

Volume 2 - Issue 1
Summer 2023

TURF TALK

SCCL LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

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From The Landscape Chairperson

From the Desk of: Thomas J. Powell

We receive a lot of questions about the HOA landscape policies. Residents want to understand what they can and can't do.

The fact is, rules can be confusing for homeowners. Rules can vary widely from one HOA to another. These rules are in place for a reason – mostly to keep the community looking its best and the property in a uniform look from home to home. This may cause some of us to view these rules as oppressive. Overall, most homeowners will understand the importance of these landscape policies. Some residents are just as adamant about defending the policies as those who would like to bend the rules. An HOA community, as a whole, looks better if the landscapes are somewhat similar, or at least complementing one another as opposed to clashing. It is also important to avoid invasive species or plants that can be problematic. For example: Bamboo – enough said on that! We now have, to our benefit, a professional Landscape Management Company in CLC to provide direction and oversight to the eight landscape contractors working in Carolina Lakes. Along with CLC we have a dedicated Landscape Committee offering guidance and support.

We still have work to do but, from my view, this community is starting to look the way it should. We have some residual issues from the previous landscaper that will take some time to control – Mother Nature has a vote in this, as well. We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful community, and have so many of our friends and neighbors willing to step in and give of their time and experience to make this a truly Premier Active Adult Community.



We're All Stuck Up

It was an extraordinary Spring getting our properties ready so that our new landscapers know WHAT NOT TO DO on your gardens, shrubs and lawn. After a false start with magnets, we turned to weatherproof vinyl printed stickers and are happy to see that they are sticking well. Your Landscape Committee drove every pod and put the needed stickers on both sides of your mailbox if you opted out. The job is done until next Fall. If you have not opted out but want to ... wait until next year.



ORANGE
Do not mow
my lawn or
devil strip



LIGHT PURPLE
Do not prune my
shrubbery



YELLOW
Do not apply
Round Up



BLUE
Do not apply turf
applications

Why The Change of Colors?

The existing magnets may have been on your mailboxes before you moved in, they may have fallen off; and, since Brightview has left, many services have improved or are improving. Your landscape team and management team felt a fresh start will get everyone on the same page.

Opting Out For Next Year

This Fall, all residents will be notified when the opt-out period for 2024 will begin. During this time, and only during this time, homeowners will have a chance to change their preferences. Homeowners opting back in will need to remove the appropriate sticker(s) from their mailboxes while the Landscape Committee will apply any new stickers in the Spring.

At Your Service, But Not Every Service



Below is a helpful list of specific services provided for single family homes in SCCL. Should you want to opt out of any service, it will be for a full year and you will have the opportunity to do so every Fall for the following year. Your landscapers will honor the stickers on your mailbox as they work within your pod. Be sure you have the right stickers and always remove old stickers and magnets.

Area	Services Provided
Back Yard	Same as front yard except if fenced in.
Bushes	Pruning the shrubs in the front bed.
Devil Strip	Common open space treated the same as a front lawn.
Fenced in areas	Fenced in areas receive no services.
Front Lawn	Mow, fertilize, apply weed control, aerate every other year, apply turf applications.
Irrigation	No services
Trees	Prune branches touching the house. Pulte planted Crepe Myrtles only.
Sides	Weed control on side mulched areas. No other responsibilities.
Weeds	Weed control applied seasonally.
Walkway, Entrance, Patio	Blowing of debris after service

Do I Need To Go To Modifications?

YES! – YES! – YES! To be on the 100% safe side, if you are planning to change anything in your home’s landscape, checking with the modifications people is the way to go. Your first stop is to read the Design Guidelines found on the SCCL website.

Let’s assume you have a dead tree on your property, whether you planted it or it was planted by the builder. Obviously, if it is dead, it must come down. Replacing it is a different story. There are guidelines to follow in terms of removal and specific things you can and can’t plant, so it is easy to ask Modifications for information. Above all, when you do get approval, keep a clear record of your approvals with your important home documents. It may be needed in the future. Please note that homeowners cannot make any alterations to the COS devil strip in front of their homes.

