

Touch of the Tropics

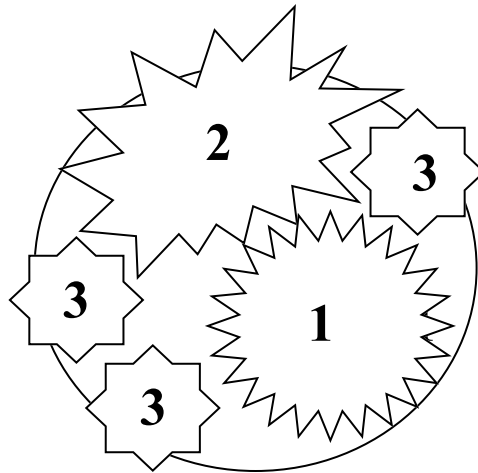
Go beyond using cannas in pots and mandevillas in baskets and learn about a wide range of exotic-looking but low-maintenance tropical plants. These are the tropical plants you should be adding to your landscapes and containers this summer. Not just for Florida, these plants will add bold textures, vibrant colors and a new dimension to your garden.

Presentation images available at: <http://bit.ly/2vjlmzJ>

Story ideas at: <http://www.fngla.org/gwa/>

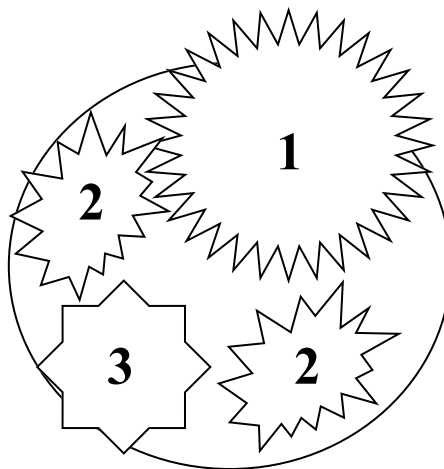
Container #1:

1. *Ensete maurelii* 'Red Abyssinian'
2. Canna 'Bengal Tiger'
3. *Tradescantia pallida* 'Purpurea'



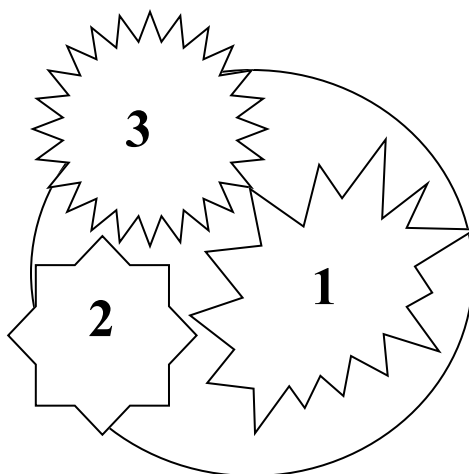
Container #2:

1. Alocasia 'Black Stem'
 2. Cordyline 'Ruby Red'
- Options for #3:
- *Asparagus densiflorus* 'Myersii'
 - *Whitfieldia elongata*, White Candles
 - Hibiscus 'Seminole Pink'



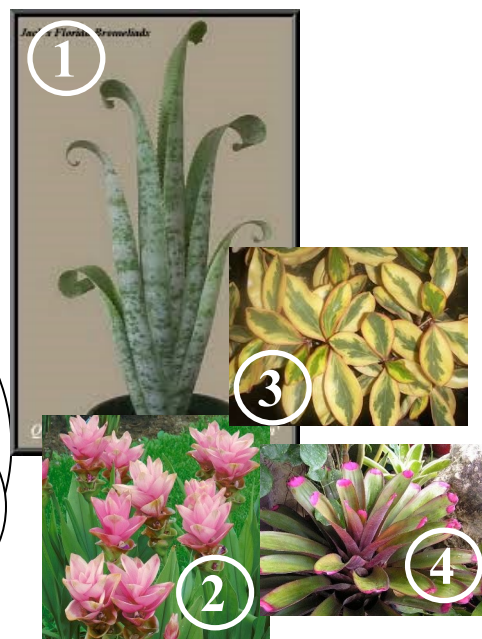
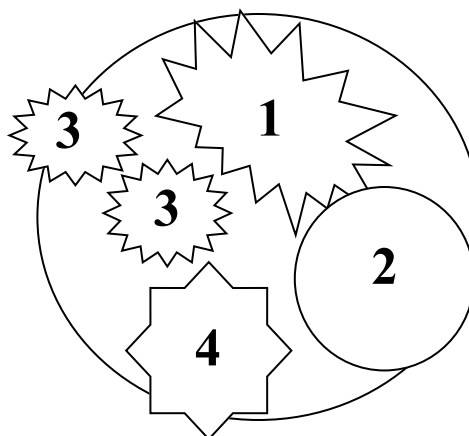
Container #3:

