Climate and plant adaptation determines suitability of ornamentals

Trees
Many large trees in the tropics
Many flowering trees
Wide use of palms
Use of ferns and cycads
Many ornamental bamboo species

Turf
Temperate lawn grasses are not adaptable
Many tropical grasses are coarse resemble crabgrass.

Flowering shrubs and vines
A wide variety of shrubby plants and vines
Many of our indoor plants are landscape plants in the tropics
Dates, Sinai peninsula

Oasis at El Tor, Sinai peninsula

Oasis in Sinai
Harvesting pomegranates in formal planting interspersed with ornamental columns next to a T-shaped pool.

Four workers transporting trees. Tree with earth raised around the roots.

Randomly-placed trees within a square enclosure surrounding square pool. Carving from the tomb of Akhnaton (18th dynasty).
Note two types of palms: single trunk = date palm, bifurcated trunk = doum palm.

The lotus pool, on which statue of the vizier Rekhmire is being towed by boat, faces a pavilion or summerhouse. Around the pool grow doum palms, date palms, acacias, and other trees and shrubs.

This late 19th century impression (1883) gives a bird’s eye view.
Ancient Egyptian Garden Scenes
(Thebes, ca. 1300 BCE)

Garden planted with fig, olive trees, and flowering plants containing a pavilion with steps leading down to the water, being irrigated by a row of shadufs.

Hanging Gardens of Babylon. A 19th century conception.

Date, Sinai
Elephant pod

Bogor Botanical gardens, Java, Indonesia

Trinidad Botanical gardens
Tropical Horticulture: Lecture 38

Vista at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami, Florida

Cannonball Tree

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Ipe in Bloom

Flamboyant Vicosa

Brugmansia, Solanaceae, Costa Rica
Bougainvillea, Hawaii

Bougainvillea, Hawaii

Croton, Puerto Rico