

# GRAN VISTA GARDENING REPORT N°002 (2022-07-29)

This report will deal with analysis and supervision of the work carried out by the RAMAL gardening company engaged at Gran Vista. Their task is to adapt to the characteristics of the almost 1.000 private gardens, in addition to our trees and grassy meadows.

A similar report is planned at about the same time, between July and August, which are the most difficult months in terms of weather.

This report is prepared 1 month after the **restructuring of the Gardening Group** as I have described in my previous report and this is when the company has been working for us for 7 months, equal to part of the winter season, the spring season, and the beginning of the summer season.

The characteristics of this year's **weather** have a direct impact on the gardens. It starts with a very warm winter resulting in a premature start of flowering. In contrast in spring there is a significant drop in temperatures together with intense rains for a large number of consecutive weeks. This slows down flowering and initiates an unusual behavior of the plant species in their annual development. Then follows an early summer with very high temperatures (above usual), documenting 4 "heat waves" to date. This, unfortunately, suffocates some species at their thermal limit and favors the development of diseases in some plant species.

Many **homeowners have expressed great interest in following garden monitoring** due to the heat waves at the start of summer. The report will therefore be detailed and make a photographic comparison with the year 2021 under earlier maintenance from JARDINES ALBA (company no longer existing). To provide a non-biased comparison we have, when possible, tried to use the same angles for the pictures.

**Two years of Covid**, with many owners absent can have meant that many were not aware of the real state of the gardens in 2021 with the previous company, and that is why we provide comparative photos here.

This report will focus on:

- 1. CHANGES AND NEW STRUCTURE FROM THE NEW DIFFERENT COMPANY.
- 2. IRRIGATION IN PRIVATE GARDENS.
- 3. IRRIGATION IN POTS.
- 4. IRRIGATION OF AUTOMATED AREAS (approximately 75% of the land).
- 5. IRRIGATION OF NON-AUTOMATED AREAS (approximately 23% of the land).
- 6. IRRIGATION IN OPTIMIZED INTERSTREET CORRIDORS (approximately 0.1% of the land).
- 7. IRRIGATION IN INTERSTREET CORRIDORS WITHOUT OPTIMIZATION (approximately 1% of the land).
- 8. IRRIGATION IN AREAS BETWEEN PRIVATE LAND AND COMMUNAL AUTOMATED LAND (approx. 0.9% of the land).
- 9. IRRIGATION OF PAVED TREES & OTHERS.
- 10. SHRUB AND TREE PRUNING.
- 11. FUMIGATIONS.
- 12. PRUNING REMAINS COLLECTION.
- 13. GRAN VISTA ENTRANCE.
- 14. CLEANING.
- 15. EVOLUTIONARY SCALE OF BUSINESS MONITORING.

### 1. CHANGES AND NEW STRUCTURE FROM THE NEW DIFFERENT COMPANY.

The major changes from earlier years' management are:

-Change of the cleaning day. Instead of Fridays for the entire urbanization, another weekday covers 2 phases. The reason is to gain in efficiency of working hours, and to have a cleaning worker doing cleaning tasks every day, and not having qualified gardeners doing cleaning tasks. *To properly evaluate the results of the different work methods it is necessary to have full year evaluation with its 4 seasons.* 

-Change from long-term fertilizers into short-term fertilizers. The reason is due to our slopes and the effect of rain removing part of the fertilizer. Therefore, short-term fertilizers yield better real effect. When the gardens later will benefit from optimized perimeter containment structures and terracing slopes, a new change can be proposed, or zones for different fertilizers can be used where they provide the best results.

### 2. IRRIGATION IN PRIVATE GARDENS.

When Ramal started to carry out automatic irrigation work for private gardens, they have documented that there are several that seem to have a **problem of blockage or breakage in some underground section** under the sidewalks affecting the rest of the irrigation of other adjoining houses.

In addition, there are phases that do not have any automatic irrigation.

This necessitates in the short term **differential treatment** in the number of hours of irrigation dedicated to each phase. They have had to allocate resources from one phase to another. At the same time, it is natural to treat all phases equally, in a homogeneous way and watering everything by hand, while closer study how to solve the problem of differential treatment.

This **common phase private gardens drop irrigation system** connecting lines of near 20 houses **is not efficient**. When there is a breakdown within a property or on a main line, it affects the water supply pressure or water supply of other private gardens on the street. In addition, Ramal comments that there are quite a **few locked or hedged private gardens without exterior access**. Regardless of how the previous gardeners handled that, by law the gardeners are not allowed to enter private plots, without permission of the owners. They ask that the neighbors be notified of this fact in order to solve the problem through owner permission and thus be able to attend to all the private gardens equally.