1. Croton 'Johanna Coppinger Sport'
2. Polyscias scutellaria 'Fabian'



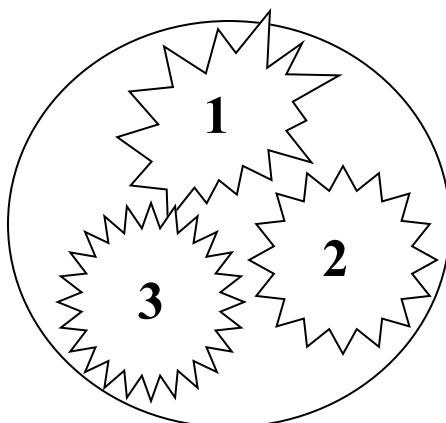
Container #4: SHADE

1. *Quesnelia marmorata*, Grecian urn
 2. Curcuma 'Siam Shadow'
 3. *Peperomia clusiifolia* 'Ginny'
- Options
- *Neoregelia spectabilis* 'Painted Fingernail'
 - *Tradescantia pallida* 'Purpurea'



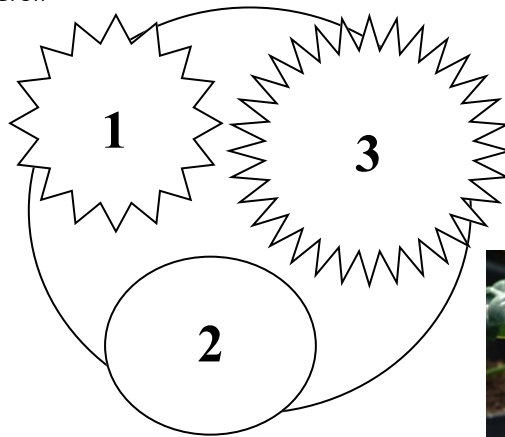
Container #5:

1. *Musa zebrina* 'Rojo'
2. Alocasia 'Regal Shield'
3. *Alpinia zerumbet* 'Variegated'



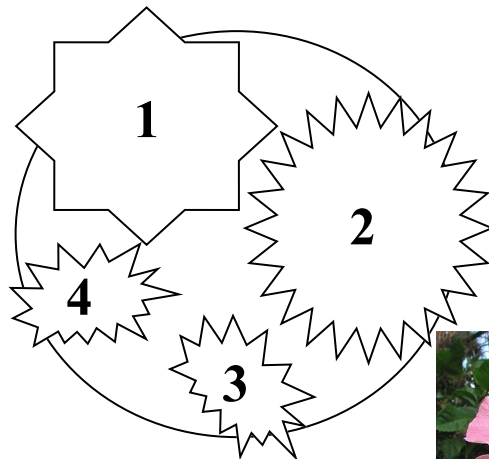
Container #6: Sun or Shade

1. *Asparagus densiflorus* 'Myersii'
2. *Farfugium* 'Gigantea'
3. *Acalyphia wilkesiana* 'Godseffiana'



Container #7: SHADE or sun

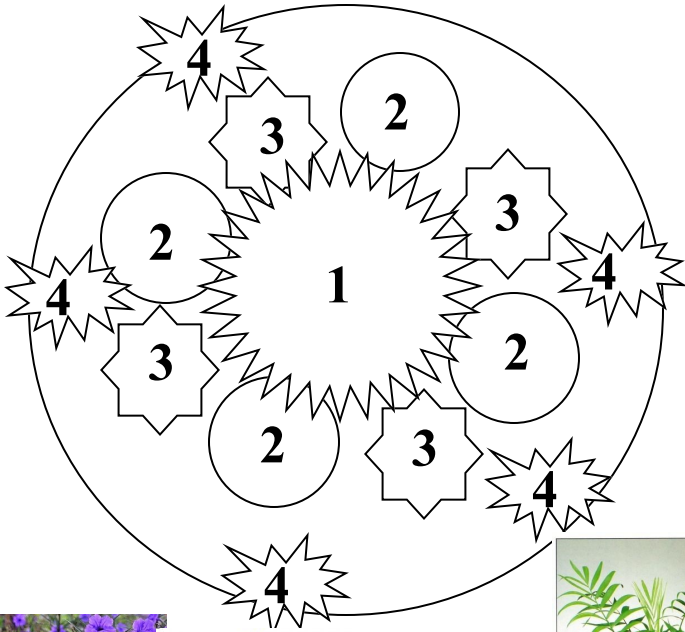
1. *Curcuma* 'Siam Shadow'
2. *Hibiscus* 'Seminole Pink'
3. *Peperomia clusiifolia* 'Ginny'
4. *Tradescantia pallida* 'Purpurea'



