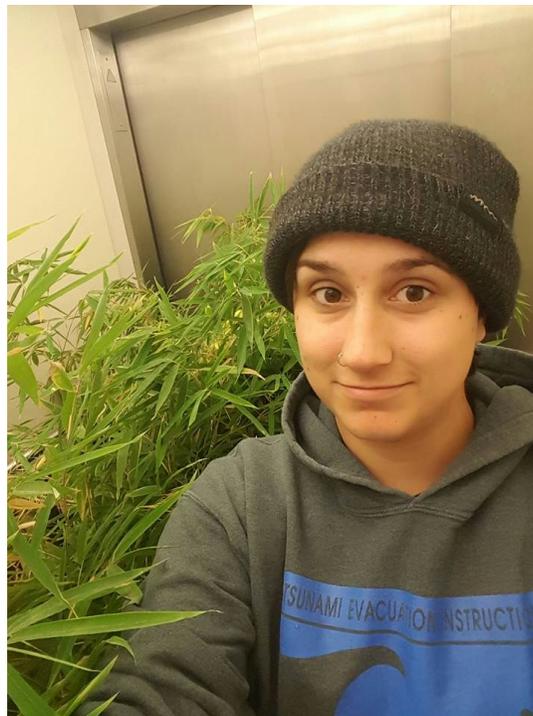


*An Introduction to the  
Plants of Cleveland Hall  
and the Education Annex  
at Washington State  
University*

*Vanessa M. Slape*

# 2015 Cleveland Hall Plants Washington State University By Vanessa M. Slape

This plant catalog was created as a part of my 2015 internship with CAHNRS. I took care of 30+ plants in Cleveland Hall and the connected Education Annex. My responsibilities were for maintenance of the plants which included irrigation, fertilization, pruning, turning pots, cleaning fallen foliage, and taking plants indoors for the winter season. In addition to caring for the plants, I conducted a study of the plants to create this plant catalog of the plants in Cleveland Hall.



# *Crassula ovata*

**Common Names:** Jade, Money Tree, Friendship Plant

**Region of Origin:** South Africa

The Jade plant is an evergreen succulent that is common as a houseplant. It is a robust desert plant, needing water infrequently. Leaves of the Jade are obovate, shiny, thick, and green. Their stems are thick and woody. Flowers are either pink or white and shaped like a five-pointed star.



In Asian cultures the Jade plant is said to bring prosperity and friendship to those who share their home with one.



# Crassula portulacaeeae

**Common Names:** Spoon Jade, Gollum Fingers, Shrek Plant, Horseshoe Jade

**Region of Origin:** Cultivar of *Crassula ovata*

The Spoon Jade varies from a regular Jade in that its leaves are longer, with an oval/cylindrical shape. The end of leaves dip inward and the margins turn upward.



# *Monstera deliciosa*

**Common Names:** Swiss Cheese Plant, Splitleaf Philodendron, Mexican Breadfruit, Fruit Salad Tree

**Region of Origin:** Rainforests of Southern Mexico, Central America, Columbia

*Monstera deliciosa* is a large, climbing woody vine using trees as support before establishing its own roots to the ground. The large edible fruit is said to taste of a mix of other tropical fruits, hence the common name Fruit Salad Tree.



# *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*

**Common Names:** Chinese Hibiscus, China Rose, Rose Mallow

**Region of Origin:** East Asia

The Hibiscus is a tropical and subtropical evergreen that has beautifully colored scarlet five-petaled flowers. The flowers are appealing, boasting a long stigma and wavy, vibrant petals.



# *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* 'Kona'

*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* 'Kona' is one of 232 species, and 5,000 varieties of Hibiscus. In America, Hibiscus is pollinated by hummingbirds while insects pollinate it in other areas of the world. They are capable of self-pollinating.



In Tahitian lore it is believed that a hibiscus flower worn on the left ear shows that a woman is taken, and if worn on the right ear, the woman is single.

# *Strelitzia reginae* 'Nana'

**Common Names:** Bird of Paradise, Strelitzia, Crane Flower

**Region of Origin:** South Africa

*Strelitzia* is evergreen with large leaves that grow on long petioles. Flowers grow from large stalks as well, sticking out above foliage. They resemble a bird with bright petals and sepals appearing like plumage and a spathe that resembles a beak. Birds are the primary pollinators for this plant, getting nectar on their legs when they land on a flower to eat.



*Strelitzia* is currently placed in its own family (*Strelitziaceae*) but was formerly placed in the banana family (*Musaceae*).

# *Alpinia oceanica* c.v. *vittata*

**Common Names:** Ginger

**Region of Origin:** Asia, Australia, Pacific Islands

*Alpinia oceanica* is one of over 230 species of plants in the ginger family. While known for their use in culinary spices, they are also widely used as ornamentals. Their fragrant flowers are borne on large inflorescences and are very showy.



