

# Faculty Mentoring and Peer-to-Peer Teaching for Hands-On Active Learning in Growing Princettia Plants

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## Introduction

**Horticulture Society**, the Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences Department undergraduate club, holds a poinsettia plant sale every December to raise funds for its activities. In previous years, the club sold plants purchased from local nurseries. Recognizing the need for students to gain hands-on practical experience in growing and marketing plants, a Princettia production project was initiated.

**Objective:** Describe a Princettia production project based on faculty mentoring and peer-teaching.

## Methods

### Cuttings

One-hundred Princettia cuttings of four varieties were requested from Suntory Flowers. Cuttings were treated with a rooting hormone, planted in Oasis wedges, and placed in a mist bed in a glasshouse.

### Transplanting

Rooted cuttings were transplanted into 10.2-cm and 15.2-cm pots filled with potting media. A fungicide was applied. The potted plants were grown in a saranhouse and hand watered.

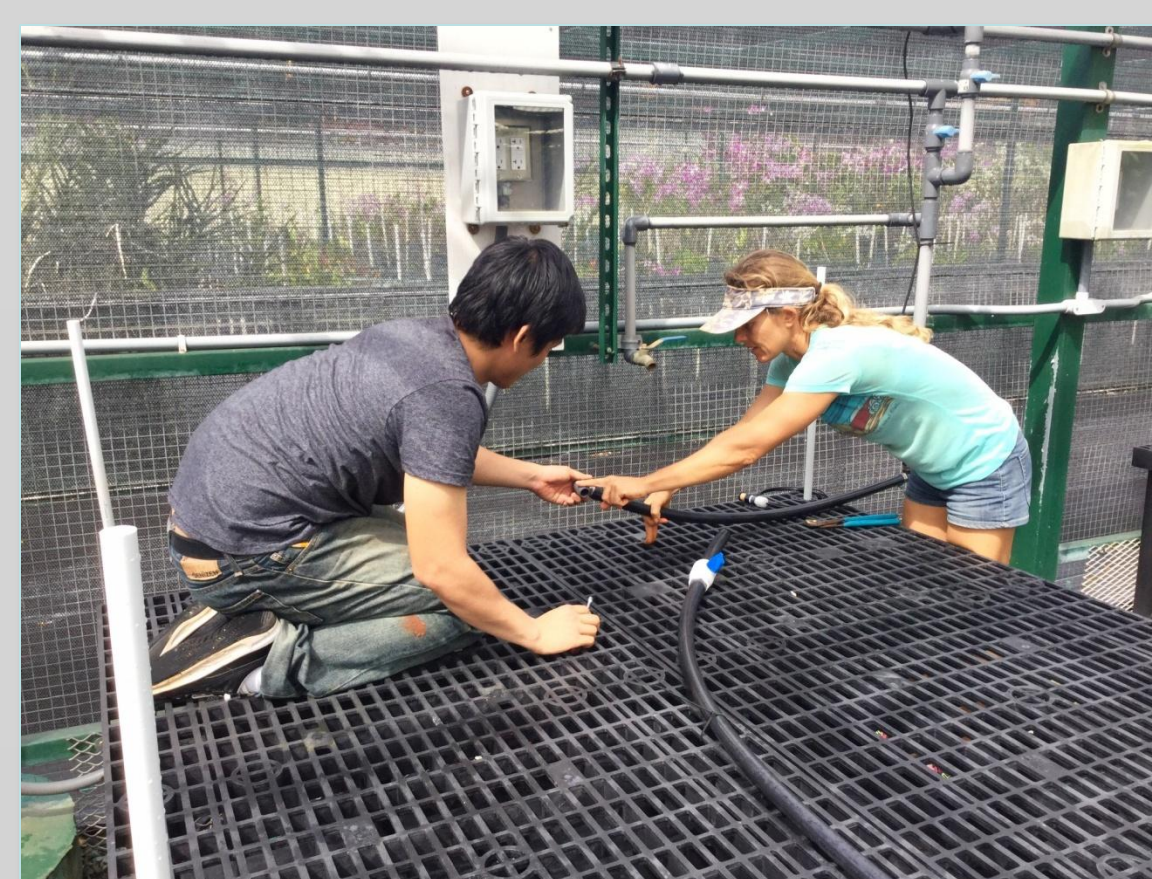


## Methods



### Maintenance

An overhead sprinkler irrigation system was installed. Pesticides to control whiteflies and mites were applied during the growing period. Plants were fertilized with a controlled release fertilizer and magnesium sulfate.



## Results

- Students acquired much needed hands-on growing and marketing skills in the production of the Princettia plants.
- They determined the selling price of the plants based on the cost of production and the sale price of similar plants in local stores.
- Two successful plant sales were held in December 2016.



## Conclusions

The Princettia production project helped students gain hands-on experience, peer teaching involvement, and improved faculty mentoring skills.

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