

Spring 2023 Tips for Condo Gardening

Now that warmer weather has arrived, it's time for a little tidying up of our neighborhood. Any Realtor will tell you that a well-maintained community will enhance our property values!

NEW landscape projects require HOA Board approval and understanding the requirements increases the likelihood that your project will be approved.

To clarify, your foundation area is considered **Limited Common Area** and the grassy area surrounding your condo (maybe thought of as your yard) is called **Common Area**. *Additional helpful information called FAQs is attached to this email.* There are stipulations on what may and may not be planted in these areas. Before dreaming about your landscape projects, please check out the Rules & Regulations section on the Windridge website that includes the **Landscape Request Form**: www.windridgecondos.com.

If you have questions, please contact Bev Watkins at b9watkins@gmail.com.

- Conduct a quick survey of your foundation area. Check for branches that may have fallen over the winter and any compromised limbs in surrounding trees that could damage your gutters, roof, siding or windows. To have staff assess your concern, submit a WORK ORDER form that is be found at www.windridgecondos.com or pick one up at the office.
- Now is the ideal time to vigorously trim back the invasive ivy and euonymus that grows so well here. Cut it back and make sure you pull it from your windows and siding as it digs into the mortar and weakens it. Tidy up dead plants from last season and consider hoeing the soil before early weeds get a foothold before you...see next bullet.
- Mulch is a fresh look in the garden and is a good next step. Avoid mounding new mulch any deeper than 3" or piling it up against the wooden siding of your condo, tree trunks or large shrubs. Mulch holds moisture which is good for plants, but not good for siding! **Please use only natural brown mulch.** Mulch that has been dyed or treated contains toxins that pollute soil and water and may not contribute to the growth of the plants it surrounds.
- Moles are annoying and they dig tunnels in our lawns, but from an environmental perspective, they are eating destructive grubs and enriching the soil. If you want them gone, you will have to play "whack a mole." Toxins used to kill moles also poison birds, other wildlife and are a risk to our beloved dogs and cats. SO, we encourage stomping on the mole trails to keep the ground level that in turn encourages the grass to re-root.

Thank you for helping to make our neighborhood more beautiful!