



Landscape Lowdown

San Marco II

Fall 2025

Based on the comments that we hear from owners, the overall “curb appeal” of our community is improving, although there is ample room for continued enhancements. Here is a recap of the past few months.

Sod

They could be called the “sad, sod days of summer”. Yes, the summer of 2025 was very dry for most of southern Florida, with many areas recording below-normal rainfall. This dryness, which was more typical of the start of the dry season, resulted in severe to extreme drought conditions persisting into September and October. Many of our front lawns came through it ok, but others, including some of the lawns that were newly sodded in late spring/early summer, did not. The dryness, coupled with a pesky infestation of Spotted Spurge, was at the root (pardon the pun) of our problems.

LMP has accepted their share of responsibility for the damaged lawns. They can’t control the weather, but they agree they could have been more proactive, especially as it relates to the weed infestation. Was enough weed control applied, was the timing right, was the mix appropriate for the situation, was there any serious monitoring as the weeds spread? In any case, LMP has installed four pallets of new sod in the past week at their cost, and they will review their weed control and fertilization procedures going forward. And our Landscape Committee will continue to review the sod situation to determine if additional sod needs to be installed this year.

Trees

The 18 new trees that were planted in the late spring have by and large thrived, even after the summer drought. Kudos to the Landscape Committee and other owners for taking turns this summer watering trees planted at the homes of our Snowbirds. The 18 trees included the following:

- 11 Christmas Palms
- 4 Hibiscus Trees
- 2 Holly Trees
- 1 Blueberry Tree

The Sabal Palms at the back of our homes were trimmed over the summer by LMP. Our fixed-price contract includes the trimming of trees 15 feet and under. Trees over 15 feet incur an extra charge. This year's charge was \$2,430.

Mulch

Mulch was installed in late October. We intentionally moved the mulch application from spring to fall this year and will continue with a fall application going forward. There were two reasons: a spring application risks having the mulch run off onto the grass, walks and driveways during the heavy summer rains (stop with the wisecracks!). The second reason is that from fall to spring is when the bulk of our owners are here, so we can all enjoy the pop that new mulch gives our landscaping.

Plants and Bushes

The Landscape Committee has been reviewing plants and bushes throughout the community. Dead plants are being removed, overgrown bushes are being identified and targeted for a more complete trimming, and spaces that are bare will get new plantings. The ultimate goal is to have plantings that are appealing to the eye, and that do not require heavy watering and trimming. Regarding trimming, the committee has told LMP that the practice of giving bushes a flat top, boxy look is not acceptable for some of our plant species. They have turned too many rows of beautiful ixoras or crotons into hedges instead of preserving them as individual plants. The committee is also working with LMP to establish a more consistent and appealing height standard, especially for bushes abutting the homes. You will see activity in this area over the coming months.

How To Submit a Landscaping or Irrigation Service Request

1. Go to the LMP Client Portal at <https://thelmpadvantage.com/client-portal/>
2. Click on Take me to Sarasota Branch
3. On the next page, near the bottom click on San Marco II.
4. On the next page, identify yourself, and describe your issue.
5. Click Send Message.

These requests will be routed to the appropriate department at LMP. Homeowners are guaranteed an email response from LMP within 24 hours. Our board and our landscaping committee will also receive LMP's response along with any other follow-up emails from LMP regarding the service request. Note: If you are unable to submit your service request online for any reason, please call in your request to LMP at (941) 556-9404. If your issue is an emergency, please call (877) LMPPRO1.

In Closing,

We have a very active Landscape Committee. They walk through the community on the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 8:00 am on Mestre Court. Be sure to say hello and pass on any comments or suggestions that you have about our landscaping efforts.

Landscape Committee Members:

Pam Greer – 478 Montelluna
Nancy Negovetich – 466 Montelluna
Jim Bouquet – 469 Montelluna
Jan Tkaczyk – 117 Mestre
Mary Zvara – 498 Montelluna

The board plans to publish these Quarterly Newsletters on a regular basis to keep owners updated on what is happening in our San Marco II Community.

Best regards,

San Marco II Board & Landscape Committee

Important Reminder

Our next Board of Directors meeting will take place this Thursday, November 13th 2025, at 11:00 am at The River Club. This is a great opportunity to meet with the board and other owners. We always have an Owners' Comments segment during which time you can voice any concerns you might have and also hear what other owners have to say about issues that are important to all of us. If you cannot attend, here is the Zoom link for the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82725824824?pwd=Y3FMU2NZRDIScUNQWHILM VdnMDdjZz09#success>