

Pueblo County Extension Agriculture Tribune



The Quarterly Pueblo County Extension Ag Newsletter



Pasta Primavera

Ingredients

- 10 ounces penne pasta
- 2 tbs. extra virgin olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, sliced
- 1 yellow squash, sliced
- 1 zucchini, sliced
- 1 bunch asparagus, chopped
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup thinly sliced red onion
- ½ cup frozen peas, thawed
- ¾ cup grated pecorino cheese
- 3 tbs. fresh lemon juice
- Red pepper flakes
- 1 c. fresh basil leaves, optional
- ¼ cup fresh tarragon, optional
- Salt and Pepper to taste

Instructions

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Prepare the pasta according to the package instructions, cooking until al dente. Drain and toss with a drizzle of olive oil to prevent sticking.
2. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic, squash, zucchini, asparagus, tomatoes, onion, salt, and several grinds of pepper and sauté for 3 to 4 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender.
3. Add the pasta, peas, cheese, lemon juice, and a pinch of red pepper flakes and toss to combine. Stir in the basil and tarragon, if using.
4. Season to taste, garnish with more basil, and serve.

Recipe adapted from [Loveandlemons.com](https://www.loveandlemons.com/pasta-primavera/#wprm-recipe-container-6397)
<https://www.loveandlemons.com/pasta-primavera/#wprm-recipe-container-6397>



Meet the Ag Team!

Kristi Bartolo - Agronomy Specialist

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Beth Hayes - Agriculture & Natural Resource Coordinator

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Scan to access the digital version of this newsletter.

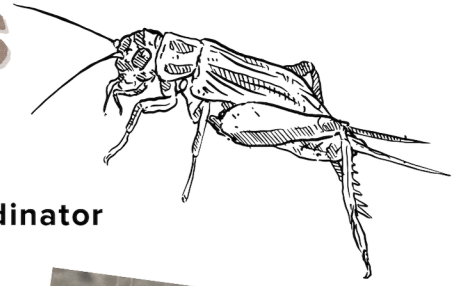


Look inside to view our highlighted community partners!





GRASSHOPPERS AND YOU



By: Beth Hayes, Ag & Natural Resources Coordinator

Grasshoppers in Pueblo were a pretty extreme problem last year for most folks and the data this year is indicating there will likely be another heavy grasshopper population year. This is due to many variable factors that mainly have to do with soil conditions and overall climate during the grasshoppers spring hatching season and the egg pods overwintering.

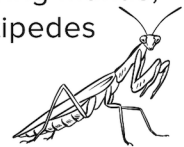
Grasshoppers love dry soil, warm temperatures, and lots of vegetation to eat. The last few years our area has been extremely dry and warming up earlier than normal. Not to mention the amount of precipitation we received last year exploded our plant life which of course allowed for plenty of diet options for insects. With grasshoppers only living annually, the adults lay eggs in the soil or in shady piled up areas with a bunch of leaves and dead trees. If the winter is not cold enough or long enough, the eggs to stay protected, and a whole new season of tiny terrors are born.

To handle them in the spring and the fall we recommend the following steps. To learn more about Colorado grasshopper management feel free to scan the QR code for our fact sheet or check out our helpful YouTube webinar on grasshopper management. You can also email or call Beth Hayes the agricultural and natural resource coordinator for Pueblo at 719-251-0245 or email at delairb@pueblocounty.us



Spring Tips:

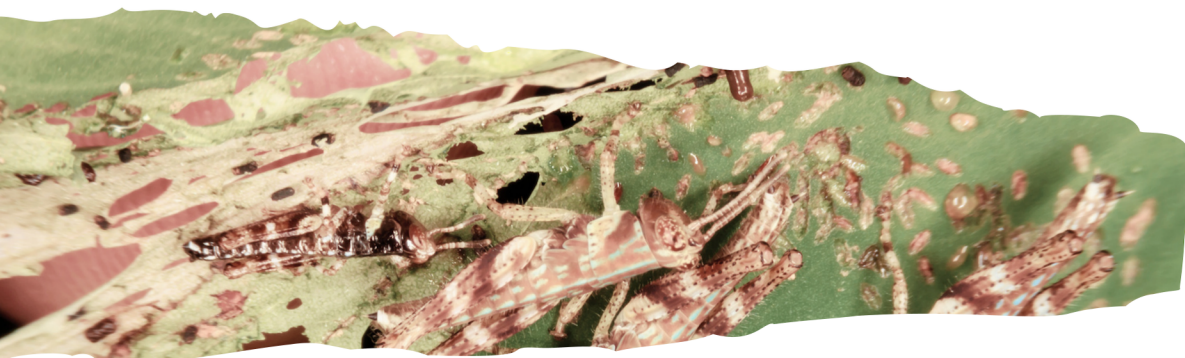
- Watch for new immature grasshoppers to emerge and do a threshold count using the “stop, look, count” method.
- Identify what species you have so you can plan for a management strategy.
- Use proper integrated pest management techniques to encourage beneficial insects to live in your yard, such as praying mantis, dragonflies, robber flies, centipedes



Fall Tips:

- Disturb the ground with a rake or your hands in an inch or less of soil to expose egg pods in September-October.
- Allow poultry birds to disturb your ground during winter.
- Move or flip leaf litter piles to expose potential egg pod areas.

CSU Extension Grasshopper Fact Sheet:

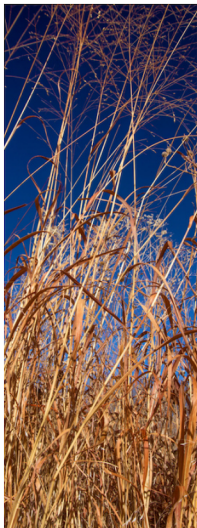


Cool and Warm Season Grasses

by Kristi Bartolo, Agronomy Specialist



Whether replanting annually or taking advantage of perennial grasses it is important to understand the difference between cool season and warm season grasses. Though the climate in Pueblo does not necessarily allow for year-round forage, grasses can be grown and grazed for up to 8 months out of the year utilizing a blend of cool and warm season grasses.



These types of grasses are different because of their internal workings. They complete photosynthesis (the energy making process in plants) using different compounds and molecules, with CO₂ and nitrogen (N) being the main compounds that are converted to make plant sugars and proteins.

Warm season plants can also be referred to as tropical or C₄ plants. This group includes Big and Little Bluestem, Sideoats Gramma, Indiangrass, Prairie Sandreed and Switchgrass which are perennial and corn, sudangras and pearl millet which are annual. These grasses remain dormant until soil temperatures have risen to at least 60 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). This typically occurs around mid-May but could be earlier in the spring depending on weather patterns.

During growth, warm season grasses convert carbon dioxide (CO₂) to a 4-carbon acid which is where the “C₄” name comes from and typically use water and nutrients more efficiently than cool season grasses. They are, however, more fragile and cannot be heavily grazed while plants are still young or just after emergence. They are not as high in protein (nutrition for livestock) but livestock can use the proteins from warm season grasses more effectively and so not as much forage is required.



Cool season grasses are often called temperate or C₃ grasses. They thrive and grow best in cooler temperatures (spring and fall) because they cannot convert CO₂ to a more efficient molecule and so in higher temperatures they lose much of the CO₂ they bring in to photorespiration of the plant. This inefficiency of cool season plants also requires them to use more water (important component of photosynthesis) in warmer temperatures; anything above 75°F. As the summer heats up, cool season grasses may go semi-dormant depending on water availability and temperature.

These grasses are mostly a high-quality forage source for livestock as they are typically hardier than warm season grasses and can withstand more intensive grazing if allowed to establish properly and they are more easily digestible to livestock (increasing nutritional quality). Cool season perennial grasses include many varieties of Brome grass, Canda Wildrye, Indian Ricegrass and Western Wheatgrass and annual include annual rye, wheat and oats.