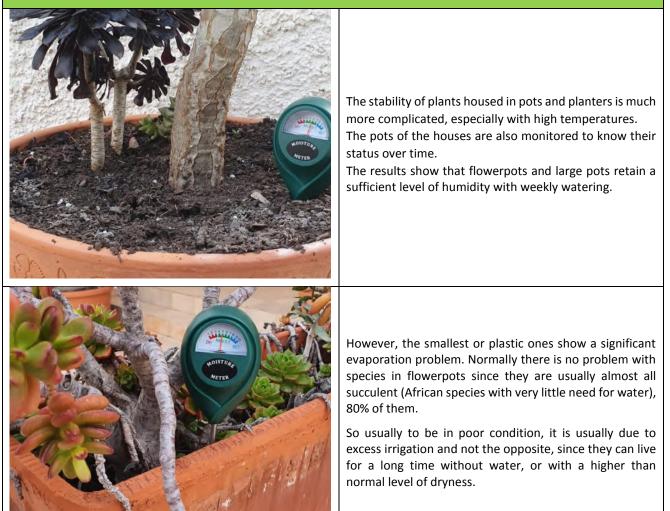
The **soil's humidity levels** are checked regularly. The first day after irrigation the soil naturally shows WET. The day before new irrigation it still shows HUMIDITY, but importantly the soil does not reach the DRY range.

The company reports that the Gran Vista soil is beneficial in retaining moisture, even in excess, and although the surface may look dry, what matters is the moisture below the surface, which the roots are.

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** The only gardens showing a poor state are those without access, or where heat waves have caused non-GRAMA grass varieties to disappear, as they are more susceptible to great changes in temperature, especially in areas where there is no automation. We will work at finding a solution for these owners.

EVOLUTIONARY BREAKDOWN:					
RUINED (-5 to –3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
		X			

#### 3. IRRIGATION IN POTS.



**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** We recommend that people interested in plant species in pots try to make sure they have a plate underneath so as not to lose the irrigation water too quickly and place a small layer of gravel on top of the soil to prevent evaporation, this will triple the retention of humidity.

EVOLUTIONARY BREAKDOWN (Large pots):					
RUINED	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE	REMAINS THE SAME	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED	REVITALIZED	
(-5 to –3,6)	(-3,5 to -0,1)	(0)	(+0,1 to +3,5)	(+3,6 to +5)	
		x			
	EVOLUT	TIONARY BREAKDOWN (Med	lium pots):		
RUINED	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE	REMAINS THE SAME	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED	REVITALIZED	
(-5 to −3,6)	(-3,5 to -0,1)	(0)	(+0,1 to +3,5)	(+3,6 to +5)	
		X			
	EVOLU	JTIONARY BREAKDOWN (Sm	all pots):		
RUINED	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE	REMAINS THE SAME	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED	REVITALIZED	
(-5 to –3,6)	(-3,5 to -0,1)	(0)	(+0,1 to +3,5)	(+3,6 to +5)	
	X				

# 4. IRRIGATION OF AUTOMATED AREAS.

The state of the automated lawn areas has **improved significantly** due to the 30 tons of mulch that the company has applied to improve the health of a significantly depleted substrate, after so many years without adding soil.

The company carried out several ground tests to find out the level of humidity underground, since in the vicinity of the sea it is important to avoid high humidity that allows clovers or agritos proliferate which may weaken the grass. They then varies the amount of water necessary. The result is a beneficial existence of **excess moisture in the subsoil**.







**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** The automated areas generally remain the same, or improve significantly, or are revitalized in some cases. Scarifying the surface of land so highly compacted for decades that grass cannot grow easily is recommended (raking the lawn to aerate the soil and remove the layer of straw and moss that forms at the roots and suffocates the grass), as well as placing grass seeds or cutting runners where necessary.

EVOLUTIONARY BREAKDOWN:					
RUINED (-5 to -3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
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### 5. IRRIGATION OF NON-AUTOMATED AREAS

These areas, as they do not have a stable daily supply of water, require to be watered by hand. These areas are the ones that show the most **climatological changes** such as the 4 "heat waves", to date, this summer.

**Manually watering** these areas during the day involves a huge waste of water, and a very inefficient system, which makes these areas worsen significantly year after year.

The Ramal maintains that it is of vital importance to complete the automation of the areas of Gran Vista that do not have automatic irrigation and presents a **Definitive Automation Plan**, to finally improve the condition of these areas. They report that the phase with the worst prognosis is Phase 7, since they have absolutely nothing automated, private gardens nor their adjoining common areas. Without automation these areas will show a tendency to get worse.

