



INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

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GOLF TURF NEWS

IFAS Working For You

By Stephen D. Verkade

In southeastern Florida there is a unique opportunity for students to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture. A new program at the IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center has been initiated which will enable students to earn this degree without the need to relocate to Gainesville. The program is cooperative, making use of many courses already available at local colleges and universities, in addition to the horticulture course taught by the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Area community colleges traditionally offer both Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees in Ornamental Horticulture. Both Curricula are designed for completion in two years. The curriculum of an Associate of Science degree provides "hands-on" training in horticulture, while the curriculum of an Associate of Arts program provides limited horticultural training but is structured to accommodate additional academic study at a university leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree.

The additional academic training needed to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree can be earned in Fort Lauderdale at the IFAS facility, in cooperation with Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University. The goal of this program is to offer all of the courses necessary to complete the requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture. In this program, course work taken at Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University includes chemistry, plant physiology, physics, biology, English, and mathematics. Technical courses required for a major in Ornamental Horticulture are taken at the Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center.

The Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center is a part of the University of Florida System and has over 20 faculty members who work in the areas of turfgrass, ornamentals, plant diseases, urban pests, and aquatic weed management. The prerequisites and course content of courses offered at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center are identical to those of courses offered on-campus at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Upon completion of the program, the B.S. degree is awarded by the University of Florida.

Courses in this program are also available to individuals who wish to enroll in selected courses, but are not interested in pursuing a degree. These courses may be taken either for credit, which means that the student is tested and graded on the material covered; or audited, which means that the student is provided with all of the same information and materials, but is not required to take exams and does not receive a grade. Courses audited provide the opportunity to learn, but do not accrue college credits toward a degree. Many key people within business organizations find that auditing courses periodically through this program is a convenient way to stay abreast of the latest developments within the industry, as well as to become aware of future trends.

Several agricultural courses are currently in the curriculum at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center including Cultural Factors in Ornamental Plant Production, Environmental Factors in Ornamental Crop Production, Foliage and Nursery Production Laboratory, Plant Propagation and Laboratory, Turfgrass Culture, Special Projects in Horticulture, General Soils, and Principles of Entomology. Enrollment in these courses is strong, with a high number of students employed in the horticultural industry seeking to continue their education by working toward a Bachelor of Science degree. With continued interest, additional courses will be added in the future.

Courses available in the fall 1986 semester include Environmental Factors in Ornamental Crop Production, Turfgrass Culture, General Soils, and Special Projects in Horticulture. For more information regarding the program of course availability, please contact:

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