain moisture and get the plants off to a successful start.

Mulching also helps to keep weeds at bay. A small particle mulch requires about a three-inch depth covering the bare soil around the new plants. The larger the mulch particles, the deeper the mulch should be. Avoid mulching right around the thyme. An airspace of about three-inches around the plant will keep it from being composted by the mulch. In six months or so, mulches may need to be reapplied as they decompose and start to show bare dirt. The idea is to keep weed seeds from getting the light they need to sprout. The photos below show how the bare ground around the Pink Lemonade Thyme was kept mulched.



Normally, **Thymes** don't require fertilizer or pruning. They may be pruned away from other plants once or twice a year. Pruning too often causes plants to produce few leaves and exposes woody stems. Low mowing is not recommended but spent flower stems could be removed by a mower set at two or three inches high or a high pass with a weed eater.



White Flowering
Lemon Frost Thyme



Rare Heretus Thyme



Ground Cover Thyme Plug Trays

These small cells of well rooted plants are ideal for planting between stepping stones. Each cell is about an inch long and 3/4 of an inch wide. There are 128 of all the same plant in each tray. Heretus Thyme is pictured.



A used book sale will take place at the Evergreen Library garden on June 26 - Community Garden Day! If you have new or used gardening books to donate for this sale, please bring them to the June meeting or contact Hannah to drop them off at her home.

chivalater@gmail.com

Watch your email for more details on
Community Garden Day!



**PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR
BUSINESS PARTNERS
THIS SUMMER!**

STEVEN PARKS GOLDSMITH &
FINE JEWELER
STEMS FLOWER SHOP
DAVID HANNA – CALDWELL BANKER
SUNDANCE GARDENS
THE VILLAGE GOURMET
THE HOLLY BERRY
THE EVERGREEN GALLERY
MICHELLE LEWIS - DIET BALANCE
JAVA GROOVE
BEAUJO'S



GArdeN

12 of the Sexiest Things to Grow in your Colorado (veggie) Garden this Summer

Article by the *Denver Post*

[The 12 sexiest things to grow in your Colorado garden this year – The Denver Post](#)



PURPLE WONDER STRAWBERRY

This hipster is not your average strawberry. It's a sweet, two-tone treat with burgundy-purple skin hiding a red heart. June-bearing plants produce early, ushering in summer with bountiful harvests. Bred by Courtney Weber at Cornell University; get it at Cook's Garden (cooksgarden.com, \$11.95 per plant).



PHOENIX NASTURTIUM

Herb and edible-flower aficionados will thrill to this new variety of *Tropaeolum minus*. Instead of conventional, rounded petals, Phoenix's flower petals are cut into three or four points, like flames. The result is a stunning display of edible beauty. Well-behaved and compact in the flower bed, this plant changes form if planted in hanging baskets and will give you trailing, floral-flamed stems. Found at Park seed (parkseed.com, \$4.95).



RUBY GLOW ROMAINE

Love your lettuce, but want to add a bit more pizzazz? Check out Ruby Glow Romaine, shown on Grow's cover. The dark purple leaves are a designer's delight, setting off lighter-colored plants or flowers in the bed. Cooks will love it, too, for its tasty, crisp leaves. Harvest it, then delight in discovering that the heart of each head is an eye-popping combination of lime green and ruby red. Great for container or mountain gardeners; order from Cook's Garden (cooksgarden.com, \$6.95).



KALIBOS CABBAGE

Another purple performer for the garden, this cabbage forms diminutive spires of mauve leaves with snow white hearts. You won't have to plan for cabbage that feeds thousands — the petite, mild-flavored, 2-pound heads are perfect for single meals. Baker Creek Heirloom seeds has them (rareseeds.com, \$3).



RAINBOW CARROTS

These carrots hit a market sweet spot for gardeners and foodies alike, wooing them with roots of yellow, orange, purple, and white. If you want to plant a rainbow, you can find a mix at FedCo (fedcoseeds.com, \$2.60) or at many other seed companies.

But for gardeners who want a carrot of a different color, get Atomic Red from Botanical Interests (botanicalinterests.com, \$2.69). Atomic Red is delicious raw, but doesn't mind the heat of the kitchen; however you cook them, the colors of their screaming red skin and orange core intensify.



PEREGION BEANS

These beans may not look like much on the vine, but out of the pod they're considered one of the most beautiful dried beans. Swirled and marbled in hues of mocha, cocoa, and white, they keep their colors through cooking for decorative dishes. Add to that their sublime flavor, and this heirloom from Oregon is worthy of a hardcore foodie's garden. Vermont Bean Seed company has them (vermontbean.com, \$2.85).



TOM THUMB PEA

Mountain gardeners will also love Tom Thumb pea, an English heirloom that's tough enough to take your fickle weather and short season. The dwarf, 8-inch-tall plant loads itself down with pods that are sweet and tender when harvested young, or let the pods swell with full-sized peas to use as a shelling pea. Plant the seeds in containers, cold frames, hoop houses, or planting beds. Find them at Seed Savers Exchange (seedsavers.org, \$2.99).



