
Two of the most frequently asked questions are: “What grows in your Garden?” or “Does ‘X’ grow in your Garden?” This new volume provides a convenient way to find answers to these questions. There are sections for ferns and fern allies, gymnosperms, dicots, and monocots, each with an alphabetical listing of families, genera and species. The species entry consists of the scientific name (including important synonyms), common name(s), geographic distribution, and its location in the Gardens. The species are indexed by scientific and common name.

This compilation builds on that of Tay et al. (1995), which was produced with the aim of “facilitating the work of our staff in checking the correct identity of plants in the collection, in maintaining a proper plant record and in planning for the development of the Gardens.” It listed 1700 entries. Developments in the Gardens have continued apace making a new updated compilation necessary.

This new listing is fully revised to take account of name changes and greatly expands the number of entries to 2700. The listing reflects the strengths of the Gardens’ collection in growing a great diversity of tropical plants with orchids, bromeliads, palms and aroids among the monocots and the Leguminosae, Myrtaceae and Moraceae among the dicots being particularly well represented. Another strength of the Gardens’ collection is in horticultural groups, particularly cultivars of bougainvillea and frangipani.

For the first time, plants growing in the Gardens’ Rain Forest are listed. This is a welcome addition as this rainforest fragment is a unique feature of the Gardens. New developments have also added to the list of plants now grown in the Gardens. Greatly expanded is the list of orchids to take account of the wealth of orchids in the National Orchid Garden and of bromeliads in the Yuen-Ping McNeice Bromeliad Collection. (There were no bromeliads listed in 1995).

Time waits for no man and developments in the Gardens are ongoing. A new Ginger Garden is taking shape, which will certainly expand the current listing of 16 species. the Orchid Coolhouse will enable an entirely new suite of tropical montane species to be displayed, and a Begonia House is mooted that will add a new focus as not a single begonia is currently listed. In view of these rapid and exciting changes, it is timely to consider whether a less expensive format, such as CDs with a unit cost of a few dollars, would be a more practical way of producing the checklist, which being cheaper could then be updated annually, as well as including
colour images.

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Reference: