

published by the WATCH

Lawns & Gardens

JUNE 2014

When the Urge Hits: Plant a Tree!

BY JILL DEMETRE

With the arrival of summer, I can't help admiring all of the beautiful trees that are thriving here on the Western slope. We are very lucky to live in a climate that hosts such a large variety of trees that can be grown successfully.

I often hear that it is either too early or too late to plant trees, but any time is a good time to plant a tree, so long as the ground is not frozen. Planting trees when they are in their most dormant state – in early spring or late fall – can give them a slight advantage, but they will all need the same post-planting care to ensure survival. Following a regimen of deep watering periodically throughout spring, summer and fall, with occasional watering during the winter months, is very important until they are out of shock (which is determined by the trees' size and genetic build). To find out more on how to care for your new trees ask your nurseryman or landscaper.

There are many things to consider when you decide to plant new trees, but the most important thing to decide is just what you want your new tree to do for you. Do you want shade, privacy, a windbreak, or simply want color? Additionally, consider how much space you have – is there enough space for a mature tree of this variety? – as well as possible hazards, ranging from could the heavy limbs of mature tree cause damage to the house, other trees or other aspects of the landscape to

could this tree conflict with power lines, when mature? Keeping some of these ideas in mind will help you make the right selection.

Evergreen trees give the landscape winter interest, while providing birds with winter protection. If you wish to add an evergreen to color to your landscape, here are a few ideas to achieve your goal: If you do not have the space for a Colorado Blue Spruce, consider other trees in that genre such as a Hoopis Spruce or Bakeri Spruce, which tend to be narrower and not as tall. The same holds true for the opposite where you may want a larger blue spruce such as a Fat Albert, which is, as the name suggests, much fuller and rounded. Planting a "Fat Albert" can give you privacy, but also act as a windbreak while providing color year round. Other evergreen trees that thrive in this area are Pinion Pine, Austrian Pine, and Scotch pine.

There is no such thing as a maintenance free tree. Deciduous trees, trees that lose their leaves in the fall require an annual leaf pick up. Some other trees such as Globe Willows are famous for constant breakage of limbs and may be prone to borers and other pests so be prepared for the extra demands. Other favorite deciduous trees are the Hackberry, Hawthorn, Ash, Honeylocust and Sycamore trees. Aspen also do very well all over the western slope, but keep in mind

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PLANT TREES NOW – In Montrose (left), a thriving young Robinia ambigua (Purple Robe Locust) and in Ophir, a two-year-old Blue Spruce. (File photos)

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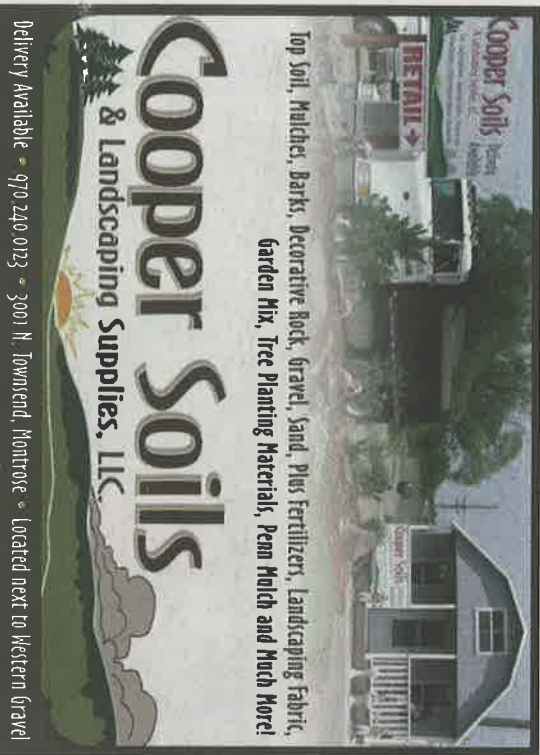
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How Green Are Your Home and Garden

Going green at home doesn't have to turn your life upside down. There are simple measures you can take in your kitchen and garden to run a planet-friendly home.