2021: JARDINES ALBA

2022: RAMAL





**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** In general, these areas remain mostly the same, except in the vicinity of phase 7 where they have worsened significantly due to the heat waves.

However, the gardening company guarantees that, although the lawn looks more straw-colored, it is not dead as it is being watered twice a week, and increased to watering three times a week in August.

The gardening company is requested to irrigate the areas close to phase 7 with a portable sprinkler and for a longer time.

Scarifying the surface of land so highly compacted for decades that grass cannot grow easily is recommended.

EVOLUTIONARY BREAKDOWN:					
RUINED (-5 to -3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
	x				

# 6. IRRIGATION IN OPTIMIZED INTERSTREET CORRIDORS

The state of the only interstreet corridor optimized with drip irrigation, perimeter containment structures, geotextile and gravel to prevent runoff, remains in a fantastic state of operation and development in terms of the species found in it.



This is a perfect model of sustainability, gardening and landscaping, in which it is only necessary to regularly maintain proper pruning and cleaning.

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** We recommend starting a process in which to convert all the interstreet corridors into this model of efficiency and landscaping.

EVOLUTIONARY BREAKDOWN:					
RUINED (-5 to –3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
		Х			

### 7. IRRIGATION IN INTERSTREET CORRIDORS WITHOUT OPTIMIZATION

As already evidenced in the report sent in 2021, these interstreet corridors present a **deplorable condition**. In a meeting with the previous company they already told us that it was impossible to maintain the lawn by watering it by hand.

The analysis of all these areas shows, either that they remain the same, or that some have undergone a significant improvement, despite their unfortunate initial condition. Only one interstreet corridor has worsened significantly.







EVOLUTIONARY BREAKDOWN:					
RUINED (-5 to -3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
		X			

# 8. IRRIGATION IN AREAS BETWEEN PRIVATE LAND AND COMMUNAL AUTOMATED LAND.

These areas already showed in 2021 areas in a fairly poor state of conservation.

In some cases it has been possible to improve these areas and in some other cases, the gradual and inexorable process has continued its course.



#### 9. IRRIGATION OF PAVED TREES & OTHERS

Reviews of humidity levels are carried out periodically without notifying the gardening company, this allows us to know the real state of each of the areas, and in the case of trees planted in paved areas, it provides us with important information that owners do not usually have.

One of the main contributions is that, although the earth's surface looks completely dry, a couple of centimeters below the surface, the **humidity level is quite high**, even in some cases excessively high.

In addition, **the roots** of these large trees are practically no longer only in the small visible portion of the land, but also below all the paved ground. They are even nourished by water from nearby gardens and irrigation.

The state of the leaves of the trees and shrubs, being watered once a week, has to do, above all, with the continuous loss of moisture by the leaves even at night, during these 4 "heat waves" after a cold and very rainy spring.

**Palm trees** are species that do not need irrigation. In fact, the drip irrigation next to some of them has not been used for more than 10 years, as the owner of the previous company recognized, they are species that if they live in the desert without irrigation and without problems, is due to something.

The palm tree located next to the bar and its condition (originally it was a palm tree with two arms), was notified by Ramal in their first report. Its condition was due to a sprinkler that for years had been hitting the trunk just inches away and as a result had created a rotten hole. For this reason, one of the arms was removed, but the company warned that the other arm was also very damaged.

The previous landscaping company left a dead palm tree for months without uprooting on the slope between Bach Street and the "miniature golf" course. The new company proceeded to remove it at no cost to the community.

**Oleanders** are another species that after the first year of life do not need to be watered, they are nourished only by rainwater and the geological substrate, which is why they are placed on highway party walls. Without irrigation they grow perfectly and develop dense floral coverings. The speed at which each species loses its flowers is variable, even among the same oleanders, especially in a year in which the changes between winter, spring and summer have been so radical. The oleanders of Gran Vista have not been watered for decades, as the owner of the previous gardening company acknowledged, arguing that the drip irrigation rubbers that had been in place for about 12 years had stopped being manufactured and that they had only been used when planting the oleanders more than a decade ago.

In the case of the oleanders, there are some of them that, for reasons of drip irrigation connections, were irrigated, any small variation in irrigation times influences their state when there are large heat waves such as the case, but they recover without problem.

The **Aloe arborescense** at the entrance was found in a poor state of conservation due to the fungus that affects a large number of aloes in public gardens in the province of Alicante. It had been that way for several years. What Ramal did was to extract each of the infected leaves from its body one by one until only the healthy ones were left.





