

## My 10 favorite plants of 2022 (HARD DECISION!)

This is Matthew of Another World Terraria, where I teach and inspire you on the topics of rare plants and artistic nature displays. In this video, I'm going to show you my ten favorite plants from last year, 2022. [Music]

When the video's over, remember to leave a comment and say which plant is your favorite.

Number one, *Columnnea purpureovittata*. This species is a moderately robust pendent epiphyte, which grows in the tropical jungles of South America. The drooping leaves vary in color from dark green to brownish green, have a bullate texture, and are slightly hairy. The older leaves near the base tend to fall off with age, revealing a stout, hairy stem. This *Columnnea* has a striking trumpet shaped flower with yellow and purple stripes, and can produce bright red berries after blooming.

Number two, *Elatostema monandrum*. This is a small epiphyte or lithophyte from India to China, which has delicate, graceful, arching foliage with serrated leaves. Like a number of other *Elatostema*, this species has two stages of foliage growth each year. The first stage is tight, compact new growth, and the second is when that growth becomes elongated and then blooms.

Tiny white flowers form at the leaf axils, then the entire stem dies off while the compact new growth forms for the next cycle.

Number three, *Lindsaea* species. I believe this might possibly be *Lindsaea lucida*. This is an extremely slow growing and finicky miniature fern from Tropical Asia. It has very narrow upright fronds which are stiff and have a plasticky feeling.

If you've been watching my channel for a long time, you may remember an unboxing video where I got this fern in very bad condition. It died shortly after that, but 20 months later, a new one popped up from spores which were lodged in the dead rhizome. The past couple of years have been pretty sketchy with this fern, alternating between being happy and crashing. Thankfully, I was able to stabilize it, at least for now.

Number four, *Sinningia pusilla*. This is a micro-sized tuberous gesneriad which grows on streamside boulders in Brazil. It forms tight clumps of beautifully patterned leaves and blooms almost continuously with purple flowers. This is the primary species featured in my Streambank Pano terrarium, where I have some super nice colonies all throughout the moss.

Number five, *Pinguicula gigantea*. *Pinguicula*, commonly called butterworts, are carnivorous plants which catch and digest insects on their sticky leaves. *Gigantea* is one of the largest species in the genus, capable of getting around 12 inches across, and has relatively broad leaves. The pale violet colored flowers are held well above the plant. As with all my Pings, I grow it in a mineral substrate with good drainage, never kept soggy, and occasionally allowed to stay slightly drier for short periods.

Number six, unidentified tropical fern. I don't know the exact origin of this mystery fern, but it's most likely from South America. It's truly bizarre in that it has two frond shapes which are both sterile. That is, they don't produce spores. One frond is feathery, small and close to the substrate, and the other has broad pinna, is larger, and has an upright arching form.

As if the dimorphic sterile fronds weren't weird enough, the entire plant is stiff and feels like plastic. This species has subterranean rhizomes which pop up baby plants.

Number seven, *Selaginella* species White. This Peruvian *Selaginella* is a small, graceful species. Its most unique and obvious characteristic is the foliage color, which varies from medium green to pale white, depending on the light, time of day, and other factors.

The color change is the result of chloroplast movement, which is an adaptation to growing in low light conditions. This species is thriving in my Cliff drip wall terrarium, directly on feather rock, with several hours of water flow twice a day.

Number eight, *Urticaceae* species. I believe this may be *Pilea hyalina*. This plant, which looks kind of like a miniature stinging nettle, has an understated beauty.

The leaves have serrated margins, a depressed vein pattern, and the entire plant is covered in small trichomes. Tiny, white, clustered inflorescences form at the leaf axils.

Number nine, *Blechnum* species. I believe this may be *Blechnum polypodioides*. From a distance, this *Blechnum* looks like a very generic fern, but up close it reveals its beauty.

The fronds are upright, arching, and have an elongated terminal pinna which adds gracefulness and interest. The new growth has a slightly pinkish color. I was lucky to get this fern as a volunteer from spore, which was mixed in with some other tropical plants I got.

Number ten, *Nautilocalyx ecuadoranus*. This is a truly stunning plant with intensely bullate foliage, a dark green to brownish green upper surface, a silvery or mint green center, and a maroon underside.

It produces trumpet shaped white flowers with purple splotches. This species needs constant moisture and high

humidity. In my opinion, it looks best in low to medium light.

Post a comment now, letting everyone know which plant was your favorite, and please consider subscribing to my channel if you enjoyed the video.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]

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