

Pueblo County Extension Agriculture Tribune



The Quarterly Pueblo County Extension Ag Newsletter



Greek Yogurt Pops

Ingredients

- 2 cups Vanilla Greek Yogurt
- 2 tbsp Dark Brown Sugar
- ½ tsp Fresh Ground Cinnamon,
- 2 tbsp Colorado Wildflower Honey
- 1 cup Fresh Banana Chunks
- 1 cup Fresh Strawberries, Chunks cleaned, topped and chopped

Instructions

1. Wash fruit and prepare as shown above
2. Add to your blender as follows
 - Yogurt
 - Sugar
 - Cinnamon
 - Honey
 - Bananas
 - Strawberries
3. Pulse until chopped and mixed
 - Or Blend until fully smooth
4. Using silicone popsicle molds (washed, sanitized and dried before use)
5. Divide the mix into the 10 silicone molds
6. Add sticks or reusable tops
7. Cover and freeze for 12 hours or overnight
8. Flex the silicone to unmold the pops and enjoy
9. For even faster eating fun... let them temper (soften) for 2-3 minutes and then enjoy

Recipe source: Colorado Proud
<https://www.coloradoproud.com/resources/featured-recipes/greek-yogurt-pops/>

Meet the Ag Team!

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Scan to access the digital
version of this newsletter.



Look inside
to view our
highlighted
community
partners!





Certified Seed

By: Kristi Bartolo, Agronomy Agent, Pueblo County

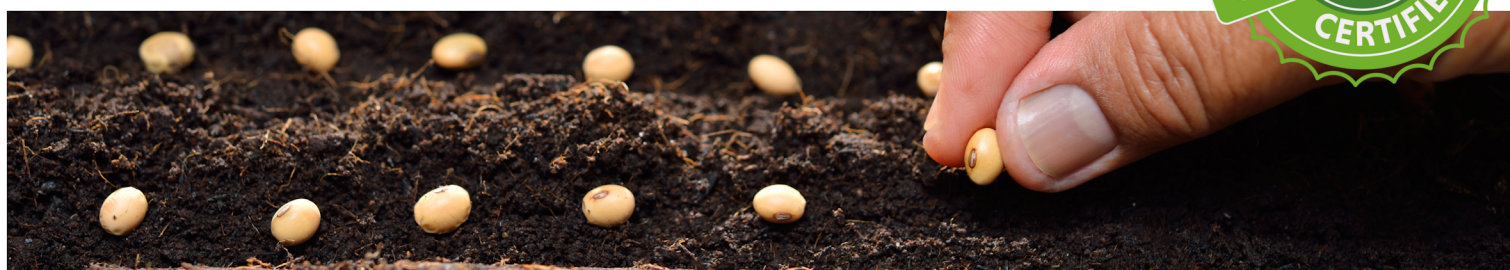


Often it is easy to overlook the complexity of a little seed. It is well known that seeds go in the ground and plants come up, providing a crop to consume or sell. There is a dedicated team however, who take no little seed lightly. The Colorado Seed Growers Association is the headquarters for certifying seed. Certified seed is seed that has been rigorously grown and tested for purity (both genetic and from weed seed contamination). Comparatively, livestock are often bred for certain genetics and purity of breed, allowing certain pedigrees to be awarded. Seed, though on a smaller scale can be "awarded" a pedigree as well.

The process of certifying seed usually begins with the seed breeder. Breeders are looking for quality traits in plants like disease resistance and high yield. Seed from the plants that display these desirable traits is saved and that line is continually worked to stabilize the genetics and to ensure that the plant grows exactly the same with the desired traits every time it is planted. This process can take up to ten years and this seed is called "Breeder" seed. Once enough Breeder seed has been grown (quantities available to commercial growers), the seed is considered "Foundation" or "Registered" seed. This seed can be purchased through the Foundation Seed Project at Colorado State University (CSU) or from dealers in the Colorado Certified Seed Directory. After obtaining Foundation or Registered Seed, a farmer can begin the certification process. This includes submitting an application to the Colorado Seed Growers Association and keeping track of all labeling and tags for the seed. It is critical to use thoroughly cleaned equipment for planting, harvesting and storing seed and to plant in "clean" fields. Clean fields are relatively weed free and have not had any other varieties of the same seed type [i.e. "Langin" variety wheat previously planted when "Monarch" variety wheat is going to be planted for certification in the same field] for at least the last two years. The field should be relatively isolated from similar types of crops to ensure genetic purity remains consistent. A field inspection must be scheduled through the Seed Growers Association or other eligible entity prior to harvest and once the seed has been harvested, it must be conditioned (cleaned and debris removed). A sample of the seed must be submitted for testing to determine if it meets purity standards and proper germination rates. Once all of the tests and inspections have been completed and the seed passes, a Certification Certificate will be issued and the farmer can begin selling their seed as "Certified".

