

## **Gayle Suttle** Lessons Learned: My 43-year journey with commercial micropropagation

Graduating with a BSc in both Botany and Soil Science from Oregon State University, Gayle has recently retired as CEO of Microplant Nurseries.

With her experience of 43 years building and growing a profitable business, her story if full of key scientific discoveries, triumphs and few epic disasters. Lessons Learned: My 43 Year Journey with Commercial Micropropagation IPPS – South Africa 2024



## GAYLE R.L. SUTTLE CEO, (RETIRED) MICROPLANT NURSERIES INC. GERVAIS, OREGON














































































#### Microplant Nurseries, Inc



#### Established in 1980 microplantnurseries.com













































## Lessons Learned





1.) You learn the most when you make mistakes so....

Give yourself a break!

## 2.) Simplify the Process - Make it easier to do things right and harder to do things wrong

## 3.) It is easy to build a lab, but very hard to make one work.



# 4.) Know where you are going andBelieve you will get there...

#### Begin with the end in mind

- Know what the goal is
- Declare where you are going!
  - Know what you want

# 5.) It is not a success unless it is repeatable



### 6.) Calculators are fabulous toys
















7.) Under-promise and over-deliver (Fudge factors are our friends)

"The most important thing of all in developing a business is to recognize that whatever you do, whatever you produce, whatever you are selling *must be what* the customer needs."

- Gayle Suttle



# 8.) Be RELENTLESS in the pursuit of excellence

"If you don't do it excellently, don't do it at all. Because if it's not excellent, it won't be profitable or fun, and if you're not in business for fun or profit, what the hell are you doing there?"

- Robert Townsend



#### 9.) Clean plants are easier to manage

10.) Plan on growing (Plants, Space, People)



## 11.) Document the process



Knowledge

### 12.) Share the Wealth



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Fun

Triumphs

Promote From Within

13.) Look around...

Get out there! Be curious! Make friends... you NEED them! 14.) Enjoy the journey... Have FUN with:
- Fellow Employees
- Customers
- Compatriots/Competitors

### ALL are friends

