

TOPIC: "GOING TROPPO"

GUEST SPEAKER : RUSSELL YOUNG

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 23 FEBRUARY, 2021 AT TRANQUIL PARK MOUNTAIN RESORT

- Tropical plants and gardens need shelter, humidity and warmth
- Cordylines are fast growing in full sun or sheltered courtyard or pots. Try 3 – 4 different plants in one pot – tall at back then medium with small in front
- Shape and texture are important. Several types of grass can be divided
- Feather Falls Grass has small white flowers and Carex will take full sun
- Caladiums have become very expensive because everyone is in to foliage plants. Green and cream leaves are a toss up between Caladium and Alocasia. Dappled sunlight is best
- Philodendron Prince of Orange is good for pot culture or at base of tree. P Moonlight has pale yellow glow leaves – don't over water. P Unifolia has unusual foliage. P Dragon's Tail is an Australian native, a good climber and is great indoors - very hardy and different. P Balinese Dream is slow growing, small and prefers low light - almost unkillable
- Aspidistra – known as the cast iron plant – very hardy and flowers at ground level
- Whitfieldia Longifolia has brilliant white, sticky flowers and glossy leaves
- Fluffy Duck grows from cuttings – has white tassel flowers
- Iresine dark burgundy leaves can be pruned hard – mix with green and gold variety
- Crotons are good fillers – slow growers but will grow up after 3 years. Great in tubs for colour – blood and bone fertiliser is best for them
- Mussaenda – single flower in middle – yellow, white or orange. Semi-deciduous, grows well along the coast – loves heat but protect from wind
- Strobilanthes – best in part shade for purple leaves
- Walking Iris is a great filler for particular areas such as slopes and hanging baskets. Tough, hardy and can be kept contained in a pot
- Golden Candles – native to Peru, flowering 365 days a year. Can get leggy so give it a prune. Good in pots too with Croton and Cordyline
- Lucky Bamboo – Dracaena – good in groups in narrow gardens, likes part shade. Is not a bamboo. Grows to 2 metres with green/yellow leaves, very attractive plant
- Pride of Barbados grows 2 - 2½ metres tall and looks like a dwarf Poinciana – under-rated and regarded as old fashioned
- Brazilian Cloak has glossy green leaves and makes a good backdrop out of wind
- Kaempferia foliage dies in winter. Grow with gingers and caladiums - pale mauve bloom
- Creeping Begonia Pellionia likes a small pot
- Singapore Gold Ginger - good morning sun/part shade. V attractive under palms, inedible
- Coleus Flame Thrower Chipotle – textured foliage, full to part shade 45-70cm H,40-60cm W
- Giant Blush Ginger flowers last a couple of weeks
- Dwarf Orange Beehive Ginger- flowers at eye level, likes chook manure pellets twice a year
- Acalaphas – old fashioned plants making a come-back. Roma Street Parklands has 100 varieties. Prune hard once a year plus a light prune a couple of months later
- Graptophyllums are great with Cordylines

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