

Plants of the Month

These were the favorite plants at the August meeting. The first was offered in the raffle, the second may be available in October. (If not in the raffle, perhaps at the USF fall sale.) Watch for it!



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Not a hibiscus! This is the **crepe ginger**, *Costus speciosus* (unknown variety – the 2nd photo shows the species). It sports the largest flowers of any *Costus*, sometimes 2 or 3 open at the same time from a single spike. The flowering spikes of red bracts continue to produce flowers that last a single day over a period of many weeks. The 6' – 10' tall stalks quickly form a large clump. *Costus* grows like a weed in Florida, and is very easy to propagate from divisions or cuttings. Performs best in fertile soil with regular water, and a few hours of direct sun each day.



Clerodendrum incisum 'Musical Notes'
Family: Verbenaceae

A bushy shrub 4' tall by 3' wide, with small leaves. The white flowers form delicate shapes with their long tubular and rounded structure. They appear in large masses. The unopened flowers resemble musical notes in the bud stage - opening to showy flowers with red stamens. Blooms on and off all year. Does best with fertile soil and regular water.