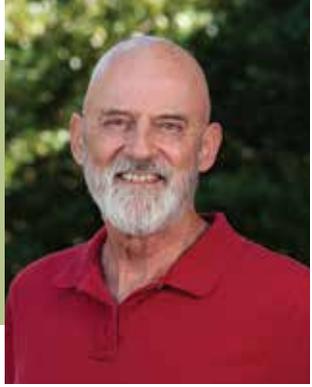


# CASTLE PINES NORTH

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.



### Why Hire an ISA Certified Arborist?

You wouldn't hire an auto mechanic to pull a tooth, so why would you hire a landscaper to care for your trees? Those of us who are arborists believe the best tree care services come from the most qualified professionals. That's why we believe in ISA Certification.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification program ensures arborists are trained in all aspects of arboriculture. If you hire an ISA Certified Arborist, it means they meet the standards of having at least three years of full-time, hands-on tree care experience and/or have a degree in the field of arboriculture, horticulture, or forestry from a regionally accredited educational institute. Certified Arborists must also continue their education to maintain their certification and adhere to a Code of Ethics. Therefore, they are more likely to be up to date on the latest techniques in arboriculture.

Becoming an ISA Certified Arborist is a voluntary process through which individuals can demonstrate the knowledge and competence required to provide proper tree care. ISA Certification is not government-sponsored or government-endorsed; it is administered by the International Society of Arboriculture as a way for tree care professionals to demonstrate their commitment to the profession and the industry.

Hiring an arborist is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Well-cared-for trees are attractive and can add considerable value to your property. Poorly maintained trees can be a significant liability. Pruning or removing trees, especially large trees, can be dangerous work. Have your trees maintained by someone that really knows them — call an ISA Certified Arborist.

### Xeric Plant of the Month

Snow-in-Summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*) is a very useful groundcover perennial, often grown in dry, sunny areas with poor soil. Hardy to 10,000 feet in elevation, plants form a low, fast spreading mat of silvery grey leaves, studded with bright-white, fragrant star shaped flowers in April and May. An indestructible and very drought tolerant choice for difficult sites, it is beautiful spilling over rock walls or planted on steep sunny slopes, and grows well in tubs or mixed containers.

This plant also makes a great replacement for traditional turf-grass, but only tolerates very light foot traffic, so be sure to use it in passive areas of your yard. Easily divided in spring or fall, plants should be sheared or mowed to remove the faded flowers after bloom, which will produce a tidy mat of fuzzy leaves for the remainder of the growing season.

This hardy plant thrives in full sun to light shade, and prefers a well-drained sandy to loamy soil. Snow-in-Summer holds its silver-gray color throughout the winter, and is deer and rabbit resistant. It grows 4 to 8 inches tall with a spread of 2 to 3 feet. For quick coverage, space plants 10 to 12 inches apart.

Craig Miller can be reached at [craig@cpnmd.org](mailto:craig@cpnmd.org) and 303-688-8550.



**BOARD UPDATE:** Recent vandalism of recreational facilities under our stewardship, prompts us to offer a **\$1,000 REWARD** for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone graffitiing, vandalizing, or destroying CPNMD equipment or facilities. To file a report and/or upload identity-revealing photo documentation (via JPG) of such crimes in progress, simply click the **\$1,000 REWARD** logo/link at the bottom center of our website homepage at [www.cpnmd.org](http://www.cpnmd.org) and complete the online form. If possible, please include in your report the names and home address of perpetrators and their accomplices. Our staff will take it from there. Whether or not you witness vandalism in progress, if and when you encounter evidence of new vandalism or destruction of CPNMD equipment or facilities, please contact us or complete the above-referenced online form, so we are aware of the problem and can complete the necessary repairs. Separately, per the commitment we made to all constituents late last year, our contractor has uniformly stained (with two coats) the entire north-facing length of the fence located on the south side of Castle Pines Parkway between Shoreham Drive & Yorkshire Drive.



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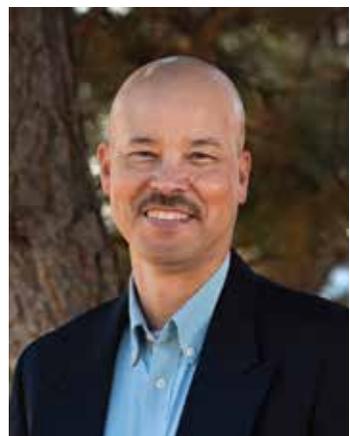
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