*Alpinia* are primarily pollinated by bees!

# *Schefflera arboricola*

**Common Names:** Dwarf Umbrella Tree, Dwarf Schefflera, Parasol Plant

**Region of Origin:** Taiwan

*Schefflera arboricola* is a flowering evergreen shrub. Frequently used in bonsai, this plant is very popular as an indoor plant. It is tolerant of low light and low humidity but thrives in high light as well.



Dwarf Schefflera are mildly poisonous; ingesting the leaves and stem cause symptoms similar to eating ground glass.

# *Ficus religiosa*

**Common Names:** Sacred Fig, Buddha Tree

**Region of Origin:** Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Southwest China, Indochina

*Ficus religiosa* gets its name from having leaves that move without wind. Jainist, Buddhist and Hindu religions believe that the leaves moved from gods on them. This phenomenon occurs due to the nature of the broad leaves on long, thin stems.



*F. religiosa* is used in traditional medicine to treat over 50 ailments such as epilepsy, asthma, and diabetes.

# *Beaucarnea recurvata*

**Common Names:** Ponytail Palm, Elephant's Foot

**Region of Origin:** Eastern Mexico

Ponytail Palms are an evergreen perennial tree. They are not truly palms but are more closely related to lilies. They make great ornamental plants. Their swollen, woody base is a vessel for water storage called a caudex making it tolerant of arid conditions.



# *Cycas revoluta*

**Common Names:** Sago Palm

**Region of Origin:** Japan

Sago palm is a cycad. Cycads are primitive plants that are prevalent in fossils from the era of dinosaurs. Many were once thought to be palms and are often still referred to as palms in their common names. They are considered evolutionary relics that remain relatively unchanged since the discovery of cycad fossils.



Sago Palm are extremely poisonous if ingested for both humans and animals.

# Dieffenbachia amoena

**Common Names:** Dieffenbachia, Dumb Cane

**Region of Origin:** South America

Dieffenbachia amoena is partial to shade and dislikes a draft, making it a great houseplant. Its sap is toxic, and if ingested will numb the mouth, irritate the esophagus, and possibly paralyze vocal cords, so it should be kept away from children and domesticated animals. Its effect on the mouth is why this plant is referred to as Dumb Cane.



Native Amazonians used Dieffenbachia sap as part of their poison for arrow tips.

# *Anthurium macdougalií*

**Common Names:** *Macdougalií's Tail Flower*

**Region of Origin:** *Americas*

*Macdougalií's Tail Flower* is one of about a thousand species of anthurium. With so many varieties there are many used as potted ornamentals and in the floral industry. These plants don't mind shade which makes them easy to keep indoors.



*A. macdougalií* grows as an epiphyte in the wild, growing on other plants so that it reaches greater heights.

# *Musa acuminata* 'Nana'

*Common Names:* Dwarf Banana

*Region of Origin:* Southeast Asia

Dwarf Banana are not actual trees. They possess a peristem instead of a trunk, which consists of the sheaths of leaves that have emerged from their corm.



At a mature height, the Dwarf Banana reaches 8–10 feet high.

# *Dracaena deremensis*

**Common Names:** Cornstalk Dracaena, Warnecki Dracaena

**Region of Origin:** Africa

*Dracaena deremensis* works wonderfully as an indoor plant. Aside from being very tolerant of neglect and low light conditions, *D. deremensis* removes air pollutants that are found indoors such as formaldehyde and xylene.



In Tanzanian culture, *D. deremensis* is known as the holy 'masale'.

# *Livistona chinensis*

**Common Names:** Chinese Fan Palm, Fountain Palm

**Region of Origin:** Eastern Asia

The Fountain Palm is a relatively slow growing palm tree that can reach heights of 30 to 50 feet. In traditional Chinese medicine, this plant was known to have anticancer properties. Chinese also used their wood for walking sticks and umbrella handles. Leaves were used for making hats, fans, brushes, and ropes.



# *Alocasia macrorrhiza*

**Common Names:** Elephant Ear Taro, Giant Taro, 'Ape

**Region of Origin:** Phillipines

With leaves as wide as 12 feet high and 2 feet wide, *A. macrorrhiza* is used as an impromptu umbrella in Polynesia. The leaves are why this plant is known as 'Upright Elephant Ears'.



If cooked, *A. macrorrhiza* is edible.

# *Musa acuminata ssp. zebrina*

**Common Names:** Blood Banana

**Region of Origin:** Sumatra, Indonesia

*M. acuminata* is a subspecies of the banana cultivated for supermarkets. Selected for its ornamental beauty, the red patches on its leaves make it aesthetically pleasing. They are easily propagated from basal shoots produced around the base of the parent plant.



Blood bananas are among the first plants to have been moved by early traders towards the Pacific Ocean and Africa from Sumatra, Indonesia.

