

## *The Garden And Landscape Section*

### **PATTY SAYS: "PLANT A TREE THIS YEAR"**

LOUIS J. DAIGLE

*IFAS Cooperative Extension Service  
Miami*

*Abstract.* "PATTY" is a symbol and a slogan standing for "Plant A Tree This Year" and represents a program in which the combined efforts of the Cooperative Extension Service, the Federation of Garden Clubs, the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Assn. and help from press and radio have resulted in home planting of several thousand trees in South Florida. DO's, DON'T's and HOW TO's are given for home planting of trees.

Patty is an ecology symbol that tells how each of us can more effectively develop and conserve our environment. Patty is a "catchy" slogan that means Plant A Tree This Year. The purpose of a symbol and slogan was to bring about an awareness that would incite one to act.

A second objective was to develop brochures that list suitable trees to plant, how to plant them and how to care for them.

The third objective was the evaluation. This Plant A Tree program resulted in the growing of thousands of trees in South Florida. This endeavor under the leadership of the Cooperative Extension Service involved the following organizations and associations: Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association which provided shade trees, flowering trees and fruit trees at reduced prices; Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Districts XI and XII, whose members distributed posters, fliers and brochures and appeared as guests on T.V. and radio special Patty programs. WPLG T.V. Station was very active in this program. On each day of the forty day campaign Patty appeared on the WPLG screen several times throughout the day with her messages found in my two Patty Says . . . brochures. Four of my scheduled T.V. "Grow-



ing Things" programs were devoted to Patty plus several special programs featuring guests from the other participating organizations. WPLG printed over 2,000 large posters that are displayed at cooperating nurseries, schools, libraries and other public places.

Dade and Broward County school systems were responsible for distributing over one hundred

thousand Patty brochures to students in elementary schools.

Parks and Recreation Department of Dade County, Florida Forestry Service, the Miami Herald Newspaper and the Dade and Broward Extension offices were active in planning and publicizing this series of campaigns.

Individual garden clubs that carried out street planting projects were recognized and commended by appearing on special Patty television programs.

One of the brochures contains fifty-two of the Patty sayings. Ten of the Patty sayings are:

1. Without plants this world would be like the moon—no air, no food, no shade, no birds, no animals and no people.
2. Plants make life on earth a healthier and more beautiful place to live or could if we would plant more and take better care of the trees and other plants.
3. A leaf is a factory making food from water, air and sunshine.
4. Throughout history we have depended heavily on plants for food, shelter, fuel, medicine, paper and many other necessities.
5. Trees combat erosion and ugliness in cities and suburbs and beautify roadsides too.
6. In country or city, trees provide food and cover for birds and other wildlife.
7. Air pollution sickens people, injures or kills plants, dirties homes and damages buildings. U.S. cost—\$20 billion annually.
8. Trees help fight air pollution too. Some plants act as "detectives" to warn of invisible air pollutants, bad gases like sulphur dioxide.
9. The only source of new oxygen is plants. A 50 x 50 foot lawn releases enough oxygen to meet needs of four people.
10. Moisture transpired by a plant washes the air and cools us too. A large tree has the cooling power of a 10 room air conditioner.

Another brochure lists eleven popular and available trees. Many trees that are not on the list were offered by participating nurseries at reduced prices. The centerfold of this brochure is a chart that contains much cultural and landscape information about each tree such as adaptability in Florida, type of tree, height, flower color and season, soil adaptability, salt spray tolerance, accent or specimen tree, used in border planting, for framing, for patio, roadside or street, for shade, or for tropical effect.

On one panel of the brochure was listed the following do's and don't's:

## DO

Plant fruit trees in the back yard.

Plant shade trees on the southwest or west side of the house.

Select trees carefully—fruit trees and flowering trees are excellent shade trees.

Allow ample space for normal growth rate.

Fertilize established trees at least twice a year.

Prune established trees to remove dead, dying or unsightly branches. Remove sprouts and suckers growing at or near the trunk base.

## DON'T

Plant broad spreading trees nearer than 15 feet from the house.

Plant under electric or telephone wires.

Plant close to existing trees.

Over plant—6 trees per small city lot is maximum—avoid large spreading trees for small areas.

