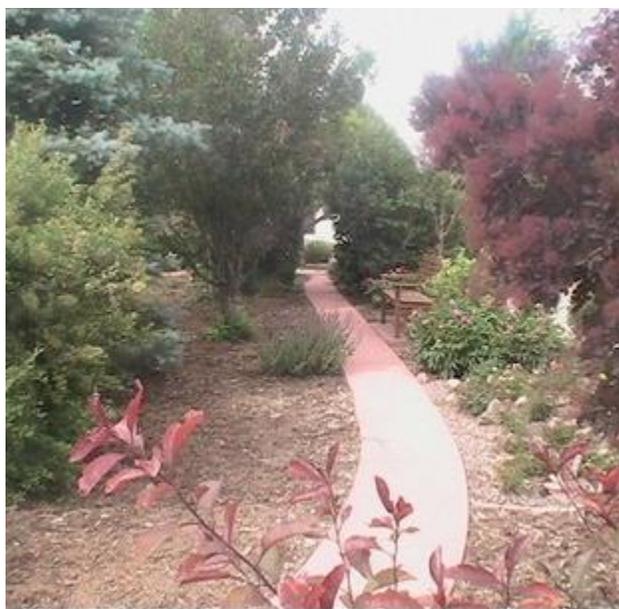


# PARADISE MEMORIAL GARDEN MANUAL



*A Guide to the Care of the  
Plants, Trees, Shrubs and Memorials  
in the  
Paradise Memorial Garden*

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## **HISTORY**

*By Shirley Stanelle*

It was the year 2000. My husband had passed away; I owned a gift store and took a series of Master Gardening classes. On the way home each night I would stop with Muffy, my Shih Tzu, for a walk along the River Walk in Pueblo. There were large engraved memorial boulders placed along the way and I remember thinking it would be nice for the family to have one engraved for us when I joined my husband.

It was then I heard my spirit voice say, “Build a garden”. I listened, and the next day approached our minister, Dr. Ray Lincoln, who calmly said “See if you can find a place”.

I produced a rather crude drawing of the garden and met with various groups in the church throughout the year. In the fall of that year I invited anyone interested to meet behind the church for a “show and tell” meeting. My daughter and I planted one bed of perennials to “set the stage”, so to speak.

Twenty-two people arrived and one couple said they would put in the path, another the fountain, another blue spruce tree and others offered to help. The following year the group of workers was called “Gardenin’ Angels”. Tumbleweeds were pulled, trash was removed, six pickup loads of topsoil were brought in, water system installed, fountain and memorial trees planted, and in September of 2001, Pastor Lincoln held a dedication service in the garden.

The garden has now grown to almost two acres and with over 45 memorials displayed in various ways, it is open to the community and a beautiful place to visit.

## FORWARD

*The How To's in this Garden Manual are to be used as a guide for keeping Paradise memorial Garden growing. It is not like other manuals for trees and bushes, arranged alphabetically, but arranged so you can find them in **our** garden. That way you will know if any plant had a particular problem and what we did to solve the problem and help it grow. However, our problems and solutions may be helpful to you in a similar situation.*

*You may print this as a reference guide, or look up items as you need to know about them.*

## **HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?**

Paradise garden has grown with memorials and gifts.

It started with the pathway and curb as two memorials. Then the fountain, as shown on the original plan, came next. And THEN.....the trees. Gifts provided plants and bushes to fill the first garden until we received additional memorial gifts. It did not take long before the formal garden was full, with a 7 foot memorial cross overlooking the garden.

Benches were soon added, statues, a cross, and glass globes. Which brings to mind the question..... “What can be put in the memorial garden?”

All items must be approved by members of the Gardenin’ Angels. Everything should be in good taste. Statues should have an art or religious theme. All items should be tasteful and of a higher quality. Items made of wood must be left unfinished or the donor party will be responsible for the upkeep or maintenance of it. Guidance may be given helping the donor find certain items. Placement of memorials is always discussed with the donor. Placement depends on the memorial. If it is a tree or bush, the size (and culture needs) of such determine the placement.

All boulders or large stones are placed in the natural garden ensuring the delivery by trucks or heavy equipment. Sizes should not exceed five feet in diameter. An area of approximately 5’x6’ is a recommended size for a memorial space. The donor may plant around it, but must maintain it. Consequently, it is suggested to plant only those plants that will take little or no water once they have been established. Again, guidance will be given. If the donor lives out of state, then a onetime fee will be assessed according to the gift.

What about the ashes of the deceased? We have been asked if Paradise is a cemetery. There is a Paradise cemetery in Scottsdale, AZ, but this is not a cemetery. This Paradise is a garden of memorials remembering a loved one. However, requests have been made to sprinkle a handle of ashes

around a memorial, and that request would be taken to the Pastor of the church.

Does one have to belong to the Ecumenical Church of Pueblo West to place a memorial for someone? It would be nice, but it is not necessary as long as the above recommendations are followed.

