

Florida to Participate in a Southeastern U.S. Plant Evaluation

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The private, public and business sectors increasingly demand superior landscape plants. In addition, plants that are new, different or improved will create more consumer interest in plants and therefore more sales.

Thanks to this FNGA Endowment Award, the University of Florida is cooperating with ten other Southeastern universities to evaluate and introduce new, superior landscape plants for the South. This regional evaluation project dramatically broadens the size and scope of landscape plant evaluation in Florida. It also allows us to coordinate our evaluation program with other universities to produce a more comprehensive plant evaluation.

Each university collects and distributes plants with potential for production and landscape use. Plants are grown in containers for a year or more. Once large enough, they are planted in the ground to evaluate their landscape performance. This field evaluation site would not have been developed without the support of the FNGA Endowment Award.

Over the next few years, we will evaluate these plants, sharing the information with FNGA as well as the cooperating universities. Florida=s nursery and landscape industries, and ultimately consumers, will benefit from Florida=s participation in this regional project to evaluate new plants.