In the days of the Ancient Greeks, during the Olympics, the winner of the race would be given a crown made from an Olive branch. It is said that Hercules crowned the very first winner with the olives because there was no silver, gold, or bronze to honor his father, Zeus. As I earlier stated, the wreath is made of olive branches in the shape of a crown or horseshoe. But, since we live in Florida, where there are no Olive branches/trees, I decided to use plants from this state that are easily accessible. I used muscadine-grape vines, passion flower vines, and pine tree branches!

Muscadines are grape vines grown in the southeastern region of the U.S. It was first cultivated in this region in the 16th century. They have adapted to this heated region. In fact, they grow better in the heat than any other climate in the United States. They also tend to be more durable when left out than any other grape. This breed of grapes is mainly studied for its richness in polyphenols and other nutrients.

Passion flower vines have been found all over the world, with the exception of Alaska and Africa. In this region they are mostly found in the Florida Keys. There are about nine different species. The flowers on the vine are usually so large it takes more than one bee to effectively pollinate the flower. The main use to humans is to study extranuclear inheritance or the paternal inheritance of chloroplasts. The leaves and roots have an extensive history in use to early Native Americans and early European settlers took up there uses as well.

Pine trees are a species of trees 115 strong. They grow the best in acid based soils, but a few might grow in poorly drained, wet soil. Among humans, pines are valued for their timber. They also make attractive parks ornaments. But since they have no resistance to decay or insects, they are often used for construction more than anything else.

Overall, these are the plants that I utilized to make my wreath. All three of these plants are Florida plants, but recall that the original wreath was made from olive branches, not these Florida natives.

Spanish Moss - *Tillandsia usneoides*

Slash Pine - *Pinus elliottii*

Passion Flower - *Passiflora incarnata*

Wild Grape - *Muscadinia rotundifolia*

Conservation Message:

We to save the Slash pine because of its many uses for construction.