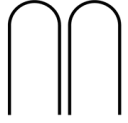


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The Weeping Fig

This is a magnificent tree frequently seen in the northern parts of the world as a house plant. Here in the Caribbean it grows to an immense size and has very aggressive roots. The specimens around the lagoon are very mature, about 35-40 years old and they have become host to a variety of climbing plants.

Did you know?

Weeping Fig is a symbol of love and peace in many cultures.

The NASA Clean Air Study determined that this plant was effective at removing common household air toxins.



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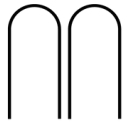
Dwarf Date Palm

These are the dwarf version of the classic date palm. They are not naturally multi-stemmed but grown with multiple stems for decorative purposes. Not only are their heads very umbrella-like, but the stems are very attractive in their own right with the nubs of the old leaves on them. They are used as accent plants amongst lower plantings.

Did you know?

The tree leaves can be pruned to accentuate the "knobby trunk" or a miniature "pineapple" below the leaves.

They not only produce edible fruits that are high in useful sugar, but you can get fiber and wine from them too! Global production of date palm (all species) reaches 8 million tons a year.



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Ginger plant

There are several varieties of Ginger plants around the lagoon.

The variegated versions are grown for their beautiful bright yellow and green leaves. They do produce a very small orange flower, but mainly grown for their leaves which are edible, and the roots have a clove flavor to them. There is also the Red Ginger, which has a shock of red bracts on stems. These have a strong, spicy flavor. Ginger plants like a lot of shade and moisture. The ornamental ones do have a rhizome underneath them like the ginger stem that you may buy in the stores, but they all have different flavors.

Did you know?

Ginger is actually a rhizome (an underground stem) and not a root.

Mature ginger rhizomes commonly sold in grocery stores, are harvested after 10-12 months.

Ginger has MANY health benefits, some including anti-inflammatory properties, blood sugar regulation, and gastrointestinal relief.



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Heartleaf Philodendron

These are known as classic interior plants, but given the hot climate here on this island, they are grown as ground cover. As they grow up into the trees they transition from their juvenile foliage to their adult form, which has much larger leaves and stems. Look out for the very thick almost pencil-sized roots as they dangle down.

Did you know?

This plant is referred to as a “sweetheart plant” because of its distinctive heart-shaped leaves.

Some varieties of philodendron produce a sugary liquid that attracts ants. The colonies of ants protect against pest insects in the wild.



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Asparagus Fern

These very fluffy but surprisingly prickly plants are used as a ground cover. They produce small insignificant white flowers and then bright red berries that nestle in the bright green foliage. The stems are a favorite of florists to use in decorations and flower displays.

Did you know?

Unlike true ferns, the Asparagus Fern spreads by seed, whereas ferns typically spread using spores.

One of the remarkable characteristics of this plant is its ability to withstand periods of drought. Its fleshy roots act as water storage, allowing it to survive in dry conditions. However, regular watering is still necessary to keep it healthy.



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Canna Lily

These decorative lilies are better grown in the shade as they do not like full sun. They come in many different colors whether that is the leaves or the flowers and can range from Red to white and yellow flowers to green or purple leaves. Unfortunately, the local iguanas love the leaves and will eat them down if not deterred.

Did you know?

Canna lilies are not true lilies. As members of the Zingiberales family, they are related to the gingers, bananas, heliconias and birds of paradise.

Cannas are used to extract many undesirable pollutants in a wetland environment as they have a high tolerance to contaminants.

The seeds can also be used as beads in jewelry, rattles for musical instruments and to obtain a purple dye.



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Bougainvillea

The quintessential Caribbean flower. They come in many different shapes, whether bushes or climbers. They also come in many different colors, such as white, light pink to dark pink, orange and watermelon. These pretty colors are not actually flowers, if you look carefully, you will see small white flowers in the center of all the colors. The latter are the true flowers, but given that they are so insignificant, to make them more noticeable to the birds and the bees, the surrounding leaves change color to make them more attractive to the pollinators. They are also known as paper flowers. The flowers can be picked after the small white flowers have gone over, hung up and dried for decoration.

Did you know?

The colored petals of the Bougainvillea plant aren't flowers—they're bracts. The flower is tiny and white and sits deep in the bract center.

In some cultures, the flowers of the Bougainvillea plant are edible, and you can eat them raw in salads, deep fry them tempura-style or use them to decorate drinks and the color seeps into the water.



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Aechmea Bromeliad

Bromeliads are a very large family and come in many colors shapes and sizes. We have the Aechmea bromeliad grown for its colorful leaves and shape. They have a very small root system and mainly feed from the water inside the center of the leaves. They form “pups” or baby plants at the base of the mother plant when ready to reproduce.

Did you know?

