

## Technician of the Year



# Doting DOT

Dot Earnest develops personal relationships with clients, even dispensing plant propagation tips. Photo: Louis Saunders

### *Technician of the Year*

*Dot Earnest dotes on plants and clients with her special brand of conscientious care.*

*By Kevin G. Brosien*

When it comes to caring for plants, Dorothy Earnest, Certified Landscape Technician, is known for her nurturing touch. The 2004 *Interior Business* Technician of the Year has a 12-year history of solid service as a horticultural technician with Buckingham Greenery in Buckingham, Va.

Her interest in horticulture, however, took root during childhood. The Hampton, Va., native enjoyed cutting grass and trimming hedges with her father. "I've always had an interest in plants," says Earnest, who has spent the past 25 years working in the horticulture field.

She got her professional start in 1978 at Green Gardens, Warrenton, Va., where she propagated vegetables and other plants in a 12-greenhouse complex. She went on to propagate grapevines at Simeon Farms, Charlottesville, Va., in the mid-1980s and then, Earnest jokes, "I took a couple of years off to propagate two children."

When she returned to work, Earnest got her first taste of interiorscaping as a technician for the estate of the owner of *The Daily Progress*, a

