

VUEMONT HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER, March 2021

www.vuemont.org
(Click here for link)

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is on Monday, May 3!

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INTERESTED IN HELPING ON THE BOARD?

We are always seeking new
board members and volunteers!

Get involved in your
neighborhood!

Please contact President Ben
Piper if interested:
president@vuemont.org

SPRING GREEN DEBRIS PICK-UP



Mark your calendars for **MONDAY, MAY 3...**the date of our 2nd Annual Green Debris Pick Up event! Place your larger branches and cuttings (8 feet long maximum) on the curb for pick up. This is a **FREE** service sponsored by the HOA! More information to follow.

HAVE YOU DONE A SPRING "WALK AROUND?"



Spring is here! One of the things we encourage homeowners to do after the long months of rain and being inside, is a "walk around" of their property. All of the homes in our neighborhoods have drive in garages, so it is easy to just slip in and focus on the front of our yards and homes. Please remember that in many cases, neighbors look at the sides and back yards of your homes as well. It is helpful to get the neighbors' perspective when deciding what to clean up and spruce up. Also, many of our homes have "dividing" hedges between lots. Please cooperate and communicate with neighbors to keep these trimmed and neat (and at a reasonable height). Hedges and mature plantings need pruning and trimming on at least an annual, and sometimes semi-annual basis. Remember...our CCR's, which we all signed and agreed to abide by when we purchased our homes, require that... ***The owner or occupant of each residential site shall maintain their hedges, plants, shrubs, trees and lawns in a neat and trim condition at all times.*** Keeping our neighborhood looking neat and tidy benefits us ALL by keeping property values high!

SUMMER IS HOME MAINTENANCE AND PROJECT SEASON!

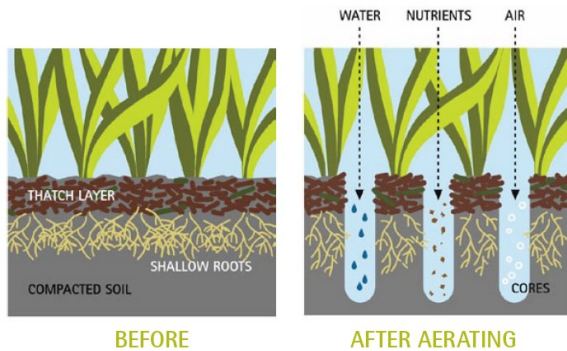
Please remember that the CCR's require application to the HOA Architectural Review Committee for *changes in house paint color; re-roofing with other than approved roofing materials; building of walls, fences, swimming pools or any other structure being erected on your property.* This protects all of us and maintains the architectural integrity of the neighborhood. Please access our website at www.vuemont.org for all the necessary forms and information. Contact information for all Vuemont HOA Board Members and recent meeting minutes are also on the website.

LAWN CARE TIPS!

With dryer summers in the northwest, and the events of the past year, many of our lawns need a spring spruce up! Here are some helpful tips, taken from the City of Bellevue's website, to help perk up your "tired lawn" and make it easier to keep it green this summer!

Revitalize Tired Lawns. A lawn is only as healthy as the soil it grows in. Lawn in shallow, compacted soil may best be tilled under, amended with an inch or two of compost or topsoil, and replanted. **But many unhealthy lawns can be rejuvenated with less drastic steps:**

Breathe New Life Into Soil. Compacted soil stops air, water, and nutrients from reaching roots. "Core aerating" pulls plugs of soil (1/2 inches wide by 2 to 6 inches deep), leaving holes that let air, water, and nutrients get to the roots. Rent a power aerator or have a landscaper aerate compacted soil in early spring or autumn.

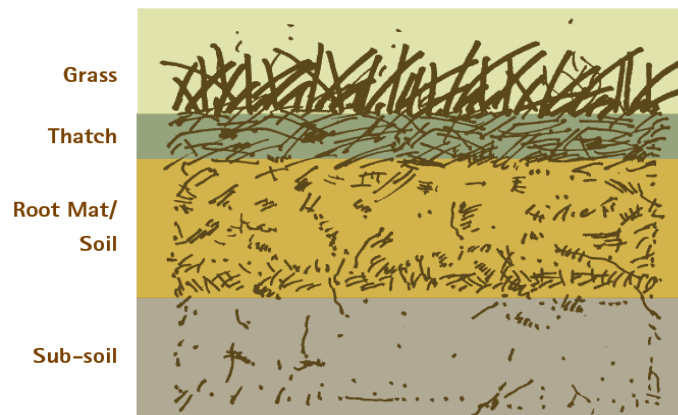


Overseed. Thin lawn areas left after drought or weed removal should be reseeded with desirable grasses before weeds sprout in the open spaces. Use an "overseed" mix designed for Pacific Northwest conditions, and cover with fine compost for best results.

