

TREES AND PALMS

PLANT CATALOGUE



RUBBER TREE

"LEMON LIME TREE"

Scientific Name:

Ficus elastica variegata
'Lemon Lime'

Etymology:

Rubber Tree refers to the milky white sap that is tapped from the tree's bark.

Isn't it fascinating that a part of your car's tires, rubber shoes, and rubber duckies came from a tree?

The rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) has been used for centuries for its rubber-producing capabilities. Its origin can be traced back to the ancient civilizations of India and China. The rubber tree produces a milky liquid called latex, which contains about 30 percent rubber. This latex can be coagulated and processed into solid products, such as tires, making it a valuable resource.



YLANG-YLANG

Scientific Name:
Cananga odorata

Etymology:
Genus *Cananga* is derived from the Tagalog name "Ilang-ilang" and refers to the perfume produced from the fragrant flowers. Species *odorata* means fragrant or sweet-scented.

Did you know that ylang-ylang is considered an aphrodisiac because of its captivating fragrance, often described as exotic and sensual?

When inhaling it, you'll notice the bright, fresh notes – hints of banana, jasmine, and magnolia. As time passes, the fragrance deepens, revealing warmer, spicier undertones.

The most potent ylang-ylang fragrance is released at dawn when the flowers are freshly opened.



ANONANG

"SEBASTAN PLUM"

Scientific Name:
Cordia dichotoma

Etymology:
The genus name *Cordia* honors German botanist and pharmacist Valerius Cordus. The specific epithet *dichotoma* means 'divisions in pairs'.

If you haven't seen the fruit of the Sebastian plum tree, it is similar in appearance to a longan fruit, but its surface is pink, smooth, and fleshy. Inside each fruit, there is a large pinkish pit.

Handling a split Sebastian plum fruit is similar to a live bubble snail shell from the beach—smooth, heavy, roundish, and slippery.



TAMARIND

Scientific Name:
Tamarindus indica

Etymology:
The monotypic genus **Tamarindus** is derived from the Arabic phrase "at-tamr al-hindi" meaning "date of India", in reference to the fruit. The specific epithet *indica* refers to India.

Did you know that tamarind is so sour that Marco Polo claimed Malabar pirates made their victims swallow a mixture of tamarind and seawater to reveal any pearls they had swallowed? Whew!

Tamarind produces pod-like fruits with a sour, juicy pulp. It is edible and used in various cuisines worldwide.



OCTOPUS TREE

"UMBRELLA TREE"

Scientific Name:

Heptapleurum actinophyllum

Etymology:

Genus commemorates 19th-century Polish botanist and explorer J. C. Scheffler and species epithet derived from Greek word 'aktis', meaning a ray and 'pull on' meaning a leaf, referring to the whorled arrangement of the leaves.

Nah, there isn't an octopus in the tree. It's named the Octopus tree because its unique appearance resembles an inverted octopus, with branches growing like giant tentacles from its 50-foot base.

Unlike typical trees with a central trunk, the octopus tree splits into several smaller trunks, creating its distinctive shape.



FIRE TREE

Scientific Name:
Delonix regia

Etymology:
The genus name **Delonix** originates from the Greek words “delos” which means visible or conspicuous and “onyx” which means claw. The petals have a claw-like shape at the base. The species epithet **regia** comes from the Latin word “regis” which means royal or magnificent.

There is a popular belief among Saint Thomas Christians in Kerala, India, that when Jesus was crucified, a small royal poinciana tree grew nearby. According to believers, the blood of Jesus Christ fell on the tree's flowers, which is why they have a distinct, sharp red color. The locals call the tree “kaalvarippoo,” which means “the flower of calvary.”



PALAWAN CHERRY

"BALAYONG"

Scientific Name:
Cassia nodosa

Etymology:
Genus **Cassia** is from the word "Kasia" which was used by Dioscorides from a Hebrew plant name. Species **javanica** means from Java, Indonesia.

Did you know that the Palawan cherry blossom is so beloved in Puerto Princesa City that the townsfolk celebrate a festival in its honor?

Called Balayong Festival, it celebrates the blooming season of the Palawan cherry blossom. The city transforms into a sea of pink, and the locals celebrate by holding parades and giving cultural presentations.



NARRA

Scientific Name:
Pterocarpus indicus

Etymology:
The genus *Pterocarpus*, in Greek, means winged seed. The species epithet *indicus* refers to India, one of the places where it occurs naturally.

Having a cabinet made? The top favorite among builders is the Narra wood. It's known for its hardness, heaviness, and unique grain pattern. It is usually red or rose in color or variegated with yellow.

Narra is the Philippines' national tree. In local culture, the tree symbolizes nobility and leadership.



ANABIONG

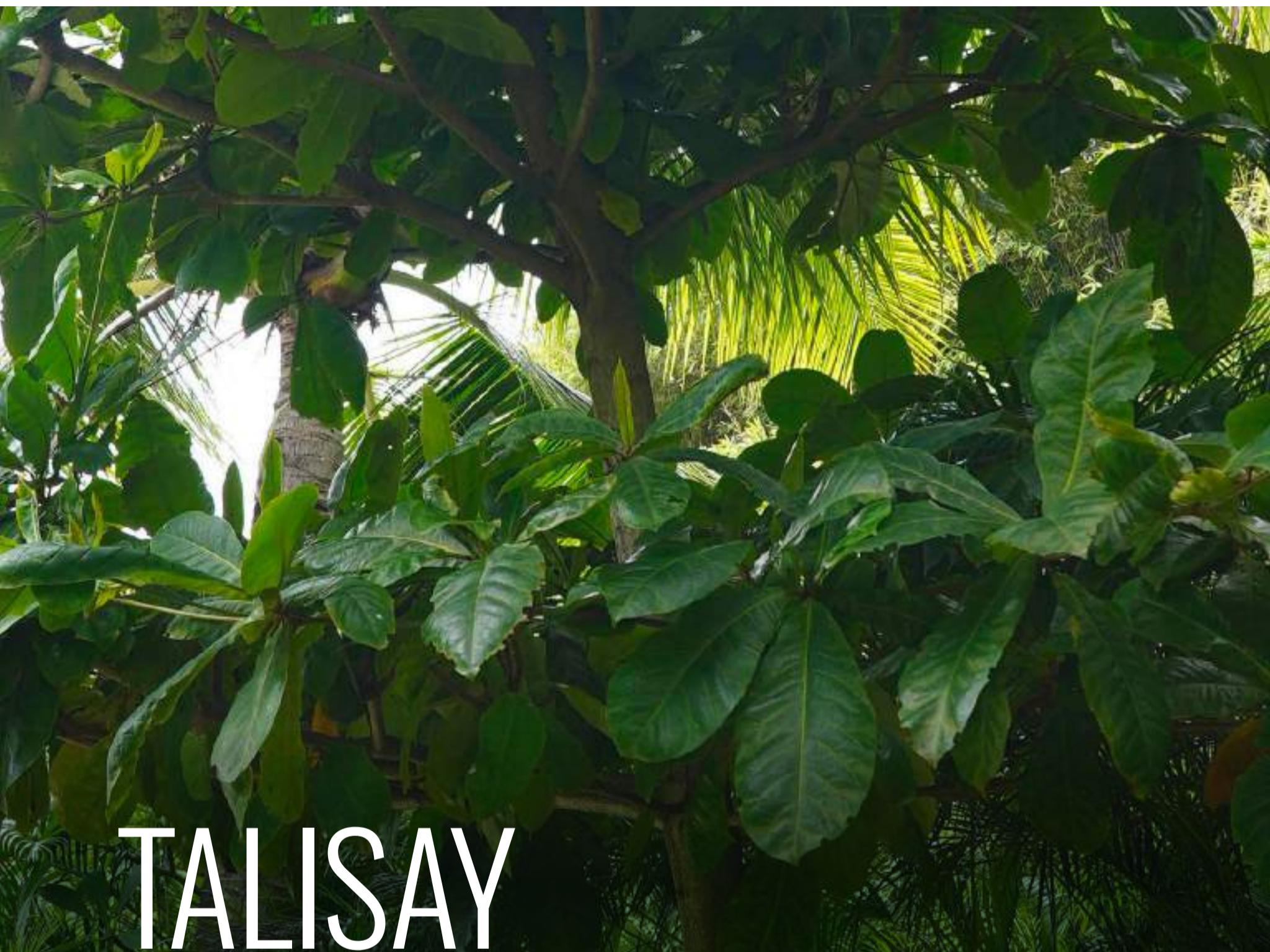
Scientific Name:
Trema orientalis

Etymology:

Trema is based on the Greek word for a hole and alludes to the pitted seeds. The specific name, *orientalis* is Latin for eastern - 'of the orient.'

The Anabiong tree is also known as the Tree of Heaven. It is a paradise for birds like robins, waxwings, and cardinals, as it is a suitable nesting site and food source.

The Anabiong tree has a myriad of uses. Its wood is used to make paper, pulp, and rope. The leaves are a source of food for butterfly larvae and fodder for livestock.



TALISAY

"TROPICAL ALMOND TREE"

Scientific Name:
Terminalia catappa

Etymology:
Terminalia, in Latin, refers to the plant's leaves that are clustered at the end of the twigs. The name *catappa* is derived from its Malay name, *ketapang*.

A historical tale is associated with the town of Talisay, Batangas, and the Talisay tree.

Apparently, a priest ordered the townsfolk to hang a bell on one of the tree's branches while a temporary church was being built.

The people panicked when they heard the church bell ring and were surprised to discover it was coming from a majestic Talisay tree.



