

# Cultivar Development of Ornamental Foliage Plants\*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Defined literally, foliage plants would include all plants grown for their attractive leaves rather than flowers or fruits. In general horticultural terms, however, foliage plants are those with attractive foliage and/or flowers that are produced in containers in shaded greenhouses and used primarily as living specimens for interior decoration or interiorscaping (Chen et al. 2002). In common terminology, foliage plants are referred to as houseplants. Foliage plants in the tropics, however, may also grow under shade as landscape plants.

Currently, more than 500 species with various forms, colors, textures, and styles are grown as foliage plants. The majority of them are indige-