WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of

a *Eg*FT protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, and

a protein having at least 90% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 and having the flower promoting activity of the *Eg*FT protein.

2. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the protein having at least 90% identity is one in which one or more of the amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2 are substituted, deleted, added, and/or inserted.

3. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid has the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or the nucleotide sequence set forth in nucleotides 63-590 of SEQ ID NO:1.

4. The isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 1-3 which further comprises a plant operable promoter operably linked to the nucleic acid.

5. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 1-4.

6. A transgenic plant cell, plant or plant seed comprising the isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 1-4 stably integrated into its genome.

7. The transgenic plant cell, plant or plant seed of claim 6, wherein the plant is a member of the Palmae family.

8. The transgenic plant cell, plant or plant seed of claim ~~5~~7, wherein the plant is an oil palm plant (*Elaeis guineensis*).

9. A method for producing a transgenic plant which comprises introducing the isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 1-4 or an expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 1-4 into a plant, wherein the transgenic plant has the nucleic acid stably integrated in its genome.