



Thursday, July 25, 2024

# TROPICAL FUSION

PLAYING WITH TROPICAL & SUBTROPICAL  
PLANTS IN TEMPERATE CLIMATES

MARIANNE WILLBURN

*Pennisetum* 'First Knight™', *Ricinus communis* 'Carmencita'

*Cissus discolor* (rex begonia vine)

*Canna* 'Red Stripe' (canna)

*Manihot esculenta* 'Variegata' (variegated tapioca)

*Xanthosoma aurea* 'Lime Zinger' (elephant ear)

*Caladium bicolor* (caladium)

**Container:** *Canna* 'Phaison' (canna)

**Container:** *Caladium* 'X-plosion', *Begonia* 'Royal Crown', *Polypodium*,  
*Euphorbia* 'Diamond Frost', *Begonia* 'Positively Peridot', *Sansevieria*  
'Sayuri', *Begonia* 'Lotus Land'

*Pennisetum* 'Black Stockings' *Canna* 'Musaefolia' (fountain grass, canna)

**Container:** *Begonia* 'Joyful Jasper™' & 'Positively Peridot™', *Euphorbia*  
*milii*, *Tradescantia zebrina*, *Vinca* sp. (begonia, crown of thorns,  
wandering Jew, vinca)

**Container:** *Ensete ventricosum* 'Maurelii', *Canna* 'Phaison' (red  
Abyssinian banana, canna)

**Container:** *Colocasia* 'Morning Dew', *Canna* 'Bengal Tiger' &  
*Canna glauca* (elephant ear, canna)

## SUMMER ROMANCE

**Container:** *Colocasia esculenta*, *Curcuma longa*, *Ipomoea batatas*  
'Desana Lime' & species, *Senna didymobotrya*, *Coleus* (*Plectranthus*)  
'Main Street Beale Street' (taro, turmeric, sweet potato vine, popcorn  
plant, coleus)

*Ananas bracteatus* (red pineapple)

*Caladium* Heart to Heart® (Mixed-Sun),  
'Burning Heart'

*Ricinus communis* & *Zea mays* 'Field of  
Dreams' (castor bean, striped corn)

*Ricinus communis*, *Verbena bonariensis*,  
*Cleome hassleriana* (castor bean, tall  
verbena, spider flower)

*Solanum quitoense* (naranjilla)

*Carica papaya* (papaya)

## BEST FRIEND

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*Brugmansia versicolor* 'Supernova  
White' (angel's trumpets)

*Plumeria* sp. (frangipani)

*Colocasia* cvs. 'Morning Dew' 'Mojito'  
'Hawaiian Punch' 'Pharaoh's Mask'  
'Blue Hawaii' (elephant ear)

*Alocasia macrorrhizos* 'Lutea' (elephant  
ear)

*Musa acuminata* 'Grand Nain' &  
'Ice Cream' (banana)

*Musa balbisiana* 'Thai Black' (banana)

*Colocasia* Royal Hawaiian® 'Waikiki'

*Colocasia* 'Redemption'

*Xanthosoma aurea* 'Lime Zinger'  
(elephant ear)

*Colocasia* 'Morning Dew'

*Canna* 'Bengal Tiger' (canna)

*Canna* 'Cleopatra' (canna)

*Canna* 'Musaefolia'

*Begonia* 'Escargot' (begonia)

**Container:** *Begonia* 'Positively Peridot™',  
*Neoregelia rubrovittata* 'Fuego',  
(begonia, blushing bromeliad)

*Cissus discolor* (rex begonia vine)

*Alpinia zerumbet* 'Variegata' (shell  
ginger)

*Curcuma longa* 'Snowdrift' (turmeric)

*Curcuma* x 'Sawdee Maroon Heart'

## LONG TERM COMMITMENT

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*Schefflera actinophylla*, *Asplenium nidus*  
(umbrella plant, bird's nest fern)

*Peperomia obtusifolia* 'Variegata' (baby rubber plant)

*Sansevieria trifasciata* var. *laurentii* (snake plant)

*Dracaena deremensis* 'Lemon Lime' (corn plant)

## HIGH MAINTENANCE PARTNER

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*Begonia luxurians* (palm leaf begonia)

*Cyperus alternifolius* (papyrus)

## MOCK TROPS

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**Get the look without the work by incorporating one or two tropical accents into hardy planting schemes that only LOOK tropical.**

*Matteuccia*, *Ligularia*, *Rodgersia*,  
*Bergenia*, *Hosta*, *Symplocarpus*,  
*Symphytum*, *Synelilesis*,  
*Heuchera*, *Kalopanax*, *Petasites*, *Musa*  
*basjoo* and more.

## SUPPLIERS:

Places to start for tropical and subtropical plant material.

Landcraft Environments [landcraftenvironment.com](http://landcraftenvironment.com), wholesale & retail grower in Northeast

Logee's [logees.com](http://logees.com), retail grower of rare tropical and fruiting plants in Northeast

Bullis Bromeliads [bullisbrom.com](http://bullisbrom.com), wholesale grower

Capri Farms [caprifarms.com/home](http://caprifarms.com/home) grower and broker

Central Florida Fern [cfferns.com](http://cfferns.com) box shipping

Chicago Foliage Inc. [chicagofoliage.com](http://chicagofoliage.com)

Clesen Wholesale [clesen.com](http://clesen.com) wholesale grower

Coastal Nursery [coastalnursery.com](http://coastalnursery.com) fed ex shipping

Excelsa Gardens [excelsagardens.com](http://excelsagardens.com) retail and wholesale nursery, truck shipping

Fantasy Foliage [fantasyfoliageflorida.com](http://fantasyfoliageflorida.com) wholesale grower

Heart of Florida Greenhouses [heartplants.com](http://heartplants.com) fed ex freight for smaller orders

Holt Nurseries [holtnurseries.com](http://holtnurseries.com) succulents, ferns, box shipping

Midwest Tropicals [myfoliage.com](http://myfoliage.com) truck shipping

Morning Dew [morningdewtropical.com](http://morningdewtropical.com) larger orders, truck shipping

Rose of Sharon Nursery [rossales.com](http://rossales.com) box shipping



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**[Tropical Plants and How to Love Them: Building a relationship with heat-loving plants when you don't live in the tropics](#)** Hardcover. Cool Springs Press. April 2021. ISBN-10 0760368945

**[Big Dreams, Small Garden: Creating Something Extraordinary in Your Ordinary Space](#)**. Paperback. Skyhorse Publishing. March 2017 ISBN-10 1510709126