HIMBABAO

"BIRCH FLOWER"

Scientific Name:
Brussonetia luzonica

Etymology:
The etymological root
of the binomial name
Broussonetia
was named for Pierre
Marie Auguste Broussonet,
an 18th-century French
naturalist.

Naimas ti alukon! (Alukon is delicious!)

The Himbabao, or Birch flower, is known as Alukon in Ilocano. It is an indigenous vegetable present in Ilocano dishes like *pinakbet*, *dinengdeng*, and *inabraw*.

The Himbabao tree bears male and female flowers on separate trees. Male flowers hang from tree branches like twisted or curved tubes. They are yellowish-white with a hint of green and covered with short, wooly hairs. Female flowers are misshapen greenish globes with scales, which the Ilocanos call "mild spinach."



AFRICAN TALISAY

"MADAGASCAR ALMOND"

Scientific Name:
Terminalia mantaly

Etymology:
The genus name derives from Latin "*terminalis*", meaning 'ending', referring to the habit of the leaves being crowded at the end of the shoots.

Off-limits to caterpillars!

Because of its small and scattered almond-shaped leaves, the African Talisay is the last place caterpillars will choose to inhabit.

But for humans, the African Talisay is a great refuge in extreme weather, as it provides excellent sunshade and protection against strong winds and rain.



CORAL TREE

Scientific Name:
Erythrina crista-galli

Etymology:
Erythrina is from the Greek ‘erythros’ (red): an allusion to flower color; *crista-galli* from the Latin ‘gallus’, rooster, and ‘crista’, crest = cock’s comb.

The Coral tree produces the most resilient seeds on the planet. Imagine passing through the digestive tracts of birds and animals unharmed!

The seeds are extremely buoyant and can float for up to one year. Eventually, they will wash up on fertile tropical grounds, where they will take root and adapt to the environment.



BOTONG

"FISH POISON TREE"

Scientific Name:
Barringtonia asiatica

Etymology:
Latin *Barringtonia*, after Hon. Daines Barrington, English naturalist; Latin *asiatica*, Asian; referring to the natural distribution of the plant.

Beware! All parts of the Fish Poison tree are poisonous, with the active poisons including saponins.

The Box Fruits are potent enough to be used as a fish poison.

The seeds are ground into a powder and used to stun or kill fish for easy capture. The process suffocates the fish while leaving the flesh unaffected.



BANI

"PONGGAM OIL TREE"

Scientific Name:
Pongamia pinnata

Etymology:
Latin *Pongamia*, from the Malabar plant name, pongam; Latin *pinnata*, referring to the species' pinnate leaves.

Do you have a large garden or a spacious yard that receives a lot of sunlight? Consider planting a Bani tree! Its sweeping canopy can serve as shade during hot summer months.

The Bani tree produces oil-rich seeds from flowers. The extracted oil is used to produce biofuels, lubricants, and cosmetics. Its wood, on the other hand, is used for furniture-making. The leaves and seeds are used as natural fertilizers.



NICARAGUAN JASMINE "FIDDLEWOOD"

Scientific Name:
Citharexylum spinosum

Etymology:
Genus name *Citharexylum* originated from Greek kithara and xylon, meaning lyre or fiddle and wood, respectively. Common name fiddlewood derived from the use of the wood for musical instruments.

Do you have a large garden or a spacious yard that receives a lot of sunlight? Consider planting a Bani tree! With its sweeping canopy, it can serve as shade during hot summer months.

The Bani tree produces oil-rich seeds from flowers. The extracted oil is used in the production of biofuels, lubricants, and cosmetics. Its wood, on the other hand, is used for furniture-making. The leaves and seeds are used as natural fertilizers.



RED BANABA

Scientific Name:

Lagerstromia piriformis var.

Etymology:

The genus is named after Swedish merchant Magnus von Lagerström, a director of the Swedish East India Company, who supplied Carl Linnaeus with plants he collected.

Simply irresistible!

Bees and butterflies get “weak in the knees” when they see the stunning red flowers of the Red Banaba Tree. Aside from being a head-turner, the tree produces highly fragrant scents that attract pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Banaba trees are commonly used as ornamental plants due to their beautiful foliage and flowers. It is a favorite of landscape artists.



THE PRIDE OF INDIA

Scientific Name:
Lagerstroemia speciosa

Etymology:
The genus *Lagerstroemia* was first described by Carl Linnaeus. The name *Lagerstroemia* recognizes Magnus von Lagerstroem, a Swedish naturalist and a merchant who provided specimens from the East for Linnaeus.

The Pride of India is the national flower of the Philippines. It is also known as "Garcinia" or "Bahurach" and has been used in traditional medicine for centuries, particularly in treating cough, fever, and respiratory issues.

The fruit of the Pride of India is edible and is used to make jam, jelly, and wine.



PINK TABEBUIA

"RESY TRUMPET TREE"

No water? No problem!

Scientific Name:

Tabebuia rosea

Etymology:

Genus name derived from native Brazilian name 'tabebuia' or 'taiaveruia'. The species epithet *rosea* means rose colored.

Resy Trumpet trees may be cultivated in areas with limited water supply. They are resilient to drought conditions, making them suitable for arid and semi-arid regions.

While prized for its ornamental qualities, the Resy Trumpet tree also yields timber used in carpentry and construction. However, because of its relatively small size, it is not a popular choice among carpenters.



MOLAVE

Scientific Name:
Vitex parviflora

Etymology:
Vitex parviflora is a species of plant in the family Verbenaceae, also known as small flower chaste tree or the molave tree. The name "molave" is from Spanish, derived from *mulawin*, the Tagalog word for the tree. It is also known as *tugas* in Visayan languages.

In the Philippines, the Molave tree is regarded as a symbol of resilience, endurance, and strength. In Filipino literature and poetry, it is often used to depict durability and longevity.

Despite its prized qualities, the Molave tree is considered endangered because of overexploitation and habitat loss.

Conservation efforts are being made to protect and promote sustainable harvesting practices.



PALO MARIA

"BITAOG"

Beau-treeful!

Scientific Name:
Tabebuia rosea

Etymology:
The Genus name is derived from the native Brazilian name 'tabebuia' or 'taiaveruia'. The species epithet 'rosea' means rose-colored.

Did you know that the Tamanu oil, extracted from the seeds of the Bitaog tree, is popularly used in the cosmetics and skincare industry for its rejuvenating and moisturizing properties? It is commonly used in skincare products such as moisturizers, serums, and hair treatments.

Aside from its oil, the Bitaog tree's wood is another popular use. It is traditionally used to carve religious icons, statues, and ceremonial objects.



WHITE KALACHUCHI

Intoxicating fragrance!

Scientific Name:
Plumeria obtusa

Etymology:
The genus *Plumeria* is named after Charles Plumier, a French monk and botanist. The species epithet *obtusa* is Latin for blunt, referring to the blunt end of its leaves.

The White Kalachuchi's fragrant scent is sweet and exhilarating, especially at night. The tree produces beautiful white flowers that are used for decorative purposes in gardens and parks.

The White Kalachuchi holds symbolic significance in many cultures. It is associated with purity, spirituality, and love and is commonly used in religious ceremonies, cultural celebrations, and weddings.



KALACHUCHI

"FRANGIPANI"

Scientific Name:

Plumeria rubra cultivar

Etymology:

The genus name honors Charles Plumier, who was a French monk of the Franciscan order, and a botanist. In Mexico the common name is cacaloxóchitl or cacaloxúchitl. The name comes from Nahuatl and means “crow's flower”.

A treat for bats!

Also known as Plumeria, the Frangipani is a tropical tree famous for its vibrant and fragrant flowers. The fragrance varies slightly depending on the species and cultivar.

The scent is often described as sweet, fruity, and floral, and it intensifies at night to attract pollinators like bats and moths.



MANILA PALM

Scientific Name:
Adonidia merrillii

Etymology:
The genus *Adonidia* was named after the Roman sun god, Adonis. It was named Manila Palm, because it is often used in Manila for landscaping.

Known in the Philippines as "Christmas Palm" for its popularity as a decorative plant during the holiday season, the Manila Palm is often featured in paintings, photographs, and postcards depicting island landscapes.

Despite being called the Manila Palm, it is not native to Manila but is found in the forests of the Philippines. It can also be found in other Southeast Asian countries, such as Malaysia and Indonesia.



PALMERA MULTICLAMP

Scientific Name:
Dypsis lutescens

Etymology:
The etymological meaning behind the genus name, *Dypsis*, isn't well-documented. However, it may stem from the Greek for "dive," *ordypto*, "I dive," or *dypto*. *Lutescens* comes from the Latin for "growing yellow." It most likely refers to the color of the areca palm's golden petioles.

Palm trees hold symbolic significance in many cultures. They are often associated with tropical paradises, leisure, and relaxation. In some traditions, palm branches are used as symbols of victory, peace, or celebration.

Palm trees are prominently featured in art, literature, and popular culture around the world. They are often depicted in films and advertisements as symbols of exotic tropical escapes and destinations.



DATES PALM

Scientific Name:
Phoenix dactylifera

Eymology:

The botanical name of the date palm is presumably derived from a Phoenician name "phoenix", which means date palm, and *dactylifera* derived from the Greek word "daktulos" meaning a finger, illustrating the fruit's form.

The Arabs believe that the date palm has human qualities. Unlike other trees, when you chop off the head of a date palm tree, it dies. And when you do the same to its limb, it does not grow back.

On the other hand, the Greeks used the majestic and elegant form of the date palm tree as a model for their columns. The tree, reaching up to 66 feet in height, can flourish in the same environment for over a thousand years.