# *Euphorbia tirucalli*

**Common Names:** Milk Bush, Naked Lady, Sticks on Fire, Pencil Cactus, Aveloz

**Region of Origin:** Africa

Pencil cacti are shrubs that have been used as medicinal plants in past african cultures, but research has found they may be very detrimental to health. They may cause blindness if their milk makes contact with the eyes or death if ingested.



This plant is carcinogenic, and is thought to be a cofactor of Burkitt's lymphoma.

# *Ficus binnendijkii* 'Alii'

**Common Names:** Long-Leaved Fig, Binnendijk's Fig

**Region of Origin:** India, Asia, Malaysia

This Long-Leaved Fig has only been around for about 10 years. It is most commonly used as a hedge, or for ornamental purposes. Many *Ficus* sp. grow invasively, and are capable of harming underground pipes and destroying concrete structures.



Although culinary figs are widely enjoyed, the fruit produced by *Ficus binnendijkii* is inedible.

# *Ficus lyrata*

**Common Names:** Fiddle Leaf Fig

**Region of Origin:** Western Africa

*Ficus lyrata* grows in lowland rainforests. It is capable of standing on its own, however it is common for this plant to begin life as an epiphyte on a host tree. As it grows, aerial roots reach down to the ground, and the *F. lyrata* becomes capable of standing on its own.



If growing epiphytically, this plant can strangle its host to death.

# *Philodendron martianum*

**Common Names:** *Flask Philodendron*

**Region of Origin:** *Southeastern Brazil*

*Leaves of Philodendron martianum have perfect flowers which incorporate both male and female parts. On each spathe, there are hundreds of tiny flowers which make up the spadix that sticks up.*



*Flask Philodendron contain needle-like calcium oxalates that if ingested will cause severe reactions such as a coma or death.*



# *Cordyline terminalis*

**Common Names:** Good Luck Plant, Tí Plant

**Region of Origin:** Asia, Papua New Guinea, Melanesia, Australia, Polynesia

*Cordyline terminalis* is sometimes referred to as the King of Tropical Foliage because of its broad green leaves that have bright red splotches within them. When grown in mild climates, this plant will stay green, but in its natural habitat it's exceptionally colorful.



# *Cereus repandus*

**Common Names:** Peruvian Apple Cactus, Club Cactus, Hedge Cactus

**Region of Origin:** South America

Peruvian Apple cacti fruit are edible and get their name from the similarities between their fruit called 'pitaya' and apples. Both fruit are reddish in color, rounded, and sweet.



# *Euphorbia ingens*

**Common Names:** *Candelabra Tree*

**Region of Origin:** *Southern Africa*

*Euphorbia ingens* gets the nickname 'Candelabra Tree' from the form it takes when it grows large. The trunk expands, and new arms branch off. After there are many arms, it resembles a candelabra.



Wood from the trunk of this plant is used to make planks and boats.

# *Agave attenuata*

**Common Names:** Dragon Tree Agave, Lion's Tail, Swan's Neck, Foxtail

**Region of Origin:** Jalisco, Central Mexico

Unlike most Agaves, *A. attenuata* grows on an upright stalk. As it grows, the heavy foliage bends the stem toward the ground. When it flowers, the large inflorescence elongates, and makes an arch from the foliage to the ground, which is where it gets the name 'Swan's Neck'.



Unlike many agaves, *A. attenuata* has no thorns or spines.

# *Yucca aloifolia*

**Common Names:** Spanish Bayonet, Dagger Plant, Aloe Yucca

**Region of Origin:** SE United States, Mexico, Caribbean

After flowering, the trunk of the Spanish Bayonet dies, but lateral and basal buds at the base of the plant will then grow. Once matured, the shoots of the Aloe Yucca produce beautiful purple and white flowers, which make this plant a useful ornamental.



# *Araucaria heterophylla*

**Common Names:** Norfolk Island Pine, Star Pine, Triangle Tree

**Region of Origin:** Norfolk Island

Although *Araucaria heterophylla* resembles a pine tree, it is in fact not a true pine.



Because of its tallness, the Norfolk Island Pine is susceptible to lightning strikes and is prohibited on some coastal communities. The trunk of this tree was widely used for ship masts on old sailing vessels.



# *Ficus elastica* 'Doescheri'

**Common Names:** Rubber Fig, Indian Rubber Bush

**Region of Origin:** India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, China (Yunnan), Malaysia, Indonesia

*Ficus elastica* has coevolved with a species of fig wasp. The wasps live inside of the fruit as larvae. After mating, the males dig out of the fruit and the females follow carrying pollen on their legs to the next plant. The male wasps die shortly after escaping.



# *Ficus elastica*

**Common Names:** Rubber Tree, Rubber Fig, Indian Rubber Bush

**Region of Origin:** India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, China (Yunnan), Malaysia, Indonesia

*Ficus elastica* can become huge. The *Ficus* pictured below is here at Washington State University, and has grown to be 4 stories tall!