## **A GARDEN FOR MANY**

The memorial garden is, of course, a place to remember a loved one. It resembles a small park and a delightful place to walk. Benches along the way provide resting places where you can sit and watch the butterflies, or if you are lucky, a mother quail will scoot between bushes with her wee ones trailing behind her. The Garden Room, or Meditation Area, provides a place to sit and have lunch, read or meditate.

The garden can be used to hold functions such as tours throughout the Garden. A beautiful wedding, art contest, place to paint, nature walk for school children and much more can take place in beautiful surroundings.

This manual was written for the specific care of Paradise Memorial Garden, and although information may be used for other gardens, this one takes you on a walk through this particular garden. In this manner, you will be able to associate with plants which are being mentioned as you walk the pathway.

A new addition has been added adjacent to the Garden. It is an outdoor worship area created by a boy scout working on his badge. For use of this area for meetings with a speaker, please contact the church office (719-547-3088) for availability.

## FORMAL GARDEN

The first Garden, entering from the parking lot, is called the Formal garden because it followed the original plan with a concrete curb and pathway. The Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) tree and fountain are striking welcome features to the Garden. The meditation area (Garden Room) is located directly to the left of the Garden.

The area was originally used for storage, but cleaning that out, installing a new wall and a few pieces of furniture added to the memorials, made it functional as our Garden Room. With the privet (*Ligustrum sp.*) hedge for privacy, it is a wonderful place to read, have lunch or just meditate. An electrical line was extended to the meditation area with an electrical box on the end. This makes it possible to have an outlet for coffee pots, etc.

Most of the trees and benches are memorials and a few of the bushes. Detailed descriptions will be found in the chapter on Trees and/or Bushes.

This section has three water lines that go to the trees, hedges and various perennials and flowering bushes. See Chapter on Watering.

The memorial bed to the left as you enter the garden is a memorial for Pastor Donley. The Russian olive, (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) which is one of the first plantings, cannot be planted in the future. It is on the State's forbidden list because it is invasive. The birdbath is also part of his memorial. In 2009 Pentsemons were added in memory of his wife, Libby.

The garden is set from the church building 5 to 6 feet to eliminate any excess water into the building from watering. Green rock, though more expensive than others, was used to offer a pleasant color.

## **SIDE BANKS**

While the volunteer church men installed a drip system to areas that would contain a tree, the Gardenin' Angels continued cleaning and planting on the banks north of the Garden. The concrete funnel carried excess water from the church. When it rained, the roof water was funneled to it. Other water was from the rising water shed under the church. We thought it would be just fine to have a presence of water in our Garden.

We pulled enormous piles of tumbleweeds and had them burned. Gifts of cactus, trees, natural sage and Russian Sate (*Perovskia atriplicifolis*) were planted.....plants that would not have a drip system supplemented to them. Ken Stanelle had collected drainage pipes and David Stanelle cut them in various sizes. We stood them on end and planted them with sedums and other natural plants. We call them our "Organ Pipes".

## NATURAL GARDEN

The garden across the bridge was always intended to be more natural for several reasons. First of all, the lack of a watering system. The prairie was full of Four Wing Salt (*Alriplex canescens*) bushes which didn't need water and grew and reproduced as Mother Nature nurtured them. This area was designated for the placement of large memory boulders or stones. The open spaces allowed a bulldozer to get in there and place properly.

The first stone was in memory of Ken Stanelle, an elder, and one of the longest members of the church. The only "planted bush" by his engraved stone as Apache Plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*). The plants around it planted themselves. They included a Russian olive tree (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), Prairie Sage (*Artemisia tridentate*), Saltbush (*Alriplex canescens*), Salvia (*Salvia superb*) and Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolis*). Although several sedums and plants were tried, nothing worked so a family of quail and a hummingbird handcrafted of iron were used instead.

A pathway was needed and with using pea gravel and side dividers, one was created circling the center. It worked for a long time. Other stones and benches were able to surround it. Several gardeners planted various bushes and trees that they didn't want or need and it soon filled more than we needed.

## PATHWAYS

The walkway in the Formal Garden is part of a memorial in memory of the VanAukens' parents. It was drawn in the original plan, but turned out to be far more of an addition that was originally planned. John VanAuken decided a curb would be a good idea and made a curb outlining the first garden. Then he had a concrete professional pour a colored concrete walkway according to the design. We checked it with several wheel chairs and it does provide a walkway for that as well. Both curb and walkway have held up very well.

After the bridge was built, we felt we needed a pathway to continue in the Garden and using side pieces clipped to the ground, formed a pathway in a circular way, allowing more memorial boulders to be placed on the outside of it. We filled the pathway with pea gravel.

In 2003, one of the Boy Scouts that met for Troop meetings in our church, wanted to work on his Eagle Badge. He decided to make the gravel walkway in the Natural Garden accessible for wheelchairs. So, with the help of his leader and other Scouts, he purchased path tile and placed one on each side of the path, covering the whole circle. It was hard to walk on the pea gravel with sandals, so it was very appreciated to have the tile.

In 2007, when Harry Chalmers passed away, another stalwart of the church, Joan, and a Gardenin' Angel herself, used the memorial money received to finish the pathway. She matched the path stones and placed them in the middle of the pathway.

