More than 240,000 flowers, which guests are allowed to pick, are planted at the Arizona Biltmore each year.

Biltmore, Holy Cross make it close

According to judges of the 1988 Landscape Manager of the Year award, Roy Peterman at Brigham Young University had excellent competition for the title. Named honorable mention, not far behind Peterman, were a pair of aspiring writers, Thomas Harrow at the Arizona Biltmore Hotel and James Long at Holy Cross College.

Harrow, when not overseeing the planting of 240,000 flowers each year, is otherwise busy publishing a book entitled “Five Star Gardening: Back to Basics in the Southwest.” And one of Long’s immediate goals is to write a handbook and resource guide for landscape managers.

The Arizona Biltmore, a Westin hotel, is renovated twice a year, according to Harrow. This includes planting 28 varieties of flowers and 5,000 bulbs, and scalping, thatching and overseeding all 11 acres of turf with 14,000 pounds of grass seed. The Biltmore is one of the few hotels in the nation where guests are encouraged to pick the flowers.

What was once a landfill is now the popular Paradise Garden planted with roses, trees, bushes, flowers and a special cactus garden that features 14 cacti native to Arizona and six Australian drought-resistant plants.

Long and Holy Cross were most recently honored by the Sports Turf Manager’s Association for having the “Baseball Diamond of the Year.”

Fitton Field, one of New England’s landmark athletic facilities, has been the host to such standouts as Casey Stengel, Babe Ruth and Jimmy Foxx. During the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, Fitton Field was the site of annual exhibition games pitting the Boston Red Sox and Boston Braves against Holy Cross.

Another highlight of the Holy Cross campus is the arboretum where the Teddy Roosevelt Tree is located. The former president planted the Scotch elm himself in 1905 following commencement. It is joined by thousands of evergreens, birches and flowering crabs on campus.

The contest was jointly sponsored by Landscape Management magazine and the Professional Grounds Management Society.