

2026 CNGA Fall Workshop

Propagation In Practice: Tools, Techniques and Trends for Successful Propagation

Wednesday, October 21, 2025

8:00 am – 2:45 pm

Front Range Community College
3645 W. 112th Ave., Westminster
Rocky Mountain Room and room C0577

THANKS TO OUR FALL WORKSHOP SPONSORS



Schedule

8:00 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast and Beverages - **Rocky Mountain Room**

8:30 - 9:30 Paid to Propagate: Challenge of Propagation, Growing, and Bringing New Varieties to Market, **Rocky Mountain Room**

Ross Shrigley, Plant Select

Session Summary: Nursery production and new plant introductions are inherently risky, largely because traditional business models require growers to absorb 100% of the financial and logistical risk. This presentation highlights how Plant Select is disrupting that model by actively collaborating with and supporting nurseries to bring innovative varieties to market. Speaker Ross Shrigley will explore how Plant Select works directly with growers to lower barriers, solve propagation hurdles, and rapidly scale production numbers. Attendees will learn practical approaches for transforming high-risk plant development into a collaborative, profitable pipeline.

9:30 - 10:15 Native Plant Propagation: How the City of Colorado Springs Uses Naturally Inspired Materials to Grow Resilient Plants, **Rocky Mountain Room**

Alex Crochet, CGG, CCNP, City of Colorado Springs Greenhouse
Dr. Maggie Gaddis, Colorado Native Plant Society

Session Summary: From collecting the seed to techniques for germination, appropriate media, and growing out to useable size native plants require different methods than traditional herbaceous plants. Learn what the City of CO Springs is doing and how they do it to grow resilient plants they need for various city plantings from Peak to Prairie.

10:15 - 10:30 BREAK

10:30 - 11:15 **Avoiding a “Seedy” Situation: Laws and Regulations of Seed Collection, *Rocky Mountain Room***

Deryn Davidon & Dr. Emma Tracy, Colorado State University

Session Summary: The desire to collect, propagate, and distribute native plants has dramatically increased as their potential to preserve biodiversity, promote sustainability, and support ecosystem restoration has become better understood. However, responsible collection of native seeds requires careful planning to ensure that you are operating within local, regional, and federal guidelines. During this session we will be reviewing Colorado’s regulations and the best practices for native seed collection.

11:15 - 12:00 **Breeding the Future: The Evolution of Modern Floriculture, *Rocky Mountain Room***

Jim Devereux, Green Fuse Botanicals, Inc.

Session Summary: This presentation explores how cutting-edge technologies are reshaping modern floriculture, from stunning genetic marvels like bioluminescent petunias to essential climate-resilient, drought-tolerant varieties. We will examine the latest breeding processes designed to streamline production efficiency for commercial growers while delivering high-performing, reliable plants for consumers.

12:00 - 12:30 **LUNCH, *Rocky Mountain Room***

12:30 - 1:15 **Germination pre-treatments, *Rocky Mountain Room***

Brooke Palmer, Denver Botanic Gardens

Session Summary: Seeds can be surprisingly opinionated about when—and whether—they are ready to grow, and successful germination often starts long before a seed is sown into a propagation tray. Working in a botanic garden setting, propagating unusual plants often means figuring out exactly what those seeds are waiting for. This presentation will take a closer look at the basics of seeds and seed dormancy and explore practical ways to overcome different types of dormancies. We will cover techniques including scarification, stratification, temperature treatments, and other pre-treatments, with an emphasis on understanding why a treatment works and when to use it. Come learn a few tricks for convincing stubborn seeds that it's finally time to grow.

12:30 - 1:15 **Soil Study on Native Plants and bridging the gap between horticulture and restoration, *Room C0577***

Alex Crochet, CGG, CCNP, City of Colorado Springs Greenhouse

Dr. Maggie Gaddis, Colorado Native Plant Society

Session Summary: Native plants thrive non-traditional media to root and grow successfully. This class will cover a soil study that the City of CO Springs, CONPS, and JeffCo had. It follows the plants from germination through planting out in natural areas with a traditional mix and alternative mixes.

1:15 - 2:00 **Practical Tissue Culture Propagation, *Rocky Mountain Room***

Alex Norell, Gulley Greenhouse

Session Summary: This session will provide insight into the ins and outs of tissue culture propagation, including a brief overview of the process and how growers can successfully incorporate tissue culture into a propagation program. We will discuss key considerations for implementing a tissue culture program, proper growing environments, and common pitfalls growers may encounter along the way.

1:15 - 2:00 **Native Woody Plant Propagation, *Room C0577***

Cameran Reader, OneCanopy

Session Summary: This session will explore the practical realities of propagating woody native plants for restoration and conservation. Drawing from her hands-on experience leading production at OneCanopy, Cam will share techniques for working with native trees and shrubs—from navigating species-specific germination and propagation challenges to managing young plants through the nursery production cycle. Attendees will gain practical insights into what works, what doesn't, and how thoughtful propagation practices can produce healthy, resilient native plant material ready for success beyond the nursery.

2:00 - 2:45 **Basic Grafting and Scion Collection, *Room C0577***

Scott Skogerboe, Colorado State University

Session Summary:

Although fall is the wrong time to do grafting, it is the exact perfect time to start thinking about preparing for it. Scott will give you the basics of how to do it properly. Starting with learning the process then gathering proper tools, supplies, rootstocks and scions. After a short PowerPoint, he will give a demonstration on how it is done. It's a fun and rewarding skill to learn and with a little practice you'll become proficient.

2:00 - 2:45 **End-of-Day Roundtables, *Rocky Mountain Room***

Session Summary: End the day with small-group roundtable discussions where you can dig deeper into what you heard, ask those lingering questions, and compare notes with other industry professionals. It's a chance to connect the dots, share ideas and experiences, and leave with a few new things to think about.