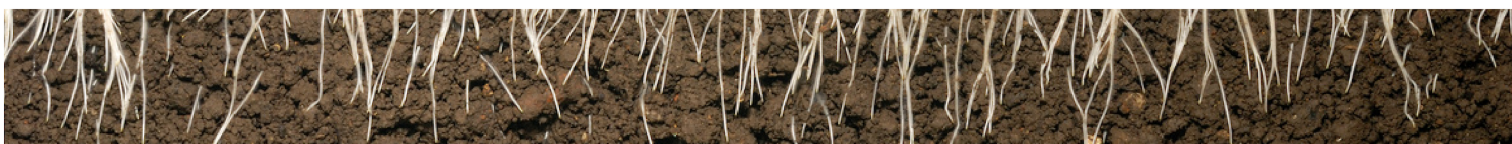


Combining pastures and rangeland with both cool and warm season grasses can help to maximize the growing season and increase available forage for livestock. This should be considered within the scope of the agricultural production, though so that water and nutrient resources are not strained and goals can be accomplished with harvesting forage or feeding livestock.

Reference:

Cool-season or Warm-season Grasses, Organ State University Department of Crop and Soil Science:
<https://forages.oregonstate.edu/regrowth/how-does-grass-grow/grass-types/cool-season-or-warm-season-grasses>

	Typical Yearly Grazing Calendar											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cool-Season Grass Tall Fescue												
Cool-Season Legume White Clover												
Warm-Season Grass Switchgrass												
Warm-Season Legume Alfalfa												
Summer Annual Sorghum/Sudan												
Miscellaneous Forages Corn Stalks												



Prepping for Fire Season

By: Beth Hayes, Ag & Natural Resources Coordinator

As the months start to warm up and the winds start to dry us out, we have to start thinking about wildfire season. Pueblo has already seen a few wildfires this year and we are likely going to see a few more before winter pokes its' head around again. With that in mind, using the tips below to keep your property, your animals and your family prepared for fire season can be a huge lifesaver in the moments you need it the most.

Fire Prep Tips:

1. Make your property defensible
 - Using native plants and not allowing large brush piles or weeds to pile up by your house or other structures can limit fire damage.
 - Wanting to know what to plant to keep fire at bay? Check out FireWise landscaping for Colorado.
2. Make an evacuation plan
 - Know your exit routes.
 - Make sure all animals can be safely and quickly loaded up.
 - Have basic pet and human needs packed into go bags stationed around your property.



3. Risk Management – Are you insured?
 - Review your homeowners or renters insurance policy to make sure you have adequate coverage.
 - Review what documents should go into a fire protected safe.
 - Make copies before you need them!
4. Know how to stay informed
 - Pueblo County uses RAVE alerts to notify citizens in specific area codes of potential dangers.



Have questions about this topic or want additional assistance? Feel free to give us a call at 719-583-6566 and ask to talk to Beth the agriculture coordinator. We can help make the best plan for your property and your animals before disaster strikes.

Corn Makes Corn

By: Kristi Bartolo, Agronomy Specialist



A wet snow had just fallen, but spring was starting to show itself. The wind didn't bite so hard, and the birds began swooping through the air. Last year's corn harvest lay quietly in the barn anticipating what it would become.

With the sun shining brightly and the snow all melted, the farmer could pull out her big tractors to start preparing the fields. She must disc and plow and level the earth. Then pull rows in preparation to plant in the soil. She cleaned and cleared the ditches so water could flow freely. She knew the water would be coming soon and she had better be ready or it would just pass her by.

So much preparing and planning for another season on the farm. What would she plant this year? But, ah yes, the corn in the barn, waiting, hoping for warm soil.



This corn was her seed corn; the corn she grew last year specifically so she could plant more of it this year. She had harvested this corn with such care and then stored it neat and tidy all winter to make sure it would be fair for the next year.

