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facility without worrying about burning turf and jeopardizing golf course playing conditions. Finally, Berndt hosts golf course superintendent association meetings and other turfgrass events at the facility each year.

He has hosted several workshops for the Bonita Bay Group and has given presentations at various golf courses and at various golf course superintendent association meetings. Berndt has published several research articles for trade magazines and scientific journals concerning research performed at

Edison Community College and hopes to develop bilingual classes and to host workshops to educate nontechnical audiences like green committees and golf committees on turfgrass management issues.

The college recently partnered with the University of Florida so that graduates from the program can transfer their credits toward a bachelor of science degree in turfgrass management. The Professional Golf Management Program at Florida Gulf Coast University, also in Fort Myers, requires students to take GCO classes at Edison as well.

With hundreds of golf courses in close proximity to Edison Community College, the Golf Course Operations Program cannot help but to be a success. Respect for the program continues to build as students graduate the program and become superintendents. Presently, there are several graduates of the Edison Program working locally as superintendents at top clubs like Fiddlesticks, Gulf Harbor, and Quail Creek, not to mention all of the assistants and technicians that take part in the program each year. In addition, other graduates have found superintendents jobs in Chicago, North Carolina, and Indiana.

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.fn gla.org for more information and suppliers who carry these plants.



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.



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.