

LOW-MAINTENANCE, HIGH-IMPACT TROPICAL PLANTS LIST

(Perfect for Caribbean home landscaping)

1. High-Impact Feature Trees (Low Maintenance)

These create shade, structure, and instant presence.

- **Poui (Yellow or Pink)**

- Explosive flowering; iconic Caribbean look
- Very drought-tolerant
- Excellent for driveway or lawn centerpiece

- **Palm Varieties (Clean & Architectural)**

- **Foxtail Palm** (fast-growing, elegant)
- **Royal Palm** (majestic avenue planting)
- **Christmas Palm / Adonidia** (great for small spaces)

- **Saman Tree (Rain Tree)**

- Huge canopy, excellent shade
- Works best in large yards

- **Neem Tree**

- Very hardy
- Natural insect-repelling qualities

- **Frangipani (Plumeria)**

- Flowers almost year-round
 - Minimal water needed
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2. Low-Maintenance Shrubs (High Visual Impact)

- **Clusia / Autograph Plant**

- Excellent privacy hedge
- Thick, glossy leaves
- Handles sun & salt air well

- **Ixora (Flame of the Jungle)**

- Vibrant red, orange, yellow blooms
- Minimal care
- Great for borders

- **Hibiscus (Single or Double)**

- Tropical, colourful, and hardy
- Attracts birds & butterflies

- **Croton**

- High colour: red, yellow, green variegation
- Loves sun
- Very tough plant

- **Oleander**

- Drought tolerant
 - Consistent flowering
 - Caution: toxic if eaten (good for low-touch areas)
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3. Groundcovers (Replace Lawn / Reduce Maintenance)

- **Periwinkle / Vinca**

- Flowers consistently
- Extremely drought tolerant
- Spreads nicely

- **Wedelia (Creeping Daisy)**
 - Golden flowers
 - Handles foot traffic
 - Excellent for slopes
 - **Purple Heart (*Tradescantia pallida*)**
 - Striking purple foliage
 - Very hardy
 - Adds strong colour contrast
 - **Mondo Grass / Dwarf Lily Turf**
 - Great alternative to grass patches
 - Works well around stepping stones
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4. Tropical Accent Plants (High Impact, Minimal Effort)

Use these for entrances, corners, focal points.

- **Heliconias (Lobster Claw, Sexy Pink)**
 - Very tropical
 - Great near walls or backdrops
 - Needs little maintenance once established
- **Bird of Paradise**
 - Sculptural, bold plant
 - Great for modern and Caribbean fusion designs
- **Red Ginger / Torch Ginger**
 - Dramatic flower heads
 - Excellent in partial shade
- **Philodendron Varieties**
 - Large tropical leaves
 - Perfect for shaded or semishaded areas

- **Snake Plant (Sansevieria)**

- Almost indestructible
 - Great for pots, borders, and entryways
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5. Ultra-Low Maintenance Plants (If You Want Set-It-and-Forget-It)

- **Agave Species**

- Sculptural, modern look
- Drought bolt-proof

- **Yucca**

- Architectural, spiky form
- Needs almost no water

- **Aloe Vera**

- Medicinal
- Hardy and great for rocky beds

- **ZZ Plant (Outdoors in shade)**

- Tolerates neglect
 - Shiny green aesthetic
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6. Flowering Plants for Colour Punch (Effortless Beauty)

- **Bougainvillea**

- The most colour for the least effort
- Loves sun and poor soil

Planting Strategy for a Caribbean Home

If you want a **balanced, low-maintenance design**, use:

- ✓ **1–2 Feature Trees**
- ✓ **3–5 Shrub Varieties**
- ✓ **2–3 Accent Tropical Plants**
- ✓ **1 Groundcover to reduce lawn space**
- ✓ **A hedge or palm line for privacy**

This gives a **lush, expensive, tropical look with minimal upkeep**.