At just the right moment, when the soil was warmed by the sun, and all the preparations were done, the farmer hooked up her favorite tractor implement – the planter. This planter was old, and it clanked and thudded when it rolled out but it still worked and knew what to do.

The farmer loaded the planter with the corn seed she kept and headed to the field, so much joy the corn wept.

The planter glided up and down the field rows behind the tractor, depositing one single kernel every so often. The happy corn knew its job now, it must wait for the water then germinate and sprout.

And sprout it did, because it grew under the watchful care of the farmer and her family.





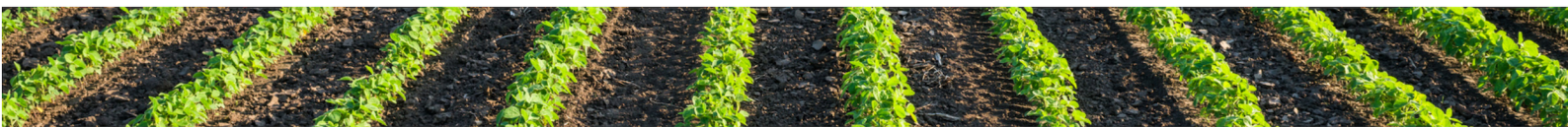
Spring Word Search



- ROW COVER
- FERTILIZER
- GERMINATE
- HATCHING
- HAY FEVER
- IRRIGATION
- WHELPING
- PROPAGATING
- FOALS
- CALVES
- CHICKS
- GALOSHES
- NEST
- POLLEN
- SEASON
- WEATHER
- WEEDS
- CATERPILLAR
- FESTIVALS
- MIGRATE



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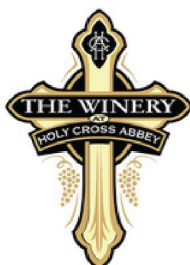
Community Partner Highlights

The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey

The Abbey Winery has been a new and fantastic partner with the ag team in the realm of grape production in Pueblo County and offering unique marketing opportunities to local producers. We have had the pleasure of having the top winemaker Jeff Schultz, attend workshops here in Pueblo and we have gone to Fremont County to assist them in wildlife classes and insect management for grape production. We are looking forward to continuing this partnership with them in the years to come and highly encourage all Pueblo County residents to check out this neat spot that's right in our neck of the woods.

Website:

<https://abbeywinery.com/>



Pueblo Chile Growers Association

The Pueblo Chile Growers Association is a group of Farmers in Pueblo Colorado that grow the authentic Pueblo Chile! The group is also comprised of supporting members and is chaired by the Vice President of the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce. The Association works to promote and enhance the Pueblo Chile brand through outreach and farming collaborations. They have hosted a variety of chile related events and play a major role in the annual Chile and Frijoles Festival. The Association has partnered with CSU Extension as a support for many programs and has written multiple letters of support for grants related to chile pepper production.

Website:

<https://pueblochile.org/>



Upcoming Events

April Dates

- **Apr. 9, 2024, 2024**
 - Seeds for Enhanced Crop Production
- **Apr. 19, 2024**
 - Gardening with Chickens
- **Apr. 26, 2024**
 - Water Round Table
- **Apr. 27, 2024**
 - Great American Clean Up

May Dates

- **May 11, 2024**
 - Fowling Around with Backyard Poultry
- **May 23, 2024**
 - Pesticide Worker Protection Standard (Spanish)
- **May 31, 2024**
 - Ride the Watershed

June Dates

- **June 8, 2024**
 - Horse care and you
- **June 20, 2024**
 - Conservation Dist. Drought Mtg.
- **June 25, 2024**
 - Pesticide Worker Protection Standard (Spanish)

For an up-to-date list of local classes and events visit our webpage at:

<https://pueblo.extension.colostate.edu/programs/agriculture-natural-resources/ag-classes/>



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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi0dsYcfX1gIbHQWPit8WDQ>



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



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