

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. Please email your questions to craig@cpnmd.org.



FAT-FREE SEWERS

Fats, oils, and grease aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline – they're bad for sewers, too! Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflows is sewer pipes clogged by fats, oils and grease (FOG). FOG gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps/interceptors in restaurants, automotive industries, and other businesses.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain. To help prevent expensive sewer backups, plumbing emergencies, and public health issues, consider following this list of DO's and DON'T's:

DO: Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink.

DO: Dispose of large amounts of FOG, by mixing clay cat litter, a little at a time, with the FOG. When all FOG has been absorbed, pour the cat litter into a trash bag, seal it, and discard in the trash.

DO: Recycle used cooking oil, or properly dispose of it by pouring it into a sealable container, allow it to solidify, and then discard in the trash.

DO: Wipe grease from pots, pans, and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them.



DON'T: Use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or clean grease from dishes. When they are washed, the grease will go to the sewer.

DON'T: Put grease or greasy food into the garbage disposal.

DON'T: Use hot water to rinse FOG from the dishes, pots, and pans. As the water cools, the FOG will solidify and clog your pipes.

DON'T: Rely on commercial additives in detergents to dissolve grease. They only pass it down the line where it causes problems in other areas.

XERIC PLANT OF THE MONTH



Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk') grows 20 to 25 feet tall with a spread of 15 to 20 feet. Extremely fragrant, creamy white blooms appear in early summer, much later than traditional lilacs. Trees bloom at a young age and are compact with a dense, rounded form. Bark and stems are a glossy reddish-brown, similar to cherry tree bark. This tree adapts well to difficult or urban sites, and is an excellent choice as a specimen tree, in group plantings as a screen, or as a street tree. A 1997 Urban Tree of the Year as selected by the Society of Municipal Arborists, it has a moderate rate of growth and is hardy to 8,500 feet. With very few insect or disease problems, and its adaptability to poor, compacted or dry soils, it has a reputation as being the most trouble-free of all lilacs.

Board Update

Parker Water & Sanitation District (PWSD) on track for January 3rd Inclusion! The voter-approved Inclusion has progressed as planned and PWSD will officially assume ownership responsibilities and operational control of our water and wastewater utilities, infrastructure, and services. To be clear, this only includes the water and sanitary sewer. Director David McEntire expressed his thanks to everyone involved, "On behalf of the Board, I want to thank the PWSD as well as the CPNMD staff for making this effort go so smoothly. The voters expect no less and we are happy to be able to deliver this to them on time."

Castle Pines Clean-up Day was a huge success! On Saturday, September 25, 2021, close to 100 people joined together to clean up our city. Thank you to everyone who participated and a special thank you to Boy Scout Troop 316 and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Castle Pines, and Lone Tree Wards, for joining us in this important effort. We filled eighty-seven bags of trash collected from our parks and main thoroughfares.



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