

## **Planting Criteria, Plan Specifications, and Prohibited Plantings**

### **Planting Criteria**

An area to be planted must, at a minimum, meet the following specifications:

- The area to be planted (bed) shall not exceed: 1) 24" in width from any patio slab, sidewalk or building foundation, or 2) 12" in width around the trunk of any established tree/shrub that is not surrounded by a mulch bed.
- If the area to be planted (bed) is not already prepared, the resident will be responsible for preparing it.

### **Plan Specifications**

A resident's plan for proposed plantings should include:

- A clear description of the proposed location of the plantings and the dimensions of the site (e.g., a 12-inch wide flower bed around the perimeter of the patio slab [where a bed does not already exist]), and
- The specific items to be planted (i.e., kind of annual plant, estimate of plant size [height and diameter] when full grown), and
- Information about how the plantings will be maintained, and
- If bulbs, perennials, herbs, or grasses are proposed, specific information about their blooming and life cycle must be provided. In these cases only, future approval will be assured for the time period (life cycle) specified.

### **Prohibited Plantings**

The following plantings are strictly prohibited:

- Fruit and/or vegetable gardens.
- Vine-like or "spreading/creeping" plantings that would spread beyond the 24" or 12" bed size.
- Plantings that require a structural support system (e.g., trellis).

- Plantings that do not meet GVC's specifications related to security and safety (e.g., those that would exceed window-sill height of any window immediately adjacent to the planting area) are prohibited.
- Planters/flower boxes and the like on any common element (e.g., sidewalk leading to a unit).
- Mulching material that is not biodegradable or that has been artificially colored.
- Beds that contain rocks, stones or pebbles.
- Beds or plantings that involve pressure-treated lumber, logs or other edging materials, except dark metal edging intended for such purposes.
- Ornamental objects, bird baths, or any object requiring electrical current, or that may involve "standing water."

**Note:** With approval of the Board, flowers that have been damaged by weather conditions to the point that they can no longer stand independently may be supported with dark green stakes until their life cycle is complete.

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