

WELCOME TO OUR GARDEN

Sheryl Joel & Keith Gray – 103 Placer Avenue

The best way to describe my garden is a cottage style – a little bit wild and a little bit structured. It is a unique blend of beauty and practicality. I have it all: beautiful flowers, vegetables, fruit trees, and a little yard art thrown in for our creative side. The garden covers most of a typical city corner lot and eventually I plan to fill it all. Some of the flowers will be done blooming by the time of the garden tour and hopefully I can get some pictures so that you can see what I see during the seasons. I have taken some major things out along the sidewalk namely the unsightly bar harbor junipers and replacing with less mature flowering plants but eventually prettier and easier to maintain. I have incorporated some pathways for easier access to the landscape and look forward to finding just the “perfect” garden arbor for the front entryway. I have an abundance of sunshine on most of the property and have roses throughout. Some have gone wild, and one variety is half wild and half the original plant. (Didn’t know that was possible!) I am concentrating on planting annuals that I can use in flower bouquets, so zinnias are my new best friend, and you can find them throughout the entire yard for fun splashes of color. The north facing yard is filled with early forget-me-nots, astilbes, hostas, and the old-fashioned hollyhocks. You can also find daisies but they have to stretch to find the sunshine so I have taken some to the front yard so they can bask in full sun.

Over the years I have worked for numerous people helping with the upkeep and planting of their gardens. I have been blessed with many donated plants from my work with them and plants from friends and neighbors where we have exchanged when we had extras. It’s hard for me to turn away any flower – I love variety. When I look at my garden, I have fond memories of where I got my plants and the wonderful relationships formed by our love of gardening. A few varieties that I have were brought back from my family home in Illinois (dwarf purple irises that line the sidewalk and a few of the pink spiraeas). I would like to acknowledge the Olsen Nursery in Fort Lupton for their generous donation of several plants and hanging baskets that grace this garden.

My philosophy is mostly if it grows and looks nice, I give it a home to flourish in. I’ve learned the hard way that a few of the flowers, although beautiful, are

invasive and hard to get rid of (sweet pea and vinca) two of which I restrict and try to remove. I welcome the reseeding of cosmos, larkspur, calendula, bachelor buttons and gaillardia each year and the occasional new variety the birds bring by. (cleome & sunflowers). Some varieties work and some don't. It's a work in progress, always different each year and gloriously beautiful.

Although my garden takes a lot of work, it gives me an immense amount of joy and accomplishment. There is nothing more satisfying than to hear the compliments from the people passing by and striking up a conversation.

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