THIS ISSUE:
TROPICAL PLANTS

Plant Identification Newsletter

IDENTIFY PLANTS!

LEARN THE IMPORTANCE!

ELIMINATE PLANT BLINDNESS!

OCTOBER 9TH, 2024 | ISSUE #8

CAST IRON PLANT

COMMON NAME: Cast Iron Plant
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Aspidistra elatior*
FAMILY: Ruscaceae (Ruscus)
ORIGIN: Asia, Non-native
SIZE: 2’ HT / 2’ SPD
TYPE: Shrub
LIGHT: Shade
WATER: Moderate
SOIL REQUIREMENTS: Slightly alkaline, clay, sand, acidic, laom
USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 7-11
ADDITIONAL FACTS: Very resistant to insect pests

BIRD OF PARADISE

COMMON NAME: Bird of Paradise
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Strelitzia reginae*
FAMILY: Strelitziaceae
ORIGIN: South Africa, Non-native
SIZE: 6’ HT / 4’ SPD.
TYPE: Shrub
LIGHT: Full Sun to Partial Shade
WATER: Moderate
SOIL REQUIREMENTS: Fertile, organic soils with good drainage
USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 10-12
ADDITIONAL FACTS: Minimally toxic to humans but toxic to pets

FRANGIPANI

COMMON NAME: Frangipani
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Plumeria rubra*
FAMILY: Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)
ORIGIN: Central / South America, Caribbean, Hawaii, Non-native
SIZE: 22’ HT / 22’ SPD
TYPE: Tree
LIGHT: Full Sun to Partial Shade
WATER: Drought Tolerant
SOIL REQUIREMENTS: Clay, loam, sand, acidic, alkaline, well-drained
USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 10-12
ADDITIONAL FACTS: Used to make leis in Hawaii

TI PLANT

COMMON NAME: Ti Plant
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Cordyline terminalis*
FAMILY: Agavaceae
ORIGIN: Southeast Asia, eastern Australia, and some Pacific islands including Hawaii, Non-native
SIZE: 3’-10’ HT / 2’-4’ SPD
TYPE: An evergreen flowering plant
LIGHT: Full sun or shade
WATER: Moist
SOIL REQUIREMENTS: Moist, acidic, well drained soils that are high in organic matter
USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 10B-11
ADDITIONAL FACTS: Come in a variety of different colors like pink, cream, bronze, lime-green, and red

SCARLET ROSEMALLOW

COMMON NAME: Scarlet Rosemallow
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Hibiscus coccineus*
FAMILY: Malvaceae
ORIGIN: Native
SIZE: 5’-8’ HT / 2’-4’ SPD
TYPE: Perennial
LIGHT: Full sun to partial shade
WATER: Somewhat moist, no flooding
SOIL REQUIREMENTS: Loam, organic material
USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 8A-10B
ADDITIONAL FACTS: Typically has shiny flowers over 6 inches in width

PHILODENDRON

COMMON NAME: Philodendron
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Philodendron selloum*
FAMILY: Araceae (Arum Family)
ORIGIN: South America, Non-native
SIZE: 6’-10’ HT / 8’-10’ SPD
TYPE: Shrub
LIGHT: Partial shade to full shade
WATER: Moist to dry
SOIL REQUIREMENTS: Loam and sand
USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 8B-11
ADDITIONAL FACTS: Contain toxins that can cause harm if ingested

QUEEN EMMA

COMMON NAME: Queen Emma (Giant Spider Lily)
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Crinum augustum*
FAMILY: Amaryllidaceae
ORIGIN: Southeast Asia, Non-native
SIZE: 5’ HT / 3’ SPD
TYPE: Flowering shrub
LIGHT: Full sunlight
WATER: Very high moisture and should not be allowed to dry out between watering
SOIL REQUIREMENTS: Loam, organic material (muck), sand
USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 8B - 11
ADDITIONAL FACTS: The flowers are purple

HIBISCUS

COMMON NAME: Hibiscus
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*
FAMILY: Malvaceae (Mallow Family)
ORIGIN: Asia, Non-native
SIZE: 4’-10’ HT / 4’-6’ SPD
TYPE: Shrub
LIGHT: Full Sun to partial shade
WATER: Moist to saturated
SOIL REQUIREMENTS: Sandy loam, slightly acidic
USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 9-12
ADDITIONAL FACTS: One Hibiscus native to FL, Hibiscus coccineus, is also known as the Scarlet rosemallow, Marsh hibiscus, or Swamp mallow

CHRISTMAS PALM

COMMON NAME: Christmas Palm
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Veitchia merrillii, Adonidia merrillii*
FAMILY: Arecaceae (Palm Family)
ORIGIN: Philippines, Non-native
SIZE: 15’-25’ HT / 5’-10’ SPD
TYPE: Palm Tree
LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Moist to dry
SOIL REQUIREMENTS: Clay, loam, or sand
USDA HARDINESS ZONE: 10B-11
ADDITIONAL FACTS: This palm is low maintenance due to self-cleaning, meaning the palm fronds just fall off by themselves

Why are Tropical Plants Important?

Tropical plants are vital to South Florida's ecosystem and economy. They enhance biodiversity, providing habitats for native wildlife and contributing to the region's unique landscapes. Additionally, these plants play a crucial role in tourism, attracting visitors with their vibrant colors and lush settings. They also help in mitigating climate change by improving air quality and reducing urban heat, making South Florida a lush paradise that balances natural beauty with environmental health.

JESSICA FUENTES | JESSICA ROMER | JOURDAN FRIEDLANDER