Powerpoint and Handouts:

http://tiny.cc/tm7sx
Missouri Botanical Garden
St. Louis, MO
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”
Overwintering Tropical Plants and “Bulbs”

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’
‘Brazilian Red Hots’
Alternanthera
‘Red Threads’

‘Burgundy’

‘Gold Threads’ or ‘Thin Gold’
Begonias
Fibrous, Rhizomatous, Tuberous types and hybrids
Bromeliads

http://www.jacksbromeliads.com
Bromeliads
Aechmea
C is for COLOR!

- Caladiums
- Cannas
- Coleus
- Cordyline
- Croton
Caladiums

‘Rosebud’

‘Florida Fantasy’

‘Carolyn Whorton’
Cannas

‘Tropicana’

‘Bengal Tiger’

‘Tropicana’
Coleus
Cordyline

‘Red Star’

‘Exotica’

‘Kiwi’

Turkey Tail’
Crotons

‘Picasso’s Paintbrush’

‘Franklin Roosevelt’

‘Mrs. Iceton’
Elephant Ears

Alocasia, Colocasia & Xanthosoma

C. ‘Illustrus’
Keep these guys confined!

Colocasia

‘Black Magic’
X. ‘Mickey Mouse’

Xanthosoma

X. ‘Lime Zinger’
Ornamental Sweet Potato
Hi Ho Silver!
Helichrysum spp.

H. petiolare
Licorice Plant

H. italicum
Curry Plant
Wormwood

Artemisia spp.

‘Powis Castle’
‘Silver Falls’ Dichondra
Great Variegation!
“Careful placement, integrating both texture and color, can make variegated plants an essential element of the garden.”

Tony Avent, Plants Delight Nursery
Stromanthe ‘TrioStar’
Jewels of Opar

*Talinum paniculatum* ‘Variegata’
Furcraea

*Furcraea foetida* 'Mediopicta'
Flax Lily - *Dianella*
Devil’s Backbone
Pedilanthus tithymaloides

© TopTropicals.com
Euphorbia ‘Diamond Frost’
or ‘Hip Hop’
Peacock Gingers

*Kaempferia* spp.
Don’t Eat Your Vegetables!
Designing with Colorful Foliage
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
Chartreuse/Gold

‘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