

JOB TALK

Maintenance account includes 35 acres of turf, bedding plants

Caring for the award winning Oregon Graduate Center keeps Teufel Commercial Landscape on its toes.

■ Just thinking about the work required on this project is enough to tire you out.

The Oregon Graduate Center, maintained by Teufel Commercial Landscape of Portland, Ore. is featured on this month's cover.

Teufel's accomplishments at the site won it an Environmental Improvement Award from the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) in 1991.

Caring for the Center is a massive responsibility. The 35-acre landscape maintenance project consists of 1,270,000 square feet of irrigated finish turf area, 147,000 square feet of shrub beds planted with 800 trees and 18,000 shrubs and groundcover.

More than 3000 annual bedding plants are planted at seven building entrances. These include marigolds, petunias and fibrous begonias.

The bedding plants are rotated up to five times a year.

Areas the company is especially proud of include 22 acres of dedicated common area, water management of a two-acre re-circulating pond system, four holes of a par three golf course, a regulation soccer field and 2.3 miles of groomed jogging trail.

Pat Enstrom, landscape management supervisor for Teufel, says the company won the account four years ago.

"The management company had five contractors at one time," says Enstrom, and it finally decided to give the maintenance account to one company.



Teufel's responsibilities at The Oregon Graduate Center include management of a two-acre recirculating pond system. Photo by Demoulin/Waddell, Inc.

The decision paid off in the first year alone, as Enstrom says Teufel was able to save the Center \$20,000 in water bills.

In addition to the savings that resulted with only one company controlling the irrigation schedule, Enstrom says proper feeding and lime applications helped reduce water use as well.

The landscape is managed by three full-time employees and one part-timer. The 23 acres of turf are mowed in one day. A 5-gang reel mower, two 70-inch reel mowers, a tractor-mounted fairway mower and a couple of walk-behinds help get the job done.

Yearly fertilization, pruning and verti-mulching are part of the integrated pest management program. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) is used to control leaf rollers. Insecticidal soaps are used for aphid control.

Dormant winter spray helps control fungus. Dursban is used to control crane flies, whenever the pest is spotted.

—Terry McIver



The two-acre pond system is kept free of weeds by utilizing special maintenance techniques such as shading dyes and aeration. Photo by Demoulin/Waddell, Inc.