Though there are some exceptions, most bromeliads bloom just once in their lifetime but the “pups” allow the plant to be constantly in bloom, even once the original plant is done flowering.

Pineapples are the only bromeliad fruits that are sold commercially throughout the world.



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Hibiscus

Another classically quintessential Caribbean flower, that comes in many different sizes and colors and flower shapes. The original red is the mother of all the hybrids that can be seen in the nurseries and gardens.

From these plants, breeders have developed multiple colors from yellow, red, pink, white and mixtures of colors and shapes of flowers, whether it's a double or triple flower or a different shape, like a chandelier. The Caribbean people have used the flowers to polish their shoes and dye their hair black, and a lot of herbal teas are colored with hibiscus petals to make them a more palatable red, as without the Hibiscus petal, they are an unappealing yellow color.

Did you know?

Dried Hibiscus flowers can be made into tea, which is a good source of Vitamin C, and is believed to lower blood pressure, boost the immune system, and aid in weight loss.

Culturally, Tahitian women used wear a hibiscus flower in their hair to the right, if she was looking for a partner and on the left side if she was married.

A hibiscus flower may be used to determine the pH of a liquid by turning dark pink or magenta in an acidic solution and green in an alkaline one.



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Areca Palm

Also known as “The Butterfly Palm”. This delicately arching multi-stemmed palm is a good hedging or statement plant in the landscaping. The stems are bright green with old leaf scars punctuating the stems. They have unusual yellow stemmed flowers which then give way to small yellow fruit.

Did you know?

The Areca palm earned the title of 'one of the best air purifying plants' based on NASA's famous Clean Air Study.

They improve the air humidity and prevent the air in the house from drying out due to air conditioning or a furnace.



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Frangipani

Another flowering staple of the Caribbean landscaping. Its Latin name is Plumeria, after a 16th century Italian Noble, who was a real Dandy, he had the dusted wig, the Beauty Spot and the Ruffles. He would scent his gloves with the petals of the Plumeria, his name was the Marquis de Frangipani. Perfumes have been made from Frangipanis. This flower was used traditionally in Hawaiian cultures for the Leis as a welcome gift. There is an Anguillian Frangipani which is well suited to the harsh local climate. There are evergreen and deciduous types of Frangipani.

Did you know?

Frangipani plants have been used since ancient times to make perfumes and incense as well as for decoration purposes.

Frangipanis don't contain any nectar, and therefore deceive the insects that come to pollinate it by its sweet, fragrant scent which gets stronger at night.

The plants have also been used as medicine by traditional healers because they contain compounds called coumarins which have anti-inflammatory properties.



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Date Palm

We grow many different types of date palm. They are more decorative than the fruiting kind, but all dates are edible, just not as delicious.

They are grown for their interesting bark and their mop headed canopies. Caution should be noted when approaching their leaves, as they have long thorns at the ends of their stems. This is a very popular Palm with birds. Date palms easily crossbreed with each other, so identification is not always easy. The date palm is a very salt tolerant tree and will grow well in alkaline soils where other plants will not.

Did you know?

Dates are packed with a powerhouse of nutrition, providing essential vitamins and minerals as well as an energizing boost used by athletes!

Date palms are self-reliant and capable of managing their own maintenance. Through a process called "self-pruning," these plants naturally shed old fronds to ensure they maintain optimal health and shapely appearance.

Dates are great survival food, correctly stocked they can last for several years. Due to availability people used them for longer boat trips, crossing deserts and they even stocked them in fortresses and used them for survival food, when they were besieged.



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Croton

Crotons are also known as “Joseph's Coats”. They range in different leaf shapes and colors. They do flower but have insignificant little white flowers which are never normally noticed. They are invaluable to the landscaping, as they add a splash of color even without the flowers. They are very prone to White fly infestation and can be overpowered by them if not treated promptly.

Did you know?

Crotons have been used in the production of natural dyes for fabrics and fibers for centuries by using the various leaf shades of yellow, red, and orange.

Croton leaves change color and become more intense with age which adds an element of visual interest to the plant, as different shades and patterns can be seen on the same foliage.



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Old Man's Beard Palm

This is a very slow growing palm. These specimens were planted after Hurricane Lewis in 1995 and are still only 12 to 15 feet high. The plant's name is derived from the fact that their stems are covered in long white fiber husks or 'hair' like substance, which resembles an old man's beard, hence its name. A very rare plant that is only really found in collectors' gardens. The scientific name is *Coccothrinax crinita*- Crinita means hairy in Latin.

Did you know?

The tree originates in Cuba where it is now critically endangered with only 60 – 130 trees left due to harvesting them. This is due to the versatile uses such as its fibers for pillows, the trunk for shelter, and the leaves for bowls.

These flowers stem from a purple fruit and have both male and female reproductive organs on the same plant.