This left the areas both east and west of the bridge. Going east, we were wheeling wheelbarrows, and many times it became muddy because it was slanted and the rain washed that area down. The same thing happened to the path going west to the garden shed. Another usable path was needed. Again, the metal walls and clips were installed and pea gravel was used. This worked for awhile until we had a downpour of rain, which washed a lot of the pathway down to the concrete curb. It was decided to re-do with a product called Breeze. We used a red colored one and when watered down, it hardened like concrete.

One more pathway will be finished this year which will lead from the circle in the Natural Garden to the archway opening of the Labyrinth.

A footpath was constructed in 2014 to lead from the outdoor worship area to the garden and supplemented with metal gates as part of a memorial for Sears Lehman. The gates were part of the landscaping of the front court yard of the church, provided by member Peggy Lehman. In later years when the gates were no longer needed or used, they were saved for the proper time to be used in the Garden.

To provide wheelchair admittance to the Garden from the outdoor worship area, the sidewalk is available and an extended pathway has been added to match up with the Breeze pathway in 2014.

## **TREES**

### INSIDE FORMAL CIRCLE

#### **Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens* var. *glauca* cvs.)**

The first tree planted was a spruce tree by Arnie Gassman, in memory of his wife, Mary Ellen. The blue Spruce was on the original drawing with a space allowed for eight foot expansion of the circumference. The tree has grown to enormous heights and takes little or no care. All the expert books say to leave it alone....no excessive pruning. One year we were worried because the little lanterns weren't appearing. But that year, they were just a little late. The north side of the tree, which takes a beating in the wintertime, has large distances between branches and causes us concern. The tree is quite healthy otherwise, and gets its new little lanterns every year. However, Matthew Emmon, Arborist, told us it was stressed out, and all the dead branches (which were on the north side) were removed. It had a major drip line running to it and located on the south side of the tree. In 2014, that was exchanged with an emitter line to give a more balanced watering line.

#### **Aspen Tree (*Populus tremuloides*)**

The next tree in the circle is an Aspen tree in memory of Marcia Sinclair's husband, John. This is another tree that Master Gardeners are taught to avoid planting in the prairie. We do try to steer folks to or away from certain trees, but sometimes they mean a lot to a lost one. So we try. Aspen trees like to be on a raised berm, so we built one just for that little tree. The first year, Marcia was concerned about the little growths on the branches, but we assured her it was natural and the tree was in good health. We prune just enough so it is possible to walk the pathway without getting bumped.

New little Aspen growths appear everywhere, but we usually just pull them out. However, one seemed pretty healthy between the mother tree and the Spruce tree and we let it live. They live close in the forest as well. This memorial tree does not have a main drip system to it, but we ran a 1/4 inch line from the main leading into the Spruce tree.

### **Patmore Ash Tree (*Fraxinus Pennsylvania 'Patmore'*)**

This tree is in memory of Harry Titus. This is another tree suggested for this area, but we certainly had a hard time taking it from teenager to adulthood. The tree was small, of course, we planted it, but it survived the first winter. That poor little tree went straight up about 6 feet before it developed any branches. One side had one lonely branch that pointed straight out. The other side had a few branches, but the lonely branch was all by itself. Then as it slowly started to leaf out in the next few years, the aphids decided to make it their home. The leaves curled and I sprayed them three times with diluted soap. That worked for two years and then the tree took off and the branches and leaves were fruitful. I was able to reach them one more time with the soap spraying, but then it was too tall. It was not one of our most beautiful trees and as a main water section to it.

Unfortunately, in 2013, we noticed some bark was off the trunk and in closer inspection, we discovered the horrid exit holes. The Ash was home to Borers. The Master Garden Books were brought out, and it did not look promising. A conference then took place with the County Extension Office and with further researching, determined it was caused by the Pigeon Temex Hortain, but it would also be the Ash Lilac Borer because Lilac bushes are planted near the tree, and the tree is host to the Borer. We sprayed it with Ferti-Lome's Borer Leafminer spray and also poured a solution of Ferti-Lome's Tree and Shrub Systemec Insect Drench around the base of the trunk. Then with the horticulturer's suggestion, we spread Tangelwood on heavy paper and wrapped it around the trunk in several places, hoping we would catch a few on their way out.

Note: for you information in condensed form – The wasp or borer attaches to the tree in summer, (perhaps when it is struggling from the heat), by crawling under the bark and laying its eggs. In the spring when the larvae become adults, they cut a circular hole an exit from the tree. Detailed information can be obtained from the County Extension Office.

We fertilized and watered the tree and will keep babying it in an attempt to save it.

### **Non-Bearing Pear Tree (*Pyrus calleryana*)**

This Pear tree is in memory of the Hallock family. It also has a main water branch because the location was on the original plan. While it was growing the first years, it never gave us any trouble. It provided beautiful white blossoms in the spring.

However, in 2010, we noticed some of the leaves turning yellow and started applying iron to the drip line. The north side and very top showed the most stress. We feed it iron each year and watch it closely. The leaves show us when it needs iron, and we used Ferriplus Chelated Iron which we purchased at Fox's Nursery.

