

Enhancement of Undergraduate Education in Plants, Propagation, and Production Using Regional, National, and International Tours

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Education of undergraduate majors in horticulture can be enhanced by touring the industry related to their profession. Classroom activities of textbook, lecture, and lab are limited activities when it comes to opening the eyes of a new student to the profession. The plant material classes are limited to covering 200 to 300 plants per semester and may be limited to a single specimen on campus. A diverse industry works with thousands of plants and each plant has its own personality at each stage of life and season of the year. Textbooks in a way may be limited to the basics. At best, texts are revised on a 5- to 10-year basis. How do students keep abreast of the current technologies and changes? Labs can continue to expand the knowledge put forth in the lecture. However, equipment and plants may be the limiting factors in developing laboratory activities which would cover the breadth of this industry. Local tours during labs may be limited to a single day or a single firm. Texts, lectures, and labs are important parts of the education process, but each may be limited.

During the 1980s we started incorporating 2- to 3-days tours into the system to present more exposure. In 1990 we incorporated the first week-long tour, when we toured the industry centered around Portland, OR. This event brought significant encouragement that it should be repeated and the decision was made to place this tour on a 3-year cycle. Each student in the program should have a chance to participate while working on their degree. Next we added international exposure with a tour to Europe to visit gardens and industry. This also is now on a 3-year cycle. The other year in the 3-year cycle was initiated in 1995 as a garden tour of the Northeast United States and Southeast Canada. Participation has been between 10 and 16 students for each one of these events. During the 28-month period from May 1994 to August 1995, undergraduate students at the University of Kentucky participated in five tours which were of regional, national, or international scope.

Funding for the tours has come from several sources other than from students' pockets. The Portland, OR tour is now partially funded by the nursery industry. In 1994 the Robert R. Scott, Laverne Scott & Elmira Scott Trust was established in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture and its funds were specified for travel. Our regional tours are now supported with a grant from the Scott Trust. A very active Horticulture Club has instituted fund raising activities which have been very instrumental. Other grants and gifts have also been supportive.

A 2-week tour is like a semester course. It takes education beyond the classroom. Tours alter a student's scope of the industry on the regional, national, and

international levels and offers new information and technologies not available on campus. Thus, students have a better understanding or working knowledge of what they are exposed to in class.

UK HORT CLUB TOUR OF NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE

9 - 21 MAY 1994

Netherlands.

Aalsmeer Floral Auction
 Aalsmeer Flori. Res. Station
 Beebee Bulb Co.
 Boskoop Area nurseries
 Boskoop-Nursery Res. Station
 Goldsmith Seed Europe
 Het Loo Palace
 Keukenhof Gardens
 Terra Nigra bv
 U. of Leiden Botanic Garden

France.

Azay-le-Rideau
 Bois de Boulogne - Bagatelle
 Andre Briant Plants
 Chenonceau Chateau
 I.N.R.A. Experimental Station
 LePage Perennial Nursery
 Metz, France Green Space
 Monet's Garden
 Vaux-le-Vitcomte
 Versailles
 Villandry Gardens

UK HORT CLUB TOUR OF NORTHEAST U.S. AND S.E. CANADA

6 - 19 MAY 1995

Angelica Nursery
 Arnold Arboretum
 J. C. Bakker & Sons Nurseries
 Bartrum Garden
 Butler's Orchard
 Centerton Nursery
 Chapel Valley Landscape Co.
 Conard-Pyle Co.
 Dunbarton Oaks
 Fairmont Park Japanese Garden
 Jeffery's Greenhouse
 Kendall Sculpture Garden
 Kingwood Garden
 Lavall Univ. Res. Gardens
 Longwood Garden
 Monticello
 Montreal Botanic Gardens
 Morris Arboretum

Mt. Cuba Center
 National Arboretum
 Niagara Hort. School Garden
 Planting Fields
 Royal Botanic Garden
 Rutgers Univ. Garden
 Univ. of Delaware Garden
 UCONN Conifer Collection
 Univ. of Maine Arboretum
 URI Rhododendron Garden
 John Vermeulen & Son Nursery
 Wade & Gatton Nurseries
 Waterloo Gardens
 Wave Hill Garden
 Western Maine Nursery
 White Flower Farm



Figure 2. Andre Briant Plants, May 1994.



Figure 1. Mt. Cuba Center, May 1995.

**SCOTT GRANT TOUR OF N Y, ONTARIO, AND OHIO
13 - 15 OCT. 1995**

Baker Farms
J.C. Bakker & Sons Limited
Brotzman's Nursery
Herman Losley & Son
Niagara Parks Greenhouse

Schenk Farm & Greenhouse
Stokes Seeds
Sunleaf Nursery
Vineland Experiment Station
Westbrook Greenhouses

**UK HORT CLUB TOUR OF OREGON AND CALIFORNIA
9 - 25 MARCH 1996**

Oregon

Bailey's Nursery
Buchholtz & Buchholtz
Caprice Farm
Crystal Gardens
Femrite Nursery
Fisher Nursery
Gutmann Nursery
Heritage Seeds
Iseli Nursery
Japanese Garden
Klupenger's Nursery
McConkey Manuf.
A. McGill Nursery
Microplant Propagation
Moller Nursery
Monrovia Nursery
Nat'l Germ. Repos.
Northwoods Nursery
Panzer Greenhouse

Portland Rose Garden
J. F. Schmidt Nursery
SEBECO
Weeks Berry Nursery
TREECO Rootstocks
Van Bloem
Van Veen Nursery
Windflower Farm
Woodburn Nursery

California

Deigaard Nurseries
Goldsmith Seed
J&P Roses
La Samida Garden Center
Monrovia Nursery
Sequoia National Park
Stewart's Orchids
Styrbling Arboretum
Yoder Bros. Greenhouse
Yosemite Nat'l Park

**SCOTT GRANT TOUR OF CHICAGO/MILWAUKEE
29 AUG. - 2 SEPT. 1996**

Alfred L. Boerner Bot. Garden
Ball Seed Trail Garden
Growing Systems
Hahlbeck Greenhouse
Kennicott Brothers Co.
Leider Greenhouse
Leid's Nursery Co.
Midwest Ground Covers
Midwest Trading

Mitchell Park Conservatory
Morton Arboretum
Pan American Seed
Platt Hill Garden Center
Radte Perennial Nursery
Stein's Garden Center
Tom's Farm Market
Val-Al Greenhouse