

## MASTER GARDENERS PROVIDING POVERTY POCKETS OF A LARGE URBAN COUNTY WITH ORNAMENTALS USING VOLUNTEERS

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**Abstract.** Dade County is a large metropolitan county approximately the size of the state of Delaware. It has a diverse population with over 50% living at the poverty level. Many people live in drab residences without access to areas offering aesthetic vegetative relief from their dreary environment. This project was initiated to alleviate stress in high crime areas and to develop neighborhood awareness.

### Introduction

Upon the reorganization of the Dade County Master Gardeners in 1994, it was decided to place emphasis on developing Master Gardener volunteer outreach programs to help with the social problems in poverty areas of Dade County. Sites were chosen on an as-needed basis.

### Methods

The 62nd Street Project was initiated at the request of the Miami police in the winter of 1995. An ornamental/vegetable community garden was established on NW 62nd Street because it was the street with the highest crime rate in the City of Miami. The garden located on a city lot, provided by the City of Miami, had been the location of murders and many other crimes. It was full of debris and overgrown with weeds, providing an excellent escape route for drug dealers. Clearing the lot uncovered needles from the addicts who lived on or near the site.

The agent and the project supervisor developed a community garden program. The first garden participants were contacted by the agent and the Master Gardener standing on the sidewalk, prompting interested citizens to ask why they were standing there. At the conclusion of the day, plots were organized from members of the community to plant and maintain the garden.

After the initiation of the project, Morningside Elementary School sent 65 kindergarten students and 10 alternative education students to work on the project each Wednesday morning. A Garden Board was formed composed of residents, a Miami businessman, two American Legion employees, and a representative from the City of Miami police. From this project, five gardens have been developed for 1996. Presently, there are many more requests for gardens from the police than can be fulfilled.

In order to benefit as many citizens in Dade County as possible (2 million population) six Master Gardener centers have been established throughout the county. These are located at The Enchanted Forest Park, Miami-Dade Kendall Campus, Simpson Park, Cauley Square, Miami Botanical Conservancy and Homestead. These centers serve as distribution points for information and materials throughout the county.

### Results and Discussion

The 62nd Street garden provides a sense of neighborhood for the residents of the street. Residents became familiar with one another and decided to participate more actively in determining the social direction of the neighborhood surrounding the street. The garden will reopen in fall of 1996, along with four more sites.

## EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE AND FUNGICIDES ON DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNARIA LEAFSPOT OF MADAGASCAR PERIWINKLE

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*Additional index words.* *Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G. Don.

**Abstract.** *Alternaria* leafspot of periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G. Don) is incited by *Alternaria* sp. The disease is com-

mon in Florida and is characterized by pinpoint reddish-brown lesions which often are surrounded with yellow halos. In two growth room experiments, foliar applications of several formulations of chlorothalonil (Bravo 720, Bravo 825, Daconil 2787), iprodione (Chipco 26019), anilazine (Dyrene), fluazinam, or mancozeb (Manzate 200) provided nearly 100% control of *Alternaria* leafspot. Thiophanate-methyl (Cleary's 3336), 55% lesion reduction, and basic copper sulfate (Tribasic Copper Sulfate), 56% lesion reduction, alone did not adequately control the disease. However, the combination of thiophanate-methyl and mancozeb (Cleary's 3336 plus Manzate 200) provided excellent control (7 lesions vs 3198 lesions on nonsprayed control plants). Also the combination of chlorothalonil and copper (Dacobre) resulted in excellent protection. Application of reduced rates of mancozeb plus iprodione (Manzate 200

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