Plants of the Year

Here is the second group in the Plants of the Year series for 2006. The plants selected for this program have been found to be good performers in the Florida environment and require less maintenance and fewer inputs. Here are three specimens for your consideration. Two are palm trees since they seem to weather hurricanes better than many trees. Go to www.fngla.org for more information and suppliers who carry these plants.

### Florida Thatch Palm
- **Common name:** Florida Thatch Palm
- **Botanical name:** Thrinax radiata
- **Hardiness:** Zones 10 - 11
- **Mature height and spread:** 20’ tall by 5’ wide
- **Classification:** Palm
- **Landscape use:** Specimen
- **Characteristics:** An attractive, medium-sized, solitary fan palm with a slender, smooth trunk and green, glossy, circular fan leaves with drooping leaf tips. Salt tolerant and slow growing, this versatile Florida native palm thrives in full sun or shade and is drought tolerant once established. It also has low nutritional requirements.
- **Photo by Geoff Stein.**

### Dwarf Powderpuff
- **Common name:** Dwarf Powderpuff
- **Botanical name:** Calliandra emarginata
- **Hardiness:** Zones 9B - 11
- **Mature height and spread:** 5’-6’ tall by 6’ wide
- **Classification:** Shrub
- **Landscape use:** Hedge, foundation planting in mass or as a specimen plant.
- **Characteristics:** This dwarf shrub produces silky leaflets that are bronze and turn green as they mature. The small flat bloom varies in color — typically deep red — and is produced during warm months. From bud to bloom-fade is approximately three weeks. This cultivar is cold tolerant and requires light pruning. Also is highly drought tolerant.
- **Photo from Leu Gardens.**

Edison's facility is utilized by several chemical companies as well as GCO students. Here is a plot showing the effects of several types of hydraulic fluids at different temperatures on turf health. Photo by Todd Lowe.