

## **Landscape Update**

Management and Talega's landscape consultants have worked closely with the new landscape contractor to minimize the use of herbicides throughout the community. These efforts have been largely successful through the use of manual weed removal in landscaped areas and horticultural vinegar treatments in hardscape areas.

Despite these efforts, the landscape contractor continues to face significant challenges in controlling the spread of invasive grassy weeds that are infiltrating and overtaking certain ornamental planting areas. These weeds currently threaten an estimated \$500,000 in landscape plantings, and the potential damage will increase substantially if the issue is not immediately and effectively addressed.

Unfortunately, Talega cannot continue 100% herbicide free at this time. The BOD made the decision based on fielding complaints and reviewing the Q1 landscape reports from Mosaic and management. The contractor will only be using Fusilade II, a selective, post-emergent herbicide designed to kill grassy weeds without harming desirable broadleaf plants in targeted areas. A tree health specialist will apply blended fungicide material on affected oak trees as needed. The guidance remains; use the minimum amount possible that is necessary to protect the community's landscape assets.

Herbicide applications will be conducted in accordance with industry standards under the oversight of Talega's landscape consultants. The treatment will consist of a two applications, in defined areas fourteen days apart. Wholesale spraying of entire slopes and parkways is not permitted.

Talega will continue to research and pursue more ecologically friendly ways to maintain the landscaping, including weed management.