

The highlight of UMS Garden for Floria Putrajaya 2014 was the beauty of vertical planting design. To portray the 'Futuristic Garden' theme, UMS team had integrated a fertigation system into the vertical planting boxes.

The system is a special technique in soilless agriculture which is very common to vegetable growers and gardeners. This attempt was very interesting as it integrates farming technology into landscape design.

The fertigation system is used by growers and gardeners to apply fertilizers or other water-soluble products whilst irrigating crops. Nowadays, most of the vegetable growers in Cameron Highlands utilised the system and have benefitted from the technique as it is sustainable in nature.



**1** FLORIA Putrajaya, an international event hosted by Perbadanan Putrajaya has marked its 7th celebration this year. It is now an annual event which is anticipated by many people, especially horticulture lovers. FLORIA Putrajaya has become the platform for local and international participants to exhibit their skills and flairs in garden design. The event was also participated by professional florists and International Floral Societies/Associations.

**2** The highlight of the event is the Garden competition. More than 80 agencies have competed; government agencies, corporate bodies, private sector, associations, growers, universities as well as secondary and primary schools. University Malaysia Sabah (UMS), represented by Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture has participated in the Garden Competition under University Category for the 4th time. The event kicked off at 14th June 2014 and ended on the 22nd June 2014.

**3** The general concept for the University Category is 'Futuristic Garden'. Begonia, the sixth-largest angiosperm genus is the highlighted plant the year 2014. The begonia leaves are often large and variegated, colourful and most interestingly are usually asymmetric. Therefore, the richness of the genus, the diverse colours of the species, and the asymmetrical form of the leaves have become the inspiration for UMS's 'Cultivation of Land' Garden.



# 'Cultivation Of Land' Garden

Represented Universiti Malaysia Sabah in University Garden Competition, Floria Putrajaya 2014.

This year, the competition was coordinated by two lecturers; Shahida Sharif, Izyan Ayuni, Agricultural Officer and Staff; Santy Karim, Razali Puta, Zulkalana and Rizal with ten students; Mohamad Shaid Hafizat B. Anwar, Mohammad Shazwan B Zohari, Mohd Izharudin B Baharin, Mohd Hafizul Bin Tamidi, Mohd Naim B Nia'amad, Chong Khai Yeng, Nurul Husna Izaty Bt Mohamed Shohor, Nurul Fadzilah Bt Muhd Puzai, Fasihah Bt Rejab and Nur Affidathul Shida Bt Mohd Azahari. The team effort has helped UMS Garden to win the Bronze Award (3rd place out of 20 universities and colleges) and Starlight Award (best lighting). Apart from winning these awards, the UMS garden is aimed to inspire more landscape designers / architects to embrace the Fertiscape; a sustainable technique in future garden designs.

**4** The design principles were based on repetition of vertical feature walls and vertical planting boxes. Whilst repeating the forms, the gradation of colours and sizes of the vertical feature walls and vertical planting boxes are carefully blended in to create a sense of harmony in the garden. The main feature is the sculpture ornate with turf grass and begonias. The sculpture's organic form is to portray the freedom and liberty of the future that is never constrained or limited to any forms.

**5** The fertigation's innovation is called 'Fertiscape'. It is a simplified version of common fertigation system which intertwines dynamic landscape design and the wisdom of agriculture. 'Fertiscape' system is designed to enable more people to grow plants; ornamental or herbs. In the long run, if more urban dwellers to utilise the 'Fertiscape' system, it can help to improve the air quality around them.