

Property at a glance

Location: The Breakers, Palm Beach, FL

Staff: The Breakers Golf and Grounds Department

Category: Hotel, motel or resort

Total budget: \$2,800,000

Year site built: 1897

Acres of turf: 94

Acres of woody ornamentals: 6

Acres of display beds: 1.5

Total paved area: 15 acres

Total man-hours/week: 1,560

Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Extremely salty sea air
- ▶ Guest playground/traffic and wear
- ▶ Age of property

Project checklist

(Completed in last two years):

- ▶ New beach club and ballroom "beach front" landscaping
- ▶ St. Augustine lawns replaced with bermudagrass in high-profile areas
- ▶ Construction and landscaping of new 12,000 sq. ft. croquet lawn

On the job

- ▶ 36 full-time staff, 6 seasonal employees, 3 licensed pesticide operators

The Breakers

The 1999 Grand Award Winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society for Hotel, Motel or Resort

There's nothing like the smell of an early morning sea breeze, or the smell of diesel fumes and freshly cut grass. Just ask the grounds crew at The Breakers, who have the sights, smells and sounds of balmy Palm Beach, FL, to comfort them during their work day.

The guests who come for rest and relaxation at The Breakers expect beautiful and entertaining landscaping, and that's why Director of Golf and Grounds Daniel Miller and his crew have to maintain such things as flower displays that go through 25,000 annuals a year, a 20,000-sq.-ft. courtyard and the Children's Secret Garden. The children's garden features colorful butterfly-attracting plants such as pentas, lantana and passion flower, sculpted topiary monkeys and cranes and, in the center of the maze, a wishing well fountain.

The crew members have to be on their game at the Spa Courtyard, where everything is exposed to the elements. To combat Mother Nature, the crew installed salt-tolerant plantings. There is also a constant change out of color to maintain vibrancy and keep things fresh.



▲ A fully-suited spray technician with a Jacobsen spray unit is up first thing in the morning to quickly run his scheduled safe pesticide treatment through garden walks.

▶ Looking down the main entrance drive toward the featured 1926 Grand Fountain (recently restored) and a flower display featuring 4,000 annuals. Canna lily, excitement coleus, and red begonia are framed by a sculpted triphazilia hedge and bermudagrass lawn.

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 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

Landscape **PGMS**
MANAGEMENT

