

Business Briefs



WESTMINSTER BUSINESS INFO-LINE

Question? Complaint? Concern?
Call the Westminster Business Information Line:
303-658-2108
M-F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., or leave a message after hours.
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BUY AND HIRE LOCALLY FOR ALL YOUR GARDEN AND LAWN NEEDS



WE WESTMINSTERITES LOVE OUR GREEN SPACES. Just look around the city and you can see the dedication to beautiful and useful outdoor environments.

This spring, as you turn once again to cultivating our own private green spaces, it's good to know you can take care of all your lawn and gardening needs right here with local businesses. Whether you're looking for plants, fertilizers, tools and other supplies to do it yourself, or for a professional to help with your landscaping, Westminster companies are here to serve you.

Bret Eastberg, irrigation specialist for the City of Westminster, recommends property owners think about landscaping with water conservation in mind. From picking plants to irrigating, water use can be minimized in many ways.

He points to Plant Select (www.plantselect.org) as a useful resource for finding drought-tolerant plants especially suited for our region. The program, administered by Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University, aims to seek out, identify and distribute the best plants for landscapes from the intermountain region to the high plains.

Westminster is home to two Plant Select demonstration gardens, which are open to the public and allow visitors to view Plant Select plants in real-garden situations. The two gardens are located at Westminster's Heritage Golf Course at 10555 Westmoor Drive (just west of Wadsworth via 108th Avenue) and the Butterfly Pavilion at 6252 W. 104th Ave. (just east of U.S. 36 at the Church Ranch-104th Avenue exit). You can find more information and photos at www.plantselect.org/map.php.

To assist property owners with water-wise plants and landscaping, the City of Westminster will be offering a free class on water-wise landscaping in spring 2011. The city held a similar class last May, and is bringing it back this year due to popular demand.

When it comes to saving water, lawn irrigation is the easiest to target because it uses the most. According to Eastberg, those looking to cut water use also need to cut down on their use of fertilizers.

"Conservation-wise, some people like to fertilize more, but the more fertilizer used, the more water it takes and more they have to mow. You only have to fertilize once or twice a season, instead of more," Eastberg advised. "To repair lawns, there are other products out there like Revive, with soil conditioner, instead of over fertilizing. If you are only watering a few times per



PENSTEMON MENSARUM:

This 2011 Plant Select® selection, *Erodium chrysanthum* Yellow cranesbill, due to its beauty, resilience, low maintenance, and suitability to the Rocky Mountain region. Courtesy of Plant Select®.

Photographed by Bill Adams



OSTEOSPERMUM AVALANCHE:

Osteospermum avalanche This 2011 Plant Select® selection, *Erodium chrysanthum* Yellow cranesbill, due to its beauty, resilience, low maintenance, and suitability to the Rocky Mountain region. Courtesy of Plant Select®. Photographed by Dan Johnson

GARDEN CENTERS & SUPPLY STORES IN WESTMINSTER

Get Growing
303-252-6486
13648 Orchard Parkway #900, Westminster, CO 80023

O'Toole's Garden Center
303-423-8361
9400 Wadsworth Parkway, Westminster, CO 80021
www.otoolesgardencenters.com

The Rhizosphere LLC
970-420-9642
9140 W 100th Ave. #A8, Westminster, CO 80021
Note: Also look for garden supply and landscaping products at Westminster locations for Home Depot, Lowe's, King Soopers, Safeway, and other supermarkets and hardware stores.

LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES AND SERVICES IN WESTMINSTER

A L I Landscaping & Sprinklers 303-466-7525	Quality Landscaping 720-364-8908
Andrew's Tree Service 303-422-0813	Safari Tree & Landcare LLC 303-464-1613
Arbortec Tree Service Inc. 303-466-3175	Sembrar 303-457-4569
CPS Distributors Inc. 303-394-6040	Senn Tree Service Inc. 720-470-9614
Dreiling's Lawn Service 303-427-5342	Stonecreek Landscape & Tree Co. 720-350-7797
Madjack Tek 303-330-1475	System Pavers 303-412-5999
Monster Lawn Care 720-939-6950	Tung Lawn Garden Service 303-429-0270
Moon-Lyting Fixtures 303-466-4455	Turner & Turner Tree and Landscape 303-428-1879
NGL Products LLC 720-939-3299	
www.nglproducts.com	

week. Revive will help grass look a bit better."

To help limit water use, hardware stores and local irrigation supply manufacturers carry water-conserving irrigation nozzles and heads, soil moisture sensors, weather-based controllers and other useful technologies, he explained.

Rain sensors are inexpensive and quick and easy to install, but can make a big difference in water and water bill savings, he added.

For homeowners without sprinkler systems, hose timers set up with hoses and sprinklers can help regulate watering and limit waste.

The City of Westminster will offer once again free single-family home sprinkler inspections, on a first-come, first-serve basis, through a program called Slow the Flow Colorado. The sprinkler inspections, also known as irrigation audits, are conducted by trained water auditors during two-hour appointments in the summer. Residents can download a brochure, watch a video, and get the application form at conservationcenter.org or can call 303-999-3820, ext. 217, for information.

"I've gone out to HOAs when they call with concerns that they are spending more on water than they would like," said Eastberg. "I walk around and evaluate their situation and give recommendations on how to increase efficiency and decrease water use."

The city plans to offer a landscape irrigation seminar again, where the Water Resources staff answers questions, demonstrates set-up and

gives tips to residents about replacing sprinkler heads, pipe repairs, setting sprinkler system clocks and doing various irrigation projects.

If property owners are planning to hire professionals for irrigation or other landscaping needs, they can check the directories of trade associations such as the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (www.alcc.com) and Irrigation Association (www.irrigation.org), said Stu Feinglas, water resources analyst for the city. "That shows that they're at least professional enough to belong to an organization."

"You can also ask contractors if they've received certification from the Irrigation Association or the Green Industries of Colorado (www.greenco.org). Greenco's best management practices training is offered to all members, and is all about conservation and good practices," Feinglas said.

Before hiring a contractor or maintenance service, get estimates from three different companies and ask for references, he said. "You can even drive by properties to see how they look. Also, ask your neighbors."