**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** We cannot contribute or recommend anything, since the trees are being watered correctly.

But in some places, having species that do not need irrigation together with others that do, does not allow for the best results.

Even so, our advice is that Gran Vista should always be aware of adapting the plant species it has in the future to minimize problems and adapt efficiently to climate changes.

EVOLUTIONARY BREAKDOWN:					
RUINED (-5 to -3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
		x			

#### **10. FUMIGATIONS.**

Fumigation has continued with the **same fumigation products**, since there is an important and **strict environmental regulation** that is very specific in this regard.

Shrub and plant species that showed some type of seasonal pest have been fumigated on two occasions.

Between spring and summer, the company warns that if high temperatures occur, **fungi** will surely appear, since spring has been cold and excessively rainy.

When summer arrives and temperatures rise, there are several cases of **fungus in cypresses**. For a few weeks, is tried to treat them with Fosetil aluminum, but, although they seem to improve, after a few days they deteriorate again. Being a danger of contagion, the species must be removed as quickly as possible.

The great changes in temperature between the cold and rainy spring, and the summer and the heat waves, have favored the appearance of **fungi on the leaves**, specially, on ficus trees and poplars.

However, thinking of always resorting to fumigations in the face of any seasonal problem or adaptation of the biological economy of each species is not what Environment authorities recommends. Fumigations according to Environment must always be the last solution. It is also fumigated twice against the oleander aphid. Phase 3 has been the one that has been sprayed the most times.



**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** Knowing whether a pest is seasonal or not is a delicate aspect that should be addressed by the respective professionals. The logical thing to do will be to pass on the doubts to the gardening company or the MSGI administration.

EVOLUTIONARY BREAKDOWN:					
RUINED (-5 to -3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
		x			

### **11. BUSH AND TREE PRUNING.**

Ramal found **half the urbanization unpruned in January**, and so far it has already carried out 2 of the 3 projected annual prunings, the next one will be at the end of autumn and the beginning of winter.

It has proceeded to safely carry out **pruning at height** in the tree species that have been requested, especially in cases of possible danger to owners or passers-by.

In winter, several of the tree species such as **mulberry trees** were pruned to favor their controlled growth.

**Canary palm trees and Washingtonia palm trees** have been pruned. The company documents a large number of palm trees whose branch boards have never been brushed or shaved, so when the palmer had to climb, he continually lost his balance as the fragments fell off. A test is done for free in Phase 3 to see how aesthetically a brushed palm tree looks, in case the community wants to implement that aesthetic improvement later.

The **line of oleanders** at the end of the urbanization facing the sea has been prevented from being 2 meters tall again without pruning as in 2021. However, they are quite a distorting element to be able to enjoy the wide views from the Gran Vista cliff.

Regarding the pruning of oleanders, hibiscus and bouganvilleas, the company raises the question about the location of many of them in **narrow passageways.** When the great growth of these species occur in summer, with flowers left makes the passage is difficult; with flowers eliminated the question remains, why having that kind of species in a location preventing their exposure?



**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** The real state of all the palm trees led to their pruning taking considerably longer than usual, so the company will adjust the times for the next pruning season.

Difficulties in accessing private gardens that are locked, walled, or hedged has led to not being able to prune some located in those gardens as would have liked to do.

Also is indicated the problems of giving special service to some owners who want occasional touch-ups in their private gardens not wanting to wait for the assigned day of their phase; this creates interruptions in the planning as gardeners must do unplanned switches between phases. Ramal points out that for efficiency, homeowners in need should wait for the assigned day for their phase.

In this section we believe that additional changes can be made to improve and adapt the service to the needs of the owners.

We also recommend having regular maintenance of "high" pruning to avoid too long branches that break with the wind, especially in the case of ficus.

We recommend taking advantage of the renovation works of the general water network so that when the new ring of pipes passes through the area closest to the cliff, the oleanders are replaced by the native mastic, which grow slower, and which also act as a parapet against the winds, in addition to allowing landscaping the slope that goes to the petanque courts.

EVOLUTIONARY BREAKDOWN:					
RUINED (-5 to -3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
	x				

# **12. PRUNING REMAINS COLLECTION.**

Another change has been the substitution of the **metal container** and its cut perimeter, for a **rustic area with wood and heather** (which allows air to pass through), and with a camouflaged door, for the collection of vegetable debris. Everything has been done following governmental, municipal and Ministry procedures.

This saves several thousand euros to the community and reduces the visual impact.



**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** We recommend finishing reinforcing the lower perimeter of the structure using mastic and drip irrigation.

