

# TROPICALS

Care Sheet · [www.LibertyFamilyFarms.com](http://www.LibertyFamilyFarms.com) · Ludlow, Massachusetts

## Chic Mandevilla

Turn some heads this summer with beautiful Mandevilla. This tropical plant is covered with big, bold blooms in brilliant shades of white, pink, or red and long, thick glossy green leaves. It can handle the hot summer temps and actually blooms best in the heat and humidity. Mandevilla has a unique non-vining habit, so it creates a tropical feel with no need for an elaborate trellis or large space.

## Easy Care Color

Mandevilla can be grown in small or large containers, and a support *can* be used if you want to encourage climbing, or if you decide to plant it in the ground. Water regularly, but let the soil dry out between waterings. As a matter of fact, Mandevilla is a good choice for summer color when water availability is a concern. It has an elegant appearance but is a tough plant to use outdoors on decks, apartment balconies, or around pools for a splash of exotic color, or in mixed combos with other sun-lovers.

## Exotic Beauty

Bring the dream vacation to you this season with beautiful tropical plants. Unique flowers in vibrant colors and glossy foliage in unexpected shapes make any garden feel like a party. It's fun to add an unusual element to the border or patio as an eye-catching centerpiece or breezy accent. For all their showmanship, tropicals are easy to grow so add them to your DIY landscape, grab a frozen drink, slip into your flip-flops, and enjoy!



Lovely, reliable Cannova Canna

## *Cannova Canna: Dramatic, Easy, And Dependable*

For drama without a lot of fuss, tropical Canna is a great choice. It reliably delivers a 2.5- to 4-foot stand of vibrant lily-like flowers with large leaves. Bred in the Netherlands, the Cannova series grows when it's comfortably sunny, right through the hot, muggy summer days and into the cooler autumn weather—just be sure to water regularly. Use Canna as a showpiece in beds and large urns, massed along walls or hedges, or as an exotic backdrop around the pool. Even a single plant in a pretty pot is stunning!



Mandevilla—elegant yet tough

## Design Ideas

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**Mandevilla:** Creates a tropical feel in containers. Move it around as needed for a splash of color on the patio, front steps, etc.

**Canna:** Versatile design tool. Group into a stand as a centerpiece. Large enough to use as a backdrop for big gardens and structures, like fences.

**Alocasia:** Interesting foliage adds drama to large arrangements. Makes a good accent plant for shady areas. Can also be grown as a houseplant.

**Colocasia:** Lends a tropical look to mixed borders, rain gardens, water margins, and large containers. Excellent as a specimen or in groups.



Distinctive veining of Alocasia

## *Big And Bold: Elephant Ears*

Elephant ear is the common name given to a group of tropical plants with huge, heart-shaped to arrowhead-shaped leaves. These oversized ornamentals add a bold, exotic touch to the garden and fit the bill if you're looking for an attention-grabbing centerpiece. While they do flower, the instances of it are rare—most elephant ears are all about the fantastic foliage. We offer two of the most common types.

### *Alocasia: Distinctive Leaf Markings*

Leaves are one-to-three feet long with distinctive veining, markings, or coloration. Stiff leaf stalks, or petioles, extend into the leaves giving them the tendency to point upwards. Alocasia grows best in part shade or filtered sun. Though it needs regular water, soil must be well-draining and not remain soggy.

### *Colocasia: Grows In Wet Soils*

Colocasia leaves are around two feet long, and petioles connect down from the notches in the leaves, allowing them to hang or droop downward. This elephant ear grows best in full sun and thrives in wet soil—it can even be grown in standing water!



Huge heart-shaped leaves of Colocasia