

Ornamental Plants Plus version 3.5

User Information

System Requirements

Thank you for using *Ornamental Plants plus*, Version 3.5. The new version uses HTML Help as the search engine. Consequently, users must have installed a compatible web browser. Internet Explorer users should have IE 5.0 or higher. Netscape users should have at least version 4.0. As a general rule, the most recent version of either browser is recommended. *Ornamental Plants plus* has not been tested with other browsers.

System requirements for *Ornamental Plants plus* are higher than for previous versions. A computer with 32 MB of RAM is a minimal system. A computer with 64 MB strongly suggested. Users wanting to have several software packages active at the same time will experience improved performance with 64 MB, or more, of RAM. No software is installed on your computer's hard drive and so no disk storage is required.

Version 3.5 interacts with various websites. It is not necessary to be on line to use the data bases and to access the images. A connection to the Internet is necessary to access the websites listed on various portions of the CD-ROM.

Starting Ornamental Plants Plus - Version 3.5

To use the CD-ROM start your web browser. (Again, the most recent version of your preferred web browser is suggested.)

Click on File and then click on Open. In the input box type the following command — this example assumes that G is the drive letter for the CD-ROM drive. If your CD-ROM drive has a different letter substitute it for the G. G:\index.html

Then press the Enter key or click OK. The opening page for *Ornamental Plants plus* should appear on the screen. At this time, you may want to add the opening page to your favorites list. This will allow you to simply click on the *Ornamental Plants plus* entry in the list the next time you want to use the CD.

Using the Data Bases

The first item listed on the page is a request that you read the “read me” file. Click on the blue hyperlink to read the file. It contains useful information about using the CD.

Next, the data bases are listed. The *Ornamental Plants plus* and CAT Alert Archive data bases are actually large collections of HTML files. If you click on either of these the screen will show two frames. In the left frame, you will see a prompt near the bottom stating that an applet is loading the index. Depending on your computer's memory and processor, this can take a few seconds or perhaps longer. Eventually, a list of keywords will be displayed. Just as with previous versions, you can scroll through the keywords or type a keyword in the input box at the top of the frame. After you type a keyword or click on a listed keyword one of two things will happen. If only one title is associated with the keyword, the text will appear immediately. Otherwise, a list of titles will be displayed in a window in the right frame. Select one of these titles by clicking on it.

Many times images will be associated with the text. If so, just below the title you will see a hyperlink allowing you to see a list of images associated with the text. However, in version 3.5, some of the links to images are linked from (Vis.) tags within the text. Clicking on any of the (Vis.) tags, or on the images listed at the end of the text, will cause the browser to display the appropriate image. All images are in JPEG format.

Using Internet Resources

Ornamental Plants plus interacts with a number of Internet sites. Many of those listed on the opening page are on the Michigan State University Extension web server. Many of these sites are updated on a regular basis. By linking to the listings, rather than putting them on the CD-ROM, users are provided with the most up-to-date versions of the lists.

At the bottom of each page of text is a hyperlink that says “check the MSUE server for and update of this page.” The most up-to-date version of *Ornamental Plants plus* is maintained on line by MSU Extension. If you are wondering if a page has been updated, and, if you are on line, click on the link. The same page will be accessed from the MSU Extension server and you can compare the pages. Please note that no images are available from the MSU Extension server, however, the (Vis.) tags will appear in the text to let you know images have been added or are available on the CD-ROM.

The Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association web site may also be accessed from the opening page. In addition, web sites for nurseries whose catalogs were used in creating the data base may also be visited.

Using Slide Shows

Two slides shows are included on the CD to assist in studying for the plant ID portion of the MCN test. The study slide show will present images from the CD-ROM collection. As each slide is displayed, the name of the plant will also be displayed. The test slide show displays only the plant so that it can be used as a self test. Please note that the slides are from the CD-ROM collection and are not those actually used for the test.

Hyperlinks to each of the slide shows is provided from the opening page. However, running the slide shows from within the browser is not suggested on computers with smaller amounts of RAM. The opening page provides instructions on how to run the slide shows directly from Win95, Win98, or NT.

The slides are displayed in a window. The window will display in full screen mode when the slide show starts. This often results in grainy or pixelated pictures. Move the cursor to one of the corners of the window until it becomes pointed at both ends. Hold down the left mouse button and drag the corner toward the center of the window. The smaller size will improve image quality and make the slides display faster.

When finished with the slide show, press the Escape key.

Green Tips

A series of fact sheets, called Green Tips, is included on the CD-ROM. A list of titles can be viewed by opening the Ornamental Plant data base and searching on the keyword Green Tip. A list of titles plus links to the files will be displayed.

Please note that the files are in PDF format. To view the files it will be necessary to have installed the Adobe Acrobat Reader. A link to the web site where a free download is available is included on the Read Me file.

Getting Help

Questions regarding problems or the use of OPP can be directed to —

Randy Heatley

Department of ANR Education and Communications Systems

406 Agriculture Hall

Michigan State University

East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1039

E-mail: heatley@msue.msu.edu

Voice: (517) 355-6580 ext. 234

Phone: (517) 355-3776

Questions regarding sales pricing, licensing, distribution and other related topics can be directed to —

Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association

2149 Commons Parkway

Okemos, Michigan 48864

Phone: 1-800-879-6652

FAX: (517) 381-0638