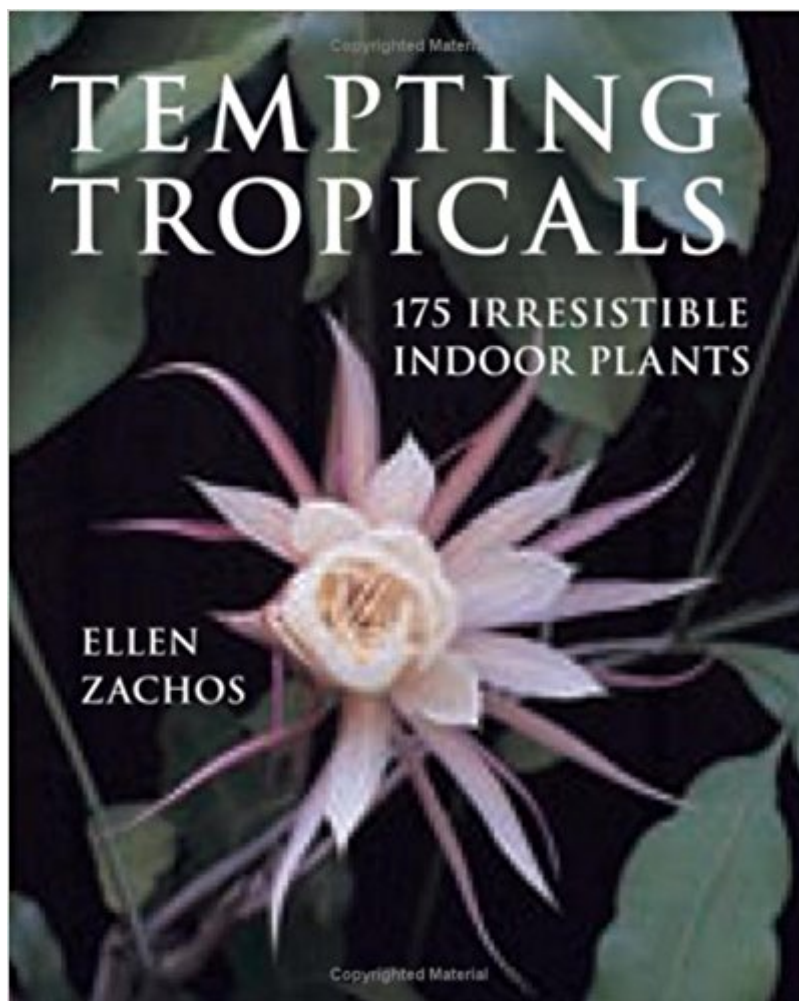


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# Tempting Tropicals: 175 Irresistible Indoor Plants



## Synopsis

Original and unique, this guide to luscious, choice indoor plants will convert anyone to a passion for gardening indoors. The possibilities presented are dazzling-lush flowering vines or petite carnivorous plants, intoxicating fragrant jasmine or spiky sculptural succulents. Included are chapters on sustenance, container choices, light, water and temperature requirements, propagation, pests and diseases, even how to summer plants outdoors and travel with them on holidays. Over 200 gorgeous color photographs round out the detailed descriptions of 175 choice plants native to both tropical and temperate regions. In her entertaining style, plant fanatic Ellen Zachos invites everyone, from the horticulturally clueless to the avidly addicted, to share her passion for exotic and unusual indoor plants.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gardeners living in the country's warmest regions can grow and enjoy tropical plants as they please, but in most areas, they are only grown seasonally. Zachos, a zealous collector with an encompassing knowledge, provides a comprehensive growers' guide that shows the way to cultivating tropicals indoors so that one can enjoy the delightful fragrances and exotic beauty year-round. A well-rounded reference, the book conveys all the necessary practical information relating to feeding, care, growth cycles, and light and moisture requirements along with troubleshooting for pesky insects and vexing diseases. Mainly, Zachos introduces a wealth of wonderful specimens to consider, giving a concise description of each species, its requirements for

culture, and propagation tips. Accompanied by color photographs, entries include something for every taste, from oddly alluring species to dramatic, architectural selections and beguiling flowers. Alice Joyce Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Thorough practical advice on 175 plants that are native to both tropical and temperate regions encourages the houseplant enthusiast to experiment with flowering vines, petite carnivorous plants, maples, palms, and many more. Bookseller 20050415 A well-rounded reference ... entries include something for every taste, from oddly alluring species to dramatic, architectural selections and beguiling flowers. -- Alice Joyce Booklist 20051001 I highly recommend it. Garden Hotline Newsletter 20051101 Tempting Tropicals is a must-have for gardeners interested in exotic plants. -- Russell Studebaker Tulsa World 20051126 The best book on indoor plants I have come across in a long time. -- Suzanne Pierot American Ivy Society Newsletter 20050101 If you're interested in growing tropical plants at home or in a greenhouse, Tempting Tropicals is for you. The author is an experienced, professional gardener who presents a comprehensive guide to growing luscious houseplants. Her enthusiasm proves irresistible. Green Bay Press-Gazette 20060408 Zachos allows gardeners to daydream of sultry climates during those cold, colorless days of winter. -- Judy Lowe Christian Science Monitor 20060425 Ellen's extraordinary enthusiasm is matched by her vast knowledge of the subjects she writes about and she brings both talents to bear in her latest book. -- Patricia A. Taylor Trenton Times 20060504 In this original and comprehensive guide to luscious houseplants, Ellen's enthusiasm, like the plants, is irresistible. Rainy Side Gardeners 20060508 One of the best things about this book is how the clear, informative writing answers many of the questions gardeners at any experience level will have. -- Phil Stapf Hobby Greenhouse 20060401 If you want to create a windowsill collection to rival any outdoor garden in beauty and personality, read Tempting Tropicals. -- Meghan Lynch Horticulture 20061001 Ellen Zachos writes very well. ... This is a book that, even for me, was very hard to put down. -- Greg Asbagh Let's Talk Plants 20060201 Before buying an indoor plant, it's important to determine if it's right for your home. ... Get your hands on a good reference book. Try Tempting Tropicals. Newsday 20080216