**Flowering Cherry Tree (*Prunus serrulata*)**

The Cherry tree is tall and thin with lots of branches and full of blossoms in early spring. It takes up little room and survives with little water. It does have a dripper from a 1 1/4" line. It has never caused us any trouble. We trim away the saplings each year, and has proven to be a great tree. Not for shade, but for beauty. It was a gift from Frances Matthew.

## TREES OUTER RIM

### **Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)**

The very first tree on the walkway is in memory of Frosty Donley.

Rev. Donley was a retired minister and became our Pastor's associate and visitation minister. Frosty loved the soft green leaves of the Olive tree and had many in his yard. At that time in 2002, nurseries were still selling them. So his wife, Libby, purchased one for us to plant. It was a funny little tree, with branches all askew, but very hardy. Each fall we would try to prune it to improve its shape, and it has grown to be a big tree.

One of the reasons it's on the "no" lists is because it is very invasive. We have several other Russian Olive trees that volunteered themselves.

### **Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)**

The next tree is our third try at growing a tree for Alice Bunch. Alice was the initiator of starting a church and through her efforts, our church was born. The tree is in her memory. Her sons told us her favorite was Redwood. There is a Redwood growing on the east side of the church and has been showing its beautiful fuchsia blossoms for 30 some years.

We replaced the first planting because it did not survive. Then in 2007, it started to take hold, but we had to keep pruning back.....and pruning back. It ended just being all shoots and we decided to choose one, cut away all the rest and hope for the best. The roots still had life in them. 2011 it was a small tree, and finally in 2012 it favored us with pink blossoms. The tree had resilience, just like Alice and certainly taught us patience.

### **Globe Willow (*Salix matsudana 'Navajo'*)**

The Globe Willow was planted in memory of Frank Novak in 2005. The family took part in the planting.

Now that it has successfully grown into a large tree at the end of our garden, it reaches over the sidewalk. Each year we prune and shape to keep it under control. In 2011, it too had yellow leaves and we applied iron. The leaves still looked like they were not getting enough moisture, so we raked up the mulch and the nursery paper and applied the necessary iron and water. The water system goes to the trunk of the tree, but the paper

prohibited the necessary water and oxygen from reaching the drip line of the tree. In 2013, we changed the direct flow of water to emitter tubing spiraled around the tree.

### **Rocky Mountain Ash (*Pyrus American*) or (*Sorbius.aucuparia*)**

This tree was planted in memory of Ed Pytlik. It has remained a small tree, but it was a favorite tree to plant in his backyard. It was planted in 2004 and the water system goes to it. In 2009, however, it started getting fire blight. The curling and rolling of the leaves gave the clue to investigate further. We ended up buying spray from Fox's and cutting away all the affected area. Two years of that, and in 2012, it looked very healthy with white and pink blossoms. In cases like this, it is alright to prune in the off season. Also, pick up all leaves and branches that fall to the ground and burn them, or put in a sealed bag for the trash. Unfortunately, in 2013 the tree gave up and we had to remove it. It will be replaced in 2014.

### **Hawthorn (*Crataegus ambigua* "Toba")**

This tree is planted just outside the outer circle in memory of Michael Cronk. It is a smaller tree in the same size as the Rocky Mountain. It has a water system to it. A year after the fire blight on the Rocky Mountain, it had it on some branches as well. So, spraying and pruning was the regular course and this year it had beautiful blossoms. It will either survive in 2014 or be replaced.

### **Apple Tree (*Malius spp.*)**

The trees in the Formal Garden grew so large, that future trees were limited to smaller ones. The Apple tree is in memory of Anne and LC Meyer and in an area where there would be room for another memorial bush. A small rose bush was given to us and so the remainder of the area was filled with small rose bushes. The tree was supposed to be non-bearing, but in 2012 it was covered with apples. The decision has to be made to either spray to keep worms from the apples or let them be a treat for the birds.

The tree produced apples because another apple tree was blooming somewhere nearby – so this is totally hit or miss. A cold spring or spring drought can kill the flowers so it will rarely provide apples.

If it starts producing apples, refer to the website, Planet Natural.com, which has organic options for all problems.

### **Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)**

The Honey Locust is a memorial for Harry Chalmers and donated by the camping group. It is located just west of the bridge. There also is a Honey Locust located on the south bank as a gift from Madonna. They are pruned in the fall if there is need. Neither has the drip system to them and take very little care.

### **Evergreen Trees (*Pinus edulis*)**

There are three trees planted just north of the Formal Garden. They were gifts from Nancy Allen. Nancy moved after her husband passed away and before she sold her house and moved, she removed them from her property and we planted them in the garden. They are on the north side of the Formal Garden and in the same strip as the Cronk tree. Two of them have water going to them, but the one closest to the bridge does not have any. They are care free.

### **Juniper Trees (*Juniperus scopulorum*)**

There are two large Juniper trees on the north bank west of the bridge. They were gifts from Emmett Foster and were very small when he gave them to us. There is another one from him located in the center section of the Natural Garden. They were hand watered to give them a good start and left to Mother Nature's care.

