Tropical “Foliar” Annuals and Perennials

- Great colors and variegations
- Bold, architectural forms add depth and personality
- Replace or “play well” with flowering annuals/perennials
- Prolonged display
- Lend a tropical flair
- Can “overwinter”

Missouri Botanical Garden
St. Louis, MO

Chanticleer Garden
Wayne, PA

Overwintering Tropical Plants and “Bulbs”

Powerpoint and Handouts:
http://tiny.cc/tm7sx

The Pot-in-Pot Technique

Step 1. Start with one pot of tropical perennials.

Step 2. “Plant” a pot of equal size.

Step 3. In spring, drop the tropical pot into the empty pot & enjoy!

Step 4. In fall, remove the tropical pot and overwinter.

Step 5. Drop a pot of mulch into the empty pot.

Step 6. In spring, remove the “mulch pot”, drop in the tropical pot and put the mulch around it.
The Ever-Beautiful Container

Heuchera – Coral Bells
Hostas

Farfugium

Cold Hardy Plants with Tropical Flair

Acalypha – Copper Plant
Alternanthera
It’s not your Grandma’s Joseph’s Coat!

‘Red Carpet’

‘Party Time’

‘Brazilian Red Hots’

‘Snow Queen’

‘Crème de Menthe’

‘Snowball’

'Brazilian Red Hots’

Alternanthera
Begonias
Fibrous, Rhizomatous, Tuberous types and hybrids

http://www.jacksbromeliads.com
Aechmea

Billbergia

Guzmania

Vrisea

C is for **COLOR**
- Caladiums
- Cannas
- Coleus
- Cordyline
- Croton
Red Star

Exotica

Kiwi

Turkey Tail

Cordyline

‘Red Star’

‘Kiw’

Turkey Tail

Elephant Ears

Alocasia, Colocasia & Xanthosoma

C. ‘Illustrus’

Crotons

‘Franklin Roosevelt’

‘Mrs. Iceton’

‘Picasso’s Paintbrush’

Keep these guys confined!

Colocasia

‘Black Magic’
Alocasia
- A. 'Calidora'
- A. 'Amazonica'

Alocasia
- A. 'Hilo Beauty'
- A. 'Frydek'

Xanthosoma
- X. 'Mickey Mouse'
- X. 'Lime Zinger'

Ornamental Sweet Potato

Hi Ho Silver!

Helichrysum spp.
- H. petiolare
  - Licorice Plant
- H. italicum
  - Curry Plant

Wormwood
- Artemisia spp.
  - 'Powis Castle'
“Careful placement, integrating both texture and color, can make variegated plants an essential element of the garden.”

Tony Avent, Plants Delight Nursery

Great Variegation!

Stromanthe ‘TrioStar’

Jewels of Opar

Talinum paniculatum ‘Variegata’
Furcraea
*Furcraea foetida* 'Mediopicta'

Flax Lily - *Dianella*

Devil's Backbone
*Pedilanthus tithymaloides*

Euphorbia ‘Diamond Frost’
or ‘Hip Hop’

Peacock Gingers
*Kaempferia* spp.

Don’t Eat Your Vegetables!
Designing with Colorful Foliage

- Mix texture, size, shape
- Contrast colors
- Lighten up dark landscapes with variegated plants
- Use as a focal point or accent plant
- Contrast them against a solid background

Start with Color

- Trendy colors
- Your favorite hues
- Coordinate with garden furniture & yard art
- Compliment your house colors
Chartreuse/Gold

‘Marguerite’
Ornamental Sweet Potato

‘Goldilocks’
Lysimcachia

‘Bengal Tiger’
Canna

‘Lime Zinger’

Purple/Burgundy

Cordyline ‘Dark Star’

Oxalis ‘Charmed Wine’

Create Color Vignettes
Divide yard into “rooms” and develop a color theme for each

Cordyline ‘Red Star’, Duranta ‘Cuban Gold’, Croton

Cordyline ‘Electric Pink’
Coleus ‘Limon Blush’
Lysimachia ‘Sundew Springs’
Ensete – Orn. Banana
Autumn Sedge
Coleus

The Front Pond Room

Hmmm.....
Focal Points and Accents

Resources: Gardens, Books, Websites, Blogs