



*planting ideas*™

1356 Cahill Drive  
Lexington, KY 40504  
Office: 859-254-0762  
Fax: 859-254-4892

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## Money Matters

### SELECTING A CONTRACTOR

By Roscoe Klausing

In today's environment, property managers often find themselves with their hands tied. That is, they are unsatisfied with their current vendor but unable to pay more for improved service and quality. This situation is all the more reason to ensure that each dollar spent is used wisely going to the most qualified vendor. Follow these steps to find the right contractor to protect your investment.

1. Ask about the company's experience, the staff's education and industry participation.
2. Look at their safety record.
3. Ask for references and visit a job site.
4. Interview several companies -- you will learn from this process.
5. Concerning insurance and guarantees: Find out what is covered, for how long, and what is not covered.
6. Consult local, state, or national trade associations for referrals.

### Fall is the time to...



- Cutback & divide perennials
- Plant winter annuals
- Plant bulbs
- Plant woody trees & shrubs
- Remove leaves
- Aerate & fertilize lawns
- Winterize irrigation systems



*Beaumont is an ideal exercise in service and solution management, production agility and safe practice.*

Beaumont's main entrance

## Spotlight Project

By Whitney Baker

Beaumont Center is a multi-use, multi-faceted, and multiple client property. Beaumont Centre encompasses a commercial entity, an entertainment pavilion, and three residential HOA's, all operating under a single aesthetic directive. As landscape management provider since 2003, it has remained imperative that our company maintain operative and aesthetic unity on the property as a whole, while negotiating numerous and changing contact persons, variable budgets, and widely varied terrain.

Beaumont Center consists of but is not limited to: high profile entryways on major roads, large irrigated and un-irrigated turf areas, large treated and untreated turf areas, wooded areas and miles of trails, massive drainage basins prone to flooding, over 20 miles of stick edging, large sloping hills requiring weed-eating, thin sloped medians in high speed traffic areas, thousands of square feet of annual color, large shrub masses, mass tulip plantings, naturalized daffodil masses,



and approximately 1000 yards of meandering creek. Presence or absence of irrigation in high profile areas means our crew leaders must make choices about timing cuts, and account managers must make appropriate decisions when choosing annuals.

More crucial than the aesthetic challenges at Beaumont Center are the issues of safety. With the exception of the times we are run-

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# We make you and your property look great



## Pest Alert: Spruce Spider Mite

By Dan Stever

Several species of Spider Mite attack plants in the Bluegrass. The Spruce Spider Mite (*Oligonychus ununguis*) is active during the cool weather of Spring and Fall, and causes damage on many species of evergreens. Damage can begin as early as March but as the weather heats up the Spruce Spider Mite goes dormant. The problem mite of Summer is generally the Two-spotted Mite which thrives in our hot humid weather. The cooling of September is when the Spruce Spider Mite resurges. Even if you have treated for mites earlier this year it may be

necessary to retreat to control the emerging generation of Spruce Spider Mites. If you see your conifer tree turning brown close to the trunk and spreading towards the tips, you probably have mites. Mites require specialized control measures because of their fast reproduction, and re-infestation can easily occur because the mites are carried on the wind. If caught early, trees can grow back and look full again. Severe damage will not regrow and will require removal. If left untreated, mites can kill your trees. The best protection is regular monitoring and fast action when mites are found.



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ning our mowers in the large basins, an employee is rarely more than ten feet from traffic, traffic often going as fast as 30 – 40 miles per hour. It is essential that our employees maintain the high level of awareness while practicing our safety standards at all

times. Safety is not only an issue in the high traffic areas, though. In the basins, we must contend with animal burrows, sinkholes and creek banks. In short, Beaumont is an ideal exercise in service and solution management, production agility and safe practice.

## Golden Japanese Forest Grass *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola'

Ornamental grasses have become increasingly popular because of their beautiful forms and proven durability in the landscape. Golden Japanese Forest Grass (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola') is one of the few grasses that grow well in shady locations. The Perennial Plant Association named it the Perennial Plant of the Year in 2009 for its outstanding virtues in the garden. It provides a bright splash of color and unique texture when used as a specimen or as a groundcover. The texture is reminiscent of flowing water, especially when the leaves are caught by a breeze. This well behaved plant benefits from occasional watering but is otherwise maintenance free until cutting it back before new growth emerges in the spring.



## WHOOO-HOOOO!

Congratulations to our account manager, Dan Stever, and our maintenance crews directed by Matt Divine and David Mahoney for their work at Beaumont Centre which was recently named First Runner Up in the 2010 Lexington in Bloom Contest.

Also, cheers to our production team for receiving a bronze level PLANET Safety Recognition Award from the Professional Landcare Network.

