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Smart and sustainable irrigation practices are valued year-round, and July is an opportunity to collectively promote their use and tout the benefits of using smart irrigation products and technologies.

LMP is dedicated to water conservation. Our goal is to provide the highest quality service by using the most advanced technology to create irrigation solutions that conserve substantial amounts of water and provide savings for our clients. A beautiful landscape doesn't mean using a lot of water. Water conservation is one way we enjoy helping our clients not only save money but to also be more environmentally responsible.



July is one of our hottest months and the peak of evapotranspiration for the year; the time our plants require the most water; and the time to recheck the system if you don't inspect its performance monthly.

In the U.S., more water is used in July than in any other month. Out of all that water used to irrigate lawns and landscapes, half of it winds up evaporating or dribbling away. In Florida, outdoor watering typically accounts for half the total home water use.



Water Conservation

Our certified irrigation professionals are trained in water audits and sustainable landscape principles. During an irrigation water audit, our Irrigation Specialist will perform a detailed review of a sprinkler system, including tests to determine overall system efficiency, identify problem areas that need correction, and determine an ideal watering schedule. An audit will provide insight into a system's inefficiencies, which our Irrigation Specialists can correct to save our clients with their landscape water use.

Irrigation Retrofits and Redesigns

A well-designed irrigation system will help your property look its very best. Our Irrigation Specialists can upgrade and redesign older irrigation systems due to recent advances in irrigation technology. We keep plant material and lawn healthy while saving money and reducing water waste.

Innovative Irrigation Systems

LMP offers ET (Evapotranspiration) or Weather-Based Irrigation Clocks, which use sensors and weather information to manage watering times and frequency economically. These ET Clocks provide significant water savings (approximately 15% to 30%), deeper root systems, and a healthier landscape.

Smart Irrigation Month is an Irrigation Association initiative to increase awareness of the value of water use and grow demand for water-saving products, practices and services. For more great resources, visit www.smartirrigationmonth.org.



Tree Risk Assessments

Leon Jennings, LMP Certified Arborist #FL-5259A

If you believe your trees are at risk, your LMP board-certified arborists can let you know what risk your tree may be facing and can potentially spot and prevent any other risk before they become major problems.

What is it?

Tree Risk Assessment is a systematic process used to identify, analyze, and evaluate the risk that a tree or tree part may fall and injure people or damage property. Because tree health may change over time, a TRA will include a “Time Frame,” typically of one year or more, after which a current TRA will need to be scheduled. There are three levels and scopes of tree risk assessment.

1 Level One | Limited Visual Assessment

This is the fastest and least thorough means of assessment, often used when many trees are to be considered. One may walk or drive by looking for obvious signs of decay or damage. It is not a 360-degree inspection and does not involve the use of any tools.

2 Level Two | Basic Assessment

This is the level most often used. It does involve a 360-degree look at the tree starting from the root plate, looking for any lifting of the roots or fungi. Then, observing the trunk looking for cavities, loose bark, insect activity, or fungi, and lastly, observing the canopy, looking for signs such as broken or dead branches, fungi, or mistletoe. Simple tools may be used, such as a sounding mallet, a probe to measure the depth of a cavity, or a handheld digging tool to expose surface roots or the root collar.

3 Level Three | Advanced Assessment

Advanced assessments are assessments of a tree’s roots, stem, or crown. Using specialized equipment such as resistance drills, sonic tomography, and others to provide information about specific tree parts or defects. This assessment is much more expensive and time-consuming, usually reserved for trees of historical significance or trees that are iconic to an area.

Who needs it?

Tree Risk Assessment is an essential tool for property managers or owners to show they have done their due diligence to provide a safe property for individuals to enter.

Who provides a tree risk assessment?