AUTUMN STAR KALETTES

Rounding out the palette of petites is Autumn Star Kalettes, an improvement on the cross between Brussels sprouts and kale. The bicolored Kalettes are best when planted in fertile soils, well-fertilized, and irrigated in dry weather. Buffer them from our intense sun and heat with shade cloth or shade in the afternoon. Harvest when florets are 2 inches in diameter. A Johnny's Selected Seeds exclusive (johnnyseeds.com, \$6.95).



GLASS GEM CORN

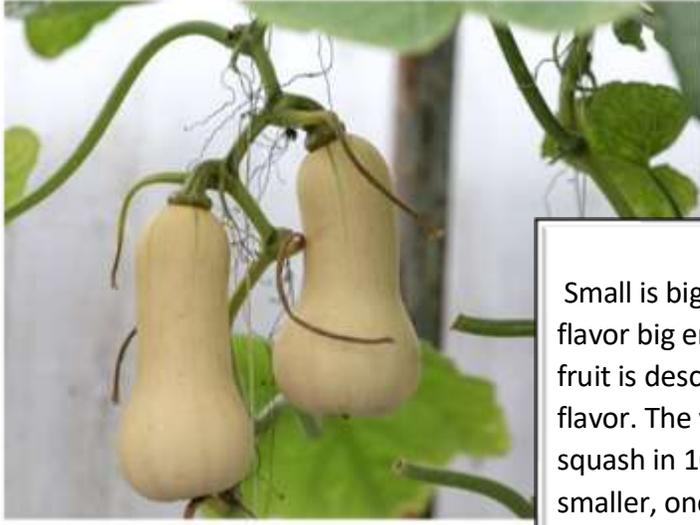
With kernels that look like dyed pearls, this corn's spectacular beauty created an Internet frenzy when it was first introduced in 2010. Ear after ear is filled with translucent, jewel-colored kernels, which can be used for popcorn, ground into flour, or left to decorate your home. This corn needs room, producing side tillers on 6-to-9-foot stalks, and takes 120 growing days. For best kernel color, harvest once the husks are dry and brown. Found exclusively at Native Seed (shop.nativeseeds.org, \$5.95).

High Altitude Favorite



CANDY MOUNTAIN CORN

This one will satisfy your sweet-corn tooth even if you live at elevation. Needing only 70 days to mature (and if you can keep the wildlife from getting it), this super-sweet variety is a summer luxury for plains or mountains. Find it at Seed's Trust (seedstrust.com, \$4.95).



BUTTERSCOTCH SQUASH

Small is big, and Butterscotch squash is a mini-butternut with flavor big enough to qualify it as an All-America Selection. The fruit is described as having an unusually rich, sweet, starchy flavor. The vines stay small, producing the one- to two-pound squash in 100 days. Spacing is the key to fruit size; if you want smaller, one-pound fruit, crowd them slightly. Use within three months of harvest because they don't store long. Johnny's Selected Seeds (johnnyseeds.com, \$4.10).

CUCAMELON, MEXICAN SOUR GHERKIN

Melothria scabra

Cucamelon, Mexican sour gherkin *Melothria scabra*, also called Mouse melon, has tiny, watermelon-like fruits sure to be a conversation piece at summer garden parties. Their cucumber flavor with a tang of sourness gives them a slightly pickled flavor without the brine. Give the 10-foot vine room to ramble and plan on picking the fruit often; the sourness intensifies as they mature. Carried by Botanical Interests (botanicalinterests.com, \$2.39).

Interested in growing your own Cucamelons? Go to:

[How to Grow Cucamelons \(Mouse Melons\)](http://practicalselfreliance.com)
(practicalselfreliance.com)



MANY OF OUR EGC COMMUNITY GARDENS CAN USE SOME HELP!

INTERESTED IN WORKING IN ONE OF THE COMMUNITY GARDENS THIS SUMMER? PLEASE CONTACT ANNELL HOY FOR DETAILS;

annell517@yahoo.com



**IF YOU FIND PEACE AND SOLITUDE WHEN WATERING A GARDEN
AND YOU CAN HANDLE A HEAVY HOSE,
WE NEED YOU AT THE POST OFFICE!**

Contact Louise Heern at louiseheern@gmail.com

Strictly watering but the hoses are heavy



EGC GARDEN TOUR JULY 16, 2022

As many of you already know, the EGC Garden Tour has been rescheduled once again and is now scheduled for July 16, 2022. We are still looking for an additional garden or two to be on the tour.

If you would like to offer your garden or know of a garden that you feel should be on the tour, please contact Louise Heern at louiseheern@gmail.com or Kathy Anderson at kathlarr@comcast.net

It takes team work for a successful Garden Tour. Please consider joining a committee to help plan and coordinate this fun and major fundraising event for the club. Contact either Co-Chair above. Thank you!!



Submitted by EGC
Member Kathy Anderson

Please send any submissions or corrections for the Wild Iris to Louise Heern at louiseheern@gmail.com
Have a wonderful summer and see you in September.
Happy Gardening!

GARDEN

