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Enjoy a slice of paradise and create your own tropical garden with British Garden Centres

Where better to relax on a hot summer's day than in a tropical style garden? Tropical gardens are gaining popularity and rightly so, as they evoke memories of being on vacation and bring a sense of heat and warmth to outside spaces. Even in small spaces, you can make your garden feel like a tropical jungle, no matter where you live. British Garden Centres has put together this comprehensive guide to designing and planting your tropical style garden, packed with expert tips and plant recommendations to bring the holiday vibe home.

Our pick of tropical plants

You don't need a tropical climate to enjoy a garden full of bold, exotic plants. With the right choices and a little care, it's perfectly possible to create a lush, tropical feel right here in the UK. While a few plants may need extra protection over winter, many will do well in milder areas or can be grown in a greenhouse or conservatory. With these standout plants, you can easily give your garden that vibrant, holiday at home atmosphere.

Bamboos: These are brilliant for adding height and that amazing rustling sound in the breeze, heard when on a tropical holiday. They help create a sense of enclosure and blur your garden boundaries, making the space feel more expansive and tranquil. Where possible, choose clump-forming varieties as these stay in a neat clump, unlike the running types that can spread a bit too enthusiastically through your garden. We advise you to plant them in a large pot that's sunk into the ground in your tropical paradise.

Banana tree (Musa basjoo): This is truly the star of the show for that instant tropical look in your garden. This banana plant is surprisingly hardy (down to about -15°C!) and will usually bounce back even if the leaves get frosted. A good layer of mulch around its base in winter will help protect it. Plant it in a pot if you want to keep its size in check or place it near a patio or pond for that ultimate holiday resort feel.

Tree ferns: These ancient looking beauties bring such a tropical and primaeval feel to a garden. They offer lovely, dappled shade and incredible texture to any outdoor space. They like a spot that's not too sunny and prefers moist soil. In winter, give their crowns a good insulating hug with straw or hay, and wrap their trunks in fleece or hessian to keep them cosy. If you only have a small outdoor space, potted ferns will also create a lovely, exotic feel with their elegant fronds.

Fatsia japonica: This evergreen shrub showcases large, glossy, hand-shaped leaves that instantly add an exotic, tropical feel to any garden setting. It thrives well in partial to full shade, making it ideal for UK gardens and is tolerant



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of different soil types, provided they are well-drained and not waterlogged. It prefers moist but fertile soil, which helps it maintain its vibrant foliage throughout the year and withstand temperatures down to around -10°C, making it hardy enough for most parts of the country.

Trachelospermum jasminoides (Star Jasmine): For vertical interest or if you are short of floor space in a tropical garden, this evergreen climber is perfect. It has beautiful, deep green, waxy leaves and in summer, it produces wonderfully fragrant white flowers. Train it over walls, fences, or arches to add height, scent for a jungle retreat.

Canna Lilies: Cannas are absolute showstoppers with their wide, lush leaves and incredibly vibrant, exotic flowers in shades of red, orange, and yellow. They'll die back in winter but will usually return with gusto in spring. Just remember to give them a good layer of mulch in colder months to protect their roots.

Viburnum davidii: This is a super reliable and hardy shrub with deep green, waxy leaves. It makes a fantastic, evergreen backdrop for your more flamboyant tropical plants and is a great way to add structure. One of the best things about *Viburnum davidii* is how easy it is to care for. Once it's settled in, it doesn't need much attention. Just water it regularly during its first year, and after that, only during long dry spells

Choisya ternata (Mexican Orange Bush): Another excellent evergreen shrub, *Choisya* has lovely glossy leaves and produces fragrant white flowers in spring that attract bees and add a fresh, citrusy scent to your outdoor space. It pairs beautifully with tropical planting, and you can underplant it with colourful perennials like *crococsmia* or *heuchera* for an even lush, layered look.

Julian Palphramand, Head of Plants at British Garden Centres, said: "Tropical plants are a brilliant way to bring colour, bold foliage, and a real sense of escape to your garden. You don't need a hot climate to enjoy them—many hardy varieties do well here in the UK. With a bit of planning and the right mix of plants, anyone can create a lush, inviting space that feels like a little holiday at home."

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WORD COUNT: 828

Notes to Editors:

About the business:

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group, with 73 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by the Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire. BGC was launched in 1990 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre, funded by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018, it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres, allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now with 73 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham.



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The group has a team of 2,700 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, three growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres and Woodthorpe Leisure Park and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

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