

For enclosed, shady gardens

| Species  | Common Name                                     | Dry Subtropics | Wet Subtropics | Dry Highland Tropics | Wet Highland Tropics | Dry (Monsoon) Tropics | Wet Lowland Tropics | Zone suitability ratings at left   |
|--|---|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
|  |   |                |                |                      |                      |                       |                     | Description  |
| <i>Adiantum peruvianum</i>                                     | silver dollar maidenhair                        | 3              | 4              | 3                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Tropical-subtropical fern, its coarse leaflets have a silvery sheen, new fronds are pink.  |
| <i>Aglaonema</i> cultivars                                     | Chinese evergreen                               | 2              | 3              | 2                    | 3                    | 4                     | 4                   | Most of the older, common aglaonema cultivars have varying degrees of grey-green variegation. Excellent for deep shade understorey or indoors. Hardy plant well suited in indoors and resilient for outdoors in tropics and subtropics.  |
| <i>Alocasia</i> 'White Knight'                                 |   | 1              | 1              | 2                    | 2                    | 3                     | 4                   | <i>Alocasia sanderiana</i> hybrid somewhat like <i>A. amazonica</i> but less lobed with a silvery cast over the leaf, purple beneath.  |
| <i>Alocasia nebula</i>   | (syn <i>A. guttata</i> var. <i>imperialis</i> ) | 1              | 1              | 2                    | 2                    | 3                     | 4                   | Shade-loving foliage aroid, quilted matte blue-silver leaves with purple undersides.   |
| <i>Argophyllum nullumense</i> , <i>lejordanii</i> & other spp  | silver leaf                                     | 2              | 4              | 2                    | 4                    | 2                     | 4                   | Rainforest edge shrubs from Eastern Queensland, with a concentration of undescribed species in the Wet Tropics. Glossy dark green foliage has shimmering silver undersides, best displayed in raised beds with uplighting.   |
| <i>Begonia</i> x <i>rex</i> 'Sir Percy'                        | rex begonia                                     | 3              | 4              | 2                    | 4                    | 3                     | 4                   | Many rex begonias have patches of metallic silver variegation, this common older variety has solid silver topsides and red reverse foliage.  |
| <i>Calathea bella</i>  |   | 1              | 2              | 1                    | 2                    | 3                     | 4                   | Shade loving foliage herb, broad silvery leaves with sparse green feather pattern.   |
| <i>Calathea orbifolia</i>                                      | (syn <i>C. rotundifolia</i> )                   | 1              | 2              | 1                    | 2                    | 3                     | 4                   | Shade loving foliage herb, broad silvery leaves with parallel green stripes following lateral veins.   |
| <i>Calathea panguana</i>                                       |   | 1              | 2              | 1                    | 2                    | 3                     | 4                   | Shade loving foliage herb, broad silvery leaves with two concentric green feather patterns, fuzzy underleaf.   |
| <i>Calathea picturata</i> 'Argenta'                            |   | 2              | 3              | 2-3                  | 2                    | 4                     | 4                   | Shade loving herb, solid whitish leaves with green margin, reddish reverse.  |
| <i>Calathea</i> 'Manoa Blush'                                  |   | 2              | 3              | 2                    | 2                    | 4                     | 4                   | Choice hybrid combining the tall pink inflorescence of <i>C. loesenerii</i> with the metallic silver, red-backed foliage of <i>C. roseo-picta</i> cv. 'Asian Beauty'.  |
| <i>Carex glauca</i>  |   | 4              | 4              | 4                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Small sedge forming neat, spreading mats of grey foliage, prefers moist soil.  |
| <i>Chamaedorea metallica</i>                                   |   | 3              | 4              | 3                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Dwarf, single stem, understorey shade palm with typically bifid fronds of metallic silver blue, mass plant for best effect.  |
| <i>Costus speciosus</i> 'Java Pink'                            | Java pink spiral ginger                         | 2              | 3              | 2                    | 3                    | 4                     | 4                   | Robust spiral ginger to 1.8m, foliage has a metallic, glaucous-blue sheen if grown in full sun, heads of small red bracts and big pale pink crêpe flowers.   |
| <i>Costus verschaffeltius</i>                                  |   | 2              | 2              | 2                    | 2                    | 3                     | 4                   | Small spiral ginger with silver banded foliage and mauve flowers.  |
| <i>Cryosophila warscewiczii</i>                                | rootspine palm                                  | 2              | 2              | 2                    | 2                    | 4                     | 4                   | Slow growing fan palm with segmented fronds, silvery below.  |
| <i>Ctenanthe setosa</i> 'Greystar'                             | greystar prayer plant                           | 2              | 3              | 2                    | 2                    | 3                     | 4                   | Robust, thickly clumping shade-loving herb, silver blue oval leaves have purple undersides, hardier and more adaptable than <i>Calathea</i> .  |
| <i>Cupaniopsis</i> sp aff <i>flagelliformis</i> 'curvidentata' | silver blue tuckeroo                            | 3              | 3              | 3                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Locally endemic to moist, monsoonal rainforests around Cairns, formerly classified as a distinct species but since combined with other plants with distinct differences in flowering time, range and appearance. Small, slender understorey tree with silver-blue toothed pinnate leaves, pink new growth and orange velvety seed capsules, useful in confined spaces. |
| <i>Elatostema repens</i>                                       | (syn <i>Pellionia davaueana</i> )               | 2              | 4              | 3                    | 3                    | 3                     | 4                   | Prostrate herb, found on rainforest boulders in SE Asia, an old favourite in hanging baskets, greyish leaves with a blackish edge.   |

**Zone suitability ratings**

- 4 generally reliable v
- 3 generally reliable v
- 2 often reliable, but less predictably
- 1 not recommended, but worth a try if you're lucky
- 0 only if you can accept disappointment

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|---|---|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| <i>Episcia cupreata</i> 'Acajou'                            | flame violet                              | 1              | 1              | 2                    | 2                    | 3                     | 4                   | Tropical South American mat groundcover for moist shade or humid indoors, metallic silver and bronze foliage, red flowers, good in hanging baskets.   |
| <i>Episcia cupreata</i> 'Silver Sheen'                      |   | 1              | 1              | 2                    | 2                    | 3                     | 4                   | Similar, perhaps more vigorous, silver and green foliage, red flowers.  |
| <i>Geogenanthus undatus</i>                                 | Seersucker plant                          | 1              | 3              | 2                    | 3                    | 2                     | 4                   | Slow-growing herb with rounded, quilted leaves with bluish cast.  |
| <i>Graptophyllum</i> 'Phuket'                               |   | 3              | 3              | 3                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Bushy sun or shade tolerant shrub, marbled variegation of white and grey green, overall pewter tone tinted purple, with dark twigs and purple flowers.  |
| <i>Graptophyllum pictum</i> cultivars                       | caricature plant (grey/white variegation) | 3              | 3              | 3                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Bushy shrub with strong grey and white variegation, elliptical leaves with drip tip, purple tubular flowers typical for species.  |
| <i>Hemigraphis colorata</i> , <i>H. alternata</i>           | red ivy                                   | 1              | 2              | 2                    | 2                    | 3                     | 4                   | Common tropical spreading groundcover with metallic blue-silver leaves in the shade, increasingly tinged purple with greater sun exposure, reddish underleaf.   |
| <i>Justicia fragilis</i>                                    |   | 4              | 4              | 4                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Bushy shrub with small, narrow leaves, in variegated cultivars grey and white, blackish twigs and insignificant white flowers.  |
| <i>Molineria</i> sp. 'Silver Leaf'                          |   | 2              | 3              | 2                    | 3                    | 3                     | 4                   | SE Asian cousin to our familiar 'Curculigo', introduced to Australia in recent years and so far little tried, appears to be several forms or even species with varying degrees of silver, pleated strappy leaves with or without purple undersides. |
| <i>Peperomia sandersii</i>                                  | watermelon begonia                        | 2              | 3              | 2                    | 3                    | 1                     | 4                   | Small clumping plant popular with indoor collectors but worthy for outdoor landscape use in suitable locations. Silvery striped foliage highly attractive.  |
| <i>Philodendron</i> 'Alumina'                               | 'Alumina'                                 | 2              | 3              | 3                    | 4                    | 3                     | 4                   | Collectors plant with solid metallic silver foliage, rarely seen.   |
| <i>Philodendron mamei</i>                                   |   | 2              | 3              | 3                    | 3                    | 3                     | 4                   | 'Slow-creeping' groundcover with big broad leaves in mottled grey and blue green tones.   |
| <i>Pilea cadierei</i>                                       | aluminium plant                           | 3              | 3              | 2                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Bushy groundcover has quilted leaves with silver patches.   |
| <i>Pseuderanthemum carruthersii</i>                         |   | 4              | 4              | 4                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Bushy shrub with broad, slightly lobed leaves, variegated grey and white, open salver-form flowers typical for species, with purple spotted white petals.   |
| <i>Pteris argyrea</i>                                       | silver brake                              | 3              | 4              | 3                    | 4                    | 3                     | 4                   | Fern to 40-60cm with silver median banding, fronds are brittle so best interplanted amongst tougher but compact neighbours to provide protection from wind, pets and children.  |
| <i>Pteris cretica</i> 'Albo-lineata'                        | variegated cretan brake fern              | 4              | 4              | 4                    | 4                    | 3                     | 4                   | Widespread tropical to warm temperate fern to 40-50cm, naturally occurring variegated form has silver median bands along its narrow leaflets.   |
| <i>Pteris ensiformis</i> 'Victoriae'                        | Victoria brake fern                       | 4              | 4              | 4                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Slender white striped leaves form dense clumps.   |
| <i>Pteris ensiformis</i> 'Evergemiensis'                    | variegated slender brake fern             | 4              | 4              | 4                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Widespread tropical to subtropical fern to 30-40cm, the plain green species is native in Australia, the variegated forms may self spore, fairly fine textured fronds have silver median banding.  |
| <i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i> 'Moonshine', 'Silver Hahnii' | grey mother-in-law's tongue               | 4              | 4              | 4                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Selected cultivar with a dominant whitish silver cast over the typical snakeskin marbling, usually much slower growing with negligible weed potential compared to the old, overly familiar species.   |
| <i>Scindapsus siamense</i>                                  | silver satin pothos                       | 2              | 2              | 2                    | 3                    | 3                     | 4                   | Small slow growing 'shingle-plant' climber with subtle silver/grey-green mosaic foliage. Variety 'Pictus' has distinct silver spots on a velvety green leaf.  |
| <i>Vriesia saundersii</i>                                   |   | 4              | 4              | 4                    | 4                    | 4                     | 4                   | Soft silver grey foliage finely speckled in purple.   |
| <i>Zingiber collinsii</i>                                   | silver streak ginger                      | 3              | 3              | 3                    | 3                    | 4                     | 4                   | Small deciduous ginger with silver and blue-green banded leaves.  |