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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CRC Announces 2008 Xeriscape Programs

Xeric landscapes can reduce outdoor water use by up to 60%

Spring has arrived, and with it comes the gardening season! The Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC) has partnered with local cities to provide two programs for the do-it-yourselfer wanting to implement xeric gardening: Garden-In-A-Box and Free Water-Wise Landscape Seminar Week. Garden-In-A-Box provides low-cost, pre-planned xeric gardens that come with plants, a design and planting instructions. The landscape seminar week consists of 6 free xeriscaping and water-wise landscape seminars offered in Boulder and Longmont from April 7th-12th.

“A xeriscape can be a stunning addition to any landscape,” said Jeannine Shaw, the CRC’s Water Division Director, “Our programs are designed to make xeriscaping easy for gardeners of all abilities.”

Over half of Boulder’s residential water is used outside to irrigate lawns during the summer. Xeriscaping helps cut down on this water use by landscaping with low water plants. Converting turf to xeriscape is an excellent way for residents and property managers to meet water budget requirements. According to the Colorado Water-Wise Council, xeriscapes can increase property values by as much as 15%.

“Making the basics of water conservation simple and accessible is important,” said Paul Lander, City of Boulder Water Conservation Specialist, “Garden-In-A-Box and the CRC’s Seminars provide those foundational elements to our customers.”

Through Garden-In-A-Box, the CRC is offering three unique designs for 2008: Heavenly Hell, Water-Wise Sunrise and Cool Connections. The gardens cost between \$55 and \$110 and come with between 32 and 38 plants in either 4” or 2 ¼” pots, depending on the design. Gardens are available to residents of Boulder, Longmont and Loveland. In Boulder, the CRC is also offering low cost trees, drip irrigation systems, compost, and free mulch.

The free seminars cover introductory to advanced xeriscaping topics and are taught by local landscape experts. The seminars will be held at the Boulder REI, the Longmont Public Library and the 29th St. Mall Community Meeting Room in Boulder and last for roughly 2 hours each.

“It’s important to recognize that xeriscaping does not mean covering your landscape with rocks and cactus or that you can’t have any bluegrass,” said Shaw. “The key is to come up with a landscape design that will suit your needs while still conserving water.”

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About the CRC:

Founded in 1976, the Center for ReSource Conservation is a Boulder based 501(c)3 non-profit organization which is committed to leading Colorado residents, businesses, and governments to a sustainable future. Each year, the CRC empowers more than 7,500 individuals to live a more sustainable life through educational programs and services designed to help members of our community conserve water and energy and minimize waste.

About Garden-In-A-Box and Seminars:

Gardens-In-A-Box are on sale now! Pickup dates are May 3rd in Boulder, May 10th in Longmont and May 17th in Loveland.

Water-Wise Landscape Seminar Schedule:

- 4/7: Intro to Xeriscaping - Mike Ransom (Boulder REI)
- 4/8: Intro to Xeriscaping - Curtis Manning (Longmont Public Library)
- 4/9: Trees: Selection, Care and Maintenance - Kathleen Alexander (29th St. Mall, Boulder)
- 4/10: The Tricks of Xeriscaping- Mikl Brauner (Longmont Public Library)
- 4/11: Landscaping for Conservation – Jeannine Shaw (Boulder REI)
- 4/12: Renovating an Existing Landscape to Xeriscape - Alison Peck (Boulder REI)

Monday through Friday Seminars are from 6pm-8pm. The seminar on Saturday, April 12th is from 9:30am-11:30am.

To register for a seminar or to order a Garden-in-a-Box visit www.ConservationCenter.org or call 303.441.3278 ext. 17