

Property at a glance

Location: Post Crest Apartment Homes, Atlanta, GA

Staff: Post Landscape Operations

Category: Apartment complex

Total budget: \$88,560

Year site built: 1995-96

Acres of turf: 2

Acres of woody ornamentals: 7

Acres of display beds: 1

Total paved area: 20

Total man-hours/week: 65

Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Providing "top shelf," "organic-only" color program
- ▶ Hand pruning all ornamentals
- ▶ Maintaining one mile long shoreline for on-site lake

Project checklist

- ▶ On-site relocation of *Acer palmatum* "Seiryu"
- ▶ Re-staking of pine trees due to ice storm
- ▶ Landscape restoration due to CATV underground line installation

On the job

- ▶ 5 full-time staff, 2 seasonal employees, 2 licensed pesticide applicators

Post Crest

A 2000 Grand Award Winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society for Apartment Complex

What does an apartment complex administration do to maintain its 100% occupancy rating? Hold monthly grounds inspections, that's what. After all, a nice landscape is one way to keep tenants happy, right?

Post Crest Operations, the landscape branch of Post Apartment Homes, thinks so anyway. That's why crew members cut the 1.5 acres of "Meyer" zoysiagrass in straight diagonal lines, alternating the pattern each week to prevent the wheels on the mowers from wearing ruts into the turfgrass.

Every October, the 5,000 sq. ft. of annual beds are planted with pansies which provide constant color through winter. In November, spring flowering bulbs such as tulips and hyacinths are added.

Thanks to the landscape team, Post Crest residents are meeting the daily vegetable requirement in their diets. The complex's Urban Vegetable Garden allows residents to enjoy some of the same therapeutic gardening activities a homeowner might. Residents are provided

with vegetable seeds, plants and herbs by Operations, not to mention lessons in vegetable gardening. This provides for positive interaction between residents and landscape team members, who use the opportunity to promote organic fertilizers and pesticides.

A stick edger and mulching mower keep these narrow ribbons of "Meyer" zoysia neat and trim.



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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 2001 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 Cockeyville Road, Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD; 410/584-9754. Web-site: www.pgms.org

A grounds crew member adjusts a sprinkler head in one of several annual displays seen throughout Post Crest.

