Gingers A-Z
An overview of garden gingers.

Dave Skinner
Two Plant Families

- Zingiberaceae – the true gingers

- Costacea – the spiral gingers

- Closely related to Musaceae (bananas), Cannaceae (Cannas), Heliconiaceae (Heliconias), Marantaceae (Calatheas)
Alpinia

- Native to Asia and Indonesia
- Many are root hardy, but only bloom on second year growth.
- Evergreen in nature.
- Many with beautiful foliage.
Costus

- Spiral Gingers
- Most are native to Central and South America, some from Africa and Asia
- Only a few are hardy here.
- All but two are evergreen in nature.
- Wide diversity in size, shape and flowering forms.
Curcuma

- Hidden Gingers, Siam Tulips, etc.
- All are deciduous in nature
- Most are hardy in this area.
- Native to Asia
Globba

- Dancing Lady Gingers
- Native to Asia
- Most are deciduous in nature.
- Most are hardy in this area.
Hedychium

- Butterfly Gingers
- Native to Asia, many from India and higher elevations in montane forests.
- Most are hardy in this area.
- Extensively hybridized.
Kaempferia

- Peacock Gingers
- All are deciduous in nature
- Most are hardy in this area
- Grown for their foliage patterns
Zingiber

- Includes the common cooking ginger (Zingiber officinale)
- Shampoo Gingers
- Native to Asia
- Some evergreen – some deciduous
- Many are hardy in this area