

Plant Information – Keys HOA

Options for HEDGES

- a) Ligustrum 'East Bay' – fairly new cultivar, grows 4-5' max.
- b) Holly 'Dwarf Burford' - very similar to existing Needlepoints, but grows little smaller ~5'
- c) Loropetalum 'Daruma' – fairly new cultivar, grows 4' max.

Options for KIDNEY BEDS

- a) Abelia 'Little Richard' full sun – allow to naturalize, like forsythia (do not prune tightly) grows 3'-4' slowly
- b) Cypress 'Gold Mop' full sun, grows 4' slowly
- c) Fatsia shade – large tropical leaf, grows 6'+ slowly
- d) Flax 'New Zealand' full sun (burgundy leaf varieties), grows 3'
- e) Holly 'Dwarf Yaupon' – full sun or part sun, grows 4' slowly
- f) Holly 'Carissa' full sun or part sun, grows 3' – 4', slowly
- g) Hydrangea 'Limelight' or 'Little Lime' this takes full sun! (does need water...)
It is not evergreen but could be used occasionally for wow factor. Grows quickly
- h) Lomandra 'Katie Belles' evergreen, almost looks like ornamental grass
- i) Nandina 'Gulfstream' part sun- midsize var., grows 3'-4' slowly
- j) Yew 'Prostrata' prefers part sun, grows 3' slowly

Tree Replacements

- a) Crape Myrtle 'Dynamite' – dark red, small category ~ 15' max. slowly
- b) Crape Myrtle 'Tonto' – dark raspberry, small category ~ 12' max. slowly
- c) Magnolia 'Little Gem' - evergreen, grows 25'+ slowly
- d) Palm 'Windmill' - grows 12-15'+ slowly
- e) Palm 'European Fan' - grows ~5' + slowly
- f) Yaupon 'Weeping' - grows ~10' -15' med. growth rate

Front of Unit Options

- a) Arborvitae 'Little Giant' – grows 4' x 4', slowly
- b) Breezegrass – evergreen ornamental grass, grows 3'- 4' slowly
- c) Cypress 'Gold Mop' - grows 4' x 4", slowly
- d) Drift Rose - grows 3' x 3', fairly quickly
- e) Holly 'Carissa' – grows 4'x 4', very slowly
- f) Holly 'Dwarf Yaupon' – grows 4' x 4', very slowly
- g) Loropetalum 'Purple Diamond' or 'Daruma' – grow 4' x 4' med. growth
- a) Yew 'Prostrata' – grows 3' x 3', slowly

Pruning Calender

- a) Azaleas – prune after they have finished blooming
- b) Hedge Plants- most hedge plants can be pruned in May at the start of the growing season (after last chance of frost~ April 15/ Income tax deadline) and then pruned as needed up until end of September. This will allow them to harden off before cold temperatures arrive. Cold temperatures will burn any new growth generated by last pruning.

- c) Knock-Out Roses – prune hard cut mid-late February, can do light pruning at least once in the summer (August) to revive and control ht.
- d) Nandina- Nandina can be pruned throughout the growing season. However, if it is a type that has berries, it is best to prune in May before berries are formed for winter interest. There is a pruning guideline of pruning 1/3 of the canes back every year to help keep a tiered effect and create fullness. Otherwise, they tend to be very leggy and scraggly.
- e) Ornamental Grasses- most of the smaller, fine bladed grasses need to be cut in March, just as they are starting to green back up (green shoots emerging at the base) Pampas Grass has a wider blade and can be pruned in Jan. but still as a general rule, all grasses can be cut in March. Many Landscapers tend to prune earlier like November - December to keep employees busy but it is best to wait until the coldest temperatures have passed.
- f) Oleander- prune around late Sept/ Oct, cut out winter-burn as necessary in April. They start blooming in May. If you wait to do major pruning in April, you will affect the blooms.
- g) Trees- most trees are pruned in the winter when they are their most dormant. This includes Live Oaks, Maples, Cherries, Crape Myrtles, etc. Crape Myrtles in particular are pruned Dec.- Feb 14 – after they have lost their leaves it is easier to check for crossing branches, undesirable angled branches, inward growing branches, etc. In other words, an easy date to remember is by Valentine’s Day. However, if there are branches that are creating any type of safety or disease concern, they can always be pruned immediately.

Planting Distance

As a guideline, mature plant width must be known and considered before positioning the plants. For example, Pink Muhly grow 4’ (with plume). Typically you would want some space between them after they are mature. Therefore, one would plant them approx. 5’ on center- allowing for at least 1 ft in between plants. They can be spaced out further or can be planted at 4’ on center if you want them to barely touch.

In the case of hedge plants, you would take the mature width and then plant slightly closer together so they will touch and not leave gaps if that is the desired effect. This example would be ligustrum ‘East Bay’. It grows 5’ wide. However, one would plant 4’ on center if a dense hedge is the goal.

Sun/ Shade Requirements

Most plants have very specific planting locations in order to thrive. This always needs to be a number one consideration when choosing plants for your units. Buildings cast shade on the northern side for longer in the day. Plants for this side can be different than plants on the hotter, southern side. Morning eastern sun is not quite as hot as later in the day afternoon western sun.

Sun Plants- ex: KO roses, Drift Roses, Gold Mop Cypress, Indian Hawthorne, Ornamental Grasses, Crape Myrtles, Cherries

Filtered Sun Plants- ex: Gardenias, Azaleas

Shade Plants- ex: Aucuba, Fatsia, most Hydrangeas

Multi-Purpose Sun/ Filtered Sun- ex: Carissa Holly, Dwarf Yaupon Holly, Ligustrum, Loropetalum, Nandinas, Pittosporum

Water Requirements

All new plants require water until established. Typically they are not established until they have made it through a summer. If something is planted in October, one might think that six months has passed and the plant is established. Please remember that it has not yet had to survive the heat stress of the summer.

High water requirements- trees, hydrangeas

Medium water requirements- carissa holly, loropetalum, ligustrum, roses

Low water requirements- ornamental grasses, dwarf yaupons

New plants typically require hand watering in addition to irrigation. Irrigation zones and timing are geared toward turf. Turf has shallow root systems that need to be watered to 3-4" depth. New plants have much deeper root systems and need to be watered 10" – 18" depth depending upon the gallon size container.

Salt Tolerant

In your community, this has to be one of your top requirements. Therefore, your list is much more limited (than say in Wilmington.)

There is a plant not mentioned on lists for hedging or low tiers that also works for Beach Communities. It is Pineapple Guava. You might have an interest in using it for screening. It grows about 10' tall x 6+' wide.

Perennials

There are a few perennials you could try – again keeping salt tolerance in mind...

- a) Butterfly Bushes (new dwarf varieties that grow 2-3')
- b) Lantana- goldmound is the one of the few that will definitely return every year. Larger var.- Miss Huff does well. The lavender and white do not always come back.
- c) Mexican Sage- grows large, has purple and white flowers, attracts butterflies
- d) Salvias – raspberry, coral, hot lips (there are many salvias – stay away from 'Black and Blue' and 'May Night')

These all require full sun.

