

# HOW TO . . .



## make the most of your Conservatory

Today, the conservatory is most often used as an extra living room or eating area, well furnished with both plants and home comforts. The extra light provided through the large glass windows means that many more flowering plants may be grown successfully, including Bougainvillea, Gardenia and Plumbago. The year round display of colourful and often exotic plants are a constant delight.

### PLANTS FOR THE WARM CONSERVATORY

If your conservatory is to be used a living area, then maintaining a steady temperature of 60 - 70 degrees F (15.5 - 21 degrees C) is acceptable for most people. This is classed as a warm conservatory and also makes an ideal home for many tropical and sub-tropical plants.

#### FLOWERING PLANTS

##### COLUMNEA (Goldfish Plant)

Yellow, orange or red tubular flowers. Ideal hanging plant.

##### GARDENIA (Cape Jasmine)

Strongly scented, waxy white flowers from March - July, with dark green, glossy leaves.

##### HIBISCUS (Rose of China)

Large papery flowers from Spring to Autumn and dark green glossy leaves.

##### STEPHANOTIS (Madagascar Jasmine)

Heavily scented, waxy white tubular blooms and glossy oval leaves.

##### SAINTPAULIA (African Violet)

Oval, hairy, green leaves. Produces several flushes of flowers each year in good light.

##### TILLANDSIA (Air Plant)

Unusual group of plants forming rosette leaf clumps. Daily misting is all the care required.

#### FOLIAGE PLANTS

##### CROTON (Josephs Coat)

A popular plant with vivid, coloured foliage and varied leaf shapes

##### KENTIA PALM (Paradise Palm)

Traditional palm that grows up to 8ft. Fairly wide green leaflets.

##### FICUS BENJAMINA (Weeping Fig)

Splendid plant with weeping branches and long pointed leaves.

##### YUCCA (Cane Tree)

The woody trunk bears a crown of long, leathery, rough edged leaves.

### PLANTS FOR THE COOL CONSERVATORY

The cool conservatory has a minimum winter night temperature of 40 - 45F (4.5 - 7C). This is suitable for a wide range of tender plants.

#### FLOWERING PLANTS

##### CYCLAMEN

Attractive foliage with swept-back flowers on long stalks. Some sweetly perfumed.

##### CHRYSANTHEMUM

An abundance of showy flowers in Summer above mid-green foliage.

**BULBS** - A good variety available for Spring colour; Crocus, Narcissi, Tulips & Snowdrops are just some.

##### SOLANUM - (Winter Cherry)

Orange or red berries, amongst dark green leaves. Very festive!

##### JASMINUM

Climbing plant that bears flowers in clusters on twining stems with much divided leaves.

##### MINIATURE ROSE

Bears lovely 1-3cm blooms in a variety of colours - many fragrant.

#### FOLIAGE PLANTS

##### YUCCA (Cane Tree)

Requires a well lit spot in Winter. Bears a crown of leathery, green leaves on a woody trunk.

##### HEDERA HELIX (Ivy)

Useful trailing or hanging plant.



##### FERN (Pteris)

Easy to grow, producing handsome fronds in a variety leaf shapes.

##### CACTI

Require a well lit spot, especially in Winter. Available in a variety of shapes and sizes.

#### CONTAINERS - Many plants, especially trailing

kinds, are effectively grown in elevated containers like hanging baskets, enhancing the roof area with a splash of colour. Choose the moulded plastic type with built in drip tray for less mess when watering. Half baskets and wall pots that are fixed directly to walls, are also ideal for trailers. The back wall of a conservatory offers an ideal location for climbing plants, although they will require additional support. For displaying plants on the floor, there is a huge choice of decorative plastic, stone and terracotta pots available in many styles and sizes. Group several pots together when displaying to create an impact.

Also available are self watering tubs and planters, which are especially useful over periods away from home! Troughs are ideal for low growing plants such as Impatiens (busy lizzie) and Begonias, whilst Passion flowers do best in deep containers as they tend to be deep rooted.

**PLANT SUPPORT & TRAINING** - Offering plants a system of support is really straight forward. Canes and moss poles are ideal for foliage plants using twist or ring ties to secure the plant to the support. Wire netting cylinders or shapes, supported with wooden stakes or canes, make excellent frames to support Ivies which will eventually completely cover these supports.

**COMPOSTS** - The majority of the plants listed here, grow best in peat based compost, i.e. Levingtons or Westland. The multi-purpose type offers the best of both worlds, being light, clean, easy to handle and is ideal for mature specimens, young cuttings and seedlings. Camellias, Leptospermums and Azaleas are best grown in lime-free compost (ericaceous). All potting composts contain 6-8 weeks of food but thereafter will require liquid feeding. A good all round food ideal for flowering and foliage plants is 'Miracle-Gro' or 'Miracid' for lime hating plants.

### PLANTS FOR THE INTERMEDIATE CONSERVATORY

With a minimum winter temperature of 50F (10C), you would have an intermediate conservatory, which suits a wide range of plants. Intermediate and cool conservatories are, of course, rather chilly when maintained at the minimum temperatures, but remember, they will often be warmer than this as the sun will raise the temperature.



#### FLOWERING PLANTS

##### BOUGAINVILLEA (Paper flower)

Lush and shrubby, leaf shedding, climber with pink/white flowers.

##### BROMELIADS

Related to the pineapple. Colourful and bizarre bringing a touch of the tropical rain forest.

##### CAMPANULA

##### (Star of Bethlehem)

White and blue flowers. Trailing and groundcover.



#### CITRUS (Oranges, Lemons)

Evergreen shrub or tree with highly fragrant flowers in Spring/Summer.

#### CYMBIDIUM EVERGREEN ORCHID

Flowers February to June (many varieties)

#### STREPTOCARPOS

#### (Cape Primrose)

Trumpet shaped flowers, available in white, blue, purple, pink and red.

#### THUNBERGIA (Black Eyed Susan)

Orange flowers with dark eye. Annual climber or ideal in hanging baskets.

#### FOLIAGE PLANTS

##### RHOICISSUS RHOMBOIDIFOLIA (Grape Ivy)

Evergreen climber.

##### HEDERA (Gloire de Marengo)

Attractive and colourful with large leaves.

#### TRADESCANTIA

#### (Wandering Jew)

Evergreen trailer available with purple or green variegated leaves.

