

Penang Sangam High School
P.O. Box 44, Rakiraki
Year 12 Agriculture Lesson Notes Week 10

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| Strand | AS 12.3 Agronomy |
| Sub-Strand | AS 12.3.2.3: Ornamental Horticulture |
| Content Learning Outcome | Deliberate on Ornamental Horticulture by investigating, selecting and practicing appropriate husbandry methods on selected ornamental plants. |

Lesson 7: Common Ornamental Grasses

Lesson Outcome: Distinguish among the three grass families and identify some ornamental grasses.

Grass - vegetation consisting of short plants with long narrow leaves, growing wild or cultivated on lawns and pasture, and as a fodder crop.

Sedges - a grass-like plant with triangular stems and inconspicuous flowers, growing in wet ground

Rushes - a grass-like flowering plant distinguished by cylindrical stalks and hollow, stem-like leaves.

Ornamental grasses add color, flowers and texture to an area.

There are five families of grasses which are primarily used in ornamental grass gardening.

- i) the Poaceae family (true grasses) eg. Lemon grass
- ii) the Cyperaceae family (sedges) eg. Umbrella plant
- iii) the Juncaceae family (rushes) eg. Tall Spike Rush [Kuta]
- iv) the Typhaceae family (cattails) eg. Common cattail
- v) the Restionaceae family (restios) eg. Hollow Reed

2020 – Name one common ornamental grass that you have studied. (1 mark)

Activity Questions

1. Discuss the roles which the ornamental grasses play.

2. Differentiate between a shrub and an herb.

3. Fiji sago palm, *Metroxylon vitiense*, is a threatened species which is endemic to Fiji.

Discuss how threatened species can be saved from extinction.

Lesson 8: Establishing Lawns**Lesson Outcome: Discuss methods used to establish lawns.**

Before lawns are established, site must be cleared, finely tilled, leveled and fertilizing material applied.

| Method of planting lawns | Advantage | Disadvantage |
|--|---|---|
| <u>Seeding</u> - broadcasting seeds over the site | -cheaper than any other method -seeds are readily available -can be carried out on any site | -time spent is more -labor involved -uneven establishment may occur |
| <u>Hydro mulching</u> - seed is mixed with water and paper mulch material before being sprayed onto the site by hydro mulcher | -paper mulch material helps to reduce erosion | -water, paper mulch and spraying equipment are needed |
| <u>Sod Establishment</u> - sod is carefully harvested, rolled up and transported to new site where it is unrolled | -quickest and easiest method -least labor intensive | -high price of sod -expensive to buy and install sod |
| <u>Sprigging</u> - pieces of rhizomes or stolons having two nodes placed in soil, 25% remains above soil surface to encourage top growth | -used for those grass varieties that produce poor quality seeds or insufficient amounts of seed | |
| <u>Stolonizing</u> – broadcasting stolons over moist soil and pressing into soil, leaving 25% of the sprig's length exposed | -can also be used with a hydro mulcher | |
| <u>Plugging</u> - placing mature plugs of turf into soil about 10 cm deep and 5 cm wide at a spacing of 10cm by 10 cm. | -done to repair small areas of damaged turf -can be used to establish an entire lawn | |

Activity Questions

1. Explain the importance of developing salt tolerant plants.

2. Explain one reason why paper mulch material is used during the hydro mulching of a new lawn.