### **Other Trees**

Frances planted three Poplar (*Salicaceae*) trees in the Natural Garden area. There are Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) trees on the south bank and one in the center. Several Elm (*Ulmus Americana*) trees have been planted in the Natural Garden.

Some of these trees were sticks when we planted them, especially some from the Audobon Society (name of trees unknown), but with constant care and proper planting, all the trees in Paradise Garden are beautiful.

Be patient. If a tree looks lopsided or one side doesn't look the same all around, check out all the possibilities of the cause. Remember that the north side of the tree always grows differently than the south. Also, take into consideration that the wind can be the culprit.

## BUSHES AND HEDGES

### **Fernbush (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*)**

The very first bush in the formal garden was a Fernbush. It is planted near the front and has proven to be a stalwart bush. It blooms small white flowers and when they are spent, can be deadheaded and it will bloom again in July. Needs just enough pruning in the fall to keep a nice shape and keep it healthy. It has a drip.

### **Cotoneaster (*C.friidus*)**

It is located at the base of the Fernbush. The intent was for it to fill in the corner of the berm. Finally, after ten years of begging and coaxing, it is looking and acting like a good little bush and now has berries on it. There has always been a drip to it.

### **Nine Bark (*Physocarpu opulifolius* 'Diablo')**

This bush is a memorial for Leroy Wheeler. It was planted in 2010. It seemed to have a hard time growing up, even with the drip, but two years later it is doing just fine. It had blossoms in the spring and I expect it will have berries in the fall. Pruning away dead branches seems to have helped it.

### **Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)**

This was planted in 2003 by Martha Carra. It has pink blooms and depending on the weather can start blooming in August and last for a few months. It should never be cut back more than 1/3 of the height and never before the blooms are spent. Only trim dead branches, or for shaping. It has a drip to it. Start with a two-gallon drip and change the emitter to one gallon or one half gallon as the bush becomes larger.

### **Spirea (*Spirea nipponica*)**

A white flowering bush, this was planted by Frances across from the Globe Willow. It has a drip and takes very little care. For pruning, refer to the pruning chapter.

### **Lilac (*Syrina vulgaris*)**

A lilac bush was planted behind the memorial cross in memory of Curtis (Curt) Kelly. His wife, Joy, also brought some saplings and they were planted on the other side of the pathway. As it turns out, this was a mistake because it becomes like a wall and we have to do some serious pruning. Lilacs can be pruned after they have flowered. They do not have a drip to them.

### **Blue Mist Spirea (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*)**

The Blue Mist Spirea bloom light blue flowers in late summer or fall, and they should not be pruned until after the flowers are spent. At that time, prune only 1/3 of the bush unless there is a dead branch, which can be pruned any time. Our Spirea bushes were culled from Irene Weeks' garden.

### **Black Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana melanocarpa*)**

The Choke Cherry bush, which needs minimum care, is in memory of all the lost souls on 9/11.

### **Purple Smoke Bush (*Cotinus coggyria 'Royal Purple'*)**

This is a beauty. However, every year at least one vertical branch has to be pruned. It has a drip.

### **Apache Plumes (*Fallugia paradoxa*)**

There are several Apache Plumes in the Natural Garden. The softness of the blooms and natural flow to the branches help them fit into the Natural Garden. They do not have any drip to them. They may be pruned in the fall for shaping.

### **Flowering Almond Bush (*Prunus tribola var. multiplex*)**

This is a memorial placed by Mona Novak in memory of her mother. The bush blooms beautiful pink flowers in the spring. There is a drip to it.

### **Viola (*Reuchenback iana*)**

A small, but beautiful perennial planted in memory of Patricia Dolick.

### **Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)**

The white and green leaves are a perfect compliment to the yellow flowers on the Potentilla bush.

## PERENNIALS

The front entry bed of perennials hold Sunset Hyssops (*Agastache rupestris*). We think small bushes will do a better job than some of the previous perennials.

Perennials in the front bed are Plumbago (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*) which blooms in late summer, Poppy Mallow (*Cakile hirsuta* P.), and Autumn Joy Sedum (*Sedum* x 'Autumn Joy').

Some of the assorted plants around the fountain included Mums (*Chrysanthemum* x *morifolium*) and Artemisia (*Artemisia schmidtiana*). This will be a constant changing area with new plants included and experimented with.

Walking along the pathway of the first garden you will find the following perennials:

Penstemons (*Penstemon barbatus*)  
Wooly Creeping Thyme (*thymus pseudolanuginosus*)  
Garlic Chives (*Allium tuberosum*)  
Oregano (*Origanum*),  
Columbines (*Aquilegia*)  
Peonies (*Paeonia hybrids*)  
Lilies (*Hemerocallis fulva*)  
Iris (*Iris sp.*)  
Golden Yarrow (*Achillea filipendulina*)  
Obedient plant (*physostegia virginiana*)  
Poppies (*Papaver oreintale*)  
Jupiter's Beard (*Centranthus ruber*)  
Sage (*Ceratoides lanata*)  
Cat Mint (*Nepeta mussini*)  
Pineleaf Beard Tongue (*Penstemon pinifolius*)  
Miniature Roses (Dwarf versions of Hybrid Tea and Floribunda)  
Carpet Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*)  
Seep Muhly Grasses (*Agastache rupestris*)

Perennials hold their best performance if planted in the fall. Colorado prairie summers are so hot, they easily burn out before the roots have a chance to catch on. Once they have caught on, however, they are easy to maintain. Deadheading keeps them blooming over a longer period of time.

