



FTGA UPDATE

Cisar Passes Turf Liason Baton to Working Group

At the Florida Turfgrass Association's March 24 board meeting in Gainesville, UF/IFAS Turf Coordinator, Dr. John Cisar passed the responsibility of industry liaison to the Turfgrass Working Group headed by Dr. Bryan Unruh.

Under the IFAS reorganization instituted by UF/IFAS Vice President Mike Martin, each commodity group served by IFAS has developed a working group of faculty members. Turf is no exception and Drs. Unruh, Trenholm, Miller and Nagata make up the core leadership of the Turf Working Group.

In a special presentation ceremony by Dr. Martin, congratulations and thanks were expressed to Dr. Cisar for filling the industry-requested turf coordinator role. We add our thanks to Dr. Cisar and look forward to his continued contributions in turf research as part of the new Turf Team.

48th Annual Conference

As we move into summer, the FTGA office staff and conference and show committee members are wrapping up the list of speakers and topics for the 48th Annual Conference and Show Aug. 14-16 at the O'Connell Center on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville.

This year all of the classroom education has been moved to the O'Connell Center or just across the street in the Florida Gymnasium Building. No more cross-campus hikes to catch a concurrent session or workshop. Park at the garage next to the O'Connell center and you're set!

This year the Trade Show will kick off with an afternoon and evening grand opening and reception on Tuesday, August 15th from 5 to 8 PM. This format has been gaining widespread popularity at other trade shows and

2000 Florida Plants of the Year - Part 3

Editor's Note: The Florida Plants of the Year program was launched in 1998 and has been beneficial to both consumers and growers. Purchasers are introduced to under-utilized but proven Florida plant material. The plants are chosen each year by a committee of horticulturists, nurserymen, educators, landscape architects and other members of the horticulture industry representing Central, North and South Florida.

COMMON NAME: Ficus TooLittle

BOTANICAL NAME: *Ficus benjamina* 'TooLittle'

HARDINESS: Low to medium light

MATURE HEIGHT AND SPREAD: At one year old the plant is 12-24 inches high and 8-10 inches wide.

CLASSIFICATION: Ornamental foliage plant

LANDSCAPE USE: Bonsai or small topiary

CHARACTERISTICS: This true dwarf ficus can be distinguished from the regular benjamina by its unique small curled leaves and tight internode space.

This is a chance mutation that was discovered in 1988. Ficus 'TooLittle' is a full plant with approximately 7-10 times more leaves than its parent benjamina. The numerous leaves give 'TooLittle' its dense appearance. 'TooLittle' is currently being grown from tissue culture and its small size makes it a good candidate for bonsai. The large sparse roots under the soil can be exposed to add to the bonsai effect. The 'TooLittle' also lends itself well to use by the small topiary foliage market.



COMMON NAME: Golden Jasmine

BOTANICAL NAME: *Cestrum aurantiacum*

HARDINESS: Zones 8-10

MATURE HEIGHT X SPREAD: 8 feet tall and wide

CLASSIFICATION: Landscape shrub

LANDSCAPE USE: Specimen or mass plantings

CHARACTERISTICS: Bright orange-yellow flowers in spring and summer.

The sprawling habit of this shrub can be contained by light pruning. Orange-yellow flowers are attractive to butterflies. This fast grower blooms continuously from spring to summer, requires full-sun or partial shade and tolerates drought and poor soil. It may die to ground in colder zones, but recovers quickly in the spring.



COMMON NAME: Mahogany Fern

BOTANICAL NAME: *Didymochlaena truncatula*

HARDINESS: Zones 9-10

MATURE HEIGHT X SPREAD: 2-3 feet tall, upright

CLASSIFICATION: Tropical upright fern

LANDSCAPE USE: Ground cover for medium to dense shade

CHARACTERISTICS: Rich mahogany new growth enlivens the dark green glossy mass of foliage

This ground cover flashes a glossy green foliage with contrasting bronze new growth reminiscent of Autumn Fern, but more upright. Mahogany Fern grows best in shade and evenly moist conditions.

