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ALCC Reveals the Top 5 Landscape Trends for 2017

Just in time for the kick off the Colorado planting season, Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC), the state's largest landscape association, reveals the hottest trends for 2017. These trends help homeowners elevate their yards to the next level.

- 1. Put your garden to work.** The trend toward making a garden as functional as it is pretty continues with homesteading gardens springing up in urban areas. People continue to design and build gardens that attract pollinators, grow fruits and vegetables, and house chickens and bees.
- 2. Bump up the entertainment WOW factor.** Neighbor friendly lighting and sound systems will now spread ambiance throughout your yard and keep the entertainment on your side of the fence. As the night wears on, you can change the color and hue of outdoor lighting and control the volume of music with a smart phone or tablet. A landscape pro can help you set up and program the systems.
- 3. Plant for climate change.** Cooler springs, warmer summers and wetter falls impact what to plant. Pick plants that will not only survive, but also thrive in Colorado's harsh growing conditions. Flowers, trees and shrubs that bloom later in the season will fare better with extended cold springs. Native plants that require less water in hot summer months tend to do best and give your yard a Colorado vibe.
- 4. Put another log on the fire.** Outdoor living rooms have been popular for years, and the trend to add a fire pit or outdoor fireplace is stronger than ever. Customers are requesting outdoor "chat rooms" that include a fire element surrounded by built-in seating or furniture. The added warmth extends the Colorado patio season to nearly 12 months.
- 5. Design with maintenance in mind.** Designing a landscape with the level of maintenance you want to do on your own or hire out will keep you happier in the long run. Adding a deck or patio minimizes maintenance while maximizing outdoor living. Plants that are easy to grow and require less water will keep the maintenance down and the enjoyment up.

Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC) is the premier professional organization for Colorado's landscape companies with six chapters statewide. To find a qualified landscape professional or for more garden tips visit www.alcc.com and click on "[find a landscape pro](#)" and "[tip of the week](#)." Go to www.facebook.com/LandscapeinColorado to get lawn/garden tips, ideas and to ask questions about your garden.