YUCCA

Scientific Name:
Yucca elephantipes

Etymology:
Linnaeus gave the genus the name *Yucca* was perhaps by mistake, as it is the Latinized derivation of "yuca", the Caribbean name for Cassava an unrelated plant in the Euphorbia family that is native to the Caribbean area.

The Yucca plant has a fascinating way of pollinating, which is fascinating. The Yuca Moth transfers pollen from one plant to another and lays the eggs inside the Yucca flowers. The Yucca plant's very sharp leaves protect the eggs.

For some varieties, you can eat the flowers and fruit. They can be fried, stewed, baked, or even eaten raw. Mice love them! So do squirrels, rats, and coyotes.

COCONUT

Scientific Name:
Cocos nucifera

Etymology:
The genus epithet *Cocos* is derived from the Portuguese for monkey, in an apparent reference to the facial markings on one end of the nut. Its species epithet *nucifera* means 'bearing nuts', for its ability to produce coconuts.

Contrary to popular belief, a coconut is not a nut but a drupe fruit. A drupe has a fleshy outer layer surrounding a pit or seed.

Coconut trees can be found in over 80 countries worldwide. They are considered a staple food that provides hydration and nutrition. They thrive mostly in tropical regions.





PHOENIX PALM

Scientific Name:
Phoenix roebelenii

Etymology:
The genus epithet *Phoenix* derives from the Greek name for the date palm, in reference to the fruits the genus produces. The species epithet *roebelenii* is named after Carl Roebelen, the original collector who discovered the species in Laos.

The Phlox is a very adaptable tree that thrives in diverse habitats, including deserts, swamps, and mangrove coastlines. Phoenix palms are either male or female, not both.

Unlike most palms, which have palmate leaves, Phoenix palms have pinnate leaves, which consist of v-shaped leaflets.



ANAHAW

"FAN PALM"

Scientific Name:
Livistona rotundifolia

Etymology:
Latin, *Saribus*, from the Maluku vernacular name, *sariboe*; Latin *rotundifolius*, having rounded leaves, referring to the almost round palmate leaves.

The Anáhaw, also known as Luyong in Filipino, has many uses.

The leaves can be used as roofing material for traditional huts and as décor during festivities, while the trunk can be used as a foundation for houses or as a floor for marine vessels.

The fruit of the anáhaw tree can be cooked and eaten like a vegetable. These fruits are approximately two cm in diameter. They are initially yellow and later ripen to shades of orange-red, red, or dark violet. When they are fully ripe, they turn black.



McARTHUR PALM

Scientific Name:
Ptychosperma macarthurii

Etymology:
The genus epithet *Ptychosperma* comes from the Greek 'ptychos', 'wrinkled' or 'folded', and 'sperma', 'seed', in reference to its grooved seeds. The species epithet is honored after Sir W. MacArthur of New South Wales, who was one of the most active and influential horticulturists in Australia in the mid-to-late 19th century.

A Landscaper's Favorite!

The MacArthur palm looks strikingly beautiful when illuminated at night. Its unique appearance stands out, especially in a well-lit area.

It is ideal for accenting shaded, sheltered locations such as entranceways, patios, or covered walkways. Planting several MacArthur palms several feet apart creates an eye-catching arrangement.



LICUALA

Scientific Name:
Licuala grandis

Etymology:
The name of the genus comes from the local name “leko wala” given to this genus of palms in the Maluku Islands; the name of the species is the Latin adjective “grandis” which means big, with obvious reference.

Only for gardeners!

Growing Licuala palms can be a very challenging experience. This plant requires specific conditions, including protection from direct sunlight and strong winds, well-draining soil, and high humidity. Only experienced gardeners can grow this plant in controlled environments, like specialized nurseries and botanical gardens.

Despite the challenges in cultivation, landscapers love using the Licuala due to its gorgeous foliage and elegant appearance. It adds tropical beauty to parks, conservatories, and gardens.



FOX TAIL PALM

Scientific Name:
Wodyetia bifurcata

Etymology:

It was discovered in 1978, when an Aboriginal man, whose Aboriginal name is recorded as 'Wodyeti', introduced it to botanists and the world's attention. Thus, the genus epithet was honored after him. Its species epithet *bifurcata* mean twice forked, in reference to the pinnae and fibers in the fruit. Its common name, 'foxtail palm', was conveniently given in reference to the fronds, which are an allusion to the tail of a fox.

The name of the palm is exactly how it appears – like the tail of a fox!

The Fox Tail Palm comes from the appearance of its fronds, which resemble the bushy tail of a fox. The fronds are arranged in a spiral pattern around the trunk, giving the palm a distinctive and attractive look.

Unlike other palms that form in clumps or clusters, the foxtail palms are called solitary palms, meaning they grow as single-trunked specimens. The trunk is smooth, slender, and slightly swollen at the base. In ideal conditions, it can grow up to 30 feet tall.



PHILIPPINE FIG

A lucky tree that strangles!

Scientific Name:
Ficus pseudopalma

Etymology:
The species name, *pseudopalma*, refers to the similar appearance of this species to a small palm tree.

Did you know the Philippine fig tree is also called the "Strangler Fig"? The tree grows by strangling other trees.

It does this by sending out aerial roots that wrap around the host tree, eventually cutting off its water supply and nutrients.

In the Philippines, the fig tree is considered a symbol of fertility and prosperity. Many homes have this tree in their gardens to attract good luck and prosperity.

SHRUBS

PLANT CATALOGUE



SCHEFFLERA

It doesn't need much!

Scientific Name:
Schefflera arboricola
'variegata'

Etymology:
Species *arboricola* means
"living on trees".

When you think about Schefflera, you think of low maintenance. This resilient plant is quite easy to care for. It tolerates various light conditions, from bright indirect light to partial shade. It also has moderate water requirements and can withstand occasional periods of drought.

Schefflera has air-purifying properties. It can help remove toxins such as formaldehyde, benzene, and trichloroethylene from indoor air, improving air quality.



SPIDER LILY

Scientific Name:
Hymenocallis littoralis

Etymology:
Hymenocallis is derived from Greek and means 'membranous beauty', a reference to its filament cup. Littoralis means 'growing by the seashore'.

Did you know that in Mexico, spider lilies are associated with the Day of the Dead (*Día de los Muertos*) and are often planted on gravesites as a symbol of remembrance and honor for the deceased?

The bulbs of spider lilies are edible, either raw or cooked. However, be warned that certain species may contain toxic compounds and should not be eaten without proper preparation. Otherwise, you could end up dead.



CANNA LILY

"RED BANDERA"

Hot! Hot! Hot!

Scientific Name:
Canna edulis

Etymology:
The genus epithet *Canna* is derived from the Greek term for a type of reed. Species epithet *edulis* means 'edible', referring to the starchy rhizomes.

The Red Bandera can tolerate sunny climates, making them ideal for gardens with intense sunlight.

The vibrant red flowers of Red Bandera cannas are attractive to pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, making them valuable additions to pollinator-friendly gardens.



CANNA LILY ORANGE

Scientific Name:
Canna x generalis
'Yellow King Humbert'

Etymology:
The name *Canna* originates from the Latin word for a cane or reed.

In the 19th century, the Canna Lily was a popular ornamental plant in Europe and North America. This flower was often used in floral arrangements and bouquets.

Orange was particularly popular during this time, and the Canna Lily's flowers were often used to add a pop of vibrant color to arrangements. The color symbolizes warmth, energy, and creativity and is said to be stimulating and uplifting.



CANNA LILY YELLOW

Scientific Name:
Canna flaccida

Etymology:
The name *Canna* originates from the Latin word for a cane or reed.

In many cultures, yellow is associated with optimism and happiness, and the Canna Lily's yellow flowers symbolize these qualities.

In ideal conditions, the trumpet-shaped flowers, which smell like honey, can grow up to 6 inches long. The plant itself can grow up to 10 feet tall.

The Canna Lily must receive bright, indirect light and warm temperatures (around 65-75°F) to encourage yellow growth.



FALSE BIRD OF PARADISE

"PARROT'S BEAK"

Scientific Name:
Heliconia psittacorum

Etymology:
The genus name *Heliconia* derives "Heliconius" referring to Helicon, the mountain sacred to Apollo and to Moses in Greek mythology. Species name *psittacorum* is derived from the Latin *psittacus* meaning "parrot" and referring to the flower shape resembling a parrot's beak.

Don't be fooled by its name. The False Bird of Paradise is not a bird but an orchid!

Unlike other orchids, the False Bird of Paradise does not produce nectar to attract pollinators but instead relies on deceitful mimicry to attract pollinators. The flower mimics the appearance and scent of female insects, attracting male insects searching for mates. This helps the orchid to get pollinated.

Male insects are attracted to the pheromones produced by orchids, which helps them fertilize flowers.



DWARF FALSE BIRD OF PARADISE

"PARAKEET FLOWER"

Scientific Name:

Heliconia psittacorum
'Andromeda'

Etymology:

The genus name *Heliconia* derives "Heliconius" referring to Helicon, the mountain sacred to Apollo and to Moses in Greek mythology. Species name *psittacorum* is derived from Latin *psittacus* meaning "parrot" and referring to the flower shape resembling a parrot's beak.

The name "Parakeet Flower" comes from the bird-like shape of the flower's petals, which resemble the plumage of parakeets.

Many cultures worldwide associate the parakeet flower with romance, passion, and love. This is why it is commonly used in wedding bouquets, anniversaries, and other romantic occasions.

