

# LANDSCAPE STANDARDS

This page contains Landscape Committee Forms and Standards for Courtyard Homes Association, Inc. (Courtyard Homes). These forms and standards may be printed or downloaded.

Click on the form name to view/print the document.  
Right-mouse-click to download the document.

## **Committee Members:**

<i>Judy Coughlin</i>	<i>860-798-9709</i>
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Please remember our community has a Homeowner's Association. The Landscape Committee is available to advise owners on Florida-friendly options for your yards and medians. We can also provide you with landscape contractors and suppliers to update and enhance your spaces with the goal to maintain a quality, cared for, uniform appearance across our community.

The standards below have been written to make it easy to know what can and cannot be done. Please feel free to share these standards with your contractors when you are having work done.

How to engage us to help you:

1. We are available to discuss any changes or improvements to your landscaping.
2. If the area you are updating is shared with your neighbor, you must agree on a plan together.
3. Use the standards below to establish your plan. Additionally assure that your plan is compatible with what your neighbors have already done.
4. Once you decide your plan use the link on this page to complete and submit a [Landscape Change Request Form](#).

# **STANDARDS**

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### **PLANTS AND SHRUBS**

All plants need to be local and highly salt- and drought-tolerant. These plants are commonly referred to as Southwest Florida-friendly. There are beautiful annual and perennial, colorful choices available. Here are our top choices that do especially well in our Florida Landscape Zone 10A:

## Native Ground Covers



Golden Creeper (*ernodea littoralis*): Small succulent light green leaves on bright red stems. Pinkish tubular flowers prefer full sun and highly tolerant.



Perennial Peanut (*arachis glabrata*): Light green feathery leaves with yellow flowers. Loves full sun and fast-growing.



Frog Fruit (*Phyla nodiflora*): Versatile fast-growing eco-friendly alternative to turf grass.



Railroad Vine (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*): A creeping, high-tolerance vine perfect for groundcover.



Beach Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*): Fast-growing yellow native flower, high salinity tolerance.

### Grasses



Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*): Pink, fall flowers that tolerate extreme drought temperatures and flooding.



Sand Cordgrass (*Sporobolus bakeri*): Fine texture marsh grass with summer flowers.

### Shrubs



Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*): Native, hardy, and extremely drought/salt tolerant.



Firebush (*Hamelia patens*): Attracts butterflies and birds, thrives in heat.



Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*): Hardy native cycad requiring very low maintenance.



Seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*): Exceptional salt and wind tolerance; can be trained as a shrub or tree.



Silver Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus* var. *sericeus*): Excellent for hedges with high drought and salt resistance.



Necklace Pod (*Sophora tomentosa*): Highly salt-tolerant flowering native shrub.



Cocoplum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*): Versatile, salt-tolerant shrub for screening or hedges.

### **Salt-Tolerant Vines**



Bougainvillea: Extremely drought and saltolerant, great for adding color.



Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*): Salt-tolerant vine that attracts hummingbirds.

## Agave and Succulents



Agave Lophantha: Winter-hardy medium size succulent that's easy to care for in yards or pots.



Blue Agave: Have a rosette of thick, fleshy leaves. Sharp points and grow large

## PLANTS TO AVOID

**Do not plant** these as they are invasive

- Mexican Petunias
- Oyster Plants
- Purple Queen
- Brazilian Peppers

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The University of Florida has a wonderful website to learn more about Florida-friendly plants. You can explore this site to help with your landscape plans by clicking on the link below. Additionally, they offer very easy to use apps for your cell phone (either IOS or Android) to download from this site:

<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/>

## **SOD**

At present, due to extreme drought and irrigation conditions, we discourage owners from planting sod. Owners will be notified if conditions change and grass becomes a more viable option in our association. Furthermore, we encourage owners to move towards alternate options to sod like the plant ground covers or mulch. The only approved sod our association is St. Augustine grass. Zoysia, Bermuda or Bahia grasses are discouraged. These are not as shade and salt tolerant, and some go latent in winter.

## **MULCH**

Dark Brown wood mulch (not mulch chips) is the standard for our association. Our association will sponsor mulching all owner beds, the pool area and street islands once a year in November. Mulch will be spread in established beds by our contractor beginning at the street and back to the air conditioner units between buildings. If owners wish to reapply mulch outside of this timeframe, or to create new beds requiring mulch, they are responsible for acquiring and spreading new mulch. We recommend dark brown (not black or medium brown) thick mulch to maintain standards.

## **ROCKS AND BOULDERS**

Rocks and boulders can be purchased locally at:

[The Good Earth](#)

[C & C Landscaping](#)

[Home Depot](#)

- Rocks and Boulders can be used as accents only, not to fill entire yards, beds or medians.
- Boulders should be limited to 1 or 2 and be natural color.
- Smaller rocks should be smooth-sided oval or round, 3-4" in size, and tan, grey, or black in color.

## **COURTYARD AND YARD ART**

- Owners can design and decorate their courtyards as they please.
- To keep continuity throughout our association, minimize yard art from your Courtyard gate forward to the street.

## **PLANTERS**

- Owners are encouraged to plant a majority of their palms, trees and plants inground versus in planters. This will maximize your plant's ability to thrive, as we often incur drought conditions in our area,
- Only one or two potted plants are permitted outside your courtyard

## **BORDERS**

- Plastic or edger borders should be 1 – 2 inches high and blend in with your beds.
- Stones or pavers used as borders should meet rock guidelines above and be used to enhance and not for entire beds.

## **SHELLS**

- Shells should only be used in pool or in non-visible areas.

## **LANDSCAPE LIGHTS AND SPOTLIGHTS**

- Limited lights are allowed to light walkways and to accent tree scaping.
- All landscape lightbulbs must be WHITE and LED.

## **HOLIDAY DECORATIONS**

- Holiday decorations can be up from Saturday after Thanksgiving to January 6.

## **NURSERIES AND LANDSCAPE COMPANIES**

### **Nurseries**

[Orban](#)

[Mariposa](#)

[C&C](#)

[Sweet Bay](#)

[Earth Balance](#)

### **Landscape Companies**

*Marciano Carrillo Landscaping (941-932-5020)*

[Brightview](#)

[Terry's Tree Service](#)

*Gata Landscaping and Pavers (941-536-6488)*

## Landscape Change Request

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Landscape Request (attach drawing or picture if you'd like):

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**UNLESS WORK IS WITHIN THE NORMAL SCOPE OF OUR ASSOCIATION'S CURRENT BRIGHTVIEW CONTRACT, UNIT OWNER(S) WILL BE ASKED TO PAY FOR THE CHANGES.**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If disapproved, why:

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Once your request is completed and agreed to by your neighbor, please return to:

Judy Coughlin  
1261 Spoonbill Landings Cir.  
jhallcoughlin@gmail.com  
(860)798-9709