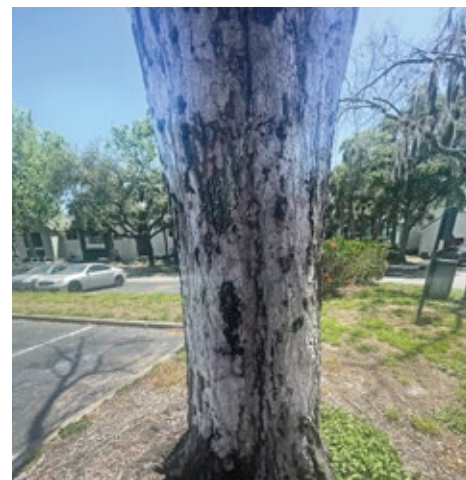
Tree Risk Assessments are performed by a Certified Arborist (certified by the International Society of Arboriculture) who has also acquired TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification).

What do you do with the assessment?

The TRA will combine the “Likelihood of Failure and Impact” and “Consequences of Failure” to arrive at a TRA of Low, Moderate, High, or Extreme. Based on the risk rating, mitigation options will be noted, such as whole tree removal, pruning of dead or decayed limbs, moving objects such as benches or playground equipment, or restricting access to the fall radius of the tree by barricading walkways. It will then be the responsibility of the property owner or manager to act upon the mitigation suggestions. There will be a “Residual Risk” after the mitigation options have been completed, which will be lower than the original risk and possibly more acceptable to the owner/manager.

Final Notes

It is impossible to maintain trees free from risk: some level of risk must be accepted to experience the benefits that trees provide. Nothing in the TRA should be construed as any kind of guarantee that a tree or part will not fall. Trees are living organisms subject to environmental forces that cannot be predicted. The goal of the TRAQ/ Certified Arborist is to strike a balance between the risk that a tree poses and the benefits that individuals and communities derive from trees.





HUNTER'S GREENTM

Community Association, Inc.

Property Spotlight

Hunter's Green is a meticulously developed master planned community in the New Tampa area and was voted the Top Master-Planned Community in the Southeast by the National Association of Home Builders at their Southeast Builders Conference. Cross Creek Boulevard, Highland Oak Drive, and Bruce B. Downs Boulevard define the boundaries of community boundaries. Hunter's Green sits on nearly 1,400 beautiful acres, with 65 acres of protected wetlands and 43 lakes. Residents have unlimited access to incredible first-class amenities every day of the year, including the Hunter's Green Country Club with an 18-Hole Tom Fazio designed course and the Tennis and Athletic Center.

Residents enjoy 15 acres of community facilities with designated bike lanes, playgrounds, lighted tennis, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and baseball facilities, a jogging trail with a 15-station exercise circuit, and an off-leash dog park.

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LMP has been maintaining our grounds for about six months; although there are always checks and balances in transition, the LMP team has invested the time to learn our property. They have been meticulous at each step of the way. We also had a lot of issues to tackle. We are so pleased with the attention to detail from the team, especially from Ronald Marquez and Robert Tabone, dealing with agronomic, fertilization and pest issues. They have provided true solutions with prompt and thorough communication and response time.

Wally Switzer
Hunter's Green Operations Manager

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Right next door is Flatwoods Wilderness Park, a Hillsborough County facility, which provides a welcome getaway from Tampa's developed landscape. The park boasts nine miles of multi-use trails through the pine forests and cypress swamps and offers canoe access to the Hillsborough River.

Hunters Green strives to continue to promote and develop a green environment and, as a result, became a prototype for residential golf and country club communities around the country. As a result, tranquil views can be seen from almost every vantage point within the community. Awards bestowed upon Hunters Green include the ENVY Environmental Award from the Florida Association of Realtors and the Aurora Award for the Top Master Planned Community in the Southeast.





Poisonous Lawn Mushrooms

Mushrooms are fungi or the reproductive part of fungi that live in the soil. Mushrooms are nature’s composters. Most of the time, the fungi stay hidden, breaking down organic material. But when conditions are right, they burst forth, like desert flowers blooming after a rain. Mushrooms spread spores into the air and then go away when the sun comes out, or the soil dries up. You can keep mushrooms from appearing as frequently by changing the conditions in your yard.

Decrease Shade in Problem Areas.

Since mushrooms like shade, targeted pruning to trim back or thin out branches on nearby trees or shrubs can decrease shady areas and let in extra sunlight to help reduce the moisture in your lawn.

Avoid Compacted Soil.