SCCL Design Guidelines

The following information has been extrapolated from the SCCL Design Guidelines V6.0, currently posted on the website as of the publication of this issue. We recommend referencing the document if you plan any changes to any aspect of your home’s exterior and land. Sections shown are frequently referenced by the Landscape Committee to residents’ common questions:

E. Changes to Landscaping and Plantings (from page 3)

“For changes to plantings and/or landscaping, the Homeowner shall submit a plat plus a landscaping plan. The plan must include a description of all varieties and sizes of trees and shrubs with the location of each tree and shrub clearly delineated on the plan. Color coding or otherwise providing a legend or key to the proposed plantings will facilitate review”.

Homeowner Responsibility (from page 23)

The developer installed a “landscape package” on each residential lot. The Homeowner shall remain ultimately responsible for all landscape replacement including any additions made by the Homeowner. Landscaping replacement by homeowners shall be in accordance with the maintenance standards comprising the Community-wide Standard described in Article V. A. and in conformance with the following requirements:



(Continued from previous page)

a) Plantings and Turf (from page 23)

The plantings prohibited in Sun City Carolina Lakes were selected after consideration of many factors. A List of the prohibited plantings accompanied with minimum and maximum size information, is set forth in Appendix "H".

Individual plantings of vegetables cannot exceed forty-eight (48) inches in height. All such plantings are to be within the Private Area. One planting bed, up to a maximum of thirty-two (32) square feet may be installed. Raised beds are not permitted.

Protective non-metallic netting of a color consistent with the background may be used to protect plants in the rear Private Area from destructive animals and birds. Protective netting may not be used as a protective fence.

The ground surfaces of all portions of the lot are to be covered with either turf or approved ground cover. Where turf is used, Bermuda grass is preferred. However, recognizing that Bermuda does not grow well in shade, Zoysia may be used to sod areas that were originally Bermuda. Zenith and Zeon are acceptable varieties of Zoysia which may be planted. Installation of Zoysia is a Fast Track item.

From pages 28–30

2. Mulch

Homeowners may replace pine straw with brown double hammered hardwood mulch in all planting beds.

3. Irrigation

Watering, and lime are not included with the general maintenance. Irrigation systems not installed at the time of the original house construction require modification approval.

4. Pruning

Pruning of trees must be in accordance with nursery standards. Tree topping, which leaves limbs and branches greater than one-half (1/2) inch in diameter exposed, is not permitted. Trees should be spot pruned during the growing season to promote shaping, thinning and to remove branches that interfere with nearby improvements or pedestrian traffic.

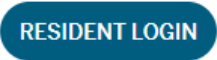
Trees within the property lines of a dwelling unit should be pruned to remove dead, damaged or crossing branches in an effort to develop the natural form of the tree. Dead or diseased trees must be removed or trimmed as soon as discovered to protect against the spread of disease.

5. Additional Tree Regulations

Trees that have been removed may be replaced to maintain the appearance of the lot as approved by the MC. A Homeowner may not cut down or remove any tree that is greater than six (6) inches in diameter [measured twelve (12) inches from the ground] without the approval of the MC. Shade trees must have at least two (2) inch caliper when planted.

Finding Design Guidelines – Guidelines can be found by going to the SCCL webpage and following the three steps below after logging in.

Open "resident". Log in
and enter your name and
password.



Locate the looking glass
in the upper right.
Click it open.



Type the words
"Design Guidelines"
Press enter

Looking For Something?

Design Guidelines

The Grass Can Always Be Greener

This information is not provided nor endorsed by the Sun City HOA, Associa or CLC. It is provided by fellow residents for your consideration.

Your lawns are partially your responsibility. Some neighbors hire outside services to maintain their lawns. Others do it themselves. We all live with Bermuda grass and despite the mowing and applications that are part of your HOA fees, more care could be required. Below is helpful information. Still, we suggest you check with local nurseries and garden centers for the best advice:

Bermuda grass is a warm-season grass that is commonly used for lawns, sports fields, and golf courses. It is a fast-growing, drought-tolerant, and aggressive species that is well-adapted to tropical and subtropical climates. Here's how you can grow Bermuda grass successfully:

Soil preparation: Bermuda grass thrives in well-draining soil with a pH range of 6.0 to 7.0.

