

PLANT MATERIALS INFORMATION TABLE

Plant Common Name	Plant Scientific Name
1. Muscadine Grape	<u>Vitis rotundifolia</u>
2. Beach Sunflower	<u>Helianthus debilis</u>
3. Simpson Stopper	<u>Myrcianthes fragrans</u>
4. Blood Orange	<u>Citrus sinensis</u>
5. Persian Lime	<u>Citrus latifolia</u>
6.	

In the table below, specify your selected plant and include its one-sentence conservation message.

Plant Common Name	One Sentence Conservation Message
Beach Sunflower	As a native South Florida wildflower, it holds Environmental importance due to it being low maintenance (a xeriscape plant, requiring no watering, which is important due to Florida's precious fresh water resources) and a pollinator attractor.



In the space provided below, please include a 500-word rationale for plant selections.



For South Plantation High School's entry in the Botanical Fashions: Olympic Wreath category, five different plants were used, in various states of preservation. The wreath is both aesthetically pleasing and recognizable as an Olympic wreath, as well as being an inspirational combination of both South Florida's native and economically important flora.

For native plants, three are included in the wreath. Muscadine Grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*) vine was woven into a circle and then left to dry, to form the base of the wreath. It was chosen for its sturdiness when dry, yet pliability to be shaped to fit someone's head. It is a native South Florida plant, so it can be justified as representative of South Florida. The Simpson Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) was chosen for its petite, waxy leaves; it was ascertained that these leaves would last long enough to look fresh for this competition. The leaves size and waxy texture reminded the student of Olive leaves, which are what Olympic Wreaths are traditionally made out of. Beach Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*), freshly picked, is used to draw the eye using simplistic beauty, bright yellow contrast of its rays and deep brown of its disk. The Beach Sunflower, as a native South Florida wildflower, promotes a conservation message due to it being low maintenance (a xeriscape plant, requiring no watering, which is important due to Florida's precious fresh water resources) and it is a pollinator attractor. As a native wildflower, Beach Sunflower meets the criteria of being representative of South Florida. Because our state is also known as the "Sunshine State" the sun flower captures the tone of both our climate and state slogan.

For economically important plants, citrus is selected because it is recognized as a symbolic icon of our state. Orange juice from Florida is a market product in the state, nationally and worldwide. We ship our fruit everywhere. To represent our bounty of citrus both the Blood Orange and the Persian Lime were sliced and dehydrated, for both their aesthetics and preservation purposes.

The wreath represents the delicate balance between our state's unique native and natural resources while simultaneously acknowledging that the economics of our agricultural production gives our state its character as a destination for sunshine drawing tourists to our beaches and attractions. The selected plants represent a synthesis of these attributes: our unique, native subtropical hammocks (Simpson stopper, also known as twin berry) of the Kissimmee Okeechobee Everglades watershed, our cherished beaches (Beach sunflower), and our agricultural heritage (citrus). It is all tied together on a dried grape vine, also a native, and a classic which is often used for crafting a wreath.

By 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 16, 2011, complete and return this form using one of the following methods:

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