



In This Issue:

- Letter from “The Idea Guy”
- Feature Article: Senior Healing Program
Greater Well Being In The Workplace
- Did You Know?
- Featured Service Technicians

See us October 8-10 at the IFMA
World Workplace 2006 Conference
& Expo in San Diego, CA and
November 14-17 at the Greenbuild
International Conference and Expo
at Colorado Convention Center,
Denver, CO

Letter from “The Idea Guy”

More and more, we are cultivating new realizations about just how beneficial plants can be for the workplace. We know, for example, that when plants are added to an office, employees are more satisfied, morale is higher, creativity is heightened, and performance improves.

Now we’re also learning about how plants can impact the emotional, mental, even physical health of our older citizens. Our perception of how plants can reduce stress and improve comfort continues to grow.

And speaking about growth: Initial Tropical Plants is on a growth track, too. Effective September 1st, I began overseeing both the European and American rosters of interior landscaping businesses, operating under the brand-names Initial Tropical Plants in North America and Rentokil Tropical Plants in Europe.

This change will unite our strong businesses with a common vision and strategy and unify the activities of our talented global leaders. It’s an exciting time for me – and for the entire company.

In the next newsletter you’ll hear from our new North American president, Bob Thomas. Until then we’ll continue improving the quality of life in the workplace by bringing people and plants together.

As we move forward, please continue to remember: this is your newsletter. Feel free to contact Michelle Rodwell, International Branding & Marketing Director at mrodwell@initialplants.com if there’s any ideas or articles you’d like us to explore. And stay tuned...we’ll be back this winter with news on the changing landscape at Initial Tropical Plants!



Jeff Mariola
Managing Director

Feature Article:

Grassroots Senior Healing Program Improves Older American’s Outlook On Life



For many older Americans – particularly in long-term care facilities – loneliness, helplessness and boredom create feelings of dependency and even despondency. Horticultural therapy – the nurturing and caring for plants — is an innovative method of using plants and plant-related activities to improve an older person’s body, mind and spirit. In fact, studies have shown that plants help to decrease depression, increase appetite, and contribute to an “overall happy quotient.”

Grassroots... continued

Through our new grassroots Senior Healing Program, Initial Tropical Plants is shining a spotlight on the therapeutic value of tending to interior plants. Our Program is now teaming up with New York's Project FIND, a non-profit association that provides support and services to low-and-moderate-income and homeless older adults on Manhattan's West Side. Initial Tropical Plants' talented horticultural team will donate time and resources to help seniors find inspiration and comfort through caring for plants.

"Older adults tend to become less stressed and more relaxed as a result of taking care of plants," said Cindy Zachary, a co-worker at Initial Tropical Plants' New Jersey branch. "The social aspects of caring for plants improve well-being — not only in seniors, but in people of all ages."

Program preparation includes attending specialized horticultural therapy classes at the prestigious Glass Garden facility at the Rusk Institute. Kenneth Brewer, National Technical Manager, Initial Tropical Plants, had this to say: "A fundamental facet of the program is bringing plants and people together. We will be assisting Project FIND members in growing their horticultural skills to maximum levels. These successes can be passed along to others for learning and continuity. In a sense, our participants are creating life.

"Beginning October 2006, Initial Tropical Plants' Grassroots Senior Healing Program will include weekly workshops at Project FIND's Coffeehouse Senior Center at 551 Ninth Avenue. Initial Tropical Plants will be rolling out the Grassroots Senior Healing Program in other North American markets in the coming year.

Interior Plants Can Create Greater Well-Being In The Workplace



People may not think that working in a plain or self-decorated space will noticeably impact their overall job-related performance. But ongoing research at the University of Exeter in England – supported by Rentokil Initial Tropical Plants and the UK Government's Economic and Social Research Council — is beginning to suggest that there are, indeed, links between workplace design and the quality of work.

One factor in space management is the use of plants, which play a statistically significant role in feelings of well-being in the workplace – both in their own right and indirectly as part of the overall ambience of the office. According to the study, plants affect almost every major variable involved in how people react to their workplace.

Those involved in designing and furnishing buildings usually opt for a consistent design ethic, including the selection and distribution of plants. But what if workers were more empowered to select plants and other decorative items for their own space?

There is a greater likelihood that what will follow is an increase in organizational identification, an increase in satisfaction with the workplace, and improved productivity and satisfaction. So the next time you think that there is no correlation between workspace decoration and performance – think again. You may be in for a big surprise! We'll continue to explore the early, fascinating results being done on workplace design and quality of work; please watch for more articles in future newsletters.



Did You Know?

1. Interior plants benefit from a period of darkness everyday, and for some succulent species it is essential for survival.
 2. The quality of light needed for interior plants is much less important than quantity.
 3. Research has shown that the combination of plants and daylight-quality lighting can reduce the effects of the "winter blues".
 4. Some climbing plants, (e.g. English Ivy) have different leaf types. One for when the plant is growing in the shade and the other for when it has climbed out of the gloom and into the sunlight.
 5. For some free art and really interesting shadow effects on the walls of your office, try shining some colored lights through the foliage of your office plants.
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Featured Service Technicians

Every quarter, we'll introduce you to members of our service team who have excelled in changing the landscape of business interiors. This time, we're proud to introduce two of our technicians who personify our company's dedication to service.



Paul Eggleston

Service level: Silver

Years of service: 14

Location: Tampa, Florida

Best part of the job: Creating a solid, respectful relationship with clients by providing greatly-needed service.

A little bit of what he thinks: "Plants should be a prerequisite in the workplace because of their calming effect – so necessary in today's day and age. Plants provide a better flow of oxygen and clean the air... and that leads to a healthier, cleaner place to work and a happier place to be."



Robert Schleich

Service level: Bronze

Years of service: 22

Location: Downtown Chicago

Best part of the job: Working with live plants because their appearance – in fact, their very survival – depends on how we treat them.

A little bit of what he thinks: "Having plants around has a relaxing effect on people and affects their work habits in positive ways. They add a visual aesthetic that makes us feel good."