Name: Emmanuel peter Wonighan

Department: mechanical engineering

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**PROJECT ON FLORICULTURE.**

FLORICULTURE is defined as the art and knowledge of growing flowers to perfection. Being a branch of horticulture it deals with the cultivation of flowers and ornamental crops from the time of planting to the time of harvesting.it also includes the production of planting materials through cutting, budding, grafting etc. Ornamental plants are plants grown for its beauty or ornamental value, used for show and decoration of houses, gardens etc. Hence there are strictly grown for its decorative purposes. There are pretty, attractive, fancy etc.

Although it is usually practiced by flower lovers however lately the cost of planting materials, seeds etc. and the increase in demand has created awareness in the grower on the commercial aspect. This scheme has a very good impact on the farmers in terms of returns, creating new economic avenues and thereby enhancing the benefits within a short period to the existing assets of the farmers.

The production of this plants could be used in creating parks. It’s also helps the environment by acting as wind barriers, providing shades, cleaning up pollutants in the air, reducing soil erosion and providing habitat for animals and birds.

Planting involves more than merely digging a hole and sticking a plant in it. Giving careful consideration to the preparation of the planting site, the time of year for best plant establishment and the handling requirements of different nursery stock will help you avoid problems later on.

1. Surveying the Planting Site

Before planting, survey the site for potential hazards to plant growth. For instance, new construction sites are often littered with pieces of mortar, plaster or limestone, creating an alkaline soil condition and inhibiting a plant's ability to absorb nutrients. Chemical spills, such as motor oil or gasoline, can also impair plant growth.hence the need for a soil, plant and agricultural extension specialist. It may be necessary to remove the top 6 to 8 inches of soil and replace it with a good grade of topsoil. Compacted soils also inhibit root growth.Ornamentals can be grown on poorly-drained soils if they are planted on raised beds. Ornamentals can be grown on poorly-drained soils if they are planted on raised beds. Waterlogged soil will suffocate the root system and kill a plant. Improve poorly drained sites by deep tilling to break apart a layer of hard packed soil, or "hard-pan," several inches below the soil surface. Slope beds planted near a foundation away from the building, and route water from drain spouts away from plant beds. On extremely heavy soils, a raised bed is constructed, 12 to 18 inches high, of well-drained topsoil, and slope the sides of the bed away from the plants to avoid pockets of standing water.

1. Selecting Plant

Always purchase fresh, high-quality plants. Poor-quality plants are not a wise investment.Most ornamental trees and shrubs such as golden palm, burmuda grass etc marketed today are grown and sold in containers, although field-grown plants, sold balled-and-burlapped or packaged bare-root, are also available during certain times of the year. Container-grown plants should have healthy, vigorous tops and white feeder roots on the outer edge of the root ballcontainer-grown plants generally transplant well throughout most of the year with minimum shock, although fall and winter months are the best time to transplant

1. Holding Plants Until They Are Planted or replanted

If plants cannot be planted right away, there are placed in a shaded area and their roots kept moist. If balled-and-burlapped or bare-root plants must be held several days before planting, cover their roots with sawdust, pine straw or soil to conserve moisture. Avoid placing the roots in water or buckets for long periods of time because they will suffocate. Container plants may need daily watering.

1. Planting in Individual Holes

The old adage "never put a ten-dollar tree in a two-dollar hole" applies when planting individual trees and shrubs. Research at the University of Georgia has shown that a large planting hole – at least twice as wide as the root ball – encourages rapid root growth and plant establishment. Dig the planting hole only as deep as the root ball. If the hole is dug deeper, backfill it with soil as necessary and tamp it firmly to prevent settling. Make certain the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface. Some landscape professionals plant the top of the root ball 1 to 2 inches above grade if they know the soil is likely to settle slightly.

Research has also shown that it is not necessary to add organic amendments, such as peat moss, compost or leaf mold, to the planting hole. Organic matter can act like a sponge in the planting hole, absorbing and holding too much moisture and causing the roots to stay too wet. When planting just one plant, it is best to backfill with the same soil removed from the hole. Be sure to break apart any clods and remove stones or other debris before refilling the hole.

1. Planting in Beds

A group of ornamental plants in one area of the landscape will grow more uniformly when planted in a well-prepared bed rather than in individual holes. Begin by deep tilling to a depth of 12 to 15 inches. Then incorporate about 1 pound (2 cups) of an eight to 10 percent nitrogen fertilizer, such as 8-8-8 or 10-10-10, over every 100 square feet of bed area. Only incorporate lime into the bed if the soil test recommends it. After preparing the soil, follow the planting procedure recommended for planting in individual holes.

Care of Newly Planted Ornamentals

Watering: Regular watering is critical during establishment of newly planted trees and shrubs. Keep the root system moist, but not too wet, for the first six to eight weeks after planting. The amount of water and frequency of application depend on the soil type and the type of plant. Trees and shrubs may require watering twice a week when there is no rain. Annuals and ground covers may need daily watering during establishment. Let soil moisture be your guide for watering frequency.

Fertilization: There are many slow-release fertilizers on the market that feed plants from six to 12 months with one application. Slow-release fertilizers generally cost more than general-purpose fertilizers, but they require fewer applications. Follow application guidelines on the bag or container.

Number of Plants Required Per 100 Square Feet At Various Spacings

Spacing (inches between plants) /Number of Plants Needed

4 900

6 400

8 225

9 178

10 144

12 100

16 56

18 45

24 25

30 16

36 11

Approximate Number of Cubic Yards of Compost or Topsoil Required Per 1,000 Square Feet When Applied at Various Depths

Approximate Number

Of Cubic Yards Application Depth (inches)\*

¼ ½ 1 1½ 2

1 2 3 5 6

\* 1-inch of amendment applied to the soil surface and incorporated to a depth of 10 inches will provide approximately a 10 percent increase in organic matter content. A 10 percent to 30 percent increase in organic matter is ideal for annuals and perennials. There are 27 cubic feet in a cubic yard. Therefore, 9 bags (3 cubic feet in size) are equivalent to 1 cubic yard.