

Award-winning landscape management



▲ A view to the north through the Rotunda Garden, where brilliant golden tulip 'Monte Carlo,' contrasting with 'Coral Burst' crabapples and lush green turf, welcomes agents and guests.

◀ Employees share annual/perennial maintenance duties, rotating responsibilities biweekly. Weeding and pinching *Coleus* 'Molta Lava,' *Impatiens* 'Dazzler Star Mix' and *Alyssum* 'Carpet of Snow' maintain the colorful appeal.

Westfield Companies

The 1998 Grand Award Winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society for the Industrial or Office Park category.

This insurance company, which started in the back of a general store, now resides on a property of 600 acres with two 18-hole golf courses, a clubhouse complex and the home office. The home office complex is comprised of one large colonial brick building, entertainment center, print shop, inn, training annex and almost 20 rental properties. The landscaping staff takes care of both the home office and the clubhouse complexes.

Professionalism and excellence are essential with such a high profile/high use property. Minimizing impact on guests and golfers is a priority. All turf, paved surfaces, shrubs, trees, furniture, statues and most mechanical exterior features are managed by the in-house staff. The areas around the first tees on both golf courses are the in-house staff's responsibility as well.



The back of the Entertainment Center borders on the South Golf Course holes, three greens and four tees. Timing of maintenance of this area is critical, minimizing disturbance to guests and golfers.

Editor's note: Landscape Management is the exclusive sponsor of the Green Star Professional Achievement Awards for outstanding management of residential, commercial and institutional landscapes. For more information on the 1999 Awards, contact PGMS at 120 Cockeysville Road, Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD; 410/584-9754.

LANDSCAPE
management

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Property at a glance:

Location: Westfield Center, Ohio

Staff: In-house

Category: Industrial or Office Park

Year site built: 1948-1994

Total acres maintained: 600

Acres of turf: 40

Acres of woody ornamentals: 6

Acres of display beds: 1

Total man-hours/week: 40

Maintenance challenges

- ▶ preservation of birch allee with drip irrigation and improved soil composition
- ▶ year-round cultural practices to maintain premium-looking turf without irrigation
- ▶ annual color impact in spite of 30% budget cut

Project checklist

(Completed in last two years):

- ▶ new print shop landscape installation
- ▶ work order system with weekly task calendar
- ▶ issue department policy manual increasing training of staff

On the job

- ▶ 4 full-time staff, 5 seasonal, 3 licensed pesticide applicators