Seeding: Bermuda grass can be seeded or sodded. The best time to do it is in the spring or early summer, when the soil is warm and the weather is warm and sunny.

Watering: Proper watering is crucial for establishing new Bermuda grass. During the first few weeks after seeding, water the grass at least once a day, or more frequently in hot, dry weather, to keep the soil consistently moist. After the grass has established roots, reduce the frequency of watering but increase the amount of water applied each time. As a rule of thumb, your grass needs 1" of water a week... be it done by you or mother nature. Simple water gauges are available at our local stores.

Mowing: When Bermuda grass has reached a height of 3-4 inches, that is when mowing should begin. It is best to mow to a height of .2 inches. With the proper care it will grow lush, dense, and healthy.

Too Much Fertilizer Can Mean Trouble

Many homeowners feel their lawns can grow better with more fertilizers. That is true, but it is not without a danger of over fertilizing the lawn and seeing it burn out.

Timing of Fertilization:

Fertilize Bermuda grass during its active growing season, which is typically from late spring to early fall. A general rule of thumb is to fertilize every 6-8 weeks during the growing season. If you are getting regular lawn care from your HOA dues, that means fertilizer is being regularly applied. If you want to supplement the application by yourself, it is recommended that you wait 45 days for the next application. Give the previous application time to be absorbed by the grass and soil.

Type of Fertilizer:

Use a fertilizer specifically formulated for Bermuda grass.

Amount of Fertilizer:

Apply the fertilizer at the recommended rate based on the instructions on the package.

Effects of Over-Fertilizing:

Over-fertilizing can have negative effects on your Bermuda grass, such as:

- Excessive growth that can weaken the grass and make it more susceptible to pests and diseases.
- Increase thatch buildup, which can suffocate the grass roots.
- Reduced drought tolerance, as the excess nitrogen can cause the grass to retain too much water and become more susceptible to stress during dry periods.
- Environmental damage, as excess fertilizer can leach into waterways and harm aquatic ecosystems.
- Follow the instructions on the fertilizer package and avoid over-fertilizing your Bermuda grass.

Your 2023 Pod Landscapers



After a long and diligent search, SCCL has new teams of landscapers to better serve our needs. All our new vendors are in the capable management hands of CLC. When you consider how many workers will be on the Sun City campus every day, you will realize how important a hands-on management team is. Please refrain from asking any landscape personnel to help you. All requests must go through work orders. More information about work orders will follow in our next edition. Landscape personnel are workers and need to be left to do their daily job. We know you will see improvement in the quality and frequency of mowing. The schedule calls for regular mowing Monday – Thursday. That leaves Friday available for catching up if there was rain or other “complications” during the week.

Section	PODS Assigned	Landscaper
1	A, A-2, B, C, C-1, C-2, D, E, F, X, X-2, Y	Landmark
2	Phases 1-10, Pods G, H, I, J, K, L, M	U.S. Lawns
3	N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, Z	Bland
4	COS..not in PODS	Lawrence

Equipment Counts

Using the right mower for the foot print of your home

Our landscapers are required to use certain equipment to do mowing. There are two sizes that they can use. A 36" walk behind/step on mower will be most commonly used. Be aware that these look a lot larger than 36", but they are 36". Although this is required to be a walk behind mower, there is a platform for the landscaper to jump on and ride. That is permissible.



The second size is 21" push mower. This is suggested for use in tight spaces, swales between homes and difficult to navigate areas. You may see your landscaper use one type in the front and then one in the back. In time, all of our landscapers will get to know your lawns, get into a rhythm and perform better than ever. Each of our landscape services has options. Their objective is to do all homes in their care within a 4 day week. They are instructed by CLC to set their blade height at certain settings, depending on the season. They also know that to do the job they need sharp blades. You need to keep your lawn clear of any obstacles, debris and raised sprinkler heads. Larger mowers may be used in COS.

