



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.



### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STORMWATER AND WASTEWATER?

If you are like most people, only a small percentage of the treated water that comes into your home is actually used as "drinking water." The majority of most household water usage goes into things such as watering the lawn or rinsing off the driveway (which ends up in the storm drain system), or for washing clothes, dishes and flushing toilets (which pipes back to a wastewater treatment plant).

Basically, stormwater is rainwater, snowmelt, or even water from a garden hose, car wash or lawn irrigation system that runs off of a surface (like driveways,



parking lots, lawns or rooftops) and goes into a gutter, ditch, or roadside drain, and ultimately into the storm drain system.

Stormwater doesn't get filtered or treated. It flows directly from your yard or driveway into our creeks, rivers, and lakes. That's why it's so **important** not to wash chemicals, fertilizers or toxic waste into the storm drain systems. You can learn more by visiting [www.OneThingsClear.org](http://www.OneThingsClear.org).

Wastewater (sanitary sewer) is the water that leaves your home by being flushed down toilets, rinsed down sinks, and flowing down indoor drains that is piped to the wastewater treatment plant. This water is then treated and released for reuse.

### XERIC PLANT OF THE MONTH



Paprika Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium 'Paprika'*) is one of the most colorful of the hybrid yarrows. It is well known for its large clusters of bright red flowers. Each individual flower in the cluster also has a distinctive yellow eye, making this a real stunner in the garden. As is the case with all yarrows, the blooms fade as they age, going from red to pink.

The fern-like deep green foliage also adds to this plant's charm. Paprika Yarrow is everblooming with regular deadheading and prefers a well-drained soil in full sun. Once established, it is drought tolerant. Good companion plants are yellow Coreopsis and blue Salvias. Growing to 18-24" in height, with a spread of 12-18", this deer-resistant plant is also attractive to butterflies. Hardy to 9,000 feet.

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

### Look for a special packet from us in your mailbox...

**Board Update:** Two and a half years of diligent work and good-faith negotiations with our neighbor to the east, the Parker Water & Sanitation District (PWSD), will climax in a May 2021 election on our proposed Inclusion (merger) of CPNMD's water & wastewater utilities with those of PWSD. An Inclusion synopsis is available on our website homepage at [cpnmd.org](http://cpnmd.org), and should arrive in your mailbox any day. The proposed Inclusion delivers more renewable water at less cost than offered in the voter-rejected ballot measures of 2016 and 2018. If CPNMD voters approve the proposed Inclusion, the vast majority of CPNMD's customers would enjoy **lower monthly bills & property taxes** — all in the context of PWSD's existing comprehensive renewable water plan. 🌿 On Monday, February 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom, we will host a special board meeting during which PWSD representatives will join us in presenting the proposed Inclusion. Immediately following the presentation, we will host a public comment period. We urge residents to watch the proceedings via live video stream from our website homepage at [cpnmd.org](http://cpnmd.org) or subsequently watch the archived video recording at [cpnmd.org/board-meetings](http://cpnmd.org/board-meetings). 🌿 To avoid the possibility of hundreds of residents attempting to address us for three minutes each during the public comment period, **we respectfully ask residents to share their Inclusion-related comments and questions in advance**. To do so, please click on the **E-MAIL US @** icon in the upper right of our website homepage at [cpnmd.org](http://cpnmd.org) and complete the online form. We will respond to each inquiry as quickly and substantively as possible. Residents who wish to address the board during the public comment period will need to complete the online Zoom registration form at [cpnmd.org/cpnmd-zoom-meeting-sign-up](http://cpnmd.org/cpnmd-zoom-meeting-sign-up) before 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 8, 2021; staff will email you a Zoom link and passcode that afternoon.



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