



# 2024 Yard of the Month Guidelines

## Purpose

The purpose of the Yard of the Month (YOTM) competition is to promote goodwill and reward exemplary lawn and property maintenance in the Windward Ranch subdivision. The competition will recognize and support Windward Ranch neighbors who demonstrate exceptional efforts to maintain and improve their property in a manner that contributes to the overall appearance of the community at large.

## General Criteria for Contest

Yard of the Month candidates will be judged on the exterior appearance of their front and side yard as viewed from the street. The general upkeep of the yard and property is paramount. For the months of March through September, the Yard of the Month (YOM) Committee will choose a based on qualities of uniqueness, beauty, appeal, and consistency with the HOA Guidelines. All award winners will receive an official “Yard of the Month” lawn sign to be placed on their property on the 1st of the month (April - October). The committee will remove the sign from the awardee’s yard on the 1st day of the following month. The winners will have a picture taken of their yard and acknowledged in the monthly newsletter, our community Facebook page as well as our WR Website. Winners will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to the Windward Ranch Cafe. The committee will award monthly winners for holiday decorations during the months of October and December.

## Guidelines

1. The contest will be managed by the Windward Ranch Yard of the Month committee. The Committee chairperson will oversee the contest. Committee members are not eligible to receive awards.
2. All Windward Ranch homes are eligible. The homeowner must be in good standing with the HOA.
3. Award winners will be selected based on the judging criteria, factors, and guidelines listed in this document.
4. The upkeep of the yard can reflect the efforts of the residents themselves or that of a professional landscaper or groundskeeper.
5. The award duration term is a single calendar month.
6. The same property cannot receive more than one award in the same rolling twelve-month calendar period.
7. Winners may be disqualified if their property is in violation of any HOA Guidelines.

## **General Judging Factors**

Factors include the overall appearance, tidiness, and neatness of the front and side of the property as evidenced by pruned, trimmed, and shaped foliage, edged and defined lawns, borders & flowerbeds, and a visually appealing facade. Judges will utilize the following factors when selecting homes:

### **A. Yard Maintenance -**

- Healthy lawn, neatly mowed and edged
- Pruned and trimmed shrubs and trees
- Healthy, living plants
- Minimum weeds in flowerbeds
- Yard free of debris and clutter
- Driveway free of oil and other stains, curbs free of debris and dirt
- Buildings, fences, and porches on the property in good condition
- No trash or recycling cans are seen in front of the property

### **B. Design and Landscaping -**

- Use of color and texture
- Creative, unique curb appeal
- Balance appropriate to house and lot size
- Overall aesthetic appeal
- Pleasing appearance making the property an asset to the community

## **Summary**

The Windward Ranch HOA congratulates all “Yard of the Month” award selections and encourages all neighbors to join the efforts of these homeowners in keeping their yards and homes beautiful. The Windward Ranch Homeowner’s Association is dedicated to improving the quality of living and appearance of our community. We encourage residents to take pride in their homes and neighborhood. In turn, we look to celebrate those who do a superior job in maintaining their yards in such a way that they enhance the overall curb appeal of the entire community.