



# Blooming Tropicals

The Brazos Valley's extended blooming season can last nearly 10 months out of the year. By combining hardy and half-hardy tropical plants together with potted plants, you can have year-round color in your garden, assuring that, when root hardy plants die back, you will still have evergreen and hardy plants to fill in your garden until growth begins anew.

## POTTING TROPICAL PLANTS

Many tropicals do well in pots. Potting offers the advantage of mobility and a plant more easily moves is more easily protected from cold snaps. Although many tropicals are root hardy and will return after a freeze, potted and protected plants will have a start and will bloom and thrive while their counterparts are just coming back. An obvious choice for porches, patios, and decks, potted tropicals can also be used in the landscape.

Containers for potting should be at least 14 inches in diameter, with holes in the bottom for drainage. Do not use saucers outdoors, as plants sitting in water from sprinklers or rain begin to develop root rot in as little as 30 minutes.

Apply rose planting mix. Water to settle soil around the plant and to remove air pockets. The top of the plant's root ball should be two inches below the rim of the pot. Add one inch of mulch to retain moisture, insulate roots, and block out weeds.

## FERTILIZING TROPICAL PLANTS

Fertilize most tropicals every 3 to 4 weeks with Heirloom Gardens Hibiscus Fertilizer. Especially formulated for Brazos Valley, weather, and soil conditions, our 10-4-12 ratio with added sulphur, iron, and trace elements will give you healthier plants with superior blooms.

A dolly will help you re-arrange or move plants for entertaining, winter protection, etc. This is especially true in the case of larger tropicals.

Why hunt all over town when you can get your summer blooming tropicals at Heirloom Gardens? Every summer, our nursery is bursting with fresh tropical color. We've tracked down exotic *Jatropha*, *Bougainvillea*, *Ixora*, and more. We can turn your yard into a blooming tropical paradise, not just for this summer, but for many summers to come.

