

Species and Varieties

Taru Gardens has at least 28 species of fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals: two species of armored-catfish, pacu, mosquito-fish, oscar, bala-shark, comet goldfish, tiger-loach, Siamese algae-eater, Chinese algae-eater, fire-mouth cichlid, and half a dozen kinds of African cichlid; soft-shell turtle, painted slider, red-eared slider, curly-tail lizard, green Cuban anole, native lizards (probably more than one kind), and ring-necked snakes; scarlet macaw and green-wing macaw; cats, and humans.

In less than an acre of planted area, Taru Gardens has several hundred species and varieties of plants. The number fluctuates, as annual plants usually live only a few months.

Sub-Tropical Hardwood Fruit Trees: Loquat, Kumquat, Coco-Plums, Pigeon-Plums, and Seagrapes.

Tropical Woody Fruit Trees: 4 kinds of Mango, 2 kinds of Lychee, 2 kinds of Longan, Wax Jambo, Jambolan, Malay-apple, Rose-Apple, Caimito, 3 kinds of Carambola (Star Fruit), Bilimbi, 3 kinds of Sapodilla, Enlightenment Tree (Religious Fig), Calamondin, 2 kinds of Pomegranate, Cattley-Guava, Myrtle-Apricot, Jaboticaba, Grumichama, Jakfruit, Kwaimuk, Ilima, Custard-Apple, Miracle Fruit, 2 kinds of Mamey-Sapote, Black-Sapote (Chocolate-Pudding Fruit), White-Sapote (Citrus-Apple), Yellow Sapote (Canistel), Avocado, Bacuri-Liso, Siricote (Geiger Tree), and Bay-Rum. There are others that haven't fruited.

Tropical Woody Nut Trees: Macadamia, Guyana-Chestnut, Malabar-Chestnut, Candle Nut.

Tropical Woody Spice Trees: Allspice, Bay-Rum, Lemon-Scented Bay-Rum.

Sub-Tropical and Temperate Zone Woody Spice Trees: Star Anise, California Bay Laurel, Red Bay, Wild Cinnamon, and Southern Magnolia.

Tropical Vine Fruits: Melon-Passionfruit and Monster-Fruit.

Other Edible Fruits and Nuts: Papaya, 10 kinds of Banana, 3 kinds of Pineapple, 3 kinds of Coconut, African Oil Palm, and Palmetto.

Tropical Leafy Vegetables: Tlanipa, Chompoo, Bidens, Asiatic Day Flower, Leafy Cactus, Nopales (Tuna Cactus), Potherb Fame Flower, Australian Sword Fern fiddleheads, Inland Leatherleaf Fern fiddleheads, and young leaves of Malabar-Chestnut, Guyana-Chestnut, Papaya, Mango, and Malay-Apple.

Temperate Zone Wild Vegetables: Purslane, Chickweed, Sourgrass, and Land Cress.

Edible Flowers: White Butterfly-Ginger, Peach Butterfly-Ginger, Purple Trumpet Tree (Tabebuia), Velvet-Leafed Spiral-Ginger, Red-Button Spiral-Ginger, Curvibracteata Spiral-Ginger, and Spanish-Needle.

Outstanding **Ornamental Flowers** that we do eat anything from, include:

African Sausage Tree, orange-flowered Royal Poinciana, golden-flowered Royal Poinciana, Shaving Brush Tree, 3 kinds of Plumeria (Frangipani), 2 kinds of Golden Chalice, 4 kinds of Angel Trumpet (Brugmansia), 2 kinds of Shell-Ginger, Ornamental Banana, Vera Wood, Tree-of-Life (Yaxche or Floss-Silk), Climbing Oleander, Cape Honeysuckle, Bleeding Heart Vine, Hanging Lobster-Claw, Upright Lobster-Claw, Robust Upright Lobster-Claw, Fire-Bush, Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow, Cuban Buttercup, Starburst Clerodendron, Java Bower Flower, Golden Shrimp-Plant, several kinds of Flamingo Flower and Peace-Lily, several perennial Begonia, Pride-of-Barbados, several kinds of Rose-of-China (common Hibiscus), Sunshine Tree (Seaside Hibiscus), several kinds of Bromeliads, Coral Vine, Powder Puff, a few Orchids, including Vanilla, Mitrephora, Amazon Lilies, Candle-Stick Cassia, Petrea (Purple Queen's Wreath Vine), Giant Sanchezia, Giant Crinum Lily, Giant Taro, several Passionflowers, Crape Myrtle, Sapphire Shower, Purple Shower, Firecracker, Alamanda, several kinds of Vinca, Turk's Cap, Canna, Iris, Ozo, Pink Ornamental-Ginger, and Red Ornamental-Ginger.

Outstanding aromatic flowers include 2 kinds of Michelia, 2 kinds of Lady-of-the-Night, Climbing Ylang-Ylang, Corn-Plant, and African Oil Palm.

There are usually many kinds of annual flowers.

Ornamentals that usually do not have eye-catching flowers include a dozen kinds of Bamboo, a dozen kinds of Palms, many kinds of Elephant-Ear, Australian Tree-Fern, Brazilian Tree-Fern, Staghorn Fern, several kinds of small ferns, Japanese Fern-Tree, Pony-Tail, many kinds of Croton, Red Leeia, many kinds of Cordyline (Ti), Creeping Fig, and Copper-Leaf, Ficus nitida, Tourist Tree, Pencil Cactus, Ming Aralia, Pothos, Aglaonema, Clusia, Viburnum Awasaki, Maranta, and Picture-Leaf.

The customer parking lot is mostly planted with southeastern Florida native plants, including mahogany.

Associated properties on the block to the north include additional varieties of mango, lychee, sapodilla, carambola, wax jambo, banana, and bay rum, plus Rukam, Baobob, Tamarind, Noni, Satin-Plum, and 2 kinds of Mulberry. Flowers include yellow angel trumpet, Hong-Kong Orchid Tree, African Tulip Tree, Yellow Elder, and Azalia.