

H. Ornamental palms: Palms come in all shapes and sizes. The height will range from 5 (1.5) or 6 (1.8 m) feet to 100 feet (30.48 m). Many palms have an economic and all have a decorative value. The presence of palm trees is in fact the main difference between a tropical landscape and a temperate one. Palms are divided into two groups; the pinnate or feathery leaf types and palmate or fan leaf types. To the landscape gardeners the most important is the pinnate palms. Pinnate palms can be used in any setting. They can be planted as a single specimen or grouped together to form an attractive background.

Examples: *Caryota mitis*, *Cycas circinalis*, *Roystonea regia/ Oreodoxa regia*, *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens* etc

I. Cut flowers: Flowers are no longer considered as a luxury. In addition to home decoration they are often given as gifts at marriages, births, birthdays and are important features of some social events and festivals. Cut flower industry worth billions of US dollar across the globe, thus growing of cut flowers creates abundant opportunity to Nigeria as a means of diversifying her economy. Everything in Nigeria is favourable for cut flower production; land and labour is available, trained staff are either available or can be trained, the climate is suitable for all year round harvesting and Nigeria is near to Europe than either South America or Asia.

Examples: *Rosa chinensis*, *Anthurium andraenum*, *Arachnis manigayi*, *Phalaenopsis spp*, *Heliconia bihai* etc

J. Indoor plants: An indoor plant, sometimes called a houseplant, is a plant that is grown indoors in places such as residences and offices. Houseplants are commonly grown for decorative purposes, positive psychological effects, or health reasons such as indoor air purification. Plants used in this fashion are most commonly, though not always, tropical or semi-tropical. Major factors that should be considered when caring for indoor plants are moisture, light, soil mixture, temperature, humidity, fertilizers, potting, and pest control.

Examples: *Ficus elastic*, *Aglaonema commutatum*, *Dracaena fragrans*, *Dieffenbachia amoena*, *Nephrolepis exaltata* etc

Nursery management practices

Horticultural nursery is a place where propagules and or seedlings meant for field establishment or sale are produced under intensive management.

Factors to consider for sitting of a floricultural plant nursery are

1. Perennial and reliable source of good quality water
2. Accessibility- to bring in inputs with ease and for buyers
3. Adequate land- in terms of land gradient and slope, fertility status etc
4. Proximity to market (where business exist for the floricultural plants e.g urban area, near industrial parks or estate etc
5. Availability of other inputs eg labour, planting materials, potting media, utilities (phone services to enhance business transaction, electricity etc)
6. Absence of diseases, pests and pilfering
7. etc

Types of nursery- Ground nursery,
 Polythene bag nursery
 Bench nursery in green houses

Nursery production options

Hi-technology/standard/permanent nursery: There is high degree of automation and computerization.

Every activity that can be done manually are automated. It is fast and convenient but expensive. It has permanent nursery structures.

Intermediate/Medium technology/Temporary nurseries: These are improved types of peasant nurseries. They are used to raise seedlings or to rest seedling prior to transplanting. There are no permanent installations.

Peasant/Low technology nurseries: It a nursery where peasant farmers raise seedling of their crops for planting on their farms or in their compounds. Generally, the site is prepared by under-brushing the undergrowth leaving the big trees to provide shade, the soil tilled, seeds sown and covered lightly with palm fronds which are removed immediately the seeds begin to germinate and emerge

Floricultural Nursery management practices

1. Layout and structures of the nursery: Functionality and workability of the nursery is affected by the layout and adequacy of its essential structures. Therefore, orderly arrangement of the nursery and provision of essential structures and tools facilitate level of success of any nursery.
2. Water management: Water/moisture is the most limiting factor in floricultural nursery industry. Thus, consideration must be given to provision of good quality and adequate quantity of water for irrigating the seedlings. Device for supplying and delivering water to plants is important e.g. watering can, micro jet, mist applicator, sprinkler, hose attached to tap etc.
3. Light/shade management: Provision of shade is essential for healthy seedlings. Lack of shade or excessive shade could result in poor growth of seedlings. Permanent or temporary, partial or full shade may be required depending on the plant type and stage of growth. Information of light saturation for maximum photosynthetic activities is needed e.g for indoor or outdoor plants. Shade cloths with different colours could be used control light quality which also affected seed germination and seedling growth.
4. Sanitation and cleanliness: A tidy nursery will be attractive to workers, clients/customers/buyers as it help to reduce the risk of outbreak of diseases and pests. Used

items such as soil, papers, polythene materials, unused pots, instruments should be removed instantly. Weeds should be controlled regularly.

5. Care of nursery tools and materials: Clean implements after use, grease or oil if necessary and properly store. Tools should be properly labeled and their inventory must be kept.
6. Other areas requiring proper management are personnel, soil/growing media and disease prevention and control.