Mowing A Fenced In Area



If you have a fenced in area, your grass will not be mowed. A lawn within a fenced in area is the responsibility of the homeowner. Please don't ask any landscaper to violate this rule. There may be common open spaces behind your home. Please do not do anything to the trees, shrubs and plants in that space. Check out the Clemson University webpage for great information pertaining to South Carolina agriculture: <https://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/index.html>



AMAZING BUT TRUE

Over 3,000 emails were received between January 1 – April 30 of this year. Many had questions as to when services would happen. Others were for opting out or issues about their property. Some emails were notifications of problems around the community. Here are the most frequently asked questions and their answers:

Question: I have a sprinkler system, when should I turn it on for the season and then off?

Answer: Depending on natural rain, May – September should be enough. One inch of water per week is recommended.

Question: How do I know when the landscapers will fertilize and apply weed control, etc.?

Answer: There may be multiple sources: Your Pod Rep, weekly information from Associa, signs on the street, issues of Turf Talk.

Question: If there is any damage to my property caused by the landscapers, what do I do?

Answer: Complete a work order. Landscapers are responsible, but can't immediately repair anything.

Question: What height are the landscapers cutting my grass?

Answer: All the residential landscapers have set their mowers to 2 inches. By keeping the Bermuda grass short, it encourages it to grow horizontally, resulting in a fuller lawn.

Question: Can I know when the landscapers will be performing the various services (mowing, turf applications, RoundUp, and pruning) in my neighborhood?

Answer: When the landscapers have "settled in" to their neighborhood patterns, our goal is to ask the management company to publish the anticipated

weekly landscape schedule for each landscaper. Of course, these schedules are always subject to change based on weather, manpower, or equipment issues.

Question: The landscapers are in my neighborhood and haven't blown off my sidewalk after edging. When should I report that?

Answer: Wait until the end of the day to report a "missed service." It is not unusual for the blowing/cleanup to lag behind the mowers/edgers. Likewise, if a riding mower does not mow an area of your yard, it could be that a hand mower will follow up and take care of that task.

Question: I had new sod put down in a section of my yard and want to opt out of mowing for 6–8 weeks until the sod takes hold.

Answer: It is recommended that you rope off the area in question so it is obvious you don't want it to be mowed for a period of time.

Question: The landscapers damaged the clean-out cap in my front yard when they mowed. What to do?

Answer: Complete a work request (through Town Square). It will be forwarded to the landscapers, who will arrange for the cap to be replaced.

Work Orders

By our next issue we expect our new and vastly improved "work order" system to be online. Many volunteers are working diligently to get it done.



Regular weekly mowing
Fertilizer & Weed Control Applications
Pruning begins



Regular weekly mowing
Fertilizer & Weed Control Applications
Pruning continues as needed



Regular weekly mowing



Regular weekly mowing
Fertilizer & Weed Control Applications

The Gateway Signs To Your Pod

You may receive one or more notifications that some chemical application will be made in your pod. That could be a weed killer, fertilizer, a combo of both or something else. Your notification can come through Associa and regular email notices, possibly from your pod rep. Now, our landscapers have been asked to post the sign you see illustrated on the left at the gateway road or roads into your pod.



This is a general sign and you will have to visit the Landscape Committee web page and check emails from SCCL if you need to know more. If you are concerned about pets and children, this is one of your notifications. While we can't advise you how long to stay off your lawn or out of the garden, most applications will be safe enough for all 24 hours after being applied.

Which Pods Are Aerated This Year

This is the list of pods that were aerated in 2022:

A-2,A,Y,C,X,X-2,F,B,D,C,E,G,H,J,I,KL,M,N,W,P,V,CH

Pods **NOT LISTED** above will get aeration this year.

You Can Help Absorption

Homeowners receive several lawn applications. Some may be liquid, others granular. Watering your lawn after any granular application will help the chemicals dissolve and set the undissolved pellets into the turf so they are not easily mowed up in the next mowing cycle. If mother nature is about to deliver rain or you have an irrigation system, never mind.

Similarly, if there has been any recent planting on your property or in a COS near you, please water it if you can. A little bit of hydration goes a long way for lawn, garden and tree health.

Our landscape teams have requirements to meet each season, month, and week. Mother nature is deeply involved in keeping up scheduled work. Over saturation of the soil can set back mowing. Rain can set back applications. This is our summer plan that is always subject to nature. July and August focus on lawn mowing only. Aeration is rotated. That means it is not done annually to your lawns but biennially.



