

## Tender and Exotic Plants That Could Be More Widely Cultivated in Mild Regions<sup>©</sup>

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### INTRODUCTION

It is not possible to consider expanding the range of tender or exotic plants that could be made available to gardeners without first exploring the factors that influence the range.

Weather and climate are, of course, primarily responsible: with weather being the physical conditions prevailing over a certain area at a given time and climate being the average of those conditions over a longer period. Climate determines what plants we can grow and how well we can grow them.

At Trellisick the winter minimum temperature is rising faster than winter maximum. In summer, it is maximum temperatures that are rising most quickly. There are heated discussions about climate change but in my experience based on one garden over 30 years it has been and still is taking place.

The following list is a personal view of the way in which gardeners could create a more exotic feel with plants which were in the past be described as half-hardy but which are more or less hardy for the conditions we have now — at least in the south west of the U.K.

For horticulturists and plants people this is a most exciting and challenging time to undertake experimental plantings which will give gardens in Cornwall and other mild areas a more exotic feel than is being achieved at present. The challenge for the members of IPPS is to anticipate which tender and exotic plants could be a commercial success. I doubt that many would generate large sales but some could be appropriate for niche markets.

### TENDER AND EXOTIC PLANTS COULD BE A COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

#### Plants for Hot Dry Positions:

- *Argyranthemum*
- *Arctotis* (Zulu daisy)
- *Convolvulus sabatius*
- *Felicia*
- *Geranium maderense*
- *Gazania*
- *Echium pininana*, *E. wildpretii*
- *Erigeron karvinskianus*
- *Lampranthus candicans*
- Mesembryanthemum family (Hottentot fig)
- *Osteospermum*
- Pelargoniums
- *Salvia*

Most of these plants are reasonably well known but fewer people are aware that they can now succeed all year round.

### Palms and Spikes:

- *Agave*
- *Aloe*
- *Beschoneria yuccoides*
- *Butia capitata*
- *Chamaerops humilis*
- *Cordyline*
- *Fasicularia*
- *Jubaea chilensis*
- *Ochagavia rosea*
- *Phormium*
- *Phoenix canariensis*
- *Puya alpestris* and *P. chilensis*
- *Trachycarpus*
- *Washingtonia filifera*
- *Yucca*

### Proteaceae:

- *Banksia*
- *Dryandra*
- *Embothrium*
- *Grevillea*
- *Hakea*
- *Knightia*
- *Leucodendron*
- *Leucospermum*
- *Protea*
- *Telopea*

### Restionaceae:

- *Chondropetalum tectorum*
- *Elegia capensis*
- *Ischyrolepis subverticillata*
- *Thamnochortus insignis*

### Hedychium and Cannas:

- *Canna* (e.g., 'Durban', 'Musifolia', 'Panache', 'Striata', and 'Wyoming')
- *Cautleya spicata* 'Robusta'
- *Hedychium coccineum*, *H. coronarium*, *H. densiflorum* ('Assam Orange', 'Sorung', Stephen), *H. ellipticum*, *H. forrestii*, *H. gardnerianum*, *H. spicatum*, and *H. yunnanense*
- *Roscoea purpurea*

### More Uncommon, Untried, or Tender Plants:

- *Bomarea hirtella*
- *Brugmansia*
- *Casuarina pumilo*
- *Citrus*
- *Cordyline indivisa*
- *Dichroa febrifuga*
- *Euphorbia atropurpurea*, *E. bourgeana*, and *E. regisjubea*
- *Gardenia*
- *Iochroma grandiflora*
- *Isoplexis canariensis*
- *Lantana*
- *Musa*
- *Olea* (olive)
- *Olearia*
- *Pandorea jasminoides*
- *Rhodoleia championii*
- *Schefflera*
- *Senecio grandiflorus*