



THEFT IN THE GARDEN CENTERS

Fruit trees are the main target of theft in the Garden Centers. Thieves aren't just taking a few pieces of fruit—they are stripping trees, meaning the gardeners who tenderly cared for those trees have been robbed of the “fruits” of their labors. If someone is intent on stealing, no fence, netting or covering will prevent it. What may help, however, is establishing a community environment dedicated to protecting the Garden Centers from theft—similar to a neighborhood watch. The more gardeners get to know each another, the more uncomfortable it is to contemplate stealing from each other. Simply



be friendly to everyone at the Garden Centers, get to know your neighbors, share gardening tips and perhaps even foster friendships.

Taking pride in the tender, loving care each garden neighbor puts into their garden is something worth protecting. It's the neighborly thing to do and, most importantly, the right way to do it.

*“The garden is a love song,
a duet between a human
being and Mother Nature.”*

—Jeff Cox, American garden writer



Don't Let Mice (and Rats) Play

During warmer months, mice and rats breed nonstop. Rats can birth up to 24 babies per year, and each mouse can birth up to 60 per year! Mice take just three weeks to reach sexual maturity, meaning each new mouse can contribute 60 babies of its own to the environment—and so on, and so on.



In addition to their breeding prowess, rodents must gnaw constantly to keep their teeth sharp and healthy, and they're not picky about what they chew on. Rats like to gnaw on soft materials accessed while sneaking about—boxes, storage materials, fabric or wiring.

Rodents also aren't particularly picky about where they live. They build small, tightly packed clumps of various debris in which they rest and eat. Rats drag paper, insulation, styrofoam and other trash into dry, warm, dark and secluded areas to build their nests.

How you can help reduce the rat population:

- Be on the lookout for fecal droppings, gnaw marks, paw prints, chewed wires or small holes or crevices in walls. Report any suspected rodent activity to Resident Services at **949-597-4600**.
- Remove clutter, as it provides great hiding spaces and nesting material for rodents. Further, finding evidence of rodents is easier if you don't have to dig through piles of belongings. Elevate belongings out of rodents' reach, and replace cardboard boxes with plastic ones.
- Pick up dropped seeds from bird feeders, or eliminate feeders altogether. Pick up fruit that has fallen from trees, and promptly pick ripe fruit.
- Do not leave containers of water for them to drink.
- Upgrade your plants protection to make it harder for rodents to access it or recognize it as a possible food source.

DO NOT MOVE BAIT BOXES

The Department of Landscaping Services' full-time licensed pest-control personnel maintain more than 1,000 bait stations throughout the community. These black, four- or six-sided bait stations/boxes are placed outdoors in locations where they can be most effective—including within trash bin enclosures. Never touch, move or open these boxes, as they must remain in place to be effective. If you have any questions regarding these boxes, please call Resident Services at **949-597-4600**.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Watch for revisions to the Garden Centers operating rules. Once approved, they will be emailed to gardeners whose emails are on file and be posted to the landing page: lagunawoodsvillage.com > **Amenities > Facilities > Garden Centers**; scroll to the bottom of the page to review/print the PDF document.
- Turn off water at the spigot/water source. Too many leaks have occurred due to gardeners shutting off the hose head instead, which causes pressure to build and hoses to burst, flooding gardens.
- Garden Center 2 water automatically shuts off every day from 1 to 1:15 p.m. It is a preset routine check of the irrigation system.
- Mulch located at the Garden Centers is for gardens only. If you need mulch for your manor, please contact Resident Services to register your request.