



*GINGERS SURE TO PULL IN COLLECTORS: l to r:
Curcuma 'Emerald Choco Zebra' & C. 'Raspberry', Hedychium 'Daniel Weeks' and H. 'Palani'*

Excerpted from
Gingers Sparkle in the Summer Garden

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The Mercer Society of Mercer Botanic Gardens

For some new plant inspiration, introduce a new colorful ginger variety into your landscape or plant an edible ginger in the herb garden.

CURCUMAS have come a long way since they were grown as your Mother's Hidden Gingers. New varieties are shorter with fatter and deeper colored flower spikes:

* C. 'Raspberry' - vibrant red-pink, pocket-like bracts ending in a whorl of top bracts. Appear in late spring, then bloom again in late June with taller, more colorful inflorescences until autumn winds blow through its maroon-ribbed leaves.

* C. 'Emerald Choco Zebra'. Its generous long-blooming inflorescence is green with maroon-chocolate striped bracts. This Tulip Ginger's bloom grows taller than the leaves, producing multiple 18-22" scapes by the time it falls dormant in November.

BUTTERFLY GINGERS (HEDYCHIUM)

* H. 'Palani' - shocking orange inflorescence with fragrant, medium-to-wide butterfly-shaped flowers on 18-20" inflorescence. 7' tall; bluish-green stems and leaves.

* H. 'Daniel Weeks'. - Earliest, longest-flowering Hedychium. 5', inflorescence of fat yellow flowers with a deeper yellow center. Exotic sweet fragrance will perfume the garden from early evening on.

DANCING LADIES (GLOBBAS)

Old favorites getting harder to locate. Extended flowers pull long, slender, reed-like stems downward causing them to bob, or dance, up and down.

* Bulbil-producing *Globba globulifera* produces eggplant-purple bracts with bright yellow flowers. New plants emerge the following year. Caution: some spectacular-blooming Globbas do not multiply. Look for *Globba globulifera*

EDIBLE GINGERS (shade)

* Tumeric is a Curcuma or Hidden Ginger. Pastel pink flowers appear in early July amongst wide pleated leaves.

* ZINGIBER OFFICINALE. This is the spice sold as ginger, a Pine Cone ginger (for its pinecone-shaped inflorescence).

* FINGER ROOT. *Kaempferia galangal* or the edible variety of peacock ginger.



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* *Alpinia galangal*, aka Greater Galanga, is a variety of Shell Ginger.

Gingers don't require a lot of effort, just a little water and a little sun. Throw in a little fertilizer and they will become a long lasting garden companion.

For Ceil Dow's full article and more valuable ginger-growing information, log onto this link: <http://themerchersociety.org/event/gingers-in-your-garden>"