



## Welcome to Boulder Blossom's Newsletter!

Happy Friday! We're thrilled you've joined Boulder Blossom's blooming community, where native Colorado beauty meets sustainability in every yard.

### Meet Boulder Blossom

We are Boulder County's new go-to for native and sustainable landscaping, on a mission to make every outdoor space reflect the natural wonders of our region. Our team brings ecological expertise to every project, creating gardens that are beautiful, water-wise, and vital homes for pollinators and wildlife. Learn more about our mission and story at [our website](#).

### Plant Feature Friday

This week, we're spotlighting Colorado's **Common Sunflower** ☐ (*Helianthus annuus*):

- They're natural solar trackers: their blooms follow the sun across the sky each day, a movement called heliotropism.
- Wildlife magnet for a variety of pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds, making them a biodiversity booster.
- Why we love it: they help clean the soil through a natural process called phytoremediation, absorbing toxins and improving soil health.
- Check out our handy infographic for fun facts and a beautiful photo!

# COMMON SUNFLOWER

## NATIVE COLORADO PLANT

*Helianthus annuus*

The name "sunflower" comes from the flower's tendency to face the sun as it moves across the sky.

Common Sunflower in Spanish means looks at the sun. In Greek the scientific name *Helianthus* comes from "helios" which means sun, and "anthos" meaning flower.

- ✓ Sunflowers follow the sun! Their blooms turn to track sunlight—a phenomenon called heliotropism.
- ✓ Help clean soil, thanks to their phytoremediation abilities.
- ✓ Pollinator powerhouse— attracts bees, butterflies, and birds, boosting local biodiversity.
- ✓ Super low-maintenance and drought tolerant- thrives in Colorado's sunny spots and poor soils
- ✓ Self-seeds easily—let just a few go to seed for a wild, cheerful patch next summer.



Plant in full sun with well-drained soil. Leave spent flowers for hungry goldfinches, chickadees, and other backyard birds!

## Native Landscaping Tip of the Week

### Give New Native Plants Some Summer Shade ☀

Summer on the Front Range can be hot and unforgiving for young native plants. Even sun-loving species can get stressed right after planting. Try covering newly planted areas with a layer of burlap for the first 6–8 weeks. Burlap offers shade and airflow, letting the plants acclimate without baking in intense sun. You can reuse the same burlap for years, making this a low-cost, eco-friendly solution for happy, thriving natives.

## Question of the Week

***Can I plant native wildflowers and grasses if my Boulder home has little natural precipitation and gets very hot?***

Absolutely! Colorado's native plants are adapted to our dry, sunny climate! The key is to "plant your water first": shape the ground with swales or shallow

trenches to gather whatever rain does fall, directing it to the base of your plants. Group plants with similar needs, use plenty of mulch, and reduce irrigation as your natives mature (usually after 2–3 years). With smart design and patience, you can have a gorgeous, resilient landscape that thrives even with Boulder County's minimal summer rain.

**Send us your burning gardening questions! Each week, we'll answer one right here to help your yard become a native sanctuary.**

## Local Eco-Events & News

- **Riparian Plant Walk & Beaver Talk with Wild Bear, Saturday August 16th 10 am-12 pm at Wild Bear Nature Center-** Take a small hike through wet meadows to sites along North Beaver Creek to see the dams, learn about the importance of beaver in riparian ecosystems, and enjoy a beautiful walk through the riparian areas and meadow. More information [here](#).
- **Eldo After Dark: Bat Walk, Saturday August 16th 7:30-8:30 pm at Eldorado Canyon State Park-** Come along for our evening bat walk! We'll learn about local bat species and explore the park they call home. More information [here](#).
- **Tending the Prairie: A Field Tour of Grassland Stewardship, Tuesday, August 20th 5:30-7:30 pm at Jim Hamm Nature Area-** How does your community care for its prairies? Join The Watershed Center for an evening exploring grassland ecosystems near Longmont, CO. More information [here](#).

## Help Us Grow!

Have a favorite flower, a backyard wildlife visitor, or a gardening tip? Reply to this email or tag us on Instagram @boulder\_blossom to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

Thank you for supporting native gardens and local ecosystems-one yard at a time. Watch out for before and after photos and videos on our social media platforms from our projects!

Stay rooted,  
The Boulder Blossom Team ☐

Learn more about us and book your **free consultation** on [our website!](#)





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