

# LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

## SPRING AT LAST?

Our fake spring back in February fooled Mother Nature into thinking winter is over. Daffodils and calendula show their bright yellow heads, tulips and crocuses (or "croci", if you're feeling fancy) are thrusting upward toward the light - yet the soil is still cold, clumpy and no fun to dig in. But if you're itching to get out there, it IS a good time to amend your soil with compost. Add some slug/snail deterrent to your beds while you're at it, too.

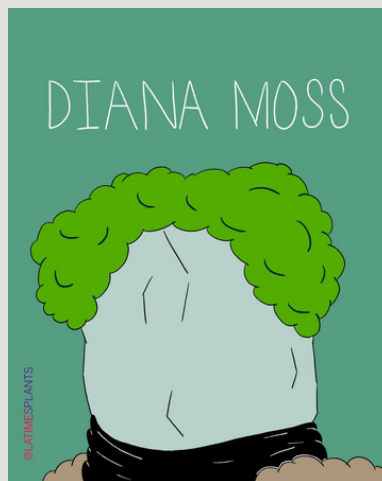
See moss invading one of your vegetable beds? That's probably an indication of a pH imbalance. Compost is the solution to that, too. Pick it up at garden stores in bags, or in bulk at a landscape supply yard. It's an organic soil amendment with plenty of nutrients to correct acidity imbalances. Your plants love it, and they don't need much — between 20 and 30 percent of the whole in your beds will do the trick.

## Nuisances. Or Are They?

And now, more than you'll ever need to know about moss and ivy.

**MOSS** is a species that has outlived dinosaurs. It can be controlled but it always finds a way to come back when conditions swing in its favor. It can anchor into mulch, stones, bricks, your concrete driveway, and even the wood of raised garden beds or decks. Moss on decks is slippery, but is easily removed by pressure washing, or hand scrubbing with detergent, water and a touch of bleach. Moss in lawns can be treated with any of the numerous products for that purpose in a garden store. Moss in your flower beds, though, is a different story. It doesn't take much to remove moss from planting beds, but it does take a while to make it go away, though, so be patient.

- Rake it out with a hand rake
- Turn it over (if it's a small patch)
- Hand pick it (it can lift off in clumps or sheets)



Take away moisture or light and moss will stop growing. That won't kill it though. It just puts it in a coma to return when sunlight and moisture return, and you are looking the other way 😊

Moving right along to...

### IVY:

Ivy is the lazy gardener's friend — it requires very little to be happy. It will hold your hillside, grow under evergreen trees, thrive in sun or shade, and is aggressive ground cover. Ivy will also climb trees, your fence, your house, and it will run off to climb the neighbors' house. It's hard to control and difficult to eradicate. So, think carefully before you plant it. Whatever species of ivy you plant - or have already growing in your yard - they will stay green, hide uneven ground, and take over the neighborhood, if not the world. Good luck with that!

### FUNGI:

Toadstools, mushrooms, and fairy rings don't really hurt anything. They are, however, as a rule not edible! There is a documentary called Fantastic Fungi that is worth watching. It is a descriptive time-lapse journey about the magical, mysterious and medicinal world of fungi and their power to heal, sustain and contribute to the regeneration of life on Earth. Gives you something to think about when you are fussing over toadstools in your grass. Might be the key to saving the earth!

Ever wonder why Michael Mushroom is always at all the parties? Because he's fun-gi!

## HATS OFF

How great is it that we are surrounded by a vibrant green golf course, whether we choose to use it, or not. We see sweeping vistas of well-cared for grass wherever we look. Mower Man and other ground crew personnel keep this place looking great. So, a big THANK YOU to the golf course. And to the Clallam County Street Sweeper who trundles around our streets often enough to keep it looking tidy (plus the plows who kept our roads passable during our one snowfall). As somebody said, it takes a village.

## A TALE OF TWO HOUSES

Once upon a time there were two neighbors. Let's call them Corrine and Yoshiko. Corrine made her yard into a textbook English garden. She spent many hours tending, amending the soil, watering, weeding, talking to her plants. Neighbor Yoshiko had an equally lovely but completely structured landscape. Neat, tidy, sculpted to perfection. She, too, worked many hours a week tending her garden.. Today, both properties have changed hands. New owners have left the gardens to their own devices - one looks sad and neglected. The other, the grass is mowed, but there is a wide border crammed with wild, untrimmed, bushes, and ornamental grasses going to seed.

Question: Is it a new owner's responsibility to maintain a garden exactly as it was by the person they bought from?

### Of course not.

Is it incumbent on new owners, should they not want to continue the extensive maintenance, to change the space into something they can maintain and be proud of?

### Certainly it is.

Sunland CC&R's state in part that: "The necessity of maintaining the exterior of the residence and keeping grounds of the premises in a neat, clean and attractive manner is important to the community of SunLand. Property owners are required to keep the grass cut, shrubbery pruned, weeds controlled or eliminated, and debris removed." (Section 8. Care and Appearance of Premises.)

Our CC&R's are not particularly restrictive. They assume cooperation and commonsense. Afterall, this is OUR community together, and the more we can do our individual part, the better the whole will look and feel.



"That's your idea of weed control?"

## TAKE A HARD LOOK

Seriously, look at what your neighbors, visitors, passersby, and home-buyers see. Many residents never see their own street view - entering through the garage and taking for granted that things are looking okay out there. (Which is why we now and then see a forgotten pumpkin rotting on a porch long after Halloween.)

Please - take a look at your curb appeal, or lack of it. Make some corrections if needed. And to the vast majority of residents who DO pay attention to their landscape, who have designed - or redesigned - it to something they can manage, thank you!

Has your 30 year old landscape gotten away from you? You don't know how to begin, or how to plan and execute an upgrade, rehab, or start-over? There is friendly local help available. New Dungeness Nursery has been making free yard visits for over 50 years. Consultations can cover all landscape topics from plant/pest problems, planting locations, plant diseases and much more, including proper trimming and maintenance of shrubs.

They can also do a personalized landscape design for a cost. This covers a hand-drawn sketch to scale, with a corresponding plant list and a follow up meeting if you need help selecting plants or placing them. Contact: Stew and Doug Cockburn at New Dungeness Nursery/ 360-670-7140 to make an appointment.

## Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

Sunland is a well-established community. Not many original purchasers remain. Some properties have changed hands numerous times. Some have been upgraded and freshened both inside and out. Some are the same as first built. Because they need TLC and upgrades, these may sit longer on the market and sell at a lower \$\$ than properties that have been modernized, including the landscape. Right now, there is little inventory and many interested potential buyers (according to Dollie Sparks of Windermere East).

If you were selling, would you be disappointed to have to sell at a discount because your yard is a mess?

As an example, recently a home in Sunland sold in two days in a bidding war situation, partly because the landscape was very attractive. Newly refreshed, well cared for, appropriately planted and maintained. That garnered the seller over \$50,000 more than his asking price. Just sayin!

Happy Spring from The Landscaping Committee

