



## 1999 Florida Plants of the Year - Part 2

*Editor's Note: Second in a three-part series showcasing the Florida Nursery Growers' 1999 selections of underutilized but proven Florida plant material.*

### Common Name: Desert Cassia

**Botanical name:** *Senna polyphylla*

**Hardiness:** Zones 9B-11

**Mature height x spread:** 8' x 6'

**Classification:** Large shrub or small tree

**Landscape Use:** Specimen shrub

**Characteristics:** Golden-yellow flowers

Usually multi-trunked, although it is possible to hold it to a single stem. The arching branches carry a profusion of tiny leaves which are practically hidden for most of the year by golden-yellow flowers. Full sun and a moderately rich, well-drained soil are the ideal conditions for growth. The long blooming period makes it an ideal choice as a feature plant for a choice spot in full sun in the landscape.



### Common Name: Winged Elm

**Botanical Name:** *Ulmus alata*

**Hardiness:** Zones 5-9

**Mature height x spread:** 45' x 40'

**Classification:** Tree

**Landscape Use:** Shade or street tree

**Characteristics:** Deciduous tree with winged twigs

Medium-large size together with a moderate growth rate and attractive habit are bringing this native tree to the attention of urban street tree planners. It tolerates a range of soil environments including some alternation between wet and dry conditions. The dense and rounded appearance of the head in summer gives way to an attractive winter look when the winged branches add to the tree's interest. Forest specimens of up to 70 feet in height have been reported.



### Common Name: B. J. Freeman Aglaonema

**Botanical Name:** *Aglaonema* 'B. J. Freeman'

**Hardiness:** Zones 10-11

**Mature height x spread:** 30" x 24" in 10" pot

**Classification:** Ornamental foliage plant

**Interior/landscape use:** Specimen plant for large location

**Characteristics:** Rich, green leaves overlaid with pewter. Good basal branching to give a full, upright plant

Outstanding for interior use under low light conditions. Grown on the dry side, it is long-lived with little change in size, but under greenhouse conditions in a 14" pot it will make a full, dense 40" x 30" specimen.



## FTGA Update

### Conference and Show to Emphasize Ties with UF/IFAS

The dust has hardly settled on the 1998 event and already plans and excitement are growing for the 1999 conference in Gainesville. The FTGA is modeling the '99 conference and show after other successful statewide turfgrass associations like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio that partner strongly with their state university systems. This year, the FTGA wants everybody to "Experience the Connection" with the University of Florida by holding the 1999 conference and show on the Gainesville campus.



The Aug. 9-13 dates will fall between semesters, so it will be easy to get around town and the campus. Access to and tours of the G.C. Horn turf plots and the Envirotron will offer a unique experience for conference attendees. Laboratory and classroom demonstrations will provide a real hands-on atmosphere for the conference. Costs for attending the conference should be significantly reduced from recent years with lower set-up costs for the vendors and many reasonably priced hotels nearby.

It should be an exciting debut for a new era in Conference and Show strategy. Once again seminar plans are being made to offer a wide range of topics to meet the needs of all members of the turf industry. Look for superintendent panel discussions for practical information on issues you face everyday. Start planning now to attend this inaugural event.

### Allied Association Committee

Building on the momentum of a successful 1998 conference and show, the Florida Turfgrass Association has set its sights 1999 on fulfilling its role as the umbrella organization for all facets of the turf industry.

With the formation of the Allied Association Committee at the fall board meeting last October, Chairman Vernie Pickardt of United Horticultural Supply and his committee will be looking for input and common goals of sod producers, lawn care businesses, pest control companies, sports turf managers, parks and recreation managers and vendors. Finding the keys to unlock the potential for an expanded membership base and participation by these allied associations will be a challenging task for this new committee.

### Greg Norman Research Event

More than 80 players converged at Greg Norman's Medalist Club in Hobe Sound in August to participate in a turf-grass fund-raising tournament. The event was organized by David Barnes, immediate past president of the FTGA with the blessings of Greg Norman. It was a natural fit since Barnes heads the Greg Norman Turf Company in Avon Park.

Dr. George Snyder and Dr. Brian Skully from the University of Florida were on hand to meet and thank the players for supporting turf research. Norman generously donated the use of the Medalist Golf Club and stopped by after the event to hand out prizes and congratulate the winners. Norman, who was recuperating from shoulder surgery at the time, joked with the players and posed for pictures and signed autographs.

The course was in great shape but played tough as evidenced by Joe Ondo's winning score of 80. Norman ribbed the crowd by saying, "I thought you guys



*Greg Norman presents Joe Ondo with the first place prize at the Greg Norman Turf Research Tournament.*

were supposed to be good!" As he received his prize Ondo responded, "Well, we don't play golf for a living!"

As the event drew to a close, Barnes reported that nearly \$8,000 had been raised from the outing. Hopefully, this will become one of several annual events involving golf celebrities in turf research fund raising.

*Editor's Note: Greg Norman returned to tournament golf competition in November, partnering with Steve Elkington at the Franklin Templeton Greg Norman Shootout in Thousand Oaks, Cal. Norman and Elkington won the event. It was Norman's first time to win the event in its 10-year history.*

### Florida Golf Alliance

## FSU Conducts State Golf Economic Impact Study

**F**GA President Ron Garl and Treasurer Jack Brennan have been in contact with the Florida Sports Authority and the Florida Chapter of the Golf Course Owners Association to solidify membership and support for the survey.

Working with Larry Pendelton of the Sports Authority, The FGA has been in contact with Dr. Joe Cronin of Florida State University, who has embarked on conducting the golf economic impact study.

FGA board members were given a copy of an outline of the survey format for comment and suggestions. The board has pledged contact and informational support to Dr. Cronin to help facilitate the data-gathering process. At the same time board members are contacting all viable Florida golf associations about joining the Florida Golf Alliance.



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