

## SETTING UP AN ORNAMENTAL PLANT NURSERY

A. **SITE SELECTION:** there are various factors to be considered when setting up flower nursery in order to have a profitable venture. Such factor include:

**(i) Availability of suitable land:** the terrain of the land to be used should be level, free from salts which can injure the plants. The land must not be waterlogged.

**(ii) Availability of perennial water source:** Site should close to a perennial stream . otherwise, a well should be dug or provision made for pipe-borne water or bore hole. This is to ensure availability of water all year round.

**(iii) Accessibility:** site should be easily accessible both to humans and vehicles for easy patronage and marketing of ornamental plants. Also for easy access to production equipment, for removal and handling of products.

**(iv) Availability of farm implementations:** purchase the right tools/implements to carry out farm operations

**(iv) Labour:** provision should be made for both skilled and unskilled workers. Close supervision and monitoring of staff is necessary to ensure profitability of the venture.

B **PREPARATION OF BEDS:** Beds should be made high enough to maximize drainage. Well drained soil is important for root development and the potential for root rot problem is reduced. Organic materials should be added e.g cured poultry manure, cowdung, goat manure, e.t.c or composts.

C. **ORNAMENTAL PLANT TYPES:** More of the tropical plants should be considered when establishing flower nursery. Both outdoor and indoor plants should be included:

**Outdoor plants:** These are plants grown outside the confines of a building. Examples of such include:

**Hedges/border plants:** Ixora spp, Croton, Pitanga duranta, Yellow bush/green bush Garpihenmia, Plumbago, Hydranea, Muraya Grapphyllum, Ficus spp.

## A. SECTION OF NIHORT FLORICULTURE GARDEN

**Trees / Shurb:** *Auricularia* excels, *Thuja occidentalis*, *Polyathes longifolia*, Jacaranda, Oleander, Cassia, *Lagestromia indica*, Casuarina.

**PALMS:** Goldern palm, fan palm, Alexandra palm, Mamy gold

**ANNUALS:** *Tagetes erecta*. Sunflower, Cock comb, French marigold

**GRASS:** *Axonopus compressus*, Babans, Pert harword white, Bahia spp, *Cynodon dactylon*

**Ground cover:** *setcreasea purpurens*, *pendula zebrine*, *Portulaca gradiflora*

**Cacti/ succulents:** *Euphorbia splendens*, *Euphorbia tirucalis*.

**Indoor Plant:** These are plants that can survive the condition as obtained in a house, commonly grown for decorative purposes, health benefits and for indoor air purification. E.g. *Diffenbachia* spp, *Aglaonema* spp, *cordyline terminalae*, *sansiviera trifasciata*, *Dracaena* spp.

**Pot Type and size:** A lot of containers abound which can be used as containers for the plants, such include: Concrete pots, plastic pot, Nigerite pots, Clay pots, Wooden pots, Glass pots, Baskets. P roper pot size is however an important factor because a pot that is too large can cause root disease and too little will restrict plant growth.

D. **WHEN TO PLANT:** Plantation dates depend on your target market and on plant classification – whether annual, biennial or perennial

E. **HOW TO PLANT:** Transportation should be planted shallow with roots placed below the soil surface. Planting too deep reduces water should be supplied immediately after planting and spacing at planting should be ideal.

F. **Nursery tools:** The followings are some of the tools used in flower nursery: Hoe cutlass, mattock, wheel barrows, head pan, digger, rake, shovel, handtrower, measuring tape, twine, secateurs, garden shear. The garden tools facilitate work done in the nursery, are outlined.

**Spade:** Mixing topsoil and manure, clearing of debris, digging the soil into poly bags

**Rakes:** Essentially for scarifying the turfs and clearing refuse.

**Secateur:** Preparation of plant cuttings Pruning off dry and dead plants parts

G. Maintenance of nursery tools

(i) **Mowing machine:** Service the mowing machine regularly, clean machine by blowing off the grass remnants, change damaged parts immediately, keep away from naked light, do not mow wet lawns, pick stones, pebbles on lawns before mowing this is to prolong the life of the mower.

(ii) **Garden shears:** Grease shears when necessary, Sharpen the blade for the better performance, hang garden shears after use to prevent rust

(iii) **Secateurs:** Clean secateurs after each use, keep it away from the floor, apply grease when necessary, retighten bolts and nuts, sharpen blades regularly.

H. **Management practices in an ornamental plant nursery**

Generally, the garden should be well maintained and this can be achieved by carrying out the following management practices.

(i) **Pruning:** Remove dead and diseased leaves/branches. Prune overgrown plants for uniformity of shapes once a month during dry and rainy season.

(ii) **Mowing:** Mow established lawns, rake off plant residue in time to prevent fungal attack and also to enhance beauty.

(iii) **Fertilizer:** Soil test should be carried out before embarking on any fertilizer application to know the nutrient status of the soil. The application of fertilizer should correspond with the requirement of the plants. Higher rates are required at initial phases of growth.

(iv) **Weed control:** weeds must be controlled in the nursery. Competition with weeds reduces the quantity and quality of ornamental plant production. Hoe and land weeding are the best method for control.

- (v) **Insect and disease control:** Good cultural practices are the insect and diseases control method. A good healthy, actively growing plant is more resilient to insect attack. Practice preventive program and remember to control insect and diseases when they are first detected.
- (vi) **Spraying:** Spraying diseased plant using recommended dosage only, ratio of soil mix at 2:1 topsoil and manure as required.
- (vii) **Leaf polishing:** Dust and polish ornamental plant leaves regularly to prevent stomata blockage and to encourage respiration, Wash very dusty plants with cold water, obtain leaf polish from department stores.

**NOTE: Feasibility report on Ornamental plant nursery setting up is available on request.**

For further information, contact

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