

## Fort Myers, Florida – Botanicals & Ford's Automobiles-Part 3 The Plantings at the Estates

Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and Harvey Firestone's contributions to the Fort Myers winter estates was invaluable. "The site consists of more than 1,700 plants representing more than 400 species from six continents."

[edisonfordwinterestates.org/](http://edisonfordwinterestates.org/)

The Gardens includes Moonlight Garden, designed in 1929. Banyan Tree, one of the largest trees in the continental United States. Heritage Plants, unique species such as the sausage trees, queen's wreath, Puerto Rican hat palm, blue mahoe, tropical snowball, and king's mantle. Royal Palm Allees planted in a single file. Cycads a collection of prehistoric plants. Butterfly Garden with an assortment of butterfly plants. Bamboo, a dozen varieties can be found. Edison at one time was using bamboo for his light bulb experiments. Heritage and Community Gardens raised beds where Edison grew his own food plus herbs. Tropical Fruit Trees such as mango, citrus, sapote, tamarind, papaya, lychee, longan guava, jackfruit, loquat, calamondin, and starfruit can be found among the grounds. Palmetum that include more than 60 species from several continents. Finally, New Succulent Garden consisting of more than 50 plants from desert and coastal climates.





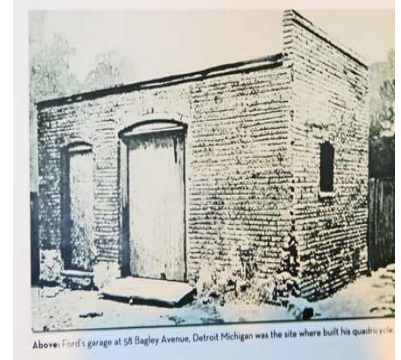
## Henry Ford's Automobiles at the Estates



### Top: Ford's Quadricycle

Circa 1896

In 1951, American Illustrator Norman Rockwell was commissioned by Henry Ford II to illustrate a calendar to commemorate Ford Motor Company's upcoming 50th anniversary. In this scene from the calendar, Henry Ford works on his first motor car, the Quadricycle, while his wife Clara watches.



Above: Ford's garage at 58 Bagley Avenue, Detroit, Michigan was the site where he built his quadricycle.



## The Endless Possibilities of Henry Ford's Engine

### Aftermarket Inventions

One good idea sparks another. Inventive minds soon found that the powerful and reliable Model T engine could be used for more than just transportation. Aftermarket kits like this *Work-A-Ford* extended the possibilities of the Model T by hooking up a belt to the car's engine. With devices like these, working men were able to create mobile sawmills, well pumps and even crop harvesters. This ultimately saved time and money.

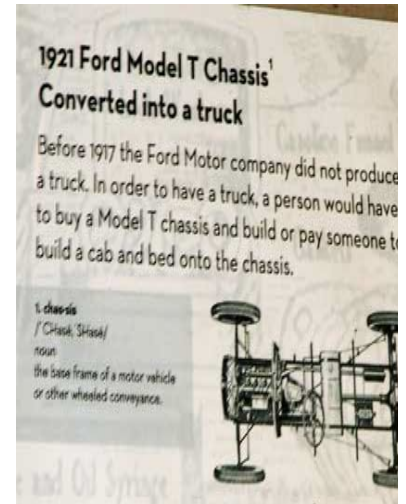
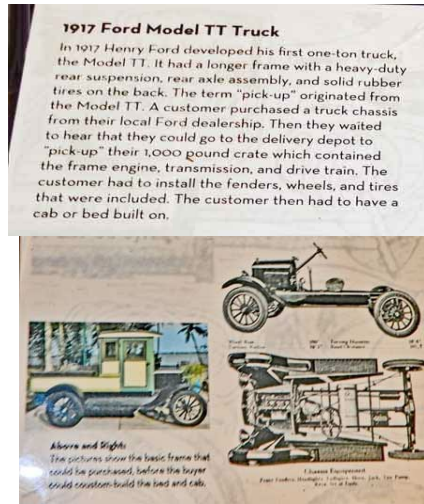


Advertisements for Work-A-Ford and Plow and Pull devices.



Above: Workers use a 1918 Ford Model T engine hooked up to a saw blade to saw wood.





### 1929 Ford Model A

Introduced in December of 1927, the Model A became the successor to the Ford Model T. Although the "new" A was named after the original 1903 Model A, mechanical upgrades and a sleek body design made the newer model much different in appearance and performance. This new model was built with four cylinders, and was the first Ford with four-wheel mechanical brakes, shock absorbers, and a vacuum-operated windshield wiper. It contained an electric starter and could run at a speed of 55 to 65 mph.



Sources for Ford Vehicles Shown

<https://corporate.ford.com/articles/history/henry-fords-greatest-innovation-the-quadricycle.html>,

<https://www.history.com/topics/inventions/model-t>, <https://www.trucks.com/2017/07/27/ford-model-tt-100-years-pickup-trucks/>, and

[https://www.mafca.com/downloads/Chapters/GW\\_Trifold\\_Flyer.pdf](https://www.mafca.com/downloads/Chapters/GW_Trifold_Flyer.pdf)

**Edison-Ford Winter Estates: Part 1-Overview; Part 2-Edison & Ford Homes; Part 4 Museum; Part 5 Edison's Laboratory**

Other Sources: <https://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/>, <https://www.publicgardens.org/about-public-gardens/gardens/edison-and-ford-winter-estates>, <https://www.visitfortmyers.com/listing/edison-and-ford-winter-estates/39817>, <https://www.tclf.org/landscapes/edison-and-ford-winter-estates>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edison\\_and\\_Ford\\_Winter\\_Estates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edison_and_Ford_Winter_Estates), <https://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/visit/tickets-tours/>, <https://www.thisismysouth.com/visiting-edison-ford-winter-estates/>, <https://www.keywestexpress.net/prepare-and-go/fort-myers-beach-activities/edison-ford-winter-estates>, and [https://localwiki.org/fortmyersfl/Edison\\_and\\_Ford\\_Winter\\_Estates](https://localwiki.org/fortmyersfl/Edison_and_Ford_Winter_Estates).

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