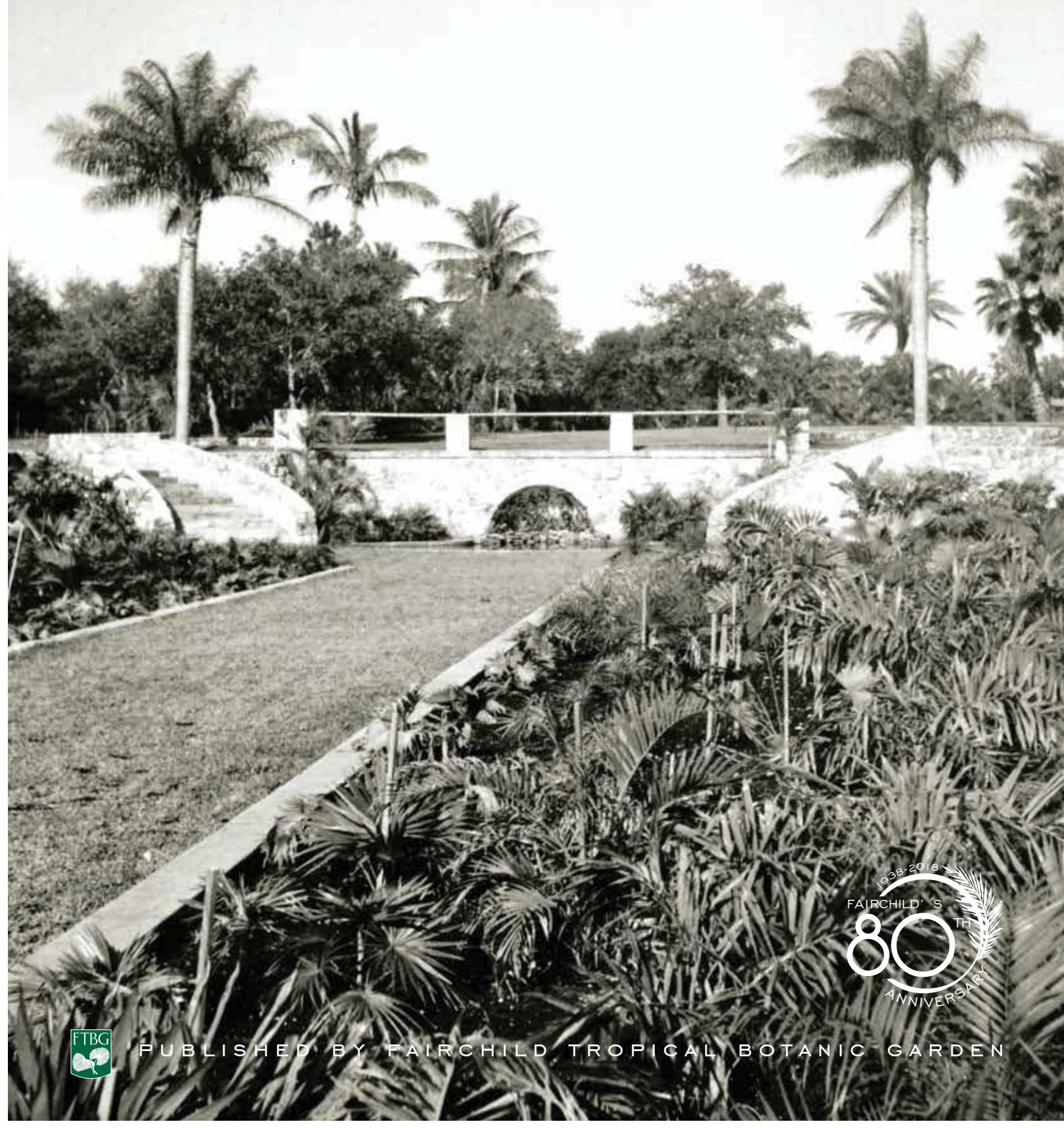


# *the* TROPICAL GARDEN



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#PLANTINGMONDAYS

# NEW PLANTINGS IN THE CONSERVATORY

By Kenneth Setzer and Georgia Tasker  
Photos by Kenneth Setzer and Maureen Tan



### ***Nepenthes rafflesiana***

This insectivorous pitcher plant from Malaysia, Borneo and Sumatra is a favorite among growers. It's a lowland species, preferring hot, humid conditions with bright, filtered light. Though not rare, it never fails to astonish when you contemplate this vining plant's ability to trap and digest insects in its squat, bulbous pitchers. Pitchers are splotched in green and purple maroon, with a beautifully striped lip (peristome) for insects to slide off to their demise.