Yard Waste Disposal



What to do with small branches, clippings, and yard waste? Active Waste is our disposal company. They will pick up your yard waste, but it should be prepared for pick-up if it is

going out during your regular weekly pick-up. Here is how:

- Place what you can fit into your regular trash bin.
- Bundle small branches and tie them together for convenient pick-up.
- Use large lawn and leaf bags.

The first week of each month, yard waste will be picked up during your regularly scheduled trash pick-up. If it can wait, please do so; but if not, be sure to make it ready for pick up as suggested above.

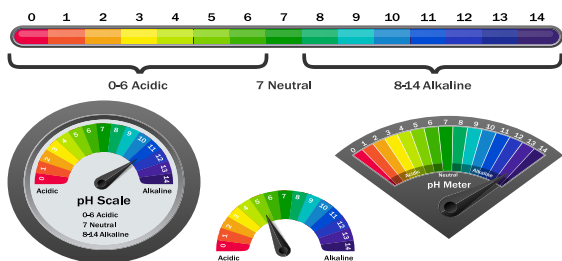
Lancaster County – Indian Land Recycling Center

Indian Land, 9103 Northfield Drive, Indian Land 29707

Hours:

Monday, Friday, and Saturday, 9AM – 6PM, Wednesday, 9AM – 2PM, CLOSED Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

There are many in Lancaster county and this is closest to Sun City located about 2 miles north on U.S. 521.



How's Your pH?

A majority of SCCL residents are “not from here, but from there”. So, we are not familiar with South Carolina Piedmont soil or, should we say, clay. Let's also face the reality that our builder did not spend a lot of time and money prepping and enriching our soil for plants, shrubs and grass. Those of us who cherished

our green, green grass of home are challenged to have the same here. While the HOA provides the basic services you need in terms of lawn care, it is not everything that can be done to make sure the grass is green on your side of the street.

Soil pH value is a measure of soil acidity or alkalinity and it can certainly have a positive or negative effect on turf and plant growth. Soil pH has a direct effect in the available nutrients to plant material. In many cases in the Charlotte region, soil pH is low (more acidity) or below the neutral mark of 7.0. Much of our area, due to the heavy clay soils, has pH ranges in the 5 to 5.5 range.

All plant material thrives differently in different soil pH. For example, pines, azaleas and rhododendron prefer a soil with a pH around 5–5.5, while turf does best in the 6.5–7 range. Lime is the most common method we use to raise pH in the Carolinas. Lime is not applied by the SCCL landscapers. Different soils will require a different amount of lime to adjust the soil pH value. The texture of the soil, organic matter content and the plants to be grown are all factors to consider in adjusting the pH value. For example, soils low in clay require less lime than soils high in clay to make the same pH change. The amount of lime needed should always be determined by soil testing. Generally, lime should be applied at least 2–3 months prior to the desired pH level as the material moves slowly through the soil layer.

Having a basic understanding of the principles of pH will certainly help you grow a more beautiful lawn, effectively care for your plants and trees, and give you a start to the garden that you have always wanted. Have a soil test completed today! Visit the Clemson University website to consider having them test your soil:

<https://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/ag-srvclab/soil-testing/index.html>

CLC passes along this information about Crape Myrtle trees in the neighborhood, both in the common open spaces and at the residences. Many of the trees are infected with crape myrtle bark scale. It is a relatively new disease in the landscape, first appearing in the early 2000's in Texas and then spreading out to other parts of the country. Below is an overview of the problem and the treatment currently available.

Crape Myrtle Bark Scale Identification and Control

Crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) is a serious new threat to southern crape myrtles. It threatens to turn what has historically been a beautiful, low-maintenance landscape tree into an unsightly, high-maintenance landscape tree. There are few natural enemies here in the United States, and this allows CMBS to build to unusually high numbers on infested plants. It is not unusual for heavily infested plants to have branches and



twigs that are completely encrusted with scale. The nymphs produce large quantities of honeydew, and this results in heavy accumulations of sooty mold on the leaves, twigs, and trunks of infested plants, as well as on nearby low-growing plants and surrounding grass and mulch. The end result is a crape myrtle that is black and ugly (due to heavy sooty mold accumulation) and produces fewer and smaller blooms. Unless they are treated, crape myrtles that are heavily infested with CMBS become a landscape eyesore.