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Seagrape

This is a multifunctional plant for the Islands. It is found throughout the coastal Caribbean and lower Americas. It produces green berries which turn purple when ripe and they look like trusses of grapes. The fruit when ripe is very sweet but it's a bit like an olive where there is a large stone in the center, and you just eat the flesh from the outer part. Leaves are used as impromptu picnic plates or used to wrap local delicacies such as dumplings and boiled in water. Traditionally, the bark was shaved and plaited into rope for use in fishing and around the house. The stems can grow very strong and straight and were used to make fish pots for catching fish. The fruits can be used to make jam or soaked in rum to make flavored rum.

Did you know?

Resin of the bark is used in tanning and yields a red dye. Sap of the sea grape is used in the West Indies and Jamaica for dyeing and tanning of leather.

Surprisingly, sea grape trees aren't in the same family as regular grapes. They're actually members of the buckwheat family (which also includes rhubarb).



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Noni tree

This is a very well-known and at the moment very in vogue medicinal tree. The leaves can be ground down mixed with Vaseline and used as a poultice for aching limbs or joints. Islanders have used whole leaves under their hats to draw out headaches. The fruit once ripe and white is drained for its juice and drunk for a variety of different ailments.

Did you know?

It is a tough species that can survive in almost any condition. Noni can even grow in lava fields.

Though dubbed a “stinky fruit”, noni fruits are a great source of antioxidants and plant-based flavonoids and are said to heal several ailments.



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Autograph tree

This is a very slow growing plant that only in extreme conditions shades off its leaves. You could write your name on a leaf and find it many years later. Mainly used as a hedging or privacy plant.

Did you know?

Unlike most other plants, it can absorb carbon dioxide during nighttime hours.

Plants rarely bloom indoors but may develop light pink and white flowers when grown outdoors, followed by small apple-like fruits.



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Cotton Candy Tree

This delightfully elegant tree has small almost Daisy-like white flowers, these give way to small fruits that turn pink when ripe. The whole fruit is edible, with an extremely sweet semolina or cream of wheat consistency and has a slightly cotton candy flavor. You can smell the sweetness of the flowers and the fruit from many feet away.

Did you know?

In Brazil, they are planted along riverbanks so that the flowers and fruits fall into the water serving as bait that attract fish for fishermen!

The sweet juicy fruit can be eaten raw or used to make jams, tarts, pies etc.



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Fishtail Palm

This is a multi-stemmed palm that gets its name from the leaves that look like fish's tails. They produce almost mop-head type flowers that hang down and create round almost marble-like fruit that turn black when ripe. Once the stem has flowered all the way from top to bottom, that stem will then die, and you can see that new stems emerge from the base of the tree. Do not handle the ripened fruit as they have an irritant in the skin which causes temporary intense itching of the skin.

Did you know?

Many palms are pinnate (blades grow along both sides of the mid-rib, however, only fishtail palms are bipinnate meaning each blade is further subdivided into leaflets.

The tree will flower only when it is grown outdoors. It makes a beautiful ornamental plant indoors though.



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Foxtail Palm

These Palms are grown either as a single or double stemmed palm and grows quickly in full sunlight conditions. They get their common name from their leaf shape which looks like a fox's tail. Originally from Australia.

Foxtail Palm is propagated by seeds which take two to twelve months to sprout. Foxtail Palms can reach heights of 30 feet and widths of 10 feet. They will reach their full size in roughly ten years because they grow two to three feet annually on average.

Did you know?

This palm is known for its longevity, with an average lifespan of 50-150 years.

Foxtail palms tend to only produce fruit when planted outdoors.



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Allamanda

This is normally a climbing plant but can be trimmed into a bush. The version you see here has bright yellow flowers, almost the shape of a trumpet. It also comes in purple flowers. The plant produces milky sap which is not safe to handle. Allamanda will cascade over a retaining wall and makes a nice hanging basket and works well as a container plant for patios if kept under control.

Did you know?

Regular pinching will keep the plant in bounds, but too much pinching removes flower buds which form on new growth.

The plant was named after Dr. Allamand, professor of Philosophy and Mathematics and a well-known naturalist, at Leiden University in the late 1700's.



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Christmas Palm

It bears bright red fruit during the winter months, resembling a Festive tree. Naturally a solitary palm, seeds are planted together to produce multi-stemmed plants. They are a very popular flower with the honeybees.

Did you know?

The name comes from the clusters of bright red fruits that adorn these trees in late fall and winter, giving the plants the appearance of being decorated for the holidays.

Christmas palms are self-cleaning. This means you won't have to worry about pruning off spent fronds because they'll fall off the tree by themselves when ready.