Let grass or shrubs grow close to the trunk of a tree.

Prune small container-grown trees at planting time.

Allow trees to wilt from lack of water.

## HOW TO PLANT A TREE

Have nurserymen cut the sides of the metal container so the plant can be removed without disturbing the roots.

Make the hole twice as wide as the container soil ball.

Make the hole a little deeper than the height of the soil ball.

With this topsoil mix equal parts of soil amendments such as peat, muck, compost or vermiculite.

Do not remove burlap from balled tree.

Fill in around the ball with prepared soil and water thoroughly.

Leave a basin around the tree to facilitate watering.

Trees should be mulched to conserve moisture. Reduce soil temperature and add organic matter to soil.

Support small tree by using two durable stakes. Tie trunk of tree between the stakes with a soft twine.

Water daily for first week—apply 1/2 inch of water.

Fertilize within four weeks after planting.

This is a successful example showing how many groups and individuals can work together to ac-

comply a worthwhile goal. The major result of this community effort is the growing of thousands of trees on home grounds, on streets and other public areas.

#### Literature Cited

McElwee. 1973. Landscaping Florida homes, Univ. of Fla. Coop. Ext. Ser.

## DESIGNING A TEACHING CONSERVATORY FOR HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION

G. SHANNON SMITH AND SYDNEY PARK

*IFAS, Ornamental Horticulture Department  
Gainesville*

*Abstract.* During the past year, students of the Ornamental Horticulture Club of the University of Florida designed and constructed a teaching conservatory on campus. The project had several major objectives: (1) a collection of commonly grown and used Florida foliage plants, (2) organization of species by families for comparative teaching purposes, and (3) an aesthetically pleasing arrangement of plants.

Major plant families included were Agavaceae, Araceae, Araliaceae, Bromeliaceae, Cycadaceae, Liliaceae, Marantaceae, Moraceae, Musaceae, Orchidaceae, and Polypodiaceae.

The conservatory is open to the public during the week and is used by campus and community groups for teaching or merely enjoying ornamental plants. Families and species are labeled for self-instruction.

Hopefully this mini-conservatory can be used as a model for other Florida schools who want to teach tropical plant materials. The plant list is a good beginning guide to the diverse species grown in the Florida foliage industry.

The Ornamental Horticulture Department at the University of Florida presently teaches three plant identification courses covering nearly five-hundred species. Potted specimens of each species have been used in teaching, however, students indicate they prefer to study plants planted in the landscape where they appear more natural and thrive better than in containers. Many of the species taught are cold-sensitive, tropical foliage plants thus necessitating greenhouse storage during part of the year.

With the enormous foliage plant industry of Florida, teaching of hundreds of tropical species in plant identification courses and student interest

in aesthetic and natural display of plants, it was quite natural that students in the Ornamental Horticulture Club selected a teaching conservatory as their club project for 1975.

The idea grew out of the Club's desire to help beautify the Ornamental Horticulture facilities on campus and to provide an educational but aesthetic facility for students, residents and visitors of Gainesville.

The club organized a Conservatory Committee and the idea was proposed to the faculty and the Agricultural Student Council. The Ornamental Horticulture Department enthusiastically endorsed the project and provided a 24x50 ft. greenhouse; the Agricultural Council allotted \$300 to the student project. Student work parties were organized most weekends and slowly but surely the teaching conservatory began to take shape.

Development of the conservatory proceeded in the following steps. The existing greenhouse benches and paths were dismantled and removed; a family and species list of plants was established; a planting design drawn; construction of planters, new paths, waterfall, pool and special corner landscapes were completed; containerized species were placed in respective locations; and a maintenance program established.

Species were selected on the following basis, (1) commonly used and popular for interior decoration, (2) readily available from commercial growers, (3) size and growth habit suitable for greenhouse display, and (4) representative of a plant family covered in one of our identification courses.

The initial plant list was organized after reviewing species taught in plant identification courses of the Ornamental Horticulture Department and following a review of numerous catalogs of major foliage plant producers in Florida. In most cases, plant species which would survive outdoors in Gainesville were not included. Greenhouse space was very limited so space was needed for frost-sensitive species.