If you're into growing indoor plants this book must be in your library for both information on varieties as well as cultural information. I consider myself very knowledgeable gardener, yet find myself researching things in this book often--especially when adding a new plant species. I'd highly recommend it to anyone whether they had a few plants or a greenhouse full.

A must have for anybody who grows houseplants and is tempted to grow something unusual, without a greenhouse. Lots of practical advice for an average indoor gardener.

Tempting Tropicals by HortResources member Ellen Zachos is clear and concise, easy to read and understand even by those who do not have a degree in horticulture. It is a great reference for 175 tropical plants that are not grown as often as they should be. Each plant profile contains light, temperature, fertilization, and propagation information. There is also a section on winning attributes alongside each plant profile that will make it easier to decide if that is a plant you wish to grow. Ellen Zachos has taken all her own photographs unless otherwise stated. One section that caught my eye was on clivia. I have grown a blooming-size specimen for five years now and have not been able to bring it back into bloom. After reading Tempting Tropicals, I now have an understanding of what I have been doing wrong. I will be trying the technique mentioned in this book and do expect great success. One thing that Ellen mentioned in her book was to water once a week during the growing season, which I did and to water once every two weeks in the fall until you see a flower spike. I had been withholding water from my Clivia from November to March. I also was not feeding my Clivia weekly during the growing season. One plant that tempted me was *Lithops marmorata*. "Living stones" can be tricky to grow. Tempting Tropicals explains how often to water in each season, as well as how to water should you decide to give the plant a winter rest. This is an area most books do not cover. Other tempting plants include *Ceropegia* (rosary vine or parachute plant), *Costus malortianus* (Spiral Ginger), *Dischidia* (also known as an ant plant, watermelon leaf or ravioli plant), *Hoya* (wax plant), *Nepenthes* hybrids (pitcher plants), *Passiflora* (passionflower), *Plumeria* (frangipani) and *Vanilla* to name just a few. Most of these plants caught my eye because I have either tried to find them to grow them or am currently growing them. Ellen's book is full of wonderful information that I feel will make my growing experience more rewarding because of knowing exactly how much light, water and fertilizer each plant needs. Tempting Tropicals is a must-have reference in cooler zones for growing houseplants as well as in warmer zones to understand the requirements of tropical plants.

I've been trying to find a good comprehensive book on indoor plants that is at least the equal of my old standby, *Foliage Plants for Decorating Indoors* by Mr. and Mrs. Elberts (1989, Timber Press)[q.v.]. That book gives info on each plant from the direct knowledge of the authors and as a result has proved to be the best tropical houseplant book bar none, thus far. They give personal observations, recommendations, etc.; whereas 19 out of 20 such books have the usual set of short

paragraphs with pedestrian info (i.e. dimensions, temperatures, light requirements, etc.). The Elberts also cover a goodly number of varieties and cultivars one is likely to encounter. Ellen Zachos' book is a step or two above the usual books one sees all too often in this genre. For starters Ms. Zachos knows her plants, having been employed by the New York Botanical Garden for all love! I like that her book has a personal stamp to it. Too many of these "houseplant books" seem to be written by some impersonal robot. Ellen has picked her plants and not tried to be all things to all. In her introduction she makes it plain that "I want this to be your favorite plant book, the first book you turn to when you're shopping for a new plant...". Wow! Because she has chosen her plants based in part upon their lack of appreciation, there are some species lacking and I won't be able to "turn to" her book (first) because of that, and will have to again use my Elberts. But having said that, she doesn't spend too many pages on what I call "how-tos"; the majority of the book is about the individual species accounts. And her accounts are truly personal; what a treat after all those other books! I like her opinions; her prejudices, her advice. I got this book amongst a group of seven indoor plant books from my local library and it is easily the best of the bunch. I will probably buy this one for my library whereas none of the other six will. This book is a little gem and that is high praise indeed from someone as demanding as I am.

Tempting Tropicals is a horticultural tour de force, packed with detailed information about growth habits, propagation tips, and the soil, temperature and light requirements of more than eight score tropical plants. The fascinating, well written text is ornamented with full color photographs of these exotic beauties that marvelously display each plant's unique attributes. The superb text and photos are presented with the exacting production values that the publisher is well known for in the gardening community. This book is a must for all real phytophiles.

As a Newbie in-door gardener from Singapore (our tropical GardenCity), I was so thrilled to find many species of plants depicted in Ellen Zachos' book, found also here. How so many varieties of plants from far away distant places, made their long journeys to my homeland and survived, is truly amazing. I love the book Tempting Tropicals for it's beautiful photos and informative, easy to understand narrative. I spent many hours browsing for the best book at that would suit my needs, and motivate me to become a very good carer of my plants :) I am very happy to have found Tempting Tropicals.

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