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Takeaway plan from the CAF Giving Garden - Where the wild things are

by Antonia Salt

This plant combination would suit a sunny border. It's full of strong uprights and plenty of large-leaved plants for dramatic effect. Many of the plant names will also appeal to children, with chocolate sunflowers, big daddy hostas and giant elephant's ear.

The exotic foliage creates shady and open spots with lots of opportunities for playing hide and seek. The colour scheme is loosely pink, red and purple.

Plants used

- *Alocasia macrorrhiza* x 1:

Also known as giant elephant's ear with bold, apple-green shield-like leaves.

- *Angelica archangelica* x 1:

Exuberant upright stems topped with green flower domes.

- *Anthriscus sylvestris* x 1:

Also known as cow parsley, that moves beautifully in the breeze. They should be interplanted with the *Silene dioica*.

- *Dicksonia antarctica*, tree fern x 1:

A hairy monster of a tree with gracefully arching fronds.

- *Digitalis purpurea* x 9:

Tall, purple foxglove with spotted throats.

- *Digitalis purpurea f. albiflora* x 9:

White foxglove, pure white to bring light into this scheme.

- *Fragaria vesca* x 9:

Ideal for ground cover with little scarlet strawberries.

- *Helianthus 'Chocolat* x 20:

An unusual brown version of the sunflower.

- *Hosta 'Big Daddy'* x 3:

Lovely, huge broad leaves and an evocative name.

- *Iris 'Dutch Chocolate'* x 12:

Even after flowering, the swords of iris leaves hold their shape through the season.

- *Iris 'Quechee'* x 12:

Works well with the dark iris and is an unusual plum brandy colour.

- *Musa basjoo* x 1:

Hardy banana with large green leaves which nod and flap in the wind bringing movement to the garden.

- *Rheum palmatum 'Atrosanguineum'* x 1:

Ornamental flowering rhubarb.

When in flower nothing can beat the