Additions to the Manual will continue as the banks and natural garden continue to be enhanced with perennials. However, because they keep changing, identification markers will be used.

## MEMORIALS

Click on the button for Memorials on our website to read a list of loved ones being remembered, and the year the memorial was placed in the garden. The list will change whenever we have another memorial to add to it.

The largest memorial we have is the Cross which overlooks both gardens. Norman bean called when the garden was being created and wanted to donate a cross in memory of his friend. A group of us went to his house and he showed us his pans. He and his buddy, George Allen went fishing together to a certain fishing place, and on each trip he found small white stones that he brought home. When George passed away, Norm made a small cross covered wit those white stones and placed it by their favorite fishing hole. He wanted to make a seven foot cross with the white stones for our gardens. George was a member of our church, and always took care of the outside trees and bushes. It wasn't in our plans, but it was heaven sent because it is a focal point. We installed spot lights to illuminate it in the night. Nancy Allen had benches placed at the foot of it. When it is picture taking time, the cross is usually included in it.

Most of the memorials are trees and bushes. The tree placement will depend on the size of the tree and whether or not there is room. The bushes are easier to place, but we still try to offer advice on types that have proven to be resilient to the weather conditions on the prairie.

Even though a winter may provide a lot of moisture in any given season, the prairie is still considered Semi-Arid. It can be discouraging to see a beloved plant diminish because it was the kind that got very thirsty all the time. Our drip system timers are not set to provide one plant more water than another. But there are many, many plants that we can use and recommend.

Other types of memorials are glass gloves, bird baths, bird houses, benches, boulders, small bushes or flowering bushes and perennials that are of a flowering bush type. Large memorials include the concrete pathway and curb in the Formal Garden, tile in the Natural Garden pathway, a large wall, a fence, a bridge, an arbor, and a moving sculpture in the Labyrinth. The options are many and we try to please the donor and their wishes for their loved one.

Someone will help shop for the type of memorial desired if the family wishes. A list of suppliers can be found at the end of this Manual.

With the exception of the boulder memorials, each memorial is accentuated with handmade stoneware marked placed by it with the name of the deceased, if the donor wishes. Sometimes, a small bronze plate is added to a bench instead of the stoneware marker.

## ENGRAVED BOULDERS

The boulders, as stated in an earlier chapter, are placed in the Natural Garden. The large rock has to be brought out in a truck and a bobcat used to put in place. Bulbs or a water wise plant can be placed by it if desired. See the chapter, "*How Does Your Garden Grow?*" more specific information.

In the earlier years, a boulder was picked out at a local rock vendor, which was about three cents a pound, taken to an engraver of monuments in Pueblo, then picked up again and delivered to the garden.

Both of those vendors are no longer in business, and we found another place, thanks to the recommendation of the Nature Center. There is an engraver in Rocky Ford who will come and engrave the boulder when he comes to Pueblo to engrave other monuments. It takes some coordination of time and the rock will have to be bought, delivered to the garden and placed. We have an electrical outlet by the cross, so the engraver can reach most any section. Some rocks cannot be engraved, so we will help guide the donor in that regard. Also the rocks or boulders are not longer three cents a pound. The engraver charges by the number of letters, so a poem could be costly. The boulders usually run from \$100.00 to \$300.00 or more with lots of words. However, they are impressive, last forever and take no care at all.

## **PLANTING TIPS**

We have a few plants that re-seed themselves, especially the Russian Sage, Salvia and Garlic Chives. At one point we dug up the ones we didn't want, put them in the soil in our holding bed until we would have a sale. Now we just transfer them to the outer rim of the Labyrinth. We have a hole ready with a little treated top soil, put the newly dug plant in and water it. Put a drip emitter to it to get it started, but if that is not available, then water often until the roots take hold.

If potted plants are purchased from the nursery, try to plant them as soon as possible. Or keep them in a shady place and water often. When you are ready to plant, roll the pot on the ground to loosen the plant, turn it upside down and tap the plant out to your hands. If the roots are tangled together around each other (root bound), try massaging the roots and sides and the bottom to loosen. If they are too root-bound, then take a knife or scissors and make vertical cuts around the plant.

We make a manure tea that we add to each plant. The tea is made from letting the manure settle in the pail filled with water. After a certain amount of time, depending on the strength that you want, pour the nitrogen water into bottles for future use. We sell the bottled tea for \$2.00.

# PRUNING

## SHADE TREES

What you do to your tree in the first few years of its life will affect its shape, strength, and even its life span. After carefully planting your young tree, careful pruning is the most important thing you can do for it.

Most trees have a leader, or one that will be the trunk of the tree. In trees with two equal leaders, remove the one that has a crook or other defect. Also, branches should not be attached at the same horizontal location on the trunk. Remove one of them. Try to maintain evenly spaced lateral apart in a young tree – perhaps 8 to 12 inches.