Effective treatments are available, but they are relatively costly and do not provide 100 percent control, meaning that treatments must be reapplied each year.

Scouting and Identification Heavy infestations of crape myrtle bark scale are easy to spot and identify: Look for crape myrtles with heavy accumulations of black sooty mold on the leaves, limbs, and trunk. Look for patches of white felt-like material on the twigs, branches, and trunk.

Insecticide Treatment This pest is so new that control programs are still being developed. Treatments that have proven most effective in states where CMBS is already established are soil-applied systemic insecticides. Foliar sprays containing insect growth regulator products are also available for application as crawler sprays. Note that some of these treatments are commercial products, and homeowners are encouraged to seek assistance from licensed commercial applicators to control CMBS, especially when treating larger trees.

Remediation any tree on your property that may be infected is the homeowners responsibility to treat.

Meet Our CLC On Site-Team



CLC was retained by our SCCL HOA to manage the day to day work of a battery of landscapers now serving SCCL. Their current client list included communities like ours in both Carolinas. It is safe to say they know our acreage better than any. CLC reports to Associa with two people on campus and many other support personnel and expertise from corporate and leadership. Working with nature in SCCL demands a lot of varied expertise. CLC delivers that to our home owners.

Matt Humphreys

Matt started with a push mower and broom, as a teenager in the 1990s and has been involved in the landscaping industry since. He enlisted in the Army in 2002 and spent a total of 9 years in service as an airborne infantryman. Throughout his military time, when breaks in service occurred, Matt continued to learn different aspects of the Greenspace and added to his professional landscaping "toolbox" by gaining multiple certifications and licenses. He has been associated with Green Horizons Landscaping, One Source, ABM Landscape and Turf, and Schneider Tree Care in executive management, as well as production and operations management. Matt has experience in hardscapes, landscape installation and design, commercial turf maintenance, and arboriculture care and maintenance. He has been a Carolina Land Consultant since the fall of 2020. Matt has almost 20 years of experience leading teams and has significant training in leadership.



Marisa McClain

Marisa is on campus at Sun City daily. Growing up on a farm in North Carolina, she started early exploring and learning about mother earth with gardening. Marisa attended North Carolina State University graduating with a bachelor's degree in horticultural science and she minored in agricultural management. Her career began with Providence Landscaping Group and remained for 14 years. She moved into many top positions including client relations manager. Her experience included overseeing vital categories such as irrigation, floriculture and installation. It is a wealth of knowledge and experience that prepared her to join CLC in March of 2023. When you see her on our campus, say hi, *how's it growing* and she is bound to give you a big southern smile.



Editor's Note: For those "have I got a date for you" grandmothers, they are both happily married, but not to each other.

No Personal Consults Please

Knowing about the vast expertise of our CLC team, it is very tempting to seek advice about improving your lawn, about a tree issue or shrubbery.

The CLC representatives were hired to manage our multiple landscape contractors (4 standard landscapers, and specialists in trails, lakes, irrigation, and ball field maintenance). It is very much a full-time job. They do not have time to provide personal consultations to residents about specific issues with their lawns. Please seek advice elsewhere.

The Devil Has a Hold On Us

When SCCL was built, countless trees were removed for construction. In return, the builder was required by Lancaster County to plant a certain quantity of trees in the "devil strips". That is the 18" area where the trees are planted and your mailbox sits, assuming your neighbor has not backed into it (joke). While they were not told the type of trees to plant, Pulte was required to do it; they planted Maples, Oaks, and a few others.

Years later, it became obvious that the trees are now a big problem. Just a few years ago, a noted arborist surveyed almost every tree in common open spaces, and the report was not encouraging. Plenty of trees in the community need to be removed and possibly replaced. "Possibly" is a question facing the Landscape Committee. Should every tree be replaced, or should we thin it out for many reasons?

Full tree removal is a hefty cost. In many cases, it will involve a sidewalk, a front lawn, and, possibly, the road itself. Roots have run everywhere in search of water.



