

Property at a glance

- Location:** Spruce Edge Townhomes, Mountain Lakes, NJ
- Staff:** DuBrow's Nurseries Inc.
- Category:** Condominium, Apartment Complex or Planned Community
- Total budget:** Not provided
- Year site built:** 1991
- Acres of turf:** Not provided
- Acres of woody ornamentals:** Less than one
- Acres of display beds:** Less than one
- Total paved area:** 3 to 5 acres
- Total man-hours/week:** 48

Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Instituting a highly monitored irrigation program to ensure healthy and lush green turf
- ▶ Develop a native tree pruning and fertilization program
- ▶ Maintenance of the on-site pond areas to retain the integrity of a natural setting

Project checklist

(Completed in last two years):

- ▶ Design and replant stone retaining walls throughout the site
- ▶ Installed planting pockets of interest throughout the site to adjust to the evolution of maturing plant material
- ▶ Develop and install drainage swales to disperse excessive water

On the job

- ▶ 22 full-time staff, 75 seasonal employees, 15 licensed pesticide operators

Spruce Edge Townhomes

The 1998 Honor Award winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society in the condominium, apartment complex or planned community is Spruce Edge Townhomes, in Mountain Lakes, NJ.

Nestled in a quiet suburban town of Mountain Lakes, Spruce Edge was built in 1991. This upscale community was built with quality in mind. The original landscape was designed and installed by DuBrow's Nurseries Inc. of Livingston NJ, who has been providing grounds management services for the community since its inception.

The site requires 50 full-time and 200 seasonal employees to operate, along with

eight pesticide applicators to keep pests out of the trees and ornamentals. It takes 48 hours a week to maintain the property at the high level expected by the townhomes' residents. Foundation plantings, accented with seasonal displays of color and ornamental trees, enhance the architecture and scale of the buildings. Shade trees, in conjunction with indigenous rock outcroppings, create an inviting landscape.

A certified pesticide applicator provides tree spraying on an integrated pest management basis, while client contact and education is performed as required with all of the company's customers.

- ▶ Hand pruning helps the natural growth habitat of various shrubs.

Editors' note: *Landscape Management* is the exclusive sponsor of the Green Star Professional Achievement Awards for outstanding management of residential, commercial and institutional landscapes. The 1999 winners will be named at the annual meeting of the Professional Grounds Management Society in November. For more information on the 2000 Awards, contact PGMS at 120 Cockeysville Road, Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD; 410/584-9754. Web-site: www.pgms.org



- ▶ (large photo) Planting pockets bring interest to various Spruce Edge vistas.

- ▶ On-site foreman and manager perform irrigation management on a weekly basis to control water use.

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