The leaves and stems of the Parakeet Flower can be eaten as a salad or cooked as stir-fries. However, the flowers are bitter, so they are not a popular ingredient for dishes.



DWARF FALSE BIRD OF PARADISE

Scientific Name:

Heliconia psittacorum
'Black Cherry'

Etymology:

The genus name *Heliconia* derives "Heliconius" referring to Helicon, the mountain sacred to Apollo and to Moses in Greek mythology. Species name *psittacorum* is derived from Latin *psittacus* meaning "parrot" and referring to the flower shape resembling a parrot's beak.

Because of the rarity of the Dwarf False Bird of Paradise, it is considered a highly sought-after species among collectors and enthusiasts. It is difficult to find this plant in nurseries or online stores. Its price can be prohibitive to the ordinary plant lover.

The Dwarf False Bird of Paradise requires minimal care and maintenance. It is easy to grow, making it ideal for beginners. The flowers last several months, making them popular for orchid shows and cut flower arrangements.



MAKI

A natural air purifier!

Scientific Name:
Podocarpus macrophyllus
var. Maki

The Maki Plant purifies the air by removing pollutants like formaldehyde, benzene, and trichloroethylene. It's an excellent choice for indoor spaces with poor air quality.

Etymology:
The specific epithet *macrophyllus* means "large-leaved", in reference to the size of this species' foliage.
The infraspecific epithet *maki* honors Tomitaro Makino, a renowned Japanese botanist.

Maki Plant thrives in a range of environments. It can tolerate low light, infrequent watering, and even neglect, making it a perfect plant for very busy people.

It has earned the nickname "Snake Plant" because of its snake-like leaves and ability to thrive despite harsh conditions.



GOLDEN CRINUM

No space? No problem!

Scientific Name:
Crinum xanthophyllum

Etymology:

The genus *Crinum* is derived from the Greek word for iris or lily ("krinon")

The Golden Crinum can be grown in large pots or containers, making it suitable for homes or establishments with limited gardening space. It can also be moved indoors when temperatures drop below freezing level.

Golden Crinum is often used as a focal point in landscaping projects or as accent plants for borders, beds, or containers. Its occasional blooms add color to gardens and outdoor spaces.



RHAPHIS

Scientific Name:
Rhipis excelsa

Etymology:
Its genus epithet *Rhipis* derives from the Greek 'rhipis', 'a needle', which is an apparent reference to the leaf segments. Its species epithet *excelsa* means 'high', 'elevated' or 'tall', an ironic choice of name as it is not the tallest in the genus.

Rhipis palms have traditional significance in Asian culture. The plant is often associated with prosperity, luck, and longevity. It is commonly used as a decorative plant in homes, businesses, and ceremonial events.

Rhipis palms have properties that help purify and improve indoor air quality. They remove toxins such as formaldehyde, benzene, and trichloroethylene. They thrive in low to moderate light conditions, making them suitable for use as houseplants.



POWDER PUFF

Scientific Name:
Calliandra haematocephala

Etymology:
Calliandra comes from the Greek words *kallos*, meaning beauty and *andros*, meaning stamen.

The endearing Powder Puff Plant is loved for its fluffy, pom-pom-like flowers and delicate, grass-like foliage. Pink Powder Puff produces pink or light-red flower clusters.

The Powder Puff plant is native to tropical regions of Central and South America, growing in moist forests and woodland. Its compact growth habit makes it perfect for small spaces or containers. It can grow up to two feet (60 cm) tall and wide.



SELLOURUM

Scientific Name:
Philodendron bipinnatifidum

Etymology:
The genus *Philodendron* is the gender-neutral form of the Greek *philodendros* meaning "loving trees", in reference to the way the plant clings to tree trunks. The specific epithet *bipinnatifidum* refers to the "twice-split" leaves of the plant.

Philodendron selloum, also known as the Selloum Plant, is a well-loved and charming houseplant known for its stunning foliage and ability to grow in various lighting conditions.

The Selloum plant is a vining plant that can grow enormously, making it perfect for training up trellises or allowing it to trail down from a hanging pot. It is relatively pest-and disease-free, but may be susceptible to fungal infections or pests like termites.



GIANT CRINUM

Scientific Name:
Crinum asiaticum

Etymology:
The genus name *Crinum* means "crinon (lily)", species name *asiaticum* means "asiaticum".

Giant Crinum, also known as Giant Crinum Lily, Giant Spider Lily, or Grand Crinum, is a strikingly beautiful and exquisite plant that adds tropical flair to landscapes and gardens with its huge size, bold foliage, and intoxicatingly fragrant flowers.

Because of its size and eye-catching flowers, Giant Crinum is often used as a focal point or specimen plant in landscapes. However, it also works well as a background plant in borders, mixed plantings, or as a stand-alone feature in tropical-themed gardens.



WALKING IRIS

Scientific Name:
Neomarica gracilis

Etymology:
This species, along with other members of the *Neomarica* genus, is known as the Walking Iris. After a flower fades, the floral stalk bends to the ground and a new plantlet is formed at the tip.

The Walking Iris is popular for its peculiar growth habit. The new plantlets, or offsets, develop at the ends of arching flower stalks, and when they become heavy, they bend down to the ground and take root, hence the name "Walking Iris." This process repeats continuously, giving the impression that the plant is "walking" across the ground.

In some cultures, Walking Iris plants are associated with symbolism and folklore. In Brazil, they are called "Blue Flags" and are associated with luck and protection. In other regions, they are used for ceremonial and medicinal purposes.



FISHTAIL HELICONIA

Scientific Name:
Heliconia rostrata

Etymology:
The generic name *Heliconia* was given by Carl Linnaeus in 1771 from the Greek word *Helikōnios* from *Helikōn* after Mount Helicon in Boeotia, Central Greece.

The plant is named Fishtail Heliconia because of the shape of its brightly colored bracts, which resemble a fish's tail. The bracts can be orange, red, yellow, or bi-colored and reach up to six inches (15 cm) in length.

Fishtail Heliconia is native to the tropical rainforests of Central and South America. It grows in moist and shaded habitats and is often found along riverbanks, understory areas, and in other humid environments.

The plant produces small flowers often hidden from view by the colorful bracts but often visited by hummingbirds and other pollinators.



RED GUMAMELA

Scientific Name:
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis

Etymology:
The genus *Hibiscus* is from Greek *hibiskos*, which the Roman poet Virgil used to refer to the marshmallow plant. The specific epithet *rosa-sinensis* means Chinese rose.

In Filipino culture, the Gumamela is commonly used in traditional medicine, rituals, and ceremonies. The red variety symbolizes love, passion, or vitality.

Gunamalar is a popular choice for landscaping in tropical and subtropical regions due to their vibrant flowers and lush foliage. They are often used as ornamental shrubs, hedges, or accent plants in gardens, parks, and public spaces.



PEACH GUMAMELA

Scientific Name:
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Peach'

Etymology:
The genus *Hibiscus* is from Greek, *hibiskos* which Roman poet Virgil used to relate to the marshmallow plant. The specific epithet *rosa-sinensis* means Chinese rose.

Compared to the popular red gumamela, the peach-colored gumamela offers a unique and gentle twist on the hibiscus flowers, making them a popular choice for those who prefer a more subtle color. It also offers a sweet, subtle fragrance that is often likened to the scent of peach blossoms.

Like other hibiscus varieties, peach gumamela flowers bloom from spring to fall, providing a long period of magnificent display.



DWARF YELLOW BELL

"KAMPANILYA"

Scientific Name:

Allamanda cathartica 'Nana'

Etymology:

The genus *Allamanda* is given after Dr. Frederick Allamand. The specific epithet *cathartica* means cathartic, cleansing, purging which refers to its medicinal purpose in inducing vomiting.

How do you add a pop of sunshine to an otherwise dull-looking garden? Plant a Dwarf Yellow Bell!

This charming flowering plant is a compact variety of hibiscus, known for its bright yellow flowers with a delicate orange center. It is popular among gardeners who want to add a sunny flair to the landscape without using huge and overpowering plants.

The Dwarf Yellow Bell is attractive to bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, making them a great addition to pollinator gardens.



RUELLIA

Scientific Name:
Ruellia simplex

Etymology:
The genus *Ruellia* is named after John de la Ruelle of Soissons, the author of *De natura plantarum*. The specific epithet *simplex* means undivided, entire, or single.

The *Ruellia* is named after French botanist and physician Jean Ruel, who lived during the 16th century. He was well-known in botany and significantly contributed to the study of medicinal plants.

Ruellia plants are commonly known as wild Petunias due to their resemblance to the garden petunia, although they are not closely related.

There are over 200 species of *Ruellia*, ranging in size, shape, and color. The flowers of some *Ruellia* species are edible and can be used as a decorative garnish or added to salads for color and flavor.



RED GINGER BUTTON

"SCARLET SPIRAL FLAG"

Scientific Name:
Costus woodsonii

Etymology:
The specific epithet *woodsonii* honors Dr. Robert Woodson Jr., curator of the Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium.

The term "Button" in the name likely refers to the compact and rounded shape of the flower clusters, resembling buttons or knobs.

Red Ginger Buttons have a long blooming period that lasts several weeks to months. This extended flowering season provides a visual feast in the garden. The flowers are popularly used for leis and floral arrangements in Hawaiian and Polynesian cultures.



SONG OF INDIA

Scientific Name:
Dracaena reflexa

Etymology:
Genus *Dracaena* is from the Greek word drakaina which means a female dragon and could refer to the source of the dragon's blood. Species *reflexa* means bent back upon itself.