*Did You Know ?
We have close to
2,500 trees in SCCL,
not counting those on
private property or in
the naturally wooded
areas.*

The types of trees planted, and the method of planting have combined to exacerbate the problem. No matter where you live, it always comes down to your family or community budget. In 2023, we have an approved budget and the Board will continue to budget appropriate amounts in the years to follow.

In many cases, a homeowner would rather have a green lawn than dense shade inhibiting the grass from growing. In other cases, people would welcome the shade.

The committee, with the approval of the Board, will be keeping you abreast of the tree situations in future issues of Turf Talk.

New trees

At the discretion of our landscape professionals, one of these types of trees can replace trees that have been removed.



TULIP POPLAR



BLACK GUM



OVERCUP OAK

All About Common Open Spaces

Common Open Space [COS] can be anywhere around your home, seen throughout your pod and certainly along the main roads in SCCL. With our new team of landscapers, different companies have different responsibilities and they are all managed by CLC.

COS In Your Pod – Be it an empty field, a hillside, the woods or an area shared by multi homes, it is under the care of the landscapers assigned to your pod. The maintenance schedule may be very different from the regular schedule for homes. Much of these spaces are left natural with very little care needed. However, if there is anything with potential danger...such as a tree, let it be known by identifying a problem in a work order.

COS Along the Trails – You may be familiar with the landscape company Blackmon. They have been hired to maintain our trails. Trails and lakes are COS. SCCL wants to leave them as natural as possible. There is a challenge between what is best for nature and what is best for people. We work hard to find a balance and not do things like clear cut an area to get a better view or take away natural barriers.

COS Along The Boulevards – You might agree that here has been a noticeable improvement in the appearance of our major boulevards. These areas of COS are maintained by Lawrence Landscapers under the supervision of CLC. The sides, slopes and islands are mowed and cleaned of debris. Flower beds are carefully designed with deer resistant flowers and plants.

Keep off the grass – shoulders –We have a difficult problem. When there are big events at the Lodge or Lake house and parking can't be found, residents are parking their cars on the road's shoulders. Unbeknown to you, the irrigation lines are just slightly below the grass and every time the shoulders are used, we get damage. Please be mindful of this costly problem and **DON'T PARK ON BOULEVARD SHOULDERS.**



Lookin' Good In The Hood

You may be one of the residents who has taken notice of our two main boulevards (Sun City & Del Webb) and how they are really looking good. These areas have been assigned to Lawrence Landscapers and you can see the difference their team is making.

Their work is managed by CLC and the selection of flowers planted seasonally is coordinated by CLC's consultant. Flower and shrub selection is as much a science as an art. We have many hungry critters in SCCL including voracious deer and nibbling bunny rabbits. Careful selection of the right plants will make it hard for them to find a good meal.

Other areas such as River Bend, the front and rear entrances are looking good as well.

A lot of work has been going into our front entrance ponds. As our community ages, so does the infrastructure. You will see crews working on pumps, leaks, liners and everything to make our gateway as spectacular as it has always been.

Here They Come - The Beetles

Background and Description

The Japanese beetle is found throughout most of the eastern US and in parts of the West. It was accidentally introduced from Japan into New Jersey in 1916. Adult beetles are about 5/8-inch-long, metallic green with red-brown wing covers, and have a series of white spots along the sides and tip of the abdomen.

Life History

Japanese beetles over winter start as larvae in the soil and pupate in June. Most adults emerge in July, when (especially on warm, sunny days) adults are easily seen flying around, feeding on fruit and foliage, and mating. Females then lay white spherical eggs 2 to 6 inches deep in the soil. Eggs hatch after 8 to 9 days, and immature grubs then develop in the soil until it begins to cool down in autumn. Then they stop feeding and burrow to a 4 to 8-inch depth where they remain until temperatures warm again in spring. There is usually only one generation per year.



Damage

Adults attack foliage making it skeletonized until there is no leaf tissue remaining between the veins. Larvae feed on the roots of grass and other plants, causing the above-ground portion of the plant to turn brown. Japanese beetles are known to feed on over 300 types of plants, however some are more appealing to them than others.

