

February 2023 Newsletter

Hello neighbors!

The Maintenance Committee has done its part, now it's time for each of us to do ours! I'm sure you've noticed our common areas are looking a bit bare, with many bushes having been cut back and the cuttings having been carted off by Mochomo's. The committee also sprayed the remaining stumps with the mixture of Dawn dishwashing soap and water, in our efforts to smother and kill the mite that has been attacking our beautiful Texas Laurels and Oleanders. See our flyer below for more information as to how we each need to take care of the plants and bushes on our own

MITE Attack UPDATE

Your neighbor-volunteers have cut-back and sprayed all of the infected Texas Rangers in the common areas. Weekly spraying will continue for a total of 3 applications.



Eriophyid Mite
Microscopic - too tiny to see



All of the refuse was hauled off by Mochomo's, our Maintenance contractor.

Homeowner - Now it's your turn !

PLEASE inspect the Texas Rangers in your front yard and inside your fences for infection. See examples on next page. Cut back infected plants to 24" high.

REGARDLESS...

DRENCH spray **ALL** your plants with the DAWN/ water spray - 3 times - Weekly starting March 1.



properties. It's so important that we each do our part, or all this work and the loss of our bushes will have been for nothing, because the mites will come back and kill the remaining bushes that are still healthy. As you'll read above, the plan is to spray all plants, both healthy and the stumps of those cut back to make sure those mites don't have a chance! It's best to spray all the plants in your yards, even if they're not Texas Laurels or Oleanders.

We don't know for sure which plants (if any!) would be immune. And a little soap and water will not hurt anything (didn't our mothers always tell us that growing up??).

If you are not currently here on the Ridge, please let your neighbors know you may need their help to determine if your plants need attention. Otherwise, you can contact the Maintenance Committee, and they will do their best to help you. The numbers to call for Mike Cochran or David Ward: (360)751-2832/Mike and (231)557-5453/David.

Inspect your Texas Ranger leaves for Mite damage NOW!



Healthy leaves Green throughout

If your Texas Ranger leaves look like this, - Congratulations you're not YET infected.

We Need your Help !

To protect your plants and those in the neighborhood you need to spray those in your front yard and within your walls, 3 weekly sprayings, before they bud in early March.

Mite suffocating formula
DRENCH SPRAY with
2 tablespoons of **DAWN**
to 1 gallon of water.



If we don't all spray, all of the cut-down and spraying will be fruitless. These little buggers are difficult, but not impossible to control.

PLEASE do your part!

If your leaves look like these:
PLEASE cut them back to 24" tall
and SPRAY the trunk remains to
suffocate the winter-dormant mites.



Leaf tip color showing infestation beginning



Most larger leaves destroyed. Replaced by smaller suckers

Death of the plant soon follows

This file: email blast DESERT RIDGE MITE Attack_3.04-2_2-23-23

At the Board's meeting last week, we allocated board members to most committees as representatives to the Board. Here is the list, so you know which board member will represent your committee:

Standing Committees

**Maintenance - Mike Cochran
Architectural - Ruth Krawczyk
Audit - (still to be determined)
Nominating - Jan Morgan**

General Committees

**Budget - John Morgan
Streets - Dennis Lynch
Beautification - Dennis Lynch
Social - Ruth Krawczyk**

Otherwise, it was pretty much business as usual, although there were initial discussions about the liability of homeowners and the HOA at large for our sidewalks. The Streets Committee is starting to look into the condition and the cost for repairing our sidewalks where needed. Trip hazards are something we need to take seriously.

Don't forget to RSVP by March 2nd with Rose Philbee for the Spring Potluck scheduled for Tuesday, March 7th, at 5:00 pm at the Desert Hills Center for appetizers supplied by the Social Committee and then dinner at 5:30. It should be a good time, and of course wonderful food from all our neighbors!

The draft board minutes will be on the website soon, so to get all the news from the Green Valley Council, please check them out at desertridgehoagv.org. All the minutes and financial statements can be found there as well.

One last thing! They are again making the phone directory that has where people are from (which state/country) and their former professions, if you have a landline, and of course businesses in the yellow pages. Is there anyone who does NOT want one of these directories? I will ask only for as many as people want, so if you DON'T want one, please let me know, otherwise I'll order every home one.

Take care and hope to see many of you at the potluck next week!

Ruth