Large Containers

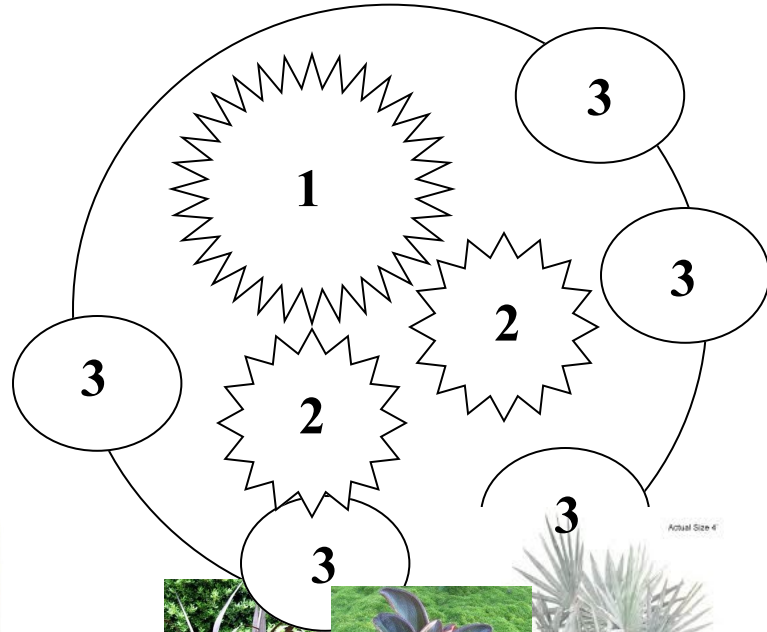
4' Container #1:

1. *Chamaedorea hooperiana*, Maya Palm
2. Ruellia 'Purple Showers'
3. *Neoregelia spectabilis* 'Painted Fingernail'
4. Epipremnum 'Neon Pothos'



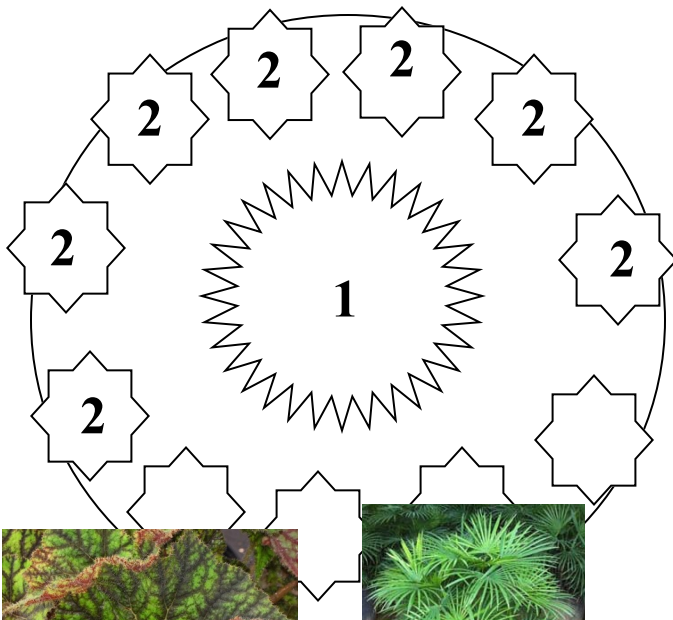
4' Container #2:

1. *Bismarckia nobilis*, Bismarck Palm
2. Pennisetum 'First Knight'
3. *Peperomia clusiifolia* 'Red Edge'



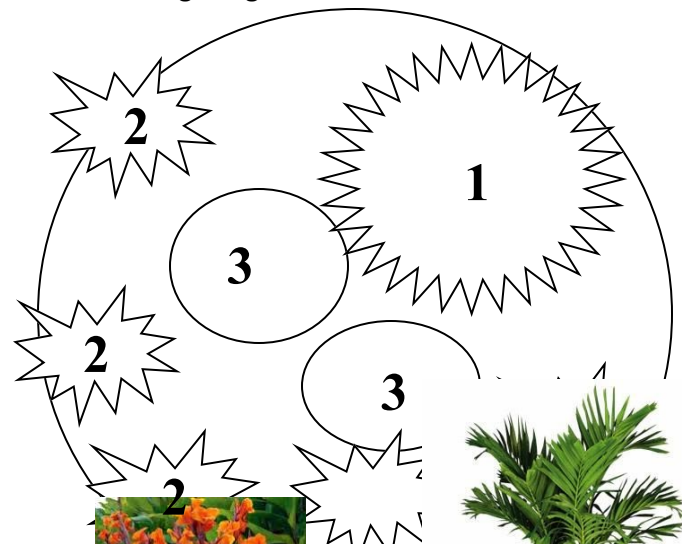
4' Container #3:

