# Exploring Gardening Innovations in Gayton and Denver



Gardening enthusiasts in Gayton and Denver have been exploring various techniques and approaches to enhance their gardens and adapt to local conditions.

Jamie Marsh, a Gayton-based gardener, recently shared his experience growing wildflowers in his weekly column. In December 2022, Marsh embarked on transforming a section of his front lawn into a wildflower patch. Initial efforts in spring faced challenges with strong grass growth overpowering the wildflowers. Marsh decided to use the "no dig method," placing cardboard over the ground to block sunlight and cover it with poor-quality soil, as wildflowers prefer nutrient-deficient conditions. By the following June, Marsh successfully witnessed a vibrant wildflower patch that attracted bees.

In Denver, a new AI texting service called Flora, developed by the Boulder-based fertilizer company Love, Plants, offers instant gardening advice. Jenny Cavanaugh of Denver Kitchen Gardens evaluated Flora’s responses to common gardening questions. Flora recommended beginners in Denver grow radishes, spinach, and lettuce due to their low-maintenance requirement. Flora also suggested improving Denver’s challenging soil by adding organic matter like compost. For planting, Flora advised raised beds for better drainage and soil control.

Lastly, gardeners are advised to avoid mowing lawns during hot weather. James Lewis from MyBuilder.com highlighted that cutting grass too short in summer heat could cause brown patches or permanently damage the lawn. He recommended postponing mowing to protect grass blades and retain moisture.

These insights from Marsh, Flora, and Lewis provide practical guidance for gardeners aiming to cultivate vibrant and resilient gardens while navigating local environmental challenges.