

WATER SAVING TROPICAL-LOOK EXHIBIT



Looking at the photo above, you probably would not believe it was taken standing in San Diego's East County, and in the middle of summer no less! So, for those of you torn between wanting to be responsible with your water use, but also wanting a more tropical look than succulents and cactus can provide, this exhibit is for you. The plant selection not only suggests a tropical look and feel, but because most are native to parts of the world with dry and warm climate, they use less water. The secret is how many of them store water in their leaves, and root systems more efficiently than other plants and placement in part to full shade provided by the tree canopy. We have a wide variety of plants in this exhibit so you can see which ones work best for the look you want. Also there are some structures installed to give you a feel for landscaping options beyond plant selection. On the following pages, we share some basic information about the structures and plant selection so you can see why they work so well in this setting. There's also a restful spot to sit under the portico here, so if you just want to get away for a while, you are welcome to relax here and let our tropical get-away take you away.

Step Into The Tropical Zone.



If you have a large enough yard and want to enhance the look, for depth and interest you can add some structures. Our exhibit has three: a portico; faux rock wall; and, the entry arch seen here. This arch is a metal trellis that allows climbing plants to cover it for a lush, tropical look. They're fairly simple to install, reasonably priced, and available from several local providers. Adding an arch like this one covered with Pride of DeKap to your yard, adds to the sense of stepping into a completely different climate environment. This can make anyone feel like your yard transports them to a far off exotic island.

WATER SAVING TROPICAL-LOOK EXHIBIT (cont') Structures

Cedar Pergola



Donated by Joe Woods: woodsshop.com

Faux Rock Wall



Built by De Mello Designs

Featured Plants - Narrow Leafed

The portico shown above provides a shady spot to sit, but since it's Asian Pacific Island inspired, it adds to the tropical look and feel. The wood used is weather tolerant, but needs to be treated regularly to keep it in good repair and free from pests like termites. The faux rock wall (above right) has a small water feature and was professionally constructed. We recommend hiring a pro for this job.

Lobster Flower >
(Plectranthus neochilis)
Succulent native to South Africa. Resistant to prolonged periods of drought.



< Electric Pink Dracaena
(Cordyline banksii)
Native to Africa. Has average water needs. Water more in extreme heat.

Giant Dioon >
(Dioon spinulosum)
Native to Mexico. Drought tolerant once established.



WATER SAVING TROPICAL-LOOK EXHIBIT (cont') Featured Plants- Broad Leafed



< Bird of Paradise (Strelitzia) Native to South Africa. Prefers moist, but not soggy soil. Misting leaves for added humidity helps.

Giant Bird of Paradise > (Strelitzia nicolai) Native to South Africa. Same care as smaller variety.



< Madeira Island Geranium (Geranium maderense) Native to Madeira Islands (Atlantic). Average water needs. Prefers Mediterranean climate.

Bush Lily > (Clivia miniata) Native to South Africa. Saturate base; let dry out.



< Plumeria (Plumeria alba) Native to Mexico, Central America & Venezuela. Water less frequent but deeply.

Fireball Bromeliad > (Neoregelia fireball) Native to tropical North and South America. Prefers moist environment.



WATER SAVING TROPICAL-LOOK EXHIBIT (cont') Featured Plants - Palms



< Cardboard Palm
(*Zamia furfuracea*)
Native to tropical and
subtropical America.
Moderate water
need.



Chinese Fan Palm >
(*Livistona chinensis*)
Native to Southern
Japan and China.
Moderate water
needs.



< Formosa Palm
(*Arenga engleri*)
Native to southern
islands of Japan and
Northern Taiwan.
Drought tolerant.



Key Thatch Palm >
(*Leucothrinax*) Native
to Florida Keys and
Caribbean. Highly
drought tolerant.



< Sago Palm
(*Cycas revoluta*)
Native to tropical
islands of southern
Japan. Water every
one to two weeks in
dry weather.



Spiny Fiber Palm >
(*Trithrinax*) Native to
South America.
Drought tolerant.

WATER SAVING TROPICAL-LOOK EXHIBIT (cont') Featured Plants - Shrubs & Trees



< Yellow Bells
(*Tecoma stans*)
Native from Arizona
& Texas to northern
Argentina. The vari-
ant *angustata* is
drought tolerant.



Pride of DeKaap >
(*Bauhinia galpinii*)
Native to DeKapp
Valley, South Africa.
Low water use.



< Queen Palm
(*Syagrus romanzoffiana*)
Native to South
America. Can toler-
ate occasional
drought periods, but
not entirely drought
tolerant.



African Fern Pine >
(*Podocarpus gracilior*)
Native to Ethiopia,
Uganda and Kenya.
Drought resistant.

