

LANDSCAPE AND TURF MANAGEMENT

Lesson 17: HANDLING NURSERY STOCK

I. LESSON DESCRIPTION

Students view a PowerPoint presentation on the types and maintenance of nursery plant stock.
Estimated time requirement for this lesson is 25 minutes.

Curriculum Standards: National Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards, National Council for Agricultural Education, 2009:

- Plant Systems (PS):
 - PS.03.05.03.a. Identify storage methods for plants and plant products.
 - PS.03.05.03.b. Explain the proper conditions to maintain the quality of plants and plant products held in storage.
 - PS.03.05.04.a. Explain the reasons for preparing plants and plant products for distribution.
 - PS.03.05.04.b. Demonstrate techniques for grading, handling and packaging plants and plant products for distribution.

Proper watering techniques and other nursery tasks maintain health of plant merchandise.

Student Learning Objectives: After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- (1) Describe five forms of plant merchandise with regard to root packaging
- (2) Discuss basic principles of watering, drainage, over-wintering and plant handling.

Instructional Method: Presentation.

Teacher Preparation:

- Optional: If you would like students to take notes on PowerPoint printouts, print the PowerPoint presentation; consider printing the format with 6 panels per page, double-sided, to conserve paper.

II. LESSON PLAN

Legend:

Text in normal face - Represents teacher's words.

Text in italic face - Represents suggestions for the teacher.

Interest Approach:

- Have you ever gone to a garden center or nursery and wondered what goes on behind the scenes to produce landscape plants and keep the plants thriving until a customer comes in to adopt them? *(No answer is required; this is a rhetorical question. But you may trigger a discussion if you like.)*
- Plant materials in the retail garden center were supplied with a variety of forms based on root treatments. By learning the requirements of the various forms, you can deliver adequate care to maintain plant health during its temporary stay in the sales yard.

Learning Objectives:

- After attending this class, you will be able to:
 - (1) Describe five forms of plant merchandise with regard to root packaging, and
 - (2) Discuss basic principles of watering, drainage, over-wintering and plant handling.
- Now let's take a look at the types and maintenance of nursery stock.

Instructional Methods

PowerPoint Presentation: 20 minutes estimated

- Present the PowerPoint file 17_HandlingNurseryStock_PowerPoint.ppt.*

Summary:

- By following these simple steps in caring for plant materials in the nursery and garden center, you can help ensure customer satisfaction by providing plants that will quickly flourish in the garden.
- The next lesson on turf grasses will conclude the lesson series on the management of landscape plants and turf.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- As a group or individually, students can visit numerous garden centers and create a scorecard of how each outlet is handling the principles outlined in this lesson.
- If you have newly purchased plants in your school greenhouse or if the school is doing some landscaping at this time, you may have access to plant materials that exemplify the forms in this lesson. It would be very educational to examine the roots in the various examples and compare the root conditions. For example, in the B & B, do you see any cut edges of larger-diameter roots? When you remove a container grown plant from its pot, do you see numerous fibrous roots? Do you see any encircling roots that in time threaten to girdle other roots or the trunk?

RESOURCES

Websites:

- <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/planting/treeselectionintro.htm> - Click on the link "Nursery Stock" to learn about issues like root flare and how to select nursery stock.
- <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/planting/treeselectionintro.htm> - Click on the link "Transportation" for another lesson on how to handle nursery stock.

17_HandlingNurseryStock_LessonPlan.doc