



English Ridge Homeowners Association
c/o Around the Clock, Inc.
422 West Titus Street
Kent, WA 98032
253-852-3000

Spring 2005

Re: Yard Maintenance

Dear English Ridge Homeowner,

Spring is here and with summer right around the corner, now is the time to start taking measures that will help keep your yard looking beautiful all season long. All residents in English Ridge benefit from yards which are well maintained by improving the overall appearance and value of our homes and community for visitors and neighbors.

The following maintenance tips and guidelines are being provided to help homeowners in caring for their yard during the coming months and remind owners of the general requirements regarding yard maintenance.

Lawns should be mowed on a regular basis and should not be overgrown with weeds. One tip to a better looking lawn is to increase the height setting on your mower - it will keep your lawn greener with less watering. The general rule of thumb for lawn watering is 1 inch of water per week. However, as each yard is different, homeowners should evaluate their own landscapes to determine if a different watering strategy is required. Home improvement stores often provide resources and ideas for lawn and yard maintenance.

Flower beds provide a wonderful opportunity to accent a home. Removing any dead or damaged growth from flowers and shrubs encourages new plant growth. Weeds that spring up in flower beds are competing with your plants for water and nutrients. Keeping flower beds weeded encourages growth of the plants you want by providing them with greater access to nutrients and water. Some homeowners have had success with applying white vinegar to weeds on a dry day (just keep it away from the plants you want!). Applying a layer of mulch (such as bark dust) to your flower beds can also help suppress weeds and retain moisture between waterings.

Driveways should be kept free of debris. Homeowners should also remove any grass, moss and weeds. Plants growing into cracks or along the edges of sidewalks can slowly work to establish root zones. These root zones create spaces where water can intrude and, in winter, will freeze and break the concrete apart. Keeping driveways and sidewalks free of plants and weeds will make them last longer and look more attractive.

As defined in the CC&R's, any outside storage of belongings should be kept out of the sight (not visible from the road or sidewalk). This includes garbage cans, recycling containers and storage bins.

Yard maintenance benefits everyone. By working together, we can all be a part of enhancing the beauty of our community for our neighbors, our visitors, and ourselves.

For additional resources, check out our website at www.englishridge.org

Thank you,

English Ridge Homeowners Association