DESGLOSE EVOLUTIVO:					
RUINED (-5 to −3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
			X		

# **13. GRAN VISTA ENTRANCE.**

The Gran Vista entrance is in a delicate situation that requires various improvements. On the one hand, the Euphorbias candelabrum are beginning to be very dangerous due to their great weight, there are cacti that have been in poor condition for years and are dangerous due to their spikes, there is an old car converted many years ago into a mass of iron, and under the GRAN VISTA posters the effects of morning dog urine have led to an entrance with a rather reduced aesthetic. The potential for improvement in this area with a little dedication is quite something. The current status is the same as 7 months ago.



**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** We recommend replacing damaged aptenias and rosemary at the entrance with other available options, as well as beautifying the mailbox area a little more.

DESGLOSE EVOLUTIVO:					
RUINED (-5 to –3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
		x			

#### 14. CLEANING.

The new company continues to sweep and clean each phase and Central Zone one day a week, but now on different days for each phase.

They continue to use the broom and the blower like the previous company, but they **do not use the gasoline vacuum cleaner, nor the dumper, nor the tractor** parked for several years in the central car park, due to personal and ecological criteria, in addition to energy consumption.

Its work methodology is to replace the bag of the gasoline vacuum cleaner and the dumper, with bags that are filled and loaded in a **van that has a larger cubic capacity**, and which implies **fewer trips** to the collection area with plant debris. Now there is no longer a dump truck parked in the pedestrian path of the "miniature golf" course next to the palm trees at night.

Regarding the cleaning of the private plots, it initially encountered the same problem of closed or inaccessible plots, it seems that they started with some difficulties, but now it seems that the service is again, in general terms, the same as we had.



**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:** The change of machinery has been appreciated by many house owners for a lower impact of noise from work and with less pollution, but criticized by other house owners as an inefficient change. When the 4 seasons of the year have been completed, we will be able to assess whether time has been gained or lost, and whether the change has been efficient or not. But at the moment the cleaning is being carried out the same number of days as with the previous company.

DESGLOSE EVOLUTIVO:					
RUINED (-5 to -3,6)	SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE (-3,5 to -0,1)	REMAINS THE SAME (0)	SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED (+0,1 to +3,5)	REVITALIZED (+3,6 to +5)	
		Х			

### **15. EVOLUTIONARY SCALE OF BUSINESS MONITORING**

An evolutionary scale is established to be able to follow up the gardening company in a rigorous and methodological way.

This business follow-up must always analyze Gran Vista as a whole.

The goal is always to try to have a parameter of (0) or higher.

The same importance is given to each one of the tasks so that none could go unnoticed by a higher percentage of land in automated areas and in better condition.

TASK	RUINED	WORSE	SAME	IMPROVED	REVITALIZED
IRRIGATION IN PRIVATE GARDENS.			0		
IRRIGATION IN POTS.		-0,3			
IRRIGATION OF AUTOMATED AREAS (approximately 75% of the land).				+1	
IRRIGATION OF NON-AUTOMATED AREAS (approximately 23% of the land).		-0,6			
IRRIGATION IN OPTIMIZED INTERSTREET CORRIDORS (approximately 0.1% of the land).			0		
IRRIGATION IN INTERSTREET CORRIDORS WITHOUT OPTIMIZATION (approximately 1% of the land).		-0,1			
IRRIGATION IN AREAS BETWEEN PRIVATE LAND AND COMMUNAL AUTOMATED LAND (approx. 0.9% of the land).		-0,4			
IRRIGATION OF PAVED TREES & OTHERS.			0		
SHRUB AND TREE PRUNING.		-0,1			
FUMIGATIONS.			0		
PRUNING REMAINS COLLECTION.				+0,5	
GRAN VISTA ENTRANCE.			0		
CLEANING.			0		
TOTAL	RUINED	WORSE	SAME	IMPROVED	REVITALIZED
			0		

#### **GENERAL EVALUATION OF THE GARDENING GROUP:**

The change of a gardening company requires a logical period of adaptation and adjustment, therefore all those owners who take an active part in gardening issues are convinced that we have to contribute constructively and not destructively.

The start of work just in the middle of the pruning campaign required a time adjustment that accumulated a delay in pruning. It is true that the state and deficiencies of the infrastructures of Gran Vista require special attention, not thinking about day to day, but thinking about optimization in the medium and long term. Like the inverted winter and spring weather, along with the summer heat waves, which have not been particularly helpful.

It is necessary to go through all the seasons of the year to be able to adjust all possible aspects of management.

Each year two monitoring reports will be made, one in the middle of the year (summer), and another in winter. Gran Vista has great potential, and little by little all the owners will see it. We just ask for a little patience.