

## IT'S TIME TO WRAP UP WINTER AND PREP FOR SPRING

Here in Southern California, the differences between our seasons aren't as dramatic as they are in other parts of the country. Southern California has mild, sunny days in the middle of winter, while elsewhere folks are trudging through the snow. California Community Management has been working with Benchmark, the association's landscape company, who have been busily preparing for spring, the fastest-growing time of year for vegetation, while also taking care of winter landscape needs and preventive maintenance.

Below is a list of items to help you prepare for Spring:

- **Food to Promote Healthy Growth:** "Feeding" your turf and plants now, to help them achieve healthy growth as the weather warms up in the months ahead.
- **Irrigation System Tune-ups:** Performing preventive maintenance and tune-ups on irrigation systems and equipment, making any needed fixes and adjusting system controllers to ensure they're continuously providing the right amount of irrigation, at the right time of day, to avoid wasting water through runoff and evaporation.
- **Mulching & Pruning:** Mulching nourishes soil and helps it retain moisture. Be sure to hand-prune shrubs and bushes which helps promote healthy growth in the coming spring. Doing this work by hand rather than by machine reduces energy use and emissions and also avoids unnecessary plant damage.
- **Weed Control:** Like little landscape time bombs, weed seeds wait in the soil to germinate after winter rains.
- **Tree Care:** Remove low-hanging tree branches, this helps with pest control and trimming those that are vulnerable to wind, to prevent them from doing damage if another big storm arrives.
- **And More:** Routine inspection and debris removal is important to make sure drains and rain gutters will efficiently do their jobs in any remaining rains, and also to prevent erosion of landscaped areas.

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