The process of certifying seed can be somewhat arduous but the quality of the seed produced and the profitability has potential to outweigh the cost. Most certified seed is grown among commercial and larger operations but smaller farms are encouraged to try growing certified seed as well. It seems that certified seed is limited to grains and dry beans there is ample opportunity to certify seed of other crops including vegetables. For more information on how to become a Certified Seed Grower or for general questions contact the Colorado Seed Growers Association (970) 491-6202 or the Extension Office (719) 583-6566.

-Information obtained from CSU Fact Sheet No. 0.302: B. Erker and M.A. Brick, Revised by H. Schwartz-
great season!





2023 Pueblo County Fair



By: Beth De Lair, Ag & Natural Resources Coordinator

The 2023 Pueblo County Fair is steaming right ahead for the month of the July with this year's theme being the Sweetest Fair! The fair will start Friday, July 14th and conclude on Sunday, July 23rd at the Colorado State Fairgrounds. The public is welcome to attend any and all events such as watching the local youth compete in their 4-H and FFA competitions, watch the Pueblo County Stockmen's Association Ranch Rodeo, attend a Cody Cozz concert and so much more! A great perk of this fair compared to the State Fair is there is no general admission fee to enter! Feel free to drive right into the fairgrounds and take in all the activities. The public is encouraged to participate in this fair by entering the Pueblo County Fair Open Class Competition. No entry fee or pre-fair entry fee is required. This event will take place on Sunday, July 16th and includes categories such as baked goods, canned goods, quilting, needle arts, leathercraft, photography, horticulture, and woodworking. This is a great opportunity for anyone in Pueblo to show off their skills in a variety of ways and earn some well-earned recognition!

The Pueblo County 4-H horse show kicks off on Friday, July 14th with the gymkhana events starting at 6:00 p.m. in the horse show arena at the Colorado State Fairgrounds. Unsure what this consists of? Come on out and check it out! You'll get to see the youth of people competing in events such as barrel racing, pole bending and a few other events. Saturday, July 15th you can enjoy the foal and green horse show along with the ranch horse show again in the horse arena. This day will also consist of the 2023 Heart of the Rockies Texas Longhorn Show. A truly unique experience that we really encourage everyone to attend. This will take place at 10:00 a.m. in the Livestock Pavilion at the Colorado State Fairgrounds.



TSunday, July 16th has the remainder of the horse show components that include the English, Western, and Miniature divisions. From 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. is when the community open class exhibit check in will take place in the Events Center. Judging will take place the same day from 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The judging will be open to the public.

The week following these activities brings in all the livestock shows. Other fun public events during this time include the Water Park event being hosted by the Pueblo Fire Department, the Saddle up for St. Jude horse show, Animal Costume Contest, Family Barn Dance, Family Corn Hole Tournament, and so much more. For a full list of activities including time and location check the full schedule here:

<https://www.pueblocountyfair.com/2023schedule>

Last but not least, be sure to mark Friday, July 21st in your calendars to stop by and visit with the Pueblo Ag team at our booth that will be there all day during the events of the Friday Family Fun Day. We'd love to chat with you and get you signed up for our fall classes and events. We look forward to seeing you at the Sweetest Fair of the 2023 season!



From the Ant Hill

By: Kristi Bartolo, Agronomy Agent, Pueblo County

As I was walking behind the baler the other evening I noticed quite a few bare patches. This seemed odd with all of the rain we had been getting, and the rest of the hay field looked great. On closer inspection however, I found the bare patches to be ant hills; the mean red ants to be specific. Rolling over them with the tractor disturbed the nest and a swarm of ants surfaced, angrily crawling about attempting to rebuild what was ruined.

The ants who have set up shop in the hay field are Harvester Ants. And they are most likely there because of the abundance of food and moisture. There are a few species of harvester ant who natively live in Colorado; the Western Harvester and Rough Harvester. Each summer new colonies are formed and establish their own territories. They tend to feed mostly on seeds, gathering and breaking them open with their powerful jaws, and they will occasionally find dead insects to bring back to the colony nest. These ants generally have a long lifespan with single colonies lasting 15 to 20 years after good establishment.

As the colony grows, the ants expand their nests above and below ground. The tunnel system they create can go as deep as six feet and often just as wide. The pesky part about their nest expansion is that they cut away any vegetation around the nest which reduces shade and helps to warm the upper levels of the nest where the larvae are growing and developing. Some other ant species exterminate the vegetation by not only clearing it away but also killing it completely with a formic acid sting into the cut plant. Depending on the infestation, ants can cause some crop loss but well managed they can also be helpful by opening up pore space in the soil and bringing oxygen down to the roots. They can also act like mini-tilling machines bringing soil to the surface and organic matter below ground.

Next time you are outside or happen to be passing by a field, stop and check out the ants but be careful not to get stung!

