

Extension Connection

April 17, 2020

Gilpin County CSU Extension's
Virtual Education

Vol. 5



GILPIN COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

BY CLAIRE SKEEN

As of April 16, 2020, there is still only one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Gilpin County. Please monitor the Gilpin County Sheriff's Facebook page and website for any new information.

The next Gilpin Town Hall will take place on April 20th at 6:00pm.

<https://zoom.us/j/170450264>

Meeting ID: 170 450 264

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,170450264# US (Houston)

[Open Town Hall link](#) to submit questions

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MOUNTAIN GARDENING

BY JENNIFER COOK

Everyone wants to be more self-sufficient right now, gardening is a great way to do it! Our gardening season is almost here. In general, Gilpin residents can grow from late May through early September. Gilpin County Extension wants to help you get started with gardening in the mountains.

Here's a few tips for success:

- Our short growing season (90 days at the Gilpin Community Garden 9300 feet) and cold nights make it perfect to grow cool season crops like salad greens and peas!
- Low nighttime temperatures make it challenging to grow warm season crops like tomatoes and eggplant.
- Don't forget about the critters! Moose, deer, pocket gophers and voles will have dinner at your garden if you don't protect it. Use [floating row covers](#) over top of your plants, and consider using ¼" hardware cloth installed under beds. [More on critter control here.](#)
- Make your garden on a south or southwest facing area to take advantage of warmer temperatures. [More on site selection for your garden.](#)

Try These Mountain Hardy Vegetables!

Each vegetable has a different germination response to temperatures. [Learn when to plant your seeds here.](#)

- Root Crops - radish, beet, carrot, turnip, onion, garlic
- Leafy Greens - lettuce, spinach, mustard greens, swiss chard, arugula, mache, mizuna, tatsoi
- Cole Crops - broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kale, collards, kohlrabi, bok choy, brussels sprout
- Peas
- Potatoes – [more on how to grow potatoes!](#)
- Warm season crops (in a warm spot) – bush beans and summer squash (early maturing varieties)
- Annual Herbs – Parsley, Dill, Calendula, Borage, Lovage, Savory, Nasturtium
- Perennial Herbs – Chives, French tarragon, Horseradish, some Mints

Want to learn more?

Watch our Mountain Vegetable Gardening Webinar recording –
<https://youtu.be/5CkZIEcG8XU>

Check out the Gilpin Extension website for lots of info on gardening in
the mountains - <https://gilpin.extension.colostate.edu/programs/mtn-hort/>

Colorado Mountain Gardening Blog -
<http://coloradomountaingardener.blogspot.com/>



Gilpin County Community Garden

Do you know about our community garden? We provide the space (in-ground 50 sf, or raised 30 sf), water and soil amendments, located at the Gilpin County Fairgrounds, near the Recreation Center.

[2020 Community Garden applications are now available!](#)

For more information and questions, contact extension@gilpincounty.org

KID'S CORNER: HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

BY KIRSTEN SPRINGER

ACTIVITIES ADOPTED FROM JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER GUIDE LEVEL 1 TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE AND GROWING IN THE GARDEN K-3 CURRICULUM IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Listen to Ms Kirsten reading *The Maybe Garden* by Kimberly Burke-Weiner

<https://youtu.be/qruzDIEi00>

Where do plants originate or start? If you said from a seed, you were thinking the same as I was. In this activity, we will investigate seeds a bit, then we will plant some in different materials to see how they grow. First, all seeds and plants are either monocots or dicots. Think about the word – mono – it means one. What does di- usually mean? Di- usually means two, in this instance it can mean two or more. A monocot plant has the veins in its leaf going in the same direction. Corn is an example. The seed is all one piece also, think about a popcorn kernel, it is solidly one piece. A dicot plant has veins going in different directions. In today's investigation we are going to use beans, avocados, pumpkins, nasturtiums and cosmos – and they are all dicots. Do you think dicots are more common than monocots? Here is a chart showing the characteristics of monocots and dicots, if you really want to get deep into the subject!

MONOCOTS

Embryo with single cotyledon
Pollen with single furrow or pore
Flower parts in multiples of three
Major leaf veins parallel

DICOTS

Embryo with two cotyledons
Pollen with three furrows or pores
Flower parts in multiples of four or five
Major leaf veins reticulated

1. Soak some beans (pinto beans are excellent) overnight in some water
2. Peel the seed coat off the soaked bean
3. Pull the seed apart to reveal the cotyledon (look like a mini plant) that are actually the seed's "lunchbox"
4. Take another of the soaked beans – plant both beans – one without the cotyledon and one still whole in your "Egghead" (you will make these in a minute)
5. Keep track of what happens with each bean plant.
6. Transfer the plant to your garden after the last frost (early June).

THE EGGHEAD

Make a compostable starter pot using an eggshell. (Find a good use for 4 eggs, maybe make your parents breakfast or some brownies??!!)

When you crack the eggs, only crack enough around the small point end to get the yolk and white out. Use a teaspoon and fill the eggshell with potting soil. Then get creative with markers and decorate you “egghead” but be careful – remember what happened to “Humpty Dumpty.”

When you plant your beans and other seeds, very gently make an indentation in the soil with a finger, plant the seed and cover. Then water with a few drops of water. Place in a safe spot, use an old egg carton or some other container to protect your “egghead.” Place in a warm sunny spot but not in direct sunlight. Water daily, you should see the starts of a plant within 7 days.

If you have other seeds, I had some pumpkin, nasturtium and cosmos – you can plant these in eggheads as well. Or if your family has some grass seed around even better – plant some and watch “egghead’s” hair grow.

Once your plants have started to grow, you can plant them in a pot or outside in the soil. To plant them, crush the eggshell but keep the plant in it, and transplant the entire egghead.



Our second investigation is going to be an adventure in hydroponics.

First, what does hydro mean? If you said water you were correct. If you are using hydroponics, you are growing plants in water.

1. Take a head of romaine lettuce and cut the leaves off about 2 inches up from the stem.
2. Place the end of the lettuce in a shallow cup with about ½” of water.
3. Keep it in a sunny spot and add water as needed.
4. Watch the growth happen, take photos daily and document the growth: send your photos to csuextensiongilpin@gmail.com for a chance to win some 4H swag!
5. Plant in soil once you see roots starting – about 7 days. Soon you will have fresh lettuce made from remnants of your last salad!



Avocados are started well using hydroponics. Use the pit of the avocado after you have made guacamole!

1. Wash and dry the pit.
2. Fill a jar with water up to the brim.
3. Find the broad end of the pit.
4. Stick 3 toothpicks around the pit on the sides.
5. Place on the rim of the cup with broad end down in the water.
6. Place in a warm, sunny spot but not direct sunlight.
7. Refill the water as needed.



You can continue growing your avocado tree for a long time in the cup of water, once it gets too big you can plant it in a pot with soil.

Watch a demonstration of our investigations at <https://youtu.be/yQgU0sqNaHg>.

If you want to continue these experiments, try the following activity from the National 4H STEM Lab: <https://4-h.org/parents/stem-agriculture/youth-stem-activities/bean-in-a-bottle/>