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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--The Hiram F. Thut Greenhouse at Eastern Illinois University will open its collection of nearly 1000 different plants for public viewing according to Dr. Terry Weidner, botany department chair.

The building will be open from 10-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday except for a 12-3 p.m. slot on Tuesday and Thursday, and then again from 1-3 on Sunday afternoon.

Group tours can be arranged at other times by contacting Dr. John Speer, acting greenhouse supervisor, at 581-3525. The greenhouse is located adjacent to the Life Science Building.

"After a couple years of refurbishing the interior of the Thut Greenhouse, we're now pleased to be able to open it to the public," said Weidner.

"This teaching and research facility houses approximately 1000 different specimens of plants from around the world. In addition to many exotic tropical and desert plants there are varieties of house plants represented," Weidner said.

Dr. Steven Becker of the botany department developed the collection of both common and exotic plants, according to Weidner.