Panel Members taking part in this discussion were, l. to r.: T. Broome, Richard K. Schoellhorn and Ted Stevens.

WORKSHOP
SOME UNCOMMON PLANTS FOR SOUTHERN (FLORIDA) LANDSCAPES

Roses
By
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Roses Under the Sun
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Many people have tried to raise roses in Florida after their experiences in the Northern states. This is when the problems start. One of the major factors to consider is the root stock of the plant. Roses in Florida are not generally grown on their own stock. This works well with native roses, but not with those from out of state.

The two major root stocks used most successfully in Florida are Fortuniana and Doctor Huey. I favor Fortuniana. Recently many of the major nurseries have used Fortuniana on the Florida area plants. This root stock is more nematode resistant and the plants appear to flourish.

Water, water, water is the second problem. Many people do not give their gardens enough water. The key in Florida soil (what ever that is) is not how much you water, but how often. In hot weather more people water, but cut back in cool weather. They must be made aware the dry cool air will pull moisture out of the plants.

Many rose owners will kill their plants with kindness. Every week out comes the pesticide. A pesticide should only be used when there is a pest or problem. Many plants are phytotoxic to pesticides and will gradually fade away into sticks.

Perennials
By
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West Florida REC-Jay
University of Florida, Milton

We have established a valuation of tropical perennials at the Display Gardens, University of Florida, Milton. The garden is a full-sun trial and display planting of slightly less than two acres. Two hundred and thirty species were planted in 1998 for evaluation of summer performance, season of flower, and winter hardiness. Plants, which showed excellent potential, included Ipomoea batata cvs. Margarita, Blackie, and Tricolor or Pink Frost. The new vegetative Solar series of Coleus also were strong performers; outstanding cultivars discussed were the Ducksfoot types, Solar Storm, Super Ducksfoot, and Solar Sunrise. Other strong southern summer growers included: Torenia 'Blue Wave', Stachytarpheta mutabilis - Porter Weed, Thunbergia grandiflora, Thunbergia erecta, Pentas lanceolata, and Hamelia patens. Evaluations will continue into 1999 and include winter hardiness ratings for North Florida. There were approximately 3000 visitors to the gardens in the 1998 season.

Uncommon Cycads Best Suited For The Florida Landscapes
By
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Cycads have survived on this earth for over 250 million years. One reason is because they will grow where the faster growing angiosperms cannot survive. They thrive in sandy soils with no nutrients and some can live on top of solid rock. Cycads have a specialized root system, called coralloid roots that produce nitrogen for the plant to use. For many reasons, cycads are perfect for xeriscaping projects and growing in Florida's sandy soils. Most of us are familiar with sags, cardboard plants, and coonties, commonly used in landscapes. What about the other 250 species? Uncommon cycads growing in Florida nurseries are an important resource that has been untapped by landscapers throughout our state because people are not familiar with them. For five uncommon but available cycads that are best suited for the Florida landscape, see my article elsewhere in this Proceedings.