- Plants most often damaged by Japanese beetles: Apple, apricot, cherry, peach, plum, beans, birch, crape myrtle, crab apple, grape vine, hibiscus, Japanese maple, pin oak, roses
- Plants least often damaged by Japanese beetles: Boxwood, burning bush, clematis, dogwood,
- Forsythia, holly, lilac, magnolia, pine, redbud, red maple, spruce, yew

Monitoring and Control

Adult Japanese beetles are strong fliers and often appear suddenly; therefore, protecting fruit and foliage requires killing beetles in the adult stage. However, if an area has a history of problems, use insecticides before the beetles become too abundant, as high aggregations of beetles tend to attract other beetles from afar.

Chemical Control

If insecticides are desired to protect plants in the landscape, there are several products available. For home use, carbaryl (Sevin) and imidacloprid (Merit) are good choices.

It's No Picnic Around Fire Ants

They are here, there, and everywhere and we need to watch our step. It is relatively easy to spot a fresh colony as the ants dig up a mound. Our landscapers will work toward fire ant control on COS (common open spaces) but they are not responsible for your detached home property.



There are many powders and sprays available to you from stores like Home Depot, Lowe's, etc. We don't recommend any one product but do suggest you try to control and eradicate fire ants as soon as their mounds and colonies are visible. Above all, when using any chemicals of this nature, read the instructions carefully and be sure no pets travel over the areas until the chemicals are absorbed.

Is it a Vole or a Mole ?



Two similar, but different, “friends” may take up residency on your property and getting them to move is the homeowner’s responsibility.

We start with the suggestion that you hire a professional to solve your problem. Often, do-it-yourselfers fail. It is costly to do trial and error while your guests are building a bigger family beneath your lawn and garden. The primary difference between moles and voles is their appetite. Moles eat three things: earthworms, beetle grubs, and cicada larvae. Voles are vegans munching below ground on the roots of things that grow above ground. If you see a small mound and hole, it’s a mole. If you feel a raised line in the soil, you have a problem and a tunnel-boring critter.

Once you’ve determined moles are indeed the problem, try to buy a product with castor oil as the active ingredient, like Mole Scram. It may make the soil smell bad to them and they will move next door.

Moles love Japanese beetle grubs and there are products to apply to your lawn to kill them off. Yet

another method is planting certain flowers that may make them move next door. Finally, if you don’t think it cruel, you can pull the curtain on their lives by purchasing traps and poisons. Note that any above-ground treatment should be carefully studied for contraindications for pets, rabbits, and other friends you may want to keep alive.

Mole tunnels are dug at a rate of 18 feet per hour. Moles can add 150 feet of new tunnels in the lawn each day. Moles are expert diggers that will consume up to 60 to 100% of their body weight in insects, grubs, and earthworms each day. This equates to a 5-ounce mole eating 50 pounds of its prey in a year.

While moles, like voles, tunnel in gardens, it’s a misconception that they do so to eat the roots of plants. Instead, they target earthworms that live in the garden soil.

If moles are damaging your garden, hire professional mole control services to stop the cycle, or read about how to get rid of them here.

Kissin’ Cousins

How to Get Rid of Voles:

Remove vegetation. Voles don’t like to feed out in the open. Protect young trees. Voles love to gnaw on the trunks of young trees.

- Use live traps.
- Use natural repellents.
- Contact a professional pest management company
- Vole Poisons.

Moles are prolific diggers. They’re known for creating volcano-shaped hills in lawns and garden soil. According to the Home & Garden Information Center at Clemson University’s Cooperative Extension. The remedies above also apply to mole control.



MOLE

A small burrowing insectivorous mammal with dark velvety fur, a long muzzle, and very small eyes.



VOLE

A small, typically burrowing, mouse-like rodent with a rounded muzzle, found in both Eurasia and North America.



Feel free to address any comments, ideas and suggestions to the Landscape Committee (landscape@oursccl.com) for future issues. Many of your neighbors may not be on the internet regularly. We hope you find this information useful and share it with your friends and neighbors.

The Sun City HOA recommends consulting with professional landscapers and garden centers before doing any work on your property. Always read and adhere to the instructions on all landscape material packaging. The information provided in this publication is for general understanding only.

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