Aerating your lawn can help improve drainage, which will, in turn, help decrease the moisture that encourages mushrooms.

Minimize the Effect of Old Trees.

If you have an area where a tree used to stand, even if the stump is gone, the dead roots underground may encourage mushroom growth. If the stump is still there, you can have it removed. If it’s gone, just keep the area well raked and aerated to improve drainage

Pets.

Animal waste left on the lawn can also bring out mushrooms.

Watch the Water.

Overwatering is the number one way to kill a plant prematurely. Fungi happen to need a moist environment to produce spores and propagate.



Death Cap

The Downside of Mushrooms.

Unfortunately, Florida’s subtropical climate is ideal for mushroom growth. Mushrooms can appear overnight and hide beneath leaves and grass clippings. Dogs can smell them, making it easier to find them before we see them.

Dogs Can Smell a Poisonous Mushroom, But People Can’t

Even though 99 percent of mushrooms are not poisonous, it’s difficult for people to distinguish between the few that are and the many that aren’t. Not for dogs. Their keen sense of smell, up to 100,000 times more acute than ours, allows them to hone in on one particular species that can be lethal—the Amanita species. There are many different types of Amanita mushrooms throughout Florida, including the poisonous Destroying Angel (*Amanita virosa*), Caesar’s mushroom (*Amanita caesera*), and Fly Amanita or toadstool (*Amanita muscaria*).

How do Poisonous Mushrooms Affect your Dog?

Dogs can begin staggering, panting, salivating, whining, and appear dizzy very quickly after ingesting a poisonous mushroom. These symptoms can quickly progress into vomiting, lethargy, tachycardia, and collapse. Most of the time, owners have no idea what mushroom the dog ate or the exact quantity consumed, making veterinary treatment difficult. Depending upon the type of mushroom and the size of your dog, eating as little as two mushrooms can lead to serious illness or death. Poisonous mushrooms attack a dog’s liver, which is why dogs sometimes display a yellowing of the skin or the whites of the eyes after eating one (or several). The good news is that depending upon how early you catch the symptoms, many dogs can make a full recovery.



Fly Amanita



Destroying Angel



Caesar’s Mushroom

What's that growing on my Palm?



Botanical name

Phlebodium aureum

Common names

Cabbage Palm Fern
Golden Polypody Fern
Rabbit's Foot Fern
Gold Foot Fern
Bear's Paw Fern
Bear's Foot Fern

Goldfoot Fern is found throughout Florida, growing on Cabbage Palms and other plants and brings a tropical look from there with it. It often grows in the boot jacks, where it is an epiphyte. Epiphytes grow upon another plant but are not parasitic.

Golden polypody reproduces asexually with its wind-dispersed spores. The leaves are up to four feet long and two feet wide with many long lobes. The golden-colored stems grow through the boots of Cabbage Palms and are half an inch thick. The fronds of golden polypody are large and deeply lobed. Each frond can have up to 35 pinnae (leaflets or segments). Each pinna is bright green or bluish-green with a wavy margin. Golden polypody gets its moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, and debris that accumulates in the boot jacks. It is a fern with many creeping rhizomes (creeping rootstalks) that are covered in golden-brown scales.

There's no evidence the fern and its fungal friends penetrate the living tissue of the palm or cause it any harm, so enjoy!



Summer Color

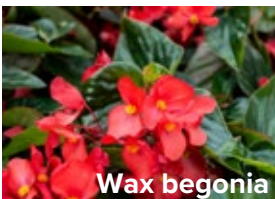
Wherever your landscaping dreams take you, always remember the importance of a well-planned landscape. The experts at LMP can help you select the perfect colors for your landscape. Summer Annuals you can plant now include:



Zinnia



Portulaca



Wax begonia



Purslane



Torenia



Globe amaranth



New Guinea Impatiens



Coleus

Sarasota

(941) 556-9404

Serving: Charlotte, DeSoto,
Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota

Tampa

(813) 757-6500

Serving: Hillsborough,
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Wesley Chapel

(813) 406-4465

Serving: Citrus, Hernando,
Pasco, Pinellas

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