A Wet Pueblo - Co Drought Free Since 7/6/2019

By: Beth De Lair, Ag & Natural Resources Coordinator

With the amount of moisture Pueblo has been receiving lately we are officially out of a measurable drought for the first time since 2019. In April of this year, our 133 year old precipitation record was broken when we received 1.4 inches of rain, which was more than double the previous record of 0.68 inches that was set on April 25, 1890. The rain has been more than abundant this year which creates both unique advantages and challenges for our community. This year we expect to see an increase in unwanted plants (weeds), insect populations are booming, and fungi populations are growing at abnormal rates due to the level of humidity and ground moisture we are currently experiencing. Not only that, but with both the Arkansas River and the Fountain Creek rising and falling from flash flooding, our soil has seen a lot of erosion in a short amount of time due to the water quickly overcoming the banks of the normally lower flowing rivers.



With all this water, it is wise to be careful near areas where the ground seems unstable, the rivers have escaped their banks, and where the weeds are waist high or taller. These can all lead to unsafe conditions that should be avoided as much as possible. Seeing uncommon issues in your lawns due to this rain? Such as new mushrooms, discolored grass, and even odd fungus patches? CSU Extension is here to help! We have plenty of fact sheets and tips on how to get your lawn in tip-top shape this year despite all of the water we keep receiving. For direct information on all these items feel free to contact us at 719-583-6566 and we'd be happy to help. We enjoy the wet while it's here but we sure do miss our true blue Pueblo sunshine. Here's to a unique year that will go down in weather history.



Pueblo Fresh Produce

By: Beth De Lair, Ag & Natural Resources Coordinator

It's that time of year when our farms are working hard to provide our community with fresh delicious food. Now is your opportunity to take advantage of the bounty of local produce. A great place to start is the Pueblo Farmers Market. These markets are on Fridays at Mineral Palace Park behind the pool from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Saturdays at the Pueblo Mall in the JC Penny's parking lot from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All vendors accept cash, and some accept credit/debit. Wanting options that extend outside of these two dates? The farm stands out to the East of Pueblo have weekly hours with a variety of produce to fit all your nutritional needs. For a more comprehensive list of all the farm stands in Pueblo and Colorado be sure to check out the [Southern Colorado Local Food Guide](#) by Palmer Land Conservancy) and the [2023 Colorado Farm Fresh Directory](#) from the Colorado Department of Agriculture

Musso Farms

35779 Hillside Road, Pueblo, CO

Phone: 719-948-3581

Items include but aren't limited to: home grown green beans, baby potatoes, garlic and so much more!

Mauro Farm

936 36th Lane, Pueblo, CO

Phone: 719-948-3381

Items include but aren't limited to: tamales, cookies, fresh fruit, popcorn balls and more!

DiSanti Farm

29114 South Road, Pueblo, CO

Phone: 719-948-2526

Items include but aren't limited to: sweet peas, strawberries, blueberries, radish, green onions, zucchini, yellow squash and so much more!

Milberger Farms at Peppe's

28570 East 50, Pueblo, CO

Phone: 719-948-3305

Items include but aren't limited to: okra, grilling onions, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes, beets and so much more!



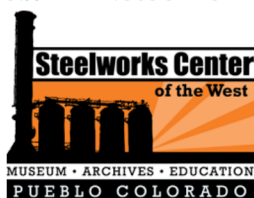
Community Partner Highlights

Steel Workers Museum

The Steelworks Center of the West provides continuing education to the public through the preservation of historic archives, artifacts, and buildings of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I), and related activities leading to the industrialization of the entire Western United States. The Steelworks Museum is housed in the former CF&I Medical Dispensary, built in 1901. The museum features exhibits related to all facets of CF&I and related industries' impacts on the American West. The CSU Extension Southeastern Regional Meeting group listened to a presentation and toured the museum as part of the historical offerings at the meeting.

Website:

<https://www.steelworks.us/>



Center for American Values

The Center for American Values' organizational mission is based on the need for a national initiative to identify, document, and disseminate information about individuals, groups and organizations whose character attributes relate directly to the values this great country was founded on. The Center's purpose is to connect with individuals and organizations at all socio-economic levels through various programs including: HIP Educational Outreach, Portraits of Valor Exhibit, On Values Speaker Series, and American Values Narratives Project. The CSU Extension Southeastern Regional Meeting group took a tour of the facility and learned about the Pueblo Medal of Honor Recipients and took the "Walk of Valor" as part of the local educational offerings at the meeting.

Website:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/>



Upcoming Events

July Dates

- July 15-22, 2023
 - Pueblo County Fair
- July 19, 2023
 - Liquid Lecture
- July 29, 2023
 - Farm Tour & Ice Cream Making

August Dates

- August 12, 2023
 - Backyard Grower's Market
- August 12, 2023
 - CSU Spur Pueblo Chile Day
- August 19, 2023
 - Produce Tour
- Aug 26 - Sep 4, 2023
 - Colorado State Fair

September Dates

- September 9, 2023
 - Bike the Bessemer
- September 22-24, 2023
 - Chile and Frijoles Festival
- September 30, 2023
 - Creek Week

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



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PUEBLO COUNTY
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Full statements are available at: <https://col.st/II0t3>