The Song of India is a tree native to Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, and other nearby islands of the Indian Ocean. It is widely grown as an ornamental plant and houseplant, valued for its richly colored, evergreen leaves and thick, irregular stems.

The Song of India is believed to bring good luck, positive energy, and prosperity to the home. It may be placed in particular areas of the house or office to promote harmony and well-being. It is often used in Feng Shui practices.



CONOCARPUS

"BUTTONWOOD"

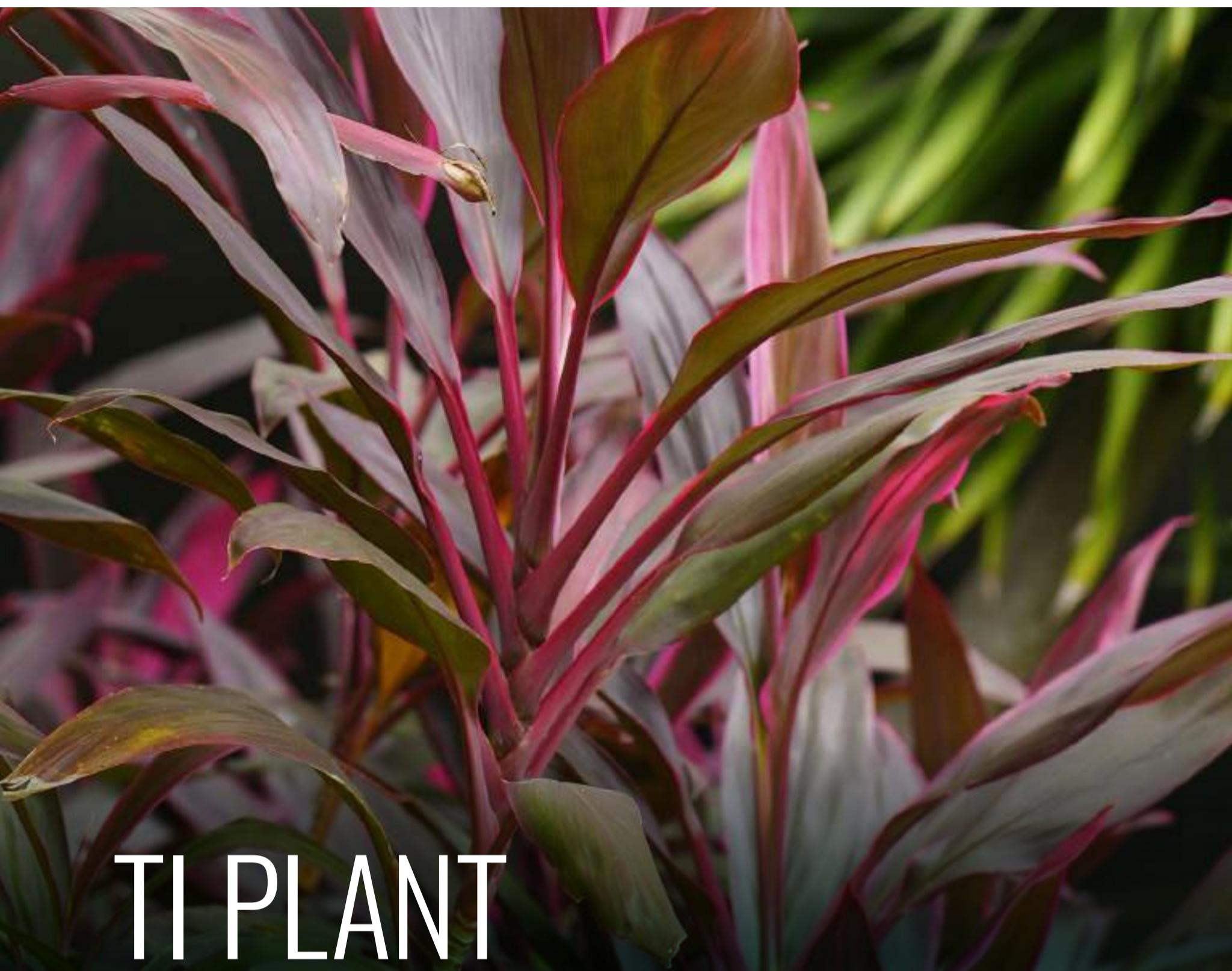
Scientific Name:
Conocarpus erectus

Etymology:
Greek *kono*, cone, Greek *karpos*, fruit, referring to the cone-like fruits; Latin *erectus*, upright.

Did you know the *conocarpus* plant provides important environmental benefits to coastal ecosystems?

Their extensive root systems help stabilize shorelines, reducing erosion and protecting against storm surges. They also provide habitat and food for birds, insects, small mammals, and other wildlife.

In the Caribbean, indigenous peoples used parts of the *conocarpus* plant for medicinal purposes, such as treating skin ailments and fevers.



TI PLANT

Scientific Name:
Cordyline fruticosa

Etymology:

Genus *Cordyline* is from the Greek word "kordyle" which means "a club" and refers to the club-shaped roots of the plant. Species *fruticosa* means shrub-like habit.

The Ti plant has been associated with various legends and folklore in Polynesian cultures. In Hawaiian mythology, it is believed to possess protective powers and is often planted around homes and temples for spiritual protection.

The Ti plant leaves are used for weaving traditional items such as mats, baskets, and thatch for roofing. The starchy rhizomes are edible and can be cooked or fermented to make poi, a traditional Hawaiian dish.



MELALONI

Scientific Name:
Philodendron melaloni

Etymology:

The plant was first described in 1644 and given its name in 1829. That name derives from Greek: 'philo' means 'love' or 'affection' and 'dendron' means 'tree'.

Philodendron melanochrysum is a striking tropical plant known for its large, velvety, lush green-colored leaves and prominent heart-shaped appearance.

Like many philodendrons, Melaloni is an epiphytic plant, which means it grows on other plants or structures without harming them. It can be propagated through stem cuttings. Simply cut a stem with a few nodes and place it in water or moist soil until roots develop.



TABAKO

"CUBAN CIGAR"

Scientific Name:

Calathea lutea

Etymology:

New Latin, irregular from Latin *calathus* basket-shaped like a flower, from Greek *kalathos*.

Did you know that despite the name, the Cuban Cigar is not native to Cuba but to Mexico and Central America?

The name "Cuban cigar plant" or "cigar flower" comes from the resemblance of its tubular flowers to cigars. The flowers' elongated shape and reddish color make them strikingly similar to traditional Cuban cigars, hence the common name. These flowers are typically bright red or orange-red, although there are cultivars with variations in color, including pink and purple.



SILVER PASAKAQUI

Scientific Name:

Tabernaemontana divaricata
'variegata'

Etymology:

The genus *Tabernaemontana* is named after Jacob Theodore Mueller von Bergzabern of Heidelberg, a physician and herbalist. The specific epithet *divaricata* means wide-spreading, straggling, which refers to the growth habit.

Did you know that the unique leaves of Silver Pasakaqui have a distinctive characteristic? Aside from their aesthetic appeal, the plant's leaves move in response to light.

This phenomenon, known as nyctinasty, is a natural mechanism by which a plant adjusts its leaf position throughout the day to maximize its exposure to sunlight for photosynthesis.



VARIEGATED CAMACHILE

Scientific Name:
Pithecellobium dulce
'variegata'

Etymology:
The genus *Pithecellobium* comprises of Greek pithekos, meaning monkey and Greek ellobium, meaning earring, which refers to the fruitpod's close resemblance to a monkey's earring. The specific epithet *dulce*, Latin for sweet, refers to the sweet-tasting seed aril.

Have you heard that the variegated camachile is not only valued for its ornamental appeal but also for its edible fruit? The Manila tamarind produces sweet, edible pods enjoyed in various cuisines, particularly Southeast Asia.

Despite being primarily grown for its decorative foliage, the plant's edible fruit makes it a delightful addition to gardens or landscapes where aesthetics and utility are desired.



DOUBLE FLOWERED CREPE JASMINE

Scientific Name:

Tabernaemontana divaricata
'Flore Pleno'

Etymology:

Genus *Tabernaemontana* is named after Jakob Theodor von Bergzabern. The Latinized surname *Tabernaemontanus*, meaning "tavern in the mountain", was a German herbalist. Species *divaricata* means wide-spreading or divaricate. The cultivar *Flore Pleno* means double-flowered.

The Double-flowered Crepe Jasmine is a wonderful and eye-catching addition to gardens and holds cultural and medicinal significance in many cultures worldwide.

The flowers of Crepe Jasmine are often used in traditional ceremonies or rituals, symbolizing purity, love, or spirituality. Additionally, the plant has been historically used in herbal medicine for its purported medicinal properties.



CRINUM LILY

"QUEEN EMMA"

Scientific Name:
Crinum augustum

Etymology:

The genus *Crinum* is derived from the Greek word for iris or lily ("krinon").

Did you know that the Crinum Lily 'Queen Emma' is named after Queen Emma Kalanikaumakaamano Kaleleonālani Na‘ea Rooke, also known as Queen Emma of Hawaii? She was the wife of King Kamehameha IV and a beloved figure in Hawaiian history.

The plant was named after the queen to honor her love for gardening and her contributions to the beautification of Hawaii. The Crinum Lily 'Queen Emma' pays homage to her legacy and passion for botanical beauty.



DURANTHA

"GOLDEN DEWDROP"

A butterfly magnet!

Scientific Name:
Duranta erecta

It is interesting to note that Duranta plants are prized for their attractive foliage, vibrant flowers, and ability to attract butterflies.

