

# Clemson Horticulture *Student Essay*

## *Reflective Essay: The Struggles of Sustainability*

by Vincent Galatolo



The idea of being sustainable has always fascinated me. The simple idea, expressed by Gro Harlan Brundtland and the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, of a worldwide sustainable attitude and the concept that individual action can in fact change the world has always seemed obvious to me. However, this concept no matter how obvious it may be, has always been a source of both struggle and misunderstanding my entire life. I always struggled to see why recycling had a deeper impact on the world. I struggled to see the rippling effects of how just a couple of glass bottles or a bundle of plastic bags could negatively affect the world I live in.

I can remember a couple years ago I was standing in my friend's garage looking at his typical yet always astonishing trash pile leaning against his back garage wall. For some reason I looked at my friend Alex and I said "Why don't you recycle some of this stuff?" He responded by saying, "Why does it matter? It's just a couple of pizza boxes and some trash bags. If you really think that, you are an idiot".

At the time I thought he mostly had a good point about the environmental ramifications of just a couple of pizza boxes and trash bags. It's never as simple as that and remembering that you are one of billions of other people on earth using its resources and throwing away trash makes the equation increasingly more

complicated. You have to apply your actions to a much broader landscape than what you see just in front of you. Seeing the "bigger picture" of your actions is essential if you want to decrease your negative impact on the world.

I no longer take for granted how easy it is to just throw a bag of trash in a garbage truck. I sort all of my waste into separate recycling bins for glass, plastics, and cardboards. I deposit all of my recyclables at the local recycling center in Seneca, S.C. As a people we can in fact "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" as Brundtland suggested. I think before I trash the world I live in and I try my best to reduce, reuse, and recycle my waste before I throw it in the garbage.

**Vincent Galatolo is a junior Horticulture major in Dr. Vincent's HORT 101 class. His hometown is Lexington, SC.**

## *Scholarly Essay: The Common Spider Plant*

by Katlynn Murphy



Originally from South Africa, *Chlorophytum comosum*, commonly referred to as the spider plant, is one of the most popular and low-maintenance available houseplants on the market. Derived from the lily family, the spider plant is a grass-like evergreen perennial with long and thin linear leaves, and can be characterized for its ability to develop baby spider plants on the stalks following blooming and fruiting (Christman, 2004). It grows best in mild to medium light exposure with moist soils and warm temperatures (Mott), however, it is also especially flexible considering these conditions. It will survive in shady spots and slightly neglected soils, but for maximum growth and production it does best in a bright window or hanging outside during the warm months of the year, avoiding the midday full sun and receiving regular watering (Christman, 2004).

### Literature Cited

Christman, S. (2004). *Chlorophytum comosum* (#959). Retrieved from Floridata Web site [http://www.floridata.com/ref/c/chlo\\_com.cfm](http://www.floridata.com/ref/c/chlo_com.cfm)

Mott, R. C. (nd). *Growing conditions for indoor plants*. Fact sheet. Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County.

**Katlynn Murphy is a junior Agronomy major in Dr. Vincent's HORT 101 class. Her hometown is Venice, FL.**