Westmoor Farm

The 1999 Grand Award Winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society for Residential Site

The Westmoor Farm is a private estate and summer home covering 64 acres with 18 houses, five barns and a greenhouse. A regulation-sized baseball field, 18,000-sq.-ft. ornamental vegetable garden, miniature apple orchard and an acre of manmade ponds and water features give the in-house grounds maintenance crew a variety of challenges.

A monster irrigation system that consists of 103 zones and nine water sources has to be frequently reprogrammed and checked for malfunction. Last year’s drought brought out design flaws and forced grounds crew members to relocate or add sprinkler heads to zones wherever possible.

Trained vines can be found everywhere, so the grounds crew spends a good deal of its time training fledgling growth while maintaining the already established clematis, espaliered laburnum, hardy kiwi, honeysuckle and grape vines. New to the property are container displays, which, head gardener Candace Clough says, have allowed her crew members to be more creative in layout and planting. In one area, the color of both flower and foliage might be monochromatic, where another area might feature chartreuse and red leaf specimens.

Looking out the front door of the “Red Barn,” Westmoor Farm’s dining hall, one sees a monochromatic container display.
Editors' note: Landscape Management is the exclusive sponsor of the Green Star Professional Grounds Management Awards for outstanding management of residential, commercial and institutional landscapes. The 2000 winners will be named at the annual meeting of the PGMS in November. For more information on the 2000 Awards, contact PGMS at 720 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21230; 410-752-3318 (tel). Website: www.pgms.org. Email: PGMS@assnqtrs.com

Grounds crew members Wayne and Damian prune and train the wisteria vine on the bridge at the big pond.