

## Plant List for Tropical Paradise

Obviously, where you live determines what plants to use. We're going to give you a general list to show your landscaper or nursery. We strongly recommend you show them your Tropical Paradise Design Plan and get their recommendations also.

Tropical Paradise gives you the illusion of being in the tropics in your own backyard. You want lots of plants that not only look exotic or tropical, but are easy to maintain and will survive the winter.

Here are the shrubs, perennials, and annuals we'd use in all the planters and beds. You can follow your plan or mix and match to your liking!

**SHRUBS:** Beauty Berry has showy purple berries. Black Lace Elderberry has exotic looking black foliage. Red Twig Dogwood has bright red stems in winter. Moonshadow Euonymous sends out long, bright gold and green runners. Rainbow Leucothoe has very nice multi-colored leaves. Royal Purple Smokebush has deep purple leaves and bottlebrush-type flowers. Tiger Eye Sumac looks very tropical and turns gorgeous colors. Use Althea and Crape Myrtle for their flowers. Butterfly Bush looks like it grows in a jungle and has pretty flowers. Fothergilla has unique white flowers and good color. A small Lilac like Miss Kim has pretty flowers. Nandina Domestica (our favorite shrub) looks tropical and has red berries all winter. Variegated Hydrangeas look good with their white edge.

**PERENNIALS:** Lilies, Lilies, and more Lilies! Use white Casablanca and Star Gazer for sure. Hibiscus has big, gorgeous tropical flowers. Bee Balm has a very unique flower. Catmint would also work well. Phlox has a neat flower. Spiderwort – especially Sweet Kate – has great foliage and cool flowers. Plant a lot of Clematis vines – the flowers and seed heads look very tropical. Sedums and Hens & Chicks can be tucked in anywhere. Use Liriope for edging plants.



## Plant List for Tropical Paradise (continued)

**ANNUALS:** Banana trees can be saved from year-to-year, or be used as annuals. Same with Elephant Ear and Cannas. Coleus and Caladiums add a tropical feel. You could even let Petunias trail over some edges. Definitely use Purple Fountain grass. Marigolds would add a splash of intense yellow. Use a lot of house plants as annuals, too. The selection of tropical looking house plants is big. Mandevilla vines are perfect for Tropical Paradise. Yellow Mums and red Geraniums make a shocking, exotic combination.

Notice how nice the perimeter walk looks? Use Altheas in each corner, but change the type from corner to corner. Try white Diana, purple Minerva, Blue Bird, or any other colors you like. Around their bases use Firepower Nandinas around one, Weigela another, and Barberries and Summersweet around another.

Plant your perennials and annuals in drifts, or multiples, rather than single plants. Use three, five, or seven of each – even more with annuals.

To finish up, plant Natchez Crape Myrtles along the fence, and red or purple Crape Myrtles as indicated. Use Tulip Poplar, Red Bud, Southern or Saucer Magnolia, and Japanese Maples for your trees. Only plant Bamboo behind the pool wall. It needs to be contained so it doesn't run all over the garden.

Follow your landscape design plan for placement and quantity of plants and you will have your own Tropical Paradise!

