

**Standards for Homeowner Gardens**  
**Canalside Homeowners Association**

Board Approved: April 15, 2024

**Objective**

All homeowner gardens will be maintained by the homeowner. These standards are to ensure consistency in design and appearance across the Canalside community. In parallel, the Association will maintain the common grounds. By working together, the community's visual impact is enhanced to the benefit of everyone and protects the community's overall property values.

**Scope of the Homeowner Gardens**

Any garden or tilled space immediately adjacent to the homeowner's basement wall, deck, sidewalk, or porch is within the "Homeowner Garden". Not included are the two densiformis yews at each side of the garage door. Because these shrubs are key to the basic uniformity of design, they remain the responsibility of the Association as part of the common grounds.

**Popular Plantings**

It benefits the community when plantings are somewhat consistent across all units. To move toward that consistent look, the following list may be used for planning for garden development.

Andromeda	Boxwood	Hosta	Rhododendron
Arborvitae	Cotoneaster	Hydrangea	Sand Cherry
Azalea	Euonymus	Hypericum	Spirea
Barberry	Hibiscus	Moppy Glow Cypress	Viburnum
Blue Star Juniper	Holly	Potentilla	Weigela

This list is a starting point; other plantings of **similar shape and size** may be selected as well. Please notify the Ground Committee chair or designee(s) if you plan to choose a planting not on this list.

**Prohibited Plantings, Materials, or Actions**

- Trees or bushes that may exceed eave height or develop roots that may interfere with foundation walls,
- Invasive plants that may spread in an uncontrolled growth pattern,
- Vegetable gardens,
- Benches in beds,

- Mulch colors other than black or dark brown (e.g., red) or stone,
- Bare ground in beds (i.e., beds with no plants),
- Interfering with normal drainage patterns,
- Artificial flowers.

**Responsibilities of Homeowners**

1. Replace any shrub or tree that has become unsightly or dying,
2. Maintain beds by edging, weeding, trimming flowering plants/bushes and mulching,
3. Maintain homeowner beds with mulch color matching the Association (e.g., black), where possible.
4. Complete spring cleanup and weeding by May 15,
5. Complete mulching by July 1. At a minimum, beds will be mulched every two (2) years to minimize weeds to give the community a neat, uniform look,
6. Prevent foliage from touching the foundation, siding, gutter, or roof,
7. Maintain 3- to 6-inch separation of mulch or soil from siding,
8. Maintain positive drainage away from the townhouse,
9. Do not install new or modify existing plantings in common ground areas without the approval of the Grounds Committee chair or designee(s).

**Grounds Committee 2024**

Laurie Conti, chair  
 Cathy Healy  
 Fran Minitti  
 Kathy Smith  
 Robin Summers

Version	Date	Change
1	11/8/2021	Original standards approved by the Board effective in 2022.
2	4/15/2024	Added target dates for weeding & mulching. Other minor edits.