Remove any branches that rub against each other resulting in wounds or decay. Also, remove the suckers that appear at the base or lower trunk.

As the tree matures, look it over each year. If it gets too thick with branches and leaves, it may need thinning. Thinning increases light penetration into the tree interior and is usually done on small branches in the leafy upper canopy. Do not remove large branches unless it is dead or diseased.

If your tree has become a large tree and needs attention, then it is time to call on a Certified Arborist. Contact your local Extension, or the appendix of this Manual. Some landscapers or tree trimmers call themselves an arborist, but are not licensed as one. A Certified Arborist must take valuable tests before becoming licensed.

Cutting tips for young or old trees:

- ❖ The branches form a collar around the branch base to hold it. Do not damage the branch collar. A cut collar can invite all kinds of trouble like decay and pests.
- ❖ For branches smaller than your thumb, use a good pair of hand clippers or a hand saw and carefully cut off the branch at its base without damaging the collar.
- ❖ For larger branches, cut off the branch about 6” from the trunk to avoid bark tearing. Place your cutter at an angle, starting near the trunk and angling toward the top of the crown. Remove the rest of the branch – do not damage the trunk or collar.

- ❖ TREES SHOULD NEVER BE TOPPED. It destroys the branching control and shape of the tree.
- ❖ Best time of year to prune is late fall or winter, but dead limbs can be cut anytime. One period to avoid is when buds are expanding in spring.
- ❖ Do not prune once buds first start to expand until after the leaves are at their mature size.

## **SHRUBS**

Pruning has a major influence on a shrub's flowering habit, size, shape and pest problems. Over time an unpruned flowering shrub becomes woody with little new growth which supports flower bud development.

Prune to promote plant health:

- ❖ Remove dead or dying branches injured by disease, insect or storms
- ❖ Remove branches and branch stubs that rub together
- ❖ Avoid topping

Prune to maintain plants:

- ❖ Encourage flower and fruit development
- ❖ Maintain a dense hedge
- ❖ Maintain a desired form

Prune to improve plant appearance:

- ❖ For most landscapes, a plant's natural form is best
- ❖ Alter a plant's natural form only if it needs to be confined
- ❖ Control plant size, remove unwanted branches and suckers

General Points:

- ❖ Do not prune more than one third of a bush. Actually, 10% each year is better.
- ❖ Each bush should be looked at individually.
- ❖ Branch by branch shaping – shorten the length of excessively long branches by cutting them back one by one. Cuts are made back in the shrub leaving branches at varying lengths. Also, reach under and cut all the way back to remove extra-long branches to help shape the bush.
- ❖ Avoid making cuts at a uniform edge creating a rounded ball or rectangle.
- ❖ Make cuts at appropriate branch unions (crutch) or buds. This method maintains a more natural shape to the shrub.

- ❖ Flowering shrubs pruned by topping or shearing become woody at the base.

## **PRUNING SHRUBS and BUSHES in the PARADISE GARDEN**

Some shrubs and bushes are cut back each year such as Russian Sage (*Parovski atriplicifolia*) and the Butterfly Bushes (*Buddleia davidii*). At Paradise, these shrubs and others are cut back or pruned in the spring. Besides giving an aesthetic appearance for the winter, the foliage protects the roots and provides a home for wildlife.

**Blue Mist Spirea** (*caryopterix*) – Pruned in spring. Cut back to about 12” each season for best flower display.

**FernBush** (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*) – Prune to shape in fall. Cut out dead branches when needed any time. Deadhead flowers after blooming and bush will bloom again.

**Spreading Cotoneaster** (*Cononeaster divaricatus*) – Tolerates pruning any time.

**Pyracantha** (*Prunus Triloba*) – Trimmed somewhat in fall to control size. Leave branches with berries for later pruning.

**Potentilla** (*Fruiticosa*) – Tolerates annual pruning to six or eight inches in the fall.

**Rose of Sharon** (*Hibiscus syriacus*) – Prune one third of the plant in late fall or winter.

**Spirea** (*Spirea x vanhouttei*) – Requires some pruning to maintain attractive appearance and to keep in bounds. Prune, keeping the natural shape in mind, only in the spring after blooming to ensure a good display the following year.

**Lilac** (*Syringa vulgaris*) – Prune immediately after blooming (sets bud on old wood).

**Fourwing Saltbush** (*Atriplex canescens*) – Prune in fall or spring. Reach under the bush and cut out old and thick branches and lightly shape the rest of the bush. To totally reshape the bush, it can be cut back to eight inches from the ground in the fall or winter.

**Apache Plume** (*Fallugia paradoxa*) – Prune the branches from the bottom and cut out any dead branches. This can be done in early spring.

**White Sage** (*Artemisia abrotanum*) – Prune twelve inches from the ground for a hard prune to control the size. However, it is not necessary to prune except to shape and control it.

**Hedges/Privets** (*Forestiera neomexicana*) – Remove large branches from inside with a lopper. Use pruning shears or pruners for tops and sides, keeping a natural look. Prune several times a year.