***Curculigo*** species is a new palm grass that was gathered during the 2015 Thailand expedition. Palm grass ordinarily is green, but this new edition has spectacular metallic purple and silver leaves.

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***Stegolepis ferruginea***, a member of a family of grass plants from northern South America, primarily Venezuela. Orange flower buds have pointy nobs that require a kind of mucilage to help them emerge from the leaf bases. Originally described by 19th Century British botanist John Gilbert Baker.

We are planting fabulous specimens at rapid pace after several plant-collecting expeditions. Each Monday, our horticulturists, plant collection experts and volunteers spend the day planting dozens of new accessions and sharing the experience via our Instagram channel using hashtag #PlantingMondays. We will also feature #PlantingMondays in our magazine.



### ***Chorogyne cylindra***

We may have expansive conifer forests in North America, but the Southern Hemisphere hosts some very rare, ancient and unusual conifers. This small, bushy podocarp is endemic to Fiji and is critically endangered. The IUCN Redlist states there are probably less than 100 mature plants in the wild, where it prefers steep, mountainous areas with lots of precipitation.



***Asplenium*** species from South America bear ornately cut leaflets that gracefully arch outward, then give rise to a new plant at each leaf tip. Thus, the nickname "walking fern," because the plants seem to walk along their substrate.



***Chorogyne cylindra*** is a member of the Cyathaceae and is related to the *Ludovia* and *Carludovica* that our Botanical Horticulturist D. Chad Husby wrote about in the last issue of *The Tropical Garden*. Its leaves are split, emerging from a fan-shaped base.



***Licuala mattensis***, the Mapu palm, is a dwarf palm with patterned leaves from Borneo. It is sought by palm growers the world over. It loves acid soils and high humidity, so the conservatory is just the right environment.



### ***Mapania caudata***

Native to the tropical rainforests of Malaysia and Borneo, *Mapania*, like some other shade-loving plants, shows blue-green iridescence in its leaves due to the presence of silica particles. It's in the sedge family, and needs consistent moisture.



### ***Selaginella picta***

Bright green with silver-white stripes, this small but striking plant can spread to form a mat up to about a foot tall. Its love for humid locations in bright shade makes this *Selaginella* a perfect addition to the Tropical Plant Conservatory & Rare Plant House in shady areas beneath and between other plants.



***Ixora*** with white flowers has come from a Thailand expedition. For ixora fans, this would be a lovely acquisition and one that does not shoulder the common nickname "flame of the woods."



### ***Selaginella sp.***

*Selaginella* is called spikemoss or clubmoss, but it's not a moss. And while it does reproduce via spores, it is not a fern. It is a lycopod, a division of very primitive plants. Today's lycopods are fairly small, and are distinguished by having microphylls—leaves with a single vein. This example's ID remains uncertain, making it even more intriguing with its emerald green and gold-tinged, flattened microphylls.



### ***Peperomia* sp. (Hawaiian)**

*Peperomia* are some of the most common and tough houseplants. But with more than 1,000 species in the genus, there are bound to be mysteries. This one was collected in Hawaii, and its species has yet to be identified. Ours are growing atop a stone wall in the Rare Plant House along with ferns, selaginellas, and others. The *Peperomia* are rooted in damp sphagnum moss to keep their roots moist as they get started on the rock wall. The minty green leaves against red stems make them look like a forest of tiny trees.



### ***Tarenna borbonica***

This plant is native to the Mascarene Islands. In the coffee family, this small bush is grown for its incredible leaves, which are very glossy and patterned, especially in younger foliage. Ours was brought back from Thailand.

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