The Fairchild Tropical Garden is an accomplished fact. It was incorporated under the laws of Florida, in December, 1936. It has received gifts sufficiently large to provide for the immediate publication of occasional papers dealing with Florida horticulture, and for experiments in Plant Breeding—the development and propagation of new varieties of tropical plants and trees. These two projects have been urged by Dr. Fairchild for a number of years.

Friends of the Garden are now growing (and have executed a deed of gift for their transfer) several hundred different species of palms, cycads, tropical flowering trees, plants, vines, etc.

In December, 1934, Florida had the coldest weather in 18 years. The carefully compiled observations confirm what was previously believed to be true, that is, that the most frostproof available section in the United States is in the vicinity of Chapman Field which is about 14 miles south of Miami. For some reason, probably its proximity to Biscayne Bay and the Gulf Stream, this location is more immune from frost than other points in Florida south and west of Chapman Field. Chapman Field has as tropical a climate as any area in Florida with the necessary varieties of soil. It faces the Gulf Stream at a point where there are no keys to impede the progress of the warm air drifting in off the Gulf Stream. It is separated from the Atlantic by Biscayne Bay and the winds blowing over it are not loaded with salt spray as they are on Miami Beach, Palm Beach and the Keys. No plant has so definitely proven the tropical character of this limited region as the coconut palm. At Chapman Field it has grown and fruited to perfection. A host of ultra-tropical palms are now satisfactorily growing there.

During the 30 years since the Plant Introduction Garden of the U. S. Department of Agriculture was established at Chapman Field, the Garden has brought in from various parts of the world approximately 15000 species and varieties of tropical trees, plants, flowers and fruits, some of which have been of great commercial value. At the present time they have growing approximately 4000 species and varieties. It is a storehouse of the plant riches of the tropics which are now being propagated for use not only in Florida but in Puerto Rico, the Philippines and the island possessions of the United States. It is the largest collection of tropical horticulture in the United States and the largest collection of tropical fruit varieties in the world. It has already played a tremendous part in the best development of Florida. The fruits have included such important commercial crops, to the people of the United States, as mangos, avocados, many new citrus varieties and acres of new and unknown tropical fruits to be developed for private and commercial uses. It proves what can be done with the oolitic limestone underlying the Miami area, which disintegrates when exposed to the air and with the right handling becomes valuable soil. The crops now growing in America whose beginnings are chronicled in the Inventories of the Plant Introduction Gardens have a value of several hundred millions of dollars measured by the prices of their annual crop returns. The service has paid handsomely in benefits to the farmers and gardeners of the country. The Department of Agriculture expects to continue its work and, as you have been advised, would be glad to have the entire field for expansion.

It is expected to establish and maintain the Fairchild Garden in the immediate vicinity of Chapman Field under private management. This will meet with the warmest support and approval of the Department of Agriculture although it is not within their province to establish or maintain a public arboretum or garden. The two establishments will have much in common and each can help the other but the finances for the arboretum must and will come from private sources. It should be, and can easily be, made the greatest tropical Garden in the world. If it can be es-
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established, every year it should attract many thousands of visitors. It can be the great show place of South Florida where the world can come to study and enjoy the tree and plant riches of the tropics, beautifully and permanently assembled.

Because of its example, its influence and the distribution of its available material, it can help make the State of Florida truly the state of flowers, a tropical display garden in itself, where people can live richly among the fruiting and flowering plants of their own growing. It is only recently, in a very few years, since the beginning of the Plant Introduction work of the Department of Agriculture, that in this country we have been able to get at something of the horticultural and botanical wealth of the tropics. But it is especially the success of such Introduction Gardens as the one at Chapman Field, which has made practical the growth in Florida of tropical trees and fruits.

On May 2, 1934, Dr. Fairchild read a paper entitled “Reasons for a large general plant introduction garden in Southern Florida” before the Florida State Horticultural Society. Following reading of Dr. Fairchild’s paper, Mr. Norman Reasoner of Oneco said that he had been distressed to learn that the great development of the Chapman Field Plant Introduction Garden had been so threatened and curtailed by lack of space. The resolution he then presented stated, “Be it resolved that, the Florida State Horticultural Society heartily endorses the movement to obtain for the Department of Agriculture, by presidential decree from the War Department, all the land now known as Chapman Field, to be maintained by the Department of Agriculture as a great plant introduction garden and tropical arboretum. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable F. D. Richey, head of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture.”

The seconder to the resolution said, “In my opinion this is the most important resolution that the Florida State Horticultural Society has ever had the opportunity of passing. Nothing could be more important to the future of Florida.”

The resolution was then passed unanimously.

In view of the progress which has been made in carrying out the ambition of Dr. Fairchild, in which we all share, it would be in order again to approve what he is trying to do and appoint a committee to cooperate with those who have organized the Fairchild Tropical Garden.

SHADE TREE PLANTING IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

Gaines B. Wilson, Miami, Florida

The planting of shade trees in Southern Florida is the most important but the most neglected part of general landscaping in our towns and around our homes.

This would not be such a serious oversight were it not that the charm of almost any house, avenue or park is due to trees. They give a feeling of permanence, dignity and peace which it is impossible to secure in any other way. Trees are the indispensable factor in landscapes whether in town or country and all other plantings are secondary to them. Further from a livable point of view the shade and coolness given are of special importance in a latitude which really suffers from too much brilliance and intense sunlight.

There are two important reasons for our lack of shade trees.

First, in the older northern communities the best native and exotic species have often been sifted by generations, even centuries of testing. The average citizen has known all of his life the names and uses of the major shade trees of his particular locality and almost any person could quickly suggest two or three of the best species to plant. In contrast, consider lower Florida where this sifting and trial has been in process less than a generation and where it is quite often