Dress It Up. Spreading one-quarter to one-half inch of fine-screened compost on the lawn, or a mix of sand and compost, renews soil without digging it up. Topdressing is most effective after

core aerating opens channels into the soil. Use only high-quality compost to avoid spreading weeds. Spread dressings with a shovel and rake to even it out.

Thatch Removal. Thatch is a brown, spongy mat of dead roots and stems on the soil surface. Thatch layers over one-half inch deep keep nutrients, air, and water from roots. Good watering, mowing, and fertilizing practices can prevent thatch; and core aerating helps break down buildup under 1/2 inch thick. Thicker layers of thatch can be removed using a power rake that can be rented or brought in by a landscaper. Manual thatch raking is only practical for tiny lawns.



MORE LAWN CARE TIPS...WATERING 101!

Water Deep: The soil is your lawn's underground water tank. If you water as deep as the roots grow—usually several inches—stored water will keep the lawn green for at least a few days (unless the soil is extremely shallow or sandy). Frequent shallow watering encourages thatch and shallow roots, which are easily damaged by drought and pests.

Dig Down! Check It Out! Your lawn and watering system are unique. How often and how long you need to water depends on the grass and soil types, root depth, sun exposure, sprinklers, and weather. The best way to provide the right amount of water is to observe grass growth and soil moisture. Use a shovel or soil corer to check soil in several spots to see how deep the roots grow and if water is getting down to them. Check before and after watering to see when water is needed and how deep it penetrates.

How Deep? See how deep the light colored grass roots grow. Water long enough so the entire root depth is soaked a few hours after watering.

How Long? Run fixed sprinklers for 10 minutes, and rotating or oscillating sprinklers at least 30 minutes. Then wait a few hours and dig in to check how deep water has reached. Repeat until the entire root depth is moist.

How Often? Let the soil dry out 1/4 of the root depth before watering again. Coarse sandy soil may dry out in just a day or two. Clay can stay moist for several days.

More information can be found on the City of Bellevue's website by clicking [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?



City of Bellevue parking laws state that it is illegal to park over 24 consecutive hours on the same *Bellevue* street without moving your vehicle to a different *city* block.

Please do not leave your vehicles parked on our neighborhood streets for long periods of time!

SIDEWALKS MUST BE KEPT CLEAR FOR SAFETY!

In the coming months, the Board will be issuing letters reminding homeowners to trim back foliage to keep sidewalks in our neighborhoods passable and safe. Just a friendly reminder that all sidewalks must be kept clear, in accordance with the City of Bellevue ordinance (see below). The following picture is an example of an “overhanging” shrub that needs to be trimmed. Please walk the sidewalks in front of and/or beside your homes to make sure that you are in compliance. Let’s keep our neighborhood safe!

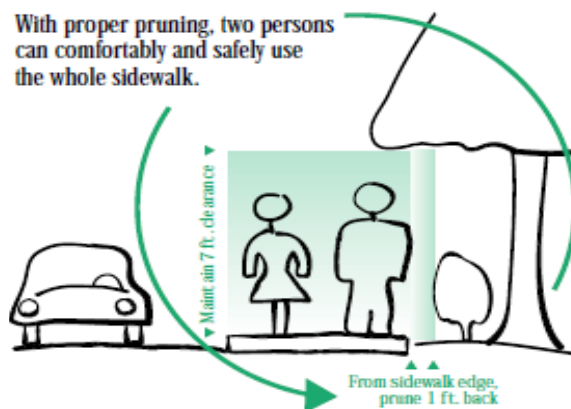


City of Bellevue Sidewalk Ordinance:

Sidewalks are to be free from weeds and grass, protruding shrubs and trees and other debris, as their presence limits the use of the sidewalk, and the hazards can cause people to injure themselves.

City ordinance requires vertical vegetation be trimmed back at least 7 feet above ground. Shrubs and other lower vegetation should be pruned back 1 foot from the sidewalk edge.

The diagram below illustrates the required 7 foot minimum vertical clearance and 1 foot side clearance.



Thank you for your cooperation!