

NEWCOMERS TO THE PLANT BOUTIQUE

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Growing of house plants has been popular for hundreds of years. In recent years it has become even more popular to grow plants inside buildings, whether they are homes, offices, or public buildings. Many plants such as the philodendron, ivy, some palms, and other tropical plants have been traditionally popular.

My topic concerns plants recently introduced into the California nursery trade mainly for use indoors. However, many of them are adapted for use in malls of shopping centers, covered patios, or very protected places outside in the warmer regions in the landscape.

I have arbitrarily divided these plants into the main uses for which they are suited:

1. Plants used mostly in hanging baskets or as table plants cascading over container sides: *Cyanotis somaliensis* — kitten ears; *Gibasis geniculata* (*Tradescantia multiflora* of California trade) — Tahitian bridal veil; *Asparagus meyerii* — Meyer's asparagus-fern; *Senecio rowleyanus* — string of pearls, basket of peas; *Plectranthus australis* — creeping charlie; *Sedum lineare* 'variegatum' — silver flame sedum; *Davallia trichomonoides* — rabbit's foot fern; *Pelargonium* 'Petite Lace' — Petite Lace geranium; *Nicodemia diversifolia* — indoor-oak; and *Pilea microphylla* — artillery-fern, and *Scilla violacea*.

2. Plants used mostly for bold foliage: *Ficus bengalensis* — banyan tree; *Pseudopanax lessonii* — false-aralia; *Schefflera arboricola* — schefflera; *Polyscias balfouriana*; *Polyscias balfouriana* 'Marginata'; *Cussonia spicata* — cussonia; *Stenocarpus sinatus* — fire-wheel tree; *Chamaedorea* species — bamboo palm; *Chamaedorea tenella* (*C. metallica*) — fishtail palm. (Ed. Note: Fishtail palms usually refer to *Caryota* spp.)

3. Plants used for mostly unusual or colorful foliage or fruit: *Ficus benjamina* — Chinese weeping banyan; *Dracaena marginata* 'variegata' — variegated dracaena; *Dracaena deremensis* 'Gold King'; *D.d. Craigii Compacta* — compact dracaena; *Ficus diversifolia* — mistletoe fig; *Cycas revoluta* — Sago-palm; *Zamia floridana* — Coontie; *Beaucarnea recurvata* — bottle palm; camel-palm.

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4. Plants used for terrariums, bottle gardens and special effects: *Ficus sarmentosa* — dwarf creeping fig; *Sinningia* x 'Freckles'; and *Tillandsia* species.

Each plant has its own cultural restrictions, soil requirements and, of course, various methods of propagation are involved. However, in general, they will all take "normal" house conditions, such as low humidity (down to as little as five percent), filtered light (as behind a curtain), sufficient water, fertilizing enough to maintain their vigor, and other needed maintenance.

MODERATOR WEIDNER: Our final speaker in this session is a young man who came here from Germany some years ago. He has worked for Monrovia Nursery as a propagator and, more recently, has had his own nursery business. Dieter Lodder is a very well-trained horticulturalist. I always appreciate the training the boys get in Germany. Dieter Lodder:

GRAFTING AS A BUSINESS

DIETER W. LODDER

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La Verne nursery is a business that produces grafted and budded plant material in containers. We grow primarily woody ornamentals, plus some citrus and avocado plants. For many years we had the intention to start a nursery business but we had to decide on a line of plant material that has a place in the local market, and also could be produced economically. After studying this problem we found that, especially here in Southern California, there are many propagation nurseries set up to supply lining out material to firms that either do not propagate their own plants or are in need of additional plants to supplement their own production. These plants are usually produced from seeds or cuttings. Although there are nurseries in this area that produce grafted plants for their own needs, we decided to specialize in this form of propagation and try to supply the industry with most grafted plants which are currently in demand.

During the first years of our business a comparatively high volume of only a few kinds of plants such as *Pyrus kawakami*, *Liquidambar*, and avocado were produced until understock material of more plants could be produced or purchased in larger quantities. Occasionally, a customer supplies his own understock