REDUCE WASTE

Ensure your kitchen is properly outfitted with labeled paper and plastic recycling bins. Keep these receptacles handy to encourage your family and guests to make use of them.

Take your waste reduction a step further by setting up a bin for food scraps, which you can add to your yard trimmings. Composting creates a natural fertilizer that's makes a planet-friendly alternative to the chemical variety.

By recycling and composting, you can join the ranks of Americans reducing the waste they send to the landfill. In fact, recycling and composting prevented 86.9 million tons of materials from being disposed in 2011 in the United States, up from 15 million tons in 1980, according to government estimates.

PROTECT WILDLIFE

You may think of your yard as "yours," but you are actually sharing the space with furry creatures, insects and birds. Habitat destruction and loss, as well other manmade and natural threats, put beautiful species like humming birds at risk. Make your garden a



GOING GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL – Recycled glass at a recycling plant in San Miguel County. (File photo)

safe haven with bird feeders and by planting native, sustainable shrubs, trees and flowers.

Unfortunately, bird-to-building collisions, particularly with windows, are estimated to kill between 100 million and 1 billion birds in the United States alone, according to a new report from the Cooper Ornithological Society.

Ensure the safety of your airborne visitors by applying static-cling decals to your windows, which helps birds detect glass, thereby avoiding injury or death. Decals from WindowAlert, for example, rely on special ultraviolet-reflecting coating that looks like etched glass to humans, but is quite visible to birds, and add a decorative appearance to your home.

The coating can fade over time, so remember to replace decals every six to nine months. More information can be found at

www.WindowAlert.com.

EAT LOCAL

Source your food locally to reduce your carbon footprint. If possible, buy local, in-season fruits and vegetables that didn't have to travel the world to reach your plate.

And while flowers are beautiful to look at – and the right ones can provide nectar for pollinating insects and birds – consider turning at least part of your garden into a space for herbs and vegetables to grow. When dinner comes from your own backyard, it means fresher produce that's good for your family, and good for the planet.

Don't just enjoy nature this season, take care of it. With a few small tweaks, it isn't hard to run your home more sustainably.

– StatePoint

Market on the Plaza Is a Summer Mainstay in MV

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE – On Thursday, June 18, Heritage Plaza will once again be teeming with white tents and when the Market on the Plaza returns to Mountain Village.

"Market on the Plaza is about promoting sustainability and supporting our regional economy," said Community Relations Manager Nichole Zangara Riley.

In its fourth year, the Market runs every Wednesday through August 13, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and offers patrons some unconventional variety. Of course the usual, and much desired, products will be available: produce, dairy,

meats and prepared snacks. But Heritage Plaza also will be dotted with less traditional vendors selling hand-painted glassware, jewelry, textiles, specialty soaps and lotions and hair pieces, among other items. In addition, the town is partnering with Wilkinson Public Library to bring more entertainment and programming to Mountain Village Center.

"The library's programming helps round out the market and gives patrons a fun dose of the unconventional," said Zangara Riley. "The market's day-time entertainment will begin July 2 and include youth activities like making Oo-

bleck, and for the July 9, July 23, August 6 market dates there will be live music performed by local artists. In addition to the entertainment, the library will have a booth setup where they will sell used books and offer library assistance such as applying for or renewing a library card and learning about other library services."

The town will accept vendor applications all summer long. For market highlights, visit facebook.com/townofmountainvillage, twitter.com/mountainvillage and pinterest.com/townofmv. Market patrons can also share their #marketfavorites with Mountain Village.



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they have a shorter life span. Flowering trees are in a category all their own. You can choose to have just one beautiful ornamental tree such as a Thun-derchild Crabapple for brilliant spring color, or you can have several flowering trees. I mentioned the 'Thunderchild' because I like the name! If you desire to have fruit you will need at least two

trees for pollination purposes. Whether they are a seed fruit such as apples and pears, or a stone fruit tree like a peach, plum or cherry you'll need at least two trees of either stone or seed varieties to promote pollination for fruit.

Trees are an important foundation of any landscape and should be given careful consideration. Planting a tree means planning for the future. Depending on the type of tree and careful planning you can have many years, if not generations of enjoyment and memories. Happy gardening!

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