



# EMERALD KEEPERS

EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado



801 8th Street, Best Earth-Friendly Home 2023



711 Country Club, First Runner Up 2023

# GET YOUR HOME FRONT READY FOR A GREEN RIBBON

Coronado residents are busy sprucing up their gardens in preparation for the Coronado Floral Association's annual home front judging, which will take place April 5-7 this year. The Floral Association celebrates colorful blooms and manicured yards with blue, red, and yellow ribbons. In addition, all homes are eligible for an Emerald Keepers' green ribbon, recognizing earth-friendly home fronts.

## EARTH-FRIENDLY CRITERIA

Considerations to earn an earth-friendly green ribbon include:

- **Majority native or low-water plants.** Support bees, birds, and butterflies with low-maintenance native and drought-resistant plants that thrive in Coronado's soil and climate.
- **Natural mulches covering soil.** Mulches such as bark, rocks, sand, and decomposed granite retain moisture, limiting the need for watering. They also inhibit the growth of weeds and therefore the

need for chemical weed killers.

- **Limited to no lawn.** Grass is water and energy intensive and provides limited benefits to our local biodiversity. Gardens should have no more than 25% grass.
- **Limited to no artificial grass.** Fake grass should be avoided. Made out of plastic, it harms the soil, wildlife, and human health. The benefits from using less water with artificial grass are far outweighed by the environmental harm caused by this plastic ground cover. No more than 10% of a garden should be covered with artificial grass.
- **Majority ground surface non-paved.** Permeable, non-paved ground surfaces allow for water absorption into the soil rather than runoff. Patios are acceptable if there is permeable space between pavers. Green ribbon home fronts must also

meet the Coronado Flower Show requirements for obvious effort and curb appeal.



## PARKING STRIP

Home fronts include the parking strip between the sidewalk and the street. While the parking strip is city property, homeowners are responsible for maintenance. This visible space presents another opportunity to expand your earth-friendly impact.

## VIEW EXAMPLES

In 2023, more than 255 homes were recognized for their earth-friendly landscaping. View the top three earth-friendly home fronts at 801 8th St., 711 Country Club Lane, and 307 1st St. A full list of 2023 earth-friendly home front winners can be viewed online at [emeraldkeepers.org/earthfriendly](http://emeraldkeepers.org/earthfriendly).

Earth-friendly home fronts help keep Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.

## VOLUNTEER TO JUDGE

Community members are invited to volunteer as Emerald Keepers judges to recognize earth-friendly home fronts with a green ribbon. Volunteers are provided with information and guidance to evaluate home fronts — no experience necessary. Sign up online at [coronadoflowershow.com/homefront-judging](http://coronadoflowershow.com/homefront-judging) or use the QR code below. Be sure to enter "Emerald Keepers" in the comment box.



## SUPPORT EMERALD KEEPERS

Emerald Keepers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