Fall is a good time to make thinning cuts, removing dead branches back to a main stem. Don't prune back branch tips in fall because the tender new growth that results can be easily damaged by freezes.

## **WATERING SYSTEM**

After the design of the Garden was finished and approved, generous volunteers from the church installed a three bank box and timer. One led to the planned trees, the other to the fountain, and the third to an area toward the Meditation Area. The lines are three quarter inch lines and 1/4 inch lines run from them to the bushes and perennials. The timer was set to run automatically and in the very hot days of the summer, it can be turned on manually. The trees have bubblers that can be adjusted for amounts of water it dispersed.

In the year 2007, when the Natural Garden was finished, another set of three banks was installed. A one inch line ran around the outside of the circle, one ran on the inside of the circle and another was installed to take care of the holding bed and several memorial beds east of the circle. Again, 1/4 inch drip lines were attached to those lines.

When the weather turns to freezing, the water is shut off inside the church and remains off until spring and there is no longer fear of freezing. If the winter does not provide us with any snow for thirty days and the trees need watering, turn the system on for a winter water.

To turn the system on follow these steps:

- 1) The lever to turn on inside of the church is located in the janitor room across from the bathrooms. It is located by the furnace. Turn the faucet OFF that is located near it.
- 2) Close all faucets outside in the garden
- 3) On main valve by back door, turn 2 screws straight up and down.
- 4) Turn outside faucet on the bottom OFF
- 5) Turn water on inside church and everything should work.

## **TIMERS**

Each spring, the timers are turned on manually, one section at a time. This is to allow the lines to be checked for leakage.

### **To turn the system on manually:**

First, check the valves in the ground box. Small levers must be pointed to the right for the timer to work. If the levers are pointed UP, the station will run constantly.

- 1) Press the manual button
- 2) Press the Next button and click until an arrow points to 1,2 or 3.  
Select the line you want.
- 3) Start with #1 – this line is closest to the building.
- 4) Line #2 is for trees and lead-offs.
- 5) Line #3 is for the fountain and the south bank.
- 6) Press the + button and keep pressing it until it gets to the number of minutes you want. You will see the minutes on the screen.
- 7) Press the Enter button.

When all lines have been checked, the timer can be set in the automatic mode. In the Formal Garden it is set for 25 minutes on each line for Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday – beginning at 9:00 pm.

The system is the same in the Natural Garden. There are three lines and each are set for 20 minutes on Tuesdays and Saturdays, beginning at 9:00 pm. The first line goes around the circle on the outside and includes the Labyrinth. The second line runs around the inside of the circle and the third one takes care of the holding bed and several memorials east of the circle.

The drip system in the Natural Garden and Labyrinth will always be changing. Because most of the plants are water wise, the quarter inch line should be removed when the plant is one or two years old. That will release more water to the newly planted plants that need more water to get the roots well established.

## **TROUBLE SHOOTING**

If, after completing all above listed steps, the water does not come on, follow this procedure:

- 1) Check the electrical box. It is located on the wall of the building, to the right of the timer and close to the ground. The outlet below the timer is for the fountain.
- 2) Open the cover of the correct electrical box and pull out the yellow plug.
- 3) Under the plug you will see a reset button. Push it in.
- 4) If the reset button will not stay in, there is another problem, such as water accumulating in the box in the ground, or the timer itself is broken.
- 5) Press the clear button on the timer, and keep the plug pulled out from the electrical box until the problem is solved.

## **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

CSU Cooperative Extension  
701 Court Street, Ste C  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
719-583-6566

Certified Arborist  
Matthew Emmon  
719-557-1442

Colorado Saw and Tool, inc.  
388 E. Industrial Blvd.  
Pueblo West, CO 81007  
719-547-2346

Pueblo West Hardware  
222 S. McCulloch Blvd  
Pueblo West, CO 81007  
719-547-0608

ABC Plumbing and Electrical Supplies  
101 Spring Street  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
719-542-5631

Dripworks.com  
190 Sanhedrin Circle  
Willitts, CA 95490  
1-800-522-3747

Pioneer Sand Co.  
97 N. Fabrication Drive  
Pueblo West, CO 81007  
719-547-1092

Rocky Mountain Landscape Materials

1087 E. Holiday Drive, #70

Pueblo West, CO 81007

719-547-2224

Fox's Garden and Nursery

329 Santa Fe Avenue

Pueblo, CO 81003

719-542-1872

Palace Nursery and Garden Center

1115 E. Holiday Drive

Pueblo West, CO 81007

719-647-0531

Pueblo West Garden Center

59 S. Masters Drive

Pueblo West, CO 81007

719-547-4866

Seufer Brothers Nursery

1087 E. Holiday Drive

Pueblo West, CO 81007

719-647-1177

Chris Gonzales

384 Conquistador Drive

Pueblo West, CO 81007

719-406-3418

Planet Natural

1612 Gold Ave.

Bozeman, MT 59715

1-800-289-6656

Planetnatural.com

The Garden Primer

By Barbara Danrosch

*Available on Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble*