Speaker Profiles

	Alex Crochet, CGG, CCNP, City Horticulturist City of Colorado Springs Alex Crochet, CCNP, CGG, is the City Horticulturist for the City of Colorado Springs. Alex is a horticulturist who is passionate about teaching resilient and climate appropriate propagation methods for native plants. He grows and is especially excited by our rich palette of native forbs, grasses, shrubs and cacti native to the Rocky Mountains and the Desert SW.
	Deryn Davidson, Sustainable Landscape State Specialist Colorado State University Extension Deryn Davidson is the Sustainable Landscape State Specialist for Colorado State University (CSU) Extension. In this position she develops and delivers educational programs and provides expert consultation to public and private sectors on creating sustainable, resilient landscapes. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from CSU and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Arizona. A former horticulturist at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX, Deryn is deeply committed to native plant horticulture, and pollinator and water conservation. Deryn believes that with thoughtful design and appropriate horticulture practices we can foster biodiversity and implement nature-based solutions to enhance the livability and resilience of our built environments.



Jim Devereux, Chief Executive Officer | Green Fuse Botanicals

Jim Devereux has over 20 years experience in the horticultural market. With a history in commercial growing, sales and breeding. Currently the Chief Executive Officer and owner of Green Fuse® Botanicals, a California based breeding company specializing in innovation of vegetative annuals and perennials. Jim is a past president of All American Selections and graduate of the University of Wyoming with degrees in botany and soil science. He currently resides in Fort Collins, Colorado where he enjoys camping and, of course, gardening.



Dr. Maggie Gaddis, Executive Director | Colorado Native Plant Society

Dr. Maggie Gaddis is the Executive Director (ED) of the Colorado Native Plant Society. She is a restoration ecologist and botany educator who engages community scientists in her revegetation research. Before assuming the ED role, Maggie was the CoNPS SE chapter chair and a faculty member of the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs.



Alex Norell, Head Grower | Young Plants, Gulley Greenhouse Inc.

Alex manages a team of section growers and oversees the yearly production of six million young plant liners, as well as finished containers and flats. Since entering the green industry in 2014, Alex has honed his skills as a propagator, working directly with over 850 varieties of plants. In his time at Gulley, he has helped develop systems for tissue culture propagation, integrated pest management, and production efficiency through emerging technology. He has worked closely with the USDA and CDA to qualify for and maintain the eligibility of Gulley Greenhouse in the Greenhouse Certification Program, allowing the business to export young plants into Canada. He is committed to growing premium quality plants and continuing to build Gulley Greenhouse's reputation as an industry leader in young plant production.



Brooke Palmer, Greenhouse Production Coordinator | Denver Botanic Gardens

Brooke discovered her love of plants as a student at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Gothic, Colorado, in 2013. She holds a B.A. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Colorado and a Greenhouse Grower Certificate through the Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association. Before joining Denver Botanic Gardens, she worked in conservation, collecting seed for the Seeds of Success initiative and assisting with rare and endangered plant monitoring in Colorado and New Mexico. Brooke began volunteering at Denver Botanic Gardens in 2014 and joined the horticulture department full time in 2019. She now serves as Greenhouse Production Coordinator, providing plants for the Living Collections and the Gardens' public sales.



Cameran Reader, Production Supervisor | OneCanopy

Cameran Reader is the Production Supervisor at OneCanopy, a Colorado-based conservation nursery specializing in native trees, shrubs, and other plant material for restoration across the Rocky Mountain region. With a background in ecological restoration and field ecology, Cam brings hands-on expertise in native plant propagation, greenhouse operations, integrated pest management, and vegetation monitoring. A Colorado State University graduate, she is passionate about growing resilient native plant material and helping strengthen the connection between nursery production and successful ecological restoration.

	Scott Skogerboe, Propagator, Author Colorado State University Scott Skogerboe had been the Propagator at Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery for the last 30 years where he grew millions of trees and shrubs over the years for sale to nurseries primarily in Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah, South Dakota and Nebraska. Now semi-retired he has a position at Colorado State University where he is writing a book on propagating the native plants of the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains. Prior to going to work with his current employer, Scott was the owner of a small nursery specializing in fruit trees and berries adaptable to the rigors of growing on the high plains of the interior west. He is a graduate of Colorado State University with a B.S. degree in Landscape Horticulture. In 2016 Scott was awarded Commercial Horticulturist of the year by the American Horticultural Society. Scott in his spare time enjoys going out with his wife Dianne, also a professional Horticulturist, to explore for new and old plants. In recent years its native plants but they started out looking for old and obscure Apples. One of his claims to fame is he discovered the last remaining tree planted by Johnny Appleseed.
	Ross Shrigley, Executive Director Plant Select Ross Shrigley is a biology graduate of Colorado State University (1994), His horticultural career spans over three decades of hands-on experience—from owning a landscape business to key roles at Denver Botanic Gardens and Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery. Today, Ross serves as the Executive Director of Plant Select®, a nonprofit collaboration between CSU and Denver Botanic Gardens. He is dedicated to promoting high-performance, water-wise plants that thrive in the unique conditions of the Intermountain West.
	Dr. Emma Tracy, Director of Seed Programs Colorado State University Dr. Emma Tracy is the new Director of Seed Programs at CSU. In this role, Emma oversees the Colorado Seed Lab, Seed Certification, and Agronomy Foundation Seed programming. Prior to this role, Emma worked at Montana State University, Cornell, and the University of Vermont as a plant geneticist. As a Colorado native and CSU alumni, Emma is very excited to be back in her home state and explore the field of seed science.

THANKS TO OUR FALL WORKSHOP SPONSORS