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Joannis Palm

This is a cousin to the Christmas Palm and has longer, more graceful leaves. It can be grown as a single, double or multi-stemmed Palm. They can be differentiated from the Christmas Palm by the fact that they have hair around the central growing point. It is one of the taller growing veitchias commonly cultivated and can be distinguished from the other similar veitchias by the habit of the leaves which droop much below the horizontal as they age.

Did you know?

Each arching leaf has 70 – 80 pairs of long drooping leaflets with serrated tips.

Immature seeds are eaten as a snack and new leaves and buds can be eaten raw like salad.



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Travelers Palms

Not actually a palm, more of a cousin to the Bird of Paradise family. It has paddle shaped leaves arranged on a single plane. It is grown for this unique look. It's supposedly named because Travelers knew that water collected in the leaf stems could be drunk. It's not recommended but it would get you through the desert. Additionally, it is said that the leaves always grow in an east-west direction so a lost traveler can find his way.

Did you know?

Native to rainforest areas of Madagascar, it is the only species in its genus.

Lemurs seem to be the preferred pollinators of this species; they force open the blooms to get at the nectar inside.



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Firecracker plant

As you can see these plants get their name from their bright red tubular flowers that look like a firecracker going off. A very graceful flowing plant that flows down over walls to hide them. These can be invasive because wherever they touch the ground, they tend to root in.

Did you know?

Hummingbirds love firecrackers so much that they will risk everything to defend their respective patches.

This plant is very drought resistant. Its deep root system allows it to access water even in dry conditions, making it a low-maintenance choice for water-wise gardens.



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Jelly Palm

Also known as the Pindo Palm. It is the hardiest of the feather palms. Its curved green/blue leaves add an elegant air to its stout stem. It has fleshy fruit from which jelly or jams and wine can be made.

Did you know?

The seeds are about 45% oil and are used in some countries to make margarine.

Jelly palms can serve as natural noise barriers due to the thickness of the plant.



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Bismarckia Palm

The best silver fan palm available to any landscape. The Bismarckia, is named after the German sea captain Otto van Bismarck. They are unusual in that they have single gendered plants. Some male palms produce flowers that produce only the pollen, and female palms produce the seeds. The males tend to have more fur at the base of the stems. It grows rather slowly when young but once it develops a trunk, growth rate is more moderate. Only completely dead leaves should be removed by cutting the petiole close to the trunk because releases a volatile chemical that serves as an attractant for palmetto weevils which will lay their eggs in the leaf bases.

Did you know?

Did you know that this palm is one of the most expensive palm trees in the world? Due to its slow growth rate, it can take up to 15 years to reach maturity and can be quite difficult to propagate. The palm's oil has been used as a natural sunscreen for centuries by indigenous communities in Papua New Guinea.



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Ixora

A Hawaiian plant that they call Queen of the mountain. It comes in many colors shapes and sizes. It has dwarf versions which have smaller leaves and flowers but still the same shape and size as a larger version. The most commonly grown one is Ixora Nora Grant. It is a magnificent pink, with an almost hydrangea type flower. The other well-grown one is Super King, which again has a huge head of bright red crimson flowers. Not a lot of Caribbean flowers are suitable as cut flowers as they die almost overnight, but Ixoras do last several days as a cut flower.

Did you know?

Ixora flowers throughout the year and is a cousin to the coffee plant!

In traditional Indian medicine, the leaves have antiseptic properties, and the roots can be used to treat diarrhea and fever.



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Mexican Bluebell

These plants are mainly grown as a border planting. They tend to be short-lived and will have a lifespan of 2 to 3 years. They have long leaves and rather jolly Indigo purple flowers. It has been noted that if the plants have afternoon shade, the flowers last well into the day, but if grown in the full sun, the flowers tend to drop quite early in the day. Bees rely heavily on the flowers' nectar in the spring but sometimes they 'steal' it by biting a hole in the bottom of the bell.

Did you know?

It takes at least five years for a bluebell seed to grow into a bulb.

Starch was made from the crushed bulbs of bluebells to stiffen their big ruff collars.



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Oleander

This is a classic taller Caribbean plant, normally grown for strikingly pink flowers that are formed at the end of the new growth. It can survive for a few decades. They can come in many colors, red, pink, or white. They are available in dwarf versions. The leaves and sap are very bitter and can be an irritant to skin that is hypersensitive, avoid touching the plant. There is a caterpillar (develops into a crow butterfly) which has developed immunity to the plant's sap. It is a small orange furry caterpillar, and it is not recommended that they are touched, as the fur can irritate skin.

Did you know?

Oleander is official flower of Hiroshima in Japan because it was the first plant that managed to blossom after devastating effects produced by atomic bomb in the 1945.

Polka-Dot Wasp Moth is a type of insect which consumes oleander without visible side effects. It eats all parts of the leaves except veins.