Etymology:
The genus *Duranta* was named after Castore Durantes, a 16th century Italian botanist and physician.

The magnificent and colorful blooms of the Durantha species, commonly known as Golden Dewdrop or Skyflower, are particularly irresistible to butterflies. When you make the Durantha a part of your landscape, you help support local butterfly populations and promote biodiversity.



EUGENIA

Scientific Name:
Syzygium myrtifolium

Etymology:
Genus epithet *Syzygium* derived from 'syzygos' (Greek for 'joined'), alluding to the opposite paired leaves. Species epithet *myrtifolium* means myrtle-leaved, describing how the plant's foliar shape and texture resemble the leaves of *Myrtus*.

Did you know that the Brazilian treat known as Pitanga ice cream uses the fruits of the Eugenia plant?

Pitanga, also called Surinam cherry or Brazilian cherry, is the fruit of certain Eugenia species native to Brazil and other parts of South America. Its sweet and tangy flavor makes it a delicious ingredient for jams, jellies, and ice cream.



GIANT PANDAN

Scientific Name:
Pandanus dubius

Etymology:

The genus name *Pandanus* is derived from a Malayan name, screw-pines.

Dubius is a Latin word meaning uncertain, wavering, or dubious.

The "Giant Pandan," also known as "Hala" or "Screwpine," is larger than the regular-sized pandan. It can grow up to 20 feet (six meters) tall. The giant panda provides ornamental value and practical uses, such as shade and privacy screening.

Pandan leaves are widely used in Southeast Asian cooking for their sweet, fragrant aroma. They are often used to flavor rice, desserts, and savory dishes. However, aside from the culinary and ornamental uses, the leaves of the giant pandan are also used to make woven mats, baskets, and other traditional handicrafts.



WAVE OF LOVE

You might find it fascinating that the Wave of Love plant's flowers are not flowers!

Scientific Name:
Anthurium plowmanii

Etymology:
The genus name *Anthurium* is derived from the Greek 'Anthos' and 'Oura'. The literal translation of this is 'flowering tail'.

A modified leaf called a spathe appears as the plant's flower. The flowers are tiny structures found on the spadix, the spike-like protrusion in the center of the spathe.

This unique floral structure is fascinating and attracts pollinators in its natural habitat.



RED CETON CROTON

Scientific Name:
Codiaeum variegatum

Etymology:

The genus epithet *Codiaeum* comes from the Greek word *kodeia'* or '*kodia*', meaning 'head, head of plants, bulb, or capsule', which may refer to the fruit capsules or leaves. The species epithet *variegatum* means variegated, referring to its variously variegated leaves.

Have you ever seen the vibrant red foliage of the Red Croton? It is visually enchanting and indicates the plant's light exposure.

The more intense the red coloration, the higher the light levels the plant has been exposed to. This makes the Red Croton an enchanting ornamental plant and a useful tool for gauging light conditions in indoor environments.



SAN FRANCISCO MINANGGA

Scientific Name:
Codiaeum variegatum

Etymology:
The genus epithet *Codiaeum* comes from the Greek word *kodeia* or ‘*kodia*’, means ‘head, head of plants, bulb, or capsule’, which may refer to the fruit capsules, or leaves. The species epithet *variegatum* means variegated, referring to its variously variegated leaves.

The brilliant colors of the San Francisco Minangga plant leaves serve a purpose beyond aesthetics.

The intense hues of the leaves protect against strong sunlight. The orange, yellow, red, and green pigments found in the leaves serve as natural sunscreen, absorbing excess light and protecting the plant from damage caused by intense sunlight. This is vital to the plant's survival in its native tropical environments.



GOLDEN TORCH

Scientific Name:

Heliconia psittacorum x spathocircinata 'Golden Torch'

Etymology:

The genus name *Heliconia* derives from "Heliconius," which refers to the Helicon, the mountain sacred to Apollo and Moses in Greek mythology. Species name *psittacorum* is derived from Latin *psittacus* meaning "parrot" and referring to the flower shape resembling a parrot's beak.

Here's an interesting trivia: While the Golden Torch plant may appear unassuming during the day, it transforms into a captivating spectacle at night.

Known for its stunning nocturnal blooms, the large, fragrant flowers of the Golden Torch typically open in the evening and remain open throughout the night, attracting pollinators such as moths and bats. This nocturnal blooming habit is an adaptation to maximize pollination success, as many pollinators are more active at night.



GIANT PANDAN VARIEGATED

Scientific Name:
Pandanus tectorius cultivar

Etymology:
Latin *Pandanus*, from the Malayan name 'pandang' which refers to the screw pine. Latin *tectorius*, referring to rooftops or growing on rooftops or tiles, a reference to which is unknown.

Did you know that the variegated variety of giant pandan gives this already remarkable plant an additional dimension of visual interest?

The variegation, which exhibits white or cream-colored streaks or margins along the leaves, beautifully complements the plant's deep green foliage. This exceptional coloring enhances the giant panda's ornamental appeal and makes it a standout feature in landscapes and gardens.



KAMUNING

"ORANGE JASMINE"

Scientific Name:
Murraya paniculata

Etymology:
Genus *Murraya* is named in honor of Johan Andreas Murray, Professor of Botany at Gottingen. Species *paniculata* means with a branched-racemose or cymose inflorescence.

Did you know that the Kamuning plant is valued not only for its sweet-smelling flowers but also for its historical significance?

The Kamuning cultural importance as it was the namesake of Barangay Kamuning in Quezon City, Metro Manila. This barangay, known for its vibrant community and bustling commercial areas, was named after the Kamuning plant due to its abundance during the early 20th century.

Today, the Kamuning plant continues to be beloved by the community for its beauty and connection to local heritage.

GROUND COVER

PLANT CATALOGUE



BEACH CABBAGE

"BEACH LETTUCE"

Scientific Name:
Scaevola taccada

Etymology:
The generic name *Scaevola* is derived from the Greek *scaevis*, left-handed or awkward, perhaps in reference to the "awkward" appearance of the "half flower" or to the signature flowers resembling an open fan or hand.

Did you know the beach cabbage plant is significant in traditional Hawaiian culture?

In Hawaii, the plant is called "Naupaka Kahakai" and is associated with a romantic legend. According to folklore, the naupaka plant's flowers appear to be missing half of their petals. Legend has it that this is because a Hawaiian princess and her lover were separated – one banished to the mountains and the other to the coast. The naupaka plant symbolizes their eternal love, with each half-flower representing one half of the couple.



WEDELIA

"CREEPING DAISY"

Scientific Name:
Wedelia trilobata

Etymology:
The genus epithet *Sphagnicola* means 'Sphagnumdweller,' a possible reference to the plant's survival ability in waterlogged or flooded sites. The species epithet *trilobata* describes the 3-lobed leaves. Popularly known as Singapore Daisy in Australia, although plant is native to tropical America.

Also known as "creeping oxeye" or "Singapore daisy," the Wedelia is famous for spreading and covering large areas via seeds and vegetative propagation. As a result, it can outcompete native vegetation, leading to ecological disruption.

Certain species of Wedelia are known to cure various ailments, including skin conditions, gastrointestinal issues, and respiratory problems. However, the safety and efficacy of these treatments have not been thoroughly studied.



PURPLE CRINUM

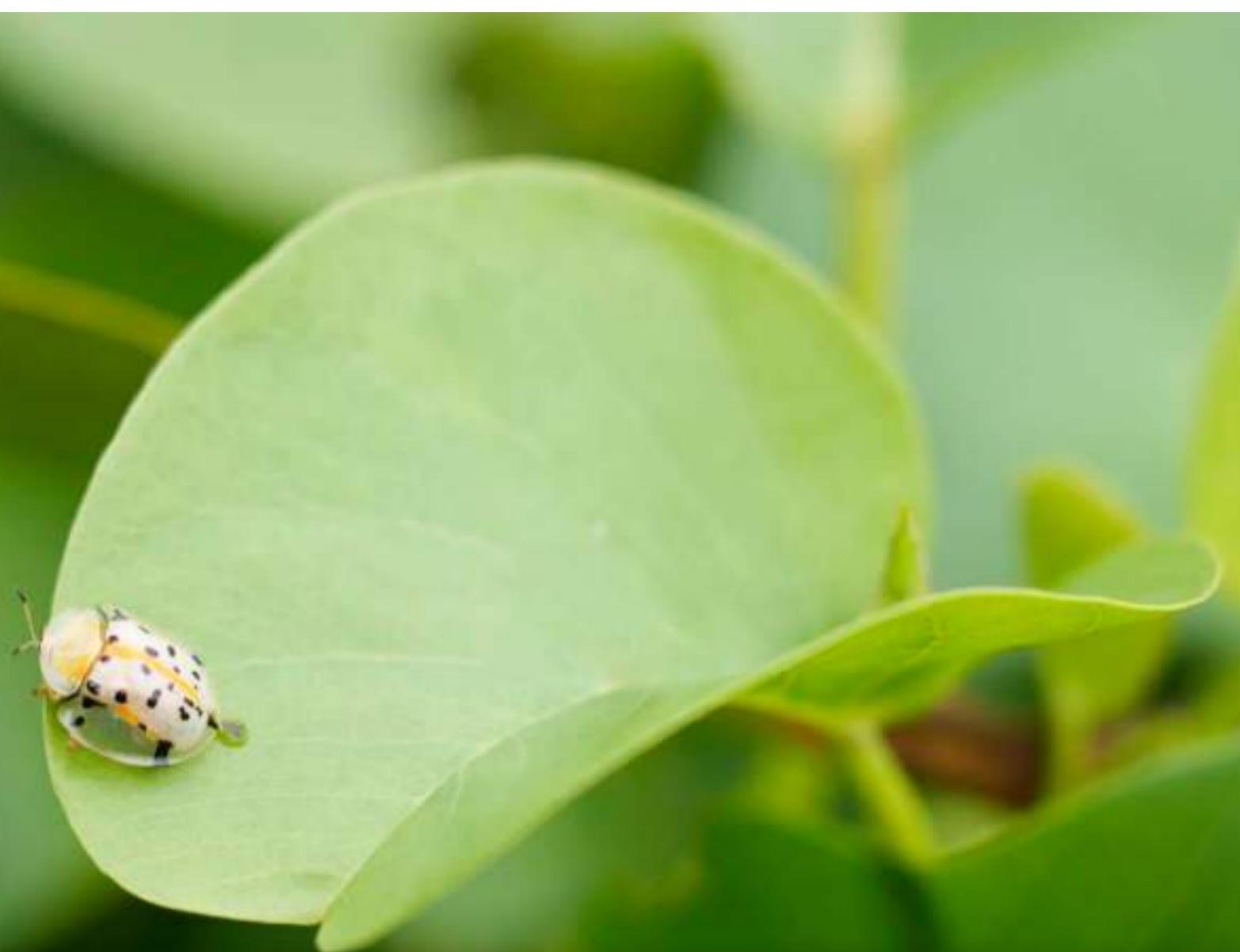
"RED BOG LADY"

