

Walnut Crossing Lawn Program Guide and the 5-Star program

The purpose of this guide is to outline the 5 basic items that make up the 5-Star program. The following are photographs illustrate each of the 5-Star categories.

Area 1. *Grass mowed.* This indicates that your lawn needs to be mowed on regular basis so that your grass height is no more than 6 inches. At the same time this means that while the bulk of the lawn is at this level; items such as crabgrass, wild onions and other assorted weeds can tower above this level. If this occurs, a mowing is necessary. A more permanent answer is to spray the areas with lawn weed killer available at major lawn and garden retailers.



Area 2. Curb, Driveway and Sidewalk Edged. This indicates these areas need to be edged with a lawn edger or weed eater. This gives your property a well-manicured look and takes only a few minutes to do. Below are before and after edging photos.



Before Edging



After Edging



Example of no Edging



Example of no Edging

Edging and trimming are the finishing touches of mowing - kind of like getting a shave after you've had a haircut. Edging and trimming are pretty close to being the same thing. Some tools are called edgers because they're designed to trim the lawn along a hard surface like a driveway or sidewalk. Edgers cut a nice clean edge but leave some dirt and grass debris that you need to clean up. On the other hand, you can use trimmers anywhere — along a hard surface, in tight spaces, next to planting beds, and so on. Trimmers also leave some clippings on paths and driveways that you need to sweep up.



Area 3. Grass Clippings removed from paved surfaces. Keep grass clippings on the lawn and out of streets, driveways and sidewalks. Sweep or blow them back into your yard. Grass clippings are full of nutrients - they are basically fertilizer - and when left on sidewalks, driveways or in the road they will wash into storm drains and find their way into our rivers and lakes.



Area 4. Grass Trimmed around House Foundation and Fences



Trimming your lawn means cutting the grass that your lawn mower couldn't access. Most lawn mowers do a poor job of cutting grass along the edges of the lawn. The grass just grows too sideways in that area for the blades to get at it, or you can't get the wheels into planting beds nearby. You need to do some edging or trimming along the perimeter of the foundation and fences. You may need to put in a mowing strip around the outside of the lawn that greatly simplifies edging. Here is a reminder - Homes bordering the

Park (Holland/Serviceberry) and the Containment Pond require mowing of the lawn between the fence and the Park/Common area border.



Area 5. Shrubbery Areas Free of Weeds and Bushes Trimmed. The last element in creating a 5-Star Lawn is the weeding from around bushes and shrubs to create an eye appealing transition from the lawn to your home. Below is an example of proper weeding of this area.



Shrubbery Areas with Weeds



Shrubbery Free of Weeds

Trimming or pruning of shrubs and bushes is the selective removal of plant parts, mainly shoots and branches, to improve health, control growth or promote flowering, fruiting or appearance. Pruning is a common maintenance practice used to remove dead, dying, or damaged wood. Trees and shrubs may be lightly pruned anytime.



Shrubbery Needing Trimmed

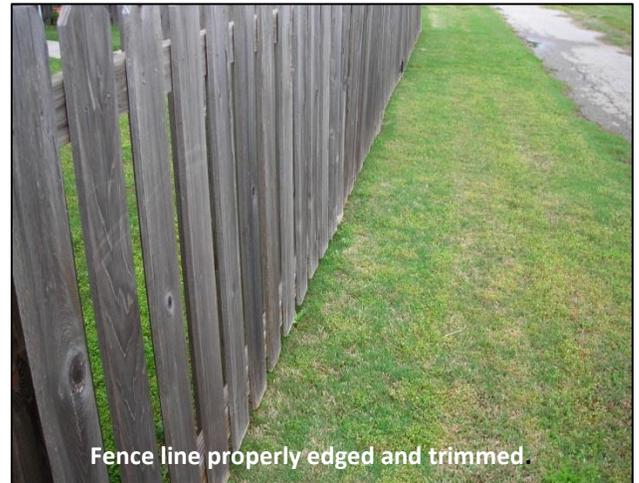


Shrubbery Properly Trimmed

The following options are suggested to further enhance property values and overall attractiveness of the community. Regular watering, fertilizing and weed control of lawns, shrubs and trees and Trimming and/or removal of trees and bushes that are of oversize proportions compared to house. If you wish more information concerning the 5-Star Lawn program email contact@walnutcrossing.org.

Mowing, Edging and Trimming of Fences near Walking Trail and City Park

These photos show the need of weed eating, trimming and edging around fences that face the containment basin and the public park.



Mowing, Edging and Trimming of utility easements near the walking trail and containment basin



Homes that border the containment basin or the public park without fences have special considerations in regard to visibility



Homes with fences that border the public park are high visibility homes and require extra attention in mowing, edging and trimming.



Maintaining Street in front of home, Grass Clippings, Driveways, Sidewalks and Curbs

A community's overall image isn't judged by the POA's maintenance of the common areas. It is also judged by the homeowner's property itself and the area directly adjacent to the property, here are examples of what detracts from the overall appearance of a home and are considered violations of the Walnut Crossing appearance standards.

Driveways

Driveways must be edged and neatly trimmed regularly. Driveways must be maintained and free of grass growing in the cracks and the expansion joints of driveways.



Maintaining the Street in front of home

The street in front of home must remain free of grass clippings. The area where the street meets the curb must also remain free of debris and any grass growing in the crack between the two must be removed. This is best prevented by applying herbicide to the unwanted vegetation growing in this area.



Sidewalks, Curbs, Gutters and Clippings on Lawn

Sidewalks, curbs and gutters must be edged and neatly trimmed. Use herbicide to control grass growing between expansion joints in sidewalks. Curbs cannot have grass growing over the edge. Regular edging with each mowing is essential.



Gutters cannot have weeds or grass growing in them. These must be removed at each mowing. These areas are best controlled by herbicide. Need to be removed



Grass Clippings on the lawn must be removed after each mowing. In the above photo, mulching of the clippings was not sufficient to remove all the cuttings. In this case raking of the lawn and disposing of the clippings was necessary.