

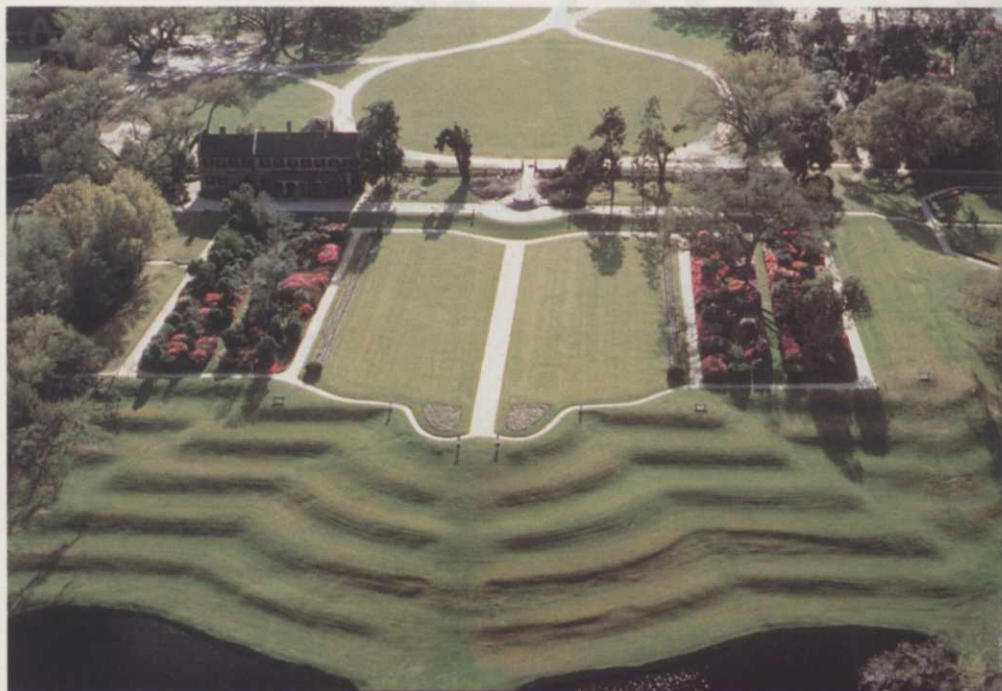
Grab Bag

Hot property management markets*

The top 20 housing markets in the United States, based on new starts in 1997, are:

1. Atlanta, GA
2. Phoenix, AZ
3. Washington, DC
4. Las Vegas, NV
5. Chicago, IL
6. Dallas, TX
7. Portland, OR
8. Denver, CO
9. Detroit, MI
10. Minneapolis, MN
11. Austin, TX
12. Orlando, FL
13. Charlotte, NC
14. Nashville, TN
15. Ft. Lauderdale, FL
16. Boston, MA
17. Seattle, WA
18. Raleigh, NC
19. Tampa, FL
20. Riverside, CA

* SOURCE: U. S. CENSUS BUREAU



Middleton Place, Charleston, SC — a top American lawn

Briggs and Stratton picked Middleton Place, Charleston, SC, as one of America's top 10 best-kept public lawns. Middleton Place is a carefully preserved 18th century plantation. The gardens are based in the symmetry of 17th century European design. The turf, a combination of St. Augustine and centipedegrass, is irrigated as needed, fertilized twice annually and mowed at 2.5 to 3 inches.

What do the numbers say?

According to a recent Pennington Seed survey of lawn and garden consumers:

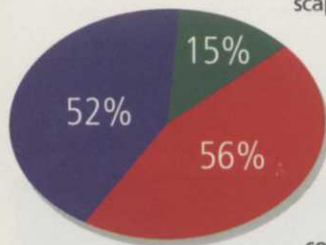
▶ 56% rank a well-kept lawn and landscape as the top

eye-catching feature when judging a home's "curb appeal."

▶ 52%

consider home pride to be the greatest benefit of lawn and garden care.

Meanwhile, a recent Gallup poll showed that a well-kept lawn and landscape can add up to 15% to the value of a home.



Web tip of the month: The language of landscape

Ever wish you could express yourself better? Like in another language? Language translation sites can be found at: www.itools.com; <http://rivendel.com>; and <http://balfish.altavista.digital.com>.

Here are a few of our favorite translations:

Here, let me pay you now! = Ici, laissez-moi vous payer maintenant! (French)

You are our number one customer. = Sie sind unser Zahl-einkunde. (German)

I wish we had more employees like you = Deseo que teníamos más empleados como usted! (Spanish)

The check is in the mail = Il controllo è nella posta. (Italian)