Scientific Name:
Crinum 'Menehune'

Etymology:
The genus *Crinum* is derived from the Greek word for iris or lily ("krinon"). The cultivar "Menehune" was named after a mythological race of Hawaiian forest dwellers who were short, dark-skinned, and kept to themselves.

The Purple Crinum is often associated with folklore and superstitions. In some parts of Africa, it is believed that planting *Crinum* bulbs around the perimeter of a house can protect it from evil spirits.

The Purple Crinum is native to tropical regions of Asia, Africa, and Oceania and thrives in humid and warm climates. It naturally thrives in coastal areas, marshes, and along riverbanks.



KANGKONG BEACH

"SWAMP MORNING GLORY / WATER SPINACH"

Scientific Name:
Ipomoea pes-caprae

Etymology:
The species name *pes-caprae* is Latin for 'goat's foot', describing the shape of the leaves.

Known as Swamp Morning Glory, Kangkong Beach contains vitamins A and C, minerals, and dietary fiber. It's also low in calories, making it a nutritious meal addition. It is often grown as a perennial vegetable in tropical and subtropical regions. It thrives in wet or marshy environments, such as rice paddies, swamps, and ponds.

Traditional medicine uses Swamp Morning Glory to treat fever, inflammation, and urinary disorders.

CLIMBERS

PLANT CATALOGUE



CREEPING FIG

"CLIMBING FIG"

Scientific Name:

Ficus pumila

Etymology:

The etymology of the species name corresponds to the Latin word *pumilus* meaning 'dwarf,' and refers to the very small leaves of the plant.

The Creeping Fig is known for its distinctive climbing behavior. It sticks to surfaces using tiny aerial roots that grow along its stems. These roots can cling to various surfaces, including walls, fences, and tree trunks.

While Creeping Fig is not invasive, it can become challenging in areas with favorable growing conditions. In these cases, it may escape cultivation and spread aggressively, potentially smothering native vegetation.



GREEN ISLAND FICUS

Scientific Name:
Ficus microcarpa 'Nana'

Etymology:
Ficus *nana*, also known as the money tree, is traditionally believed to bring fortune to its owner.

Because of its small leaves and dense foliage, Green Island Ficus is valued among bonsai enthusiasts. It is often used as a starter plant for bonsai cultivation, as it responds well to pruning and shaping.

Green Island Ficus is suitable for indoor cultivation, flourishing in bright, indirect light. Its ability to tolerate indoor conditions, along with its attractive appearance, makes it a popular choice for adding greenery to homes and offices.



BOUGAINVILLEA

"PINK"

Scientific Name:
Bougainvillea glabra 'Pink'

Etymology:
Genus *Bougainvillea* is named after Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1729-1811), who was a French naval officer.

Bougainvillea Pink is popular for its striking and vibrant pink-colored bracts, which modified leaves surrounding the small, inobtrusive bracts. These bracts come in different shades of pink, ranging from pale pastels to deep magenta.

While the bracts of Bougainvillea Pink are beautiful, you must be careful when handling them. It has thorns, which serve as a natural defense mechanism against herbivores.



BOUGAINVILLEA

"CHILI RED"

Scientific Name:
Bougainvillea glabra
'Chili Red'

Etymology:
Genus *Bougainvillea* is named after Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1729–1811), who was a French naval officer.

Bougainvillea Chili Red is often used in landscapes to add color to gardens, trellises, arbors, and fences. Its vibrant red hues make it a focal point in any garden setting.

As the name suggests, 'Chili Red' Bougainvillea boasts striking red bracts surrounding its inconspicuous flowers. These bracts are the plant's colorful part, often mistaken for the flowers.



BOUGAINVILLEA "APPLE BLOSSOM"

Scientific Name:
Bougainvillea glabra
'Apple Blossom'

Etymology:
Genus *Bougainvillea* is named after Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1729–1811), who was a French naval officer.

Bougainvillea Apple Blossom is renowned for its delicate, pastel-colored bracts, which resemble the soft hues of apple blossoms, hence the name. The bracts can vary from light pink to soft lavender, creating a gentle and romantic appearance.

This variety of bougainvillea typically grows as a vine and is suitable for training along fences, trellises, or pergolas. Its trailing habit makes it perfect for cascading over walls or hanging baskets.



BOUGAINVILLEA

"WHITE"

Scientific Name:

Bougainvillea glabra 'Alba'

Etymology:

Genus *Bougainvillea* is named after Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1729–1811), who was a French naval officer.

Unlike many other Bougainvillea varieties, the 'White' cultivar stands out for its elegant and pure white bracts. These bracts give the plant a timeless and sophisticated appearance and a striking contrast against its dark green foliage, creating a visually arresting display in gardens or landscapes.

The white flowers of the Bougainvillea symbolize purity, innocence, and new beginnings. White flowers are associated with spirituality and transcendence in some cultures, adding a deeper meaning to their presence in gardens.



BOUGAINVILLEA "ORANGE KING"

Scientific Name:

Bougainvillea spectabilis
'Orange King'

Etymology:

Genus *Bougainvillea* is named after Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1729–1811), who was a French naval officer.

The flowers of the Orange King symbolize energy, enthusiasm, and warmth. In some cultures, orange is associated with joy and creativity, adding a sunny and inspiring vibe to garden spaces.

The Orange King can be trained to grow as a vine, shrub, or even a small tree, depending on how it's pruned and supported. This makes it suitable for various landscaping applications, from cascading over walls to adding color to trellises or arbors.



SKY FLOWER

"BLUE TRUMPET VINE"

Scientific Name:

Thunbergia grandiflora

Etymology:

The specific epithet is derived from the Latin words *grandis* meaning "great" or "large" and *flora* meaning "flower," in reference to the flowers which are large for the genus.

A little-known fact is that the seeds of the Sky Flower can be used as a coffee substitute. They are bitter yet very nutritious.

Sky flowers have a unique flowering habit. They bloom in the morning and wither by the afternoon. They produce a long, twisted stem that twines around other plants or structures. In the United States, Sky Flowers symbolize love, patience, and dedication, while in Japan, they represent the evanescent nature of life.



WHITE SKY VINE

"WHITE BENGAL SJYVINE"

Scientific Name:

Thunbergia grandiflora
'Alba'

Etymology:

The genus Thunbergia is named after Carl Peter Thunberg, a Swedish doctor who studied under Carl Linnaeus.

The White Sky Vine is known as "Moonflower" or "Queen of the Night" due to its nocturnal blooming habit. Its distinct fragrance, released at night, attracts moths and other pollinators.

The young leaves and stems of the White Sky Vine are edible and can be used as a vegetable, similar to bok choy or spinach. It has a crunchy texture and a mild flavor.

In some cultures, the White Sky Vine is considered a symbol of peace and tranquility.



RANGOON CREEPER

"DRUNKEN SAILOR"

Scientific Name:
Quisqualis indica

Etymology:

The genus name *Quisqualis* is derived from the Malay name "Udani" and refers to the plant's variable habit and coloring. The species name *indica* refers to its Indian origin.

The Rangoon Creeper is also known as "China Berry" or Chinese honeysuckle. One of its remarkable features is its fragrance. The flowers emit a sweet, pleasant scent in the evening, attracting pollinators like moths and butterflies.

They change color as they age. The flowers start as white, turn pink, and mature into a deep red. Thus, the Rangoon Creeper symbolizes the passage of time or the changing seasons.

The flowers can be used as a natural dye for fabric, while its fruit can be utilized as a natural pesticide.



GIANT POTHOS

"HAWAIIAN POTHOS"

Scientific Name:

Epipremnum aureum
'Hawaiian'

Etymology:

The genus epithet *Epipremnum* means "on trees," which refers to the plant's growth habit. The specific epithet *aureum* means "golden yellow," referring to the plant's foliage color.

A word of caution: Toxic!

The Giant Pothos contains insoluble calcium oxalate crystals. It is recommended that the plant be kept out of the reach of pets and children, as these can be toxic if ingested.

The plant's scientific name, *Epipremnum aureum*, comes from the Greek words "epi" meaning "upon," and "premnon" meaning "wall" because it can grow up walls.

