

GARDENING RESOURCES

INFORMATION/CLASSES/LITERATURE

El Paso County Extension/CSU

<https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu>

17 N Spruce St Colorado Springs, Co 80905

719-520-7690 M-F 8-12, 1-5

Offers low cost or free classes in gardening, canning, and other related topics

Master Gardener Helpdesk(located in County Extension Bldg)

Email: CSUmg2@elpasoco.com

In person helpdesk May-Sept M & W 9-12, 1-4

719-520-7684

Soil Testing

<https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu/soil-test-kits>

Soil, Water, and Plant testing lab

4780 National Western Dr Denver, Co 80216

970-491-5061 M-F 9-4

Phelan Gardens

www.phelangardens.com

4955 Austin Bluffs Pkwy 80918

719-574-8058

Website is an excellent source for tips and upcoming classes

The Shire at Old Ranch is owned by the Phelan family and will be offering gardening and livestock seminars from raised planter box building to cooking your harvest, hopefully in 2025

Ricks Garden Center

www.ricksgarden.com

1827 W. Uintah St 80904

719-632-8491 Call for seasonal hours

Website has a blog and other gardening resources

Don's Garden Shop

www.donsgardenshop.com

6001 E Platte Ave 80915

719-591-1040 Call for seasonal hours

Website has 'tips and tricks' along with 'how to' videos

Larry Stebbins, aka The Garden Father

www.thegardenfather.com

Site for garden blog, podcasts, and he has a book you can download full of wonderful information on area gardening.

GARDENING SUPPLIES

Raised Bed Construction

Home Depot, Lowes for lumber and PVC pipe and fittings for hoop beds

Big R Monument for Cattle Panels, used as hoops or trellis

840 Spanish Bit Dr

719-488-0000

Compost, Soil Mixes, Mulch, Hail Netting

Black Forest Slash: Seasonal from May-Sept, see website for hours, no delivery, pick up only

www.bfslash.org

Pioneer Landscape Center—Black Forest: Mulches, planting mixes, compost

8335 Vollmer Rd 80908

719-495-8858 Call for seasonal hours, will deliver

Don's Garden Shop: compost, soil mixes, mulch, plant food, fertilizer

719-591-1040 Will Deliver

Rick's Garden Center: compost, soil mixes, plant food, fertilizer, hail netting by the linear foot

719-632-8491 Delivery available

Phelan Gardens: compost, soil mixes, plant food, fertilizer, hail netting by the linear foot

719-574-8058 Delivery available

TRIED AND TRUE ORGANIC, NON-GMO SEED SOURCES

Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company: heirloom and open pollinated varieties with high germination rate, short season and cold weather varieties available

<https://rareseeds.com>

Penn & Cord's Garden/Miss Penn's Mountain Seeds: Colorado company, short season, mountain adapted, non-GMO seeds

www.pennandcordsgarden.com

TomatoFest: good source for short-season and high altitude tomato seeds

www.tomatofest.com

Botanical Interests: Colorado company, results vary in Black Forest, good source of herbs and flowers as well as vegetables, many found at area nurseries and Lowes

www.botanicalinterests.com

Seed Savers Exchange: heirloom and open pollinated seed, short season and cold weather varieties available

www.seedsavers.org

PLANTS AND SEEDS WHICH DO WELL IN BLACK FOREST: Look for Under 90 Days to Harvest

Vegetables

Brassicas: Broccoli, Kale, Cauliflower, Bok Choy, Cabbage, Brussels Sprouts, Turnips, Collard Greens, Radish, Horseradish

Curcubits: Summer Squash, Cucumber, Zucchini, Winter Squash, Pumpkin. Melon varieties which mature in under 90 days

Nightshade: Eggplant, Peppers, Potatoes, Tomatoes, Tomatillos, Sorrel, Ground Cherries

Onion family: Onions, Shallots, Garlic, Leeks, Chives. Asparagus does grow here, but requires heavy mulching to overwinter

Carrot family: Carrots, Parsnips, Celery, Celeriac

Lettuce: Romaine, Bibb, Butter, Arugula, Red Leaf, Green Leaf, Iceberg, Spring Mix, Watercress, Collard Greens, Turnip Greens, Mustard Greens

Beet family: Beets, Swiss Chard, Spinach, Quinoa, Amaranth

Legumes: Peas, Lentils, Chickpeas, Runner Beans/Dry Beans, Green Beans, Wax Beans.

Blackeye/Cowpeas are difficult to grow as they need more heat and longer growing season

Herbs: most are annuals outdoors, but do well brought inside in pots

Cilantro

Parsley (self seeds, deep root)

Mint family: Mint, Lemon Balm(a little mulch will bring it back year after year), Sage, Rosemary, Marjoram, Hyssop, Thyme, Basil, Oregano, Savory, Bee Balm(will overwinter without mulch)

Dill(self seeds)

Lavender

Borage