1. *Rhapis multifida*
2. Begonia 'Wild Pony'



4' Container #4:

1. *Adonidia merrillii*, Christmas Palm
2. Hibiscus
3. Canna 'Bengal Tiger'



SAMPLE TROPICAL ARTICLE – APPROX 450 WORDS

Go Tropical: Adding Tropical Plants to Your Summer Garden

There's no better time than the summer months to turn-up your garden appeal with some cool, amazing tropical plants. The large-leaves and textures bring a wave of lush serenity and the plants are naturally acclimated to tolerate the summer heat and extra humidity.

Here's some favorites to spice up the summer and your patio containers:

Alocasia/Colocasia

Often confused with each other, alocasia and colocasia are among the most striking tropicals. Their gorgeous, beautifully-colored leaves gleam in various shades depending upon the plant variety. From green, purple, blue, and now, even black! A range of uses means this is a winner for many homeowners. From indoor as a houseplant to mixed containers to patio specimens, this true stunner will make you the neighborhood envy!

Curcuma

Elegant falls short when describing this amazing plant. Heat-loving and long-blooming, you'll most easily find hues of pink, yet purple and white flowering varieties are also available and add color and tropical flair to your space throughout the summer. As the weather turns colder, curcuma goes dormant, even in the extreme south. You can remove flowers and leaves as they pass peak. Curcuma will re-emerge again in the spring and bloom again as summer approaches.

Acalypha

Typically referred to as "copper leaf" for the obvious colorful nature of the plants foliage, Acalypha are amazing in summer months adding striking burgundy hues to your garden. Commonly found in the South Pacific and in tropical areas of the US, many varieties offer a wide-range of characteristics—from small and narrow leaves to various colors and from regular stature to dwarf. You won't be disappointed with Acalypha.

Neoreglia

Colorful and fun, Neoreglia are a summer-loving plant, a type of bromeliad with an amazing range of color and variation. The centers tend to be the hub of color and emulate the typical

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flower's bloom. Some varieties are adorned with colorful splotches, while others are more uniform in color. Neorgelia are slow-growing and are watered through their "cups" in the center of the plant, which are best flushed weekly.

Bismarckia nobilis

With its solitary trunk, this robust palm adds stature and is easily identifiable thanks to its greyish color and slightly bulging base. Thought to be only native to Madagascar, this is a great addition to a tropical garden. The large, round grey fronds offset any dark green area & really make an impact in virtually any space.

As the weather starts to cool, you'll need to find a nice, cozy place for winterizing, or toss plants out and start anew for next year. With so many amazing plant options, you can't get tired of the vast array of tropical plants!

For more expert garden information... add your contact info, blog, website, etc. here!

Editors Note: Images are available at <http://www.fnqla.org/GWA>.

We'd LOVE to see what you write about related to tropicals! Please send a copy to Jennifer Nelis, jnelis@fnqla.org or to Sylvia Gordon, info@lsqsq.com!

Tropical and House Plant Story Ideas

1. What to look for from the industry's New Plants: Costa Farms Trial Garden Plants, TPIE Exhibitors' Showcase items-- just remember there's at least a year's gap for most plants to even begin to be consumer available.
2. Nightscapes: could be a consumer "how to make more from your outside space" or an industry piece on how to earn more with value-added. Since the night perspective has been relatively overlooked, this is a cash cow for the right clients.
3. Tropical Mimicry: Which plants mimic the tropics in your area?
4. Local Sourcing: like South Florida's oolite, what's in your area and how can it best be repurposed?
5. Green Walls for All Levels: beginning gardener to gardening pro-- there are now products for all sizes and budgets.
6. Lots of people don't know plant species are in danger of not existing. This is a chance to educate and show sustainability already in play. (Montgomery in South Florida is a seed collector as a resource.)
7. Winter Sunshine: Houseplants and their benefits. (Resource: www.fngla.org/green)
8. Yes, You can bring the tropics to Your Garden! (See Sample Article)