GRASSES, BAMBOOS AND FERNS

PLANT CATALOGUE



BOSTON FERN

Scientific Name:
Nephrolepis exaltata

Etymology:
The generic name *Nephrolepis* is derived from the Greek *nephros*, meaning "kidney," and "*lepis*," meaning "scale," in reference to the kidney-shaped indusia (sori covering). The Latin-specific name *exaltata*, meaning "raised, high, lofty," alludes to the upright fronds of this fern.

The Boston Fern got its name because of its association with the city of Boston, where the plant was first cultivated as an ornamental plant. It was first introduced to Europe in the 1700s and became popular in American gardens in the 1800s.

The Boston Fern is popular for floral arrangements and wedding bouquets due to its delicate appearance and ability to hold up well in water. In some cultures, it is considered a symbol of good luck and prosperity.



CARABAO GRASS

"HILO GRASS"

Scientific Name:

Paspalum conjugatum

Etymology:

From the Greek *paspalos* (a kind of millet) *conjugatum* - from the Latin *conjugo* (yoke together)

The name "Carabao" comes from the Filipino word for "water buffalo," which refers to the plant's association with this animal.

The Carabao grass is native to tropical and subtropical regions. It is known for its ability to thrive in challenging environments, from dry to wet conditions and from low-lying areas to mountainous regions. It is often used as a natural erosion control measure due to its extensive root system, which helps to prevent erosion.

Interestingly, the seeds of Carabao grass are edible and can be a great source of protein and fiber.



MANILA GRASS

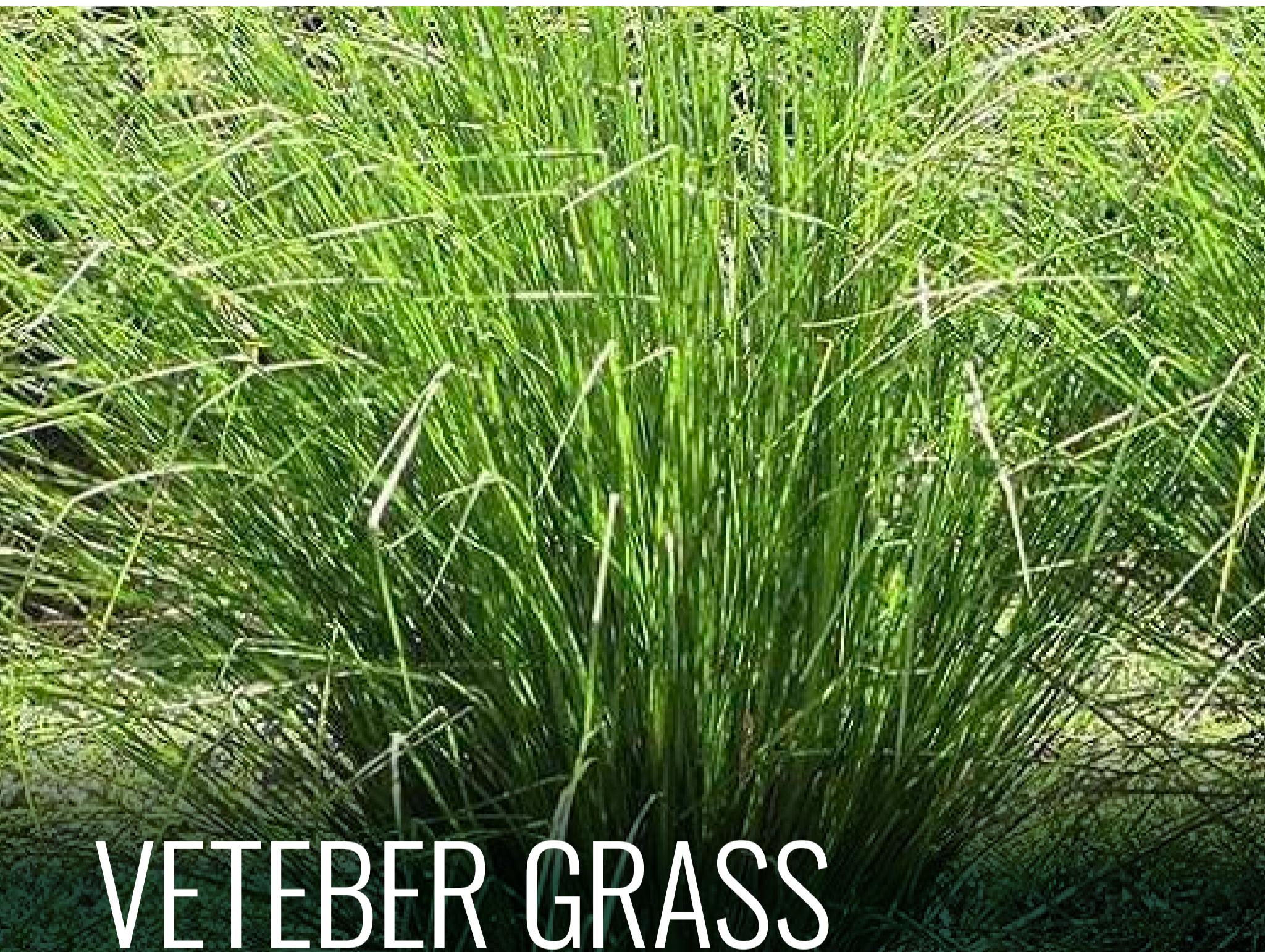
Scientific Name:
Zoysia matrella

Etymology:
Translated from Latin, it means “diminutive mother of zoysia grass”.

The Manila Grass, also known as *Zoysia matrella*, is named after Karl von Zois, an 18th-century Austrian botanist. It is native to China, Japan, and the Philippines.

The Manila Grass is suitably used as a turfgrass for sports fields and recreational areas because of its dense growth and ability to recover from damage.

The grass exhibits good salt tolerance, making it suitable for coastal areas. It can thrive in sandy soils and tolerate occasional salt spray.



VETEGER GRASS

"VETIVER GRASS"

Scientific Name:

Chrysopogon zizanoides

Etymology:

Derived from the Tamil meaning "root that is dug up".

In Northern India it is also called khus.

The roots of vetiver grass produce vetiver essential oil, which is valued for its aromatic properties. This fragrance is commonly utilized in the perfume industry.

The essential oil from the Vetiver grass is said to have a pleasant and distinctive fragrance, often described as earthy, woody, and slightly sweet. It is used in aromatherapy for its calming effects, which promote relaxation, reduce stress, and enhance focus and concentration.



TANGLAD

Scientific Name:
Cymbopogon citratus

Etymology:

The genus name *Cymbopogon* comes from the Greek words for 'boat' (kymbe) and 'beard' (pogon), referring to the boat-shaped flower spathes and hairy fruit spikelets of this genus. The species name *citratus* means "resembling Citrus," referring to the lemony scent produced by parts of the plant.

"Tanglad" is the Filipino name for lemongrass. It is a popular herb in Southeast Asian cuisine, particularly Thai, Vietnamese, and Filipino dishes. Lemongrass adds a refreshing citrusy flavor and aroma to soups, curries, stir-fries, and marinades.

The essential oil extracted from lemongrass leaves is widely used in aromatherapy and natural skincare products because of its invigorating and uplifting scent. The fragrance helps reduce stress, improve mood, and promote relaxation.

Lemongrass's citronella oil has natural insect-repellent properties. Burning lemongrass stalks can help deter mosquitoes and other insects.



THAILAND BAMBOO

"MONASTERY BAMBOO"

Scientific Name:
Thyrsostachys siamensis

Etymology:
Thyrsostachys is a genus of Chinese and Indochinese bamboo in the grass family. The specific epithet *siamensis*, derived from the former name of Thailand, refers to this species' geographical origin.

In Thailand, bamboo is valued as a sustainable and versatile construction material. Because of its strength, flexibility, and rapid growth, it is commonly used to build traditional houses, bridges, fences, and scaffolding.

Bamboo plays a crucial role in Thailand's ecosystem. It helps stabilize soil, prevent soil erosion, and provide habitat for wildlife.

Due to increasing demand and habitat loss, Thailand promotes sustainable bamboo management and conservation.



YELLOW BAMBOO

Scientific Name:
Phyllostachys aurea

Etymology:
The name *Phyllostachys* means "leaf spike" and refers to the inflorescences. The specific epithet *aurea* refers to the golden color of old culms and was used by Carrière and later by A. & C. Rivière to name this species.

The Yellow Bamboo is one of the most remarkable types of bamboo because of its bright yellow color, which is rare among bamboo species. The culms can range in color from a light yellow to a deep golden yellow, depending on the condition and age of the plant.

The Yellow Bamboo is a clumping bamboo, meaning it grows in a tight, compact cluster rather than spreading out

The Yellow Bamboo's name, "*Phyllostachys aurea*," comes from the Latin words "phyllo," meaning "leaf," and "stachys" meaning "ear of grain", likely referring to the plant's yellow leaves.



POLE BAMBOO

Scientific Name:
Bambusa vulgaris

Etymology:

The specific epithet *vulgaris* comes from the Latin word *vulgus* meaning "common, ordinary," referring to its widespread distribution and commonality.

Pole Bamboo is one of the tallest bamboo species in the world, with some culms or stems reaching up to 30 feet. It is fast-growing, with some plants growing up to 3 feet in just a few weeks.

"*Bambusa tulda*" comes from the Latin words "*bambusa*" meaning "bamboo," and "*tulda*," meaning "thick," referring to the plant's thick stems.

The Pole Bamboo is believed to have medicinal properties and is used to treat ailments such as fever and rheumatism.