



Come Grow with the Colchester Garden Club

Founded in 2003, the Colchester Garden Club is a group of garden enthusiasts committed to sharing the love of gardening and conservation. We provide education in horticulture and assist in beautifying our town through the planting of 14 town planters, and tending and enhancing various gardens on town properties.

Join Us - Colchester Garden Club

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community organization focused on horticultural education, hands-on learning, beautifying the community and offering our members many other benefits. Monthly meetings (usually the 4th Monday of month at 6 pm) most of the year include educational presentations. Community service projects benefit Colchester and provide an opportunity to learn from experienced gardeners and certified Master Gardener members. Additional activities, garden Learn and Do sessions, garden tours and more are offered.

Individual Membership \$25.00/year

Couples Membership \$40.00/year

To request information about the Colchester Garden Club, membership materials, or gift membership, please email colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com

Managing the Garden in Extreme Heat

When a summer heat wave arrives, it can be stressful for plants and gardeners alike. The plants of your landscape will require a little more TLC to make it through periods of extreme heat. Learn more by reading this article from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach for what to do (and not do) in the garden in the extreme heat at link below.

Don't Forget About the Gardener!

Of course, hot weather is just as hard on you as it is on the plants you're growing.

- Work in the garden early in the morning when temperatures are cooler.
- Drink plenty of water. Carry a water bottle with you as you work.
- Wear sunscreen and a large hat to protect your skin.
- Take frequent breaks to cool down.
- Learn the [signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke](#) and cool off indoors or get help should they start to develop.

Source: https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/managing-garden-extreme-heat?fbclid=IwY2xjawLJgYBLEHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETF6NVIUV2xwYUNDMkVUOVQ2AR6qw_UCS9dI375Z_-MVqCKhZMMVQu_QUqsHAupL3xLbzdNEaCCp48PIg5f_DQ_aem_AInsRExHM4KB6X5GuzJARA

Summer can be hot and dry....

are you familiar with Xeriscape Gardening?

Xeriscaping is a landscaping approach focused on water conservation through the use of drought-tolerant plants and water-wise design techniques. It aims to minimize or eliminate the need for irrigation beyond what the natural climate provides. This approach is particularly popular in arid and semi-arid regions but can be beneficial anywhere to reduce water consumption.

Key Principles and Practices of Xeriscaping:

- **Planning and Design:** Careful planning and design are crucial, considering the specific climate, soil conditions, and your desired landscape features.
- **Soil Improvement:** Xeriscaping often involves amending the soil to improve its ability to retain moisture and allow for healthy root growth. Adding compost or other organic matter can be beneficial.
- **Plant Selection:** Choosing drought-tolerant, native plants that are well-suited to the local climate is essential.
- **Efficient Irrigation:** This includes using drip irrigation or soaker hoses to deliver water directly to plant roots, minimizing water loss through evaporation or runoff.
- **Mulching:** Applying a layer of mulch (such as wood chips, gravel, or shredded bark) helps to retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.
- **Turf Reduction:** Reducing the amount of lawn area and replacing it with other groundcovers, pathways, or decorative features can significantly lower water usage.
- **Maintenance:** Xeriscapes require less maintenance overall, but regular weeding, occasional pruning, and monitoring of irrigation systems are still necessary.

Source: AI Search

Visit the Xeriscape Garden in Colchester Center

Corner of Linwood Avenue and Main Street
Colchester, CT 06415



A collaborative Community Outreach Project by the Colchester Garden Club in partnership with a certified Master Gardener club member and Colchester Public Works.

Year-Round Garden Interest

Garden inspired by The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut 2017-2019 President's Theme and Project - Plant Connecticut – Be A Conservation Champion – Conserve Water – Xeriscape

Funding provided by a Connecticut Master Gardener Association grant and Colchester Garden Club Downtown Beautification Fund

Additional Reading:

- **Guide to Xeriscape Landscaping** How to use xeriscaping to save water and money in arid climates. Includes plant lists. <https://www.thespruce.com/xeriscape-landscaping-meaning-2131129>
- Suggested website: “CTWater - Landscaping”
<https://www.ctwater.com/conservation/outdoor-water-conservation>
- “*The Backyard Water Resources Guide*” Download pdf booklet:
https://www.conservect.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Backyard-Water-Resources-Guide_2nd-ed.pdf
- Xeriscape Plant List Part Sun/Part Shade. Federate Garden Clubs of Connecticut
https://ctgardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/President-Project-XERISCAPE-PLANTS_PART-SUN.pdf

Consider Adding Drought Resistant Plants to your gardens

Drought tolerant plants list

From sources across the web



Lavender



Butterfly weed



Lantana



Giant hyssops



Cranesbill Geranium



Russian sage



Yarrow



Agave



Artemisia



Blanket flowers



Catmint



Stonecrop



California lilacs



(Echinacea)



(Lavandula)



Achillea millefolium



Coneflowers



Coneflower



California poppy



Hen and chicks



Juniper



Penstemon sp



Salvia



Anise hyssop

Need Assistance? Check out these Gardening Resources

Have gardening questions or problems?

- Refer to UConn Home and Garden Fact Sheets
<https://homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu/factsheets/>
- Contact UConn Master Gardener County Extension office for Plant Identification, questions, or problems. For contact information:
<https://mastergardener.uconn.edu/locations/>
- The Colchester Farmers' Market on the town green is here. Colchester Garden Club Members, who are Master Gardeners, will be at the Farmers' Market on July 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th to answer questions or discuss gardening. In the meanwhile, if you want to contact the Colchester Garden Club email to colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com



The Seed Library is a partnership between the Colchester Garden Club and the Cragin Memorial Library.

The Seed Library is now restocked at Cragin Memorial Library

Visit the Seed Library in the Cragin Memorial Library Adult Department offering vegetable, herb, flowers, and native seeds free of charge.

Up to 5 seed packets may be taken from the Seed Library to grow at home.

Accepting seed donations, contact colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com for details.

July Gardening Tips from UConn Home and Garden Center includes:

<https://homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu/monthly-gardening-tips-for-connecticut/gardening-tips-july/>

Annuals & Perennials
Houseplants
In the Vegetable Garden
Insects
Landscapes and Lawns
Wildlife
Yard Accessories and Miscellaneous

Learn more about ...

Organic Gardening
Garden Design
Pollinators
Bulbs
Edibles
Perennials and Shrubs
House Plants
Lawn Care
Pests

through the free handouts from Natureworks Garden Center
518 Forest Rd, Northford

<https://natureworksgardencenter.com/pages/handouts-index>

Upcoming Events

- The Colchester Farmers' Market on the town green is here. Member Master Gardeners of the Colchester Garden Club booth are scheduled for July 6, July 13, July 20 and July 27 to answer questions or talk gardening.
- Colchester Garden Club meetings are not held during the summer months and will resume in September 2025.

Recent Activities

CGC presented **Container Gardening Workshop** to Colchester Senior Center members on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. The workshop showed the how and whys of container gardening, including what plants work the best, how to care for them. Participants planted a container of their own.



CGC conducted a **youth planting activity** on June 21, 2025 at the Cragin Memorial Library where children painted/decorated pots then planted flowers



CGC members created an Independence Day themed craft to have delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients to celebrate the July 4th holiday



CGC participated in the Tag Sale on the Green sponsored by the Colchester Business Association. The CGC booth was a plant and garden related fundraiser.

In Gratitude

NEWS BULLETIN • June 13, 2025

Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader

What a Great Day!

To the Editor:

What a great day on the Colchester Town Green on Sunday! We wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who stopped by our booth at the CBA's Tag Sale on the Green. It was fun to help customers with their purchases, to chat with so many people, and to answer questions. Your purchases are greatly appreciated.

We also want to thank the Colchester Business Association for holding this community event and:

- Jack Faski and Julie Shilosky for donating their spaces for our use;
- Members of our community for their donations;
- Members of our club for their donations of plants and their time; and
- These businesses for their donations: Ballek's Garden Center, Burnett's Country Gardens,

Gray House Farms Garden Center, Paul and Sandy's Too, Stop & Shop – Colchester, Tractor Supply – Colchester.

Your purchases and donations help to fund our work which includes maintenance of 7 community gardens in Colchester, maintenance of 14 town planters, activities with youth, activities with seniors, educational programs with Friends of Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester Free Seed Library, educational booth at Colchester Farmers' Market, seasonal crafts for Meals on Wheels recipients and more.

If you would like more information about the Colchester Garden Club or to make a donation, please contact us at colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com or via USPS at P.O. Box 371, Colchester, CT 06415. We are an all volunteer, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Sincerely,
Joan Aubin and Mary Spalter
Co-Presidents
Colchester Garden Club



THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS

who volunteer with our projects and community service in and around Colchester:

- Cragin Memorial Library gardens and landscape
- Former Colchester Senior Center (front/side) gardens
- Cohen Woodlands Butterfly Pollinator Garden
- Cohen Woodlands Children's Garden at the Colchester StoryWalk
- Red Twig Dogwood Gardens on Linwood Ave.
- Airline Trail Spur Garden on Lebanon Ave.
- 14 downtown town planters on Linwood Avenue, Lebanon Avenue, Town Hall, and Cragin Memorial Library.
- Colchester Seed Library
- CGC Meals on Wheels florals and crafts
- Colchester Senior Center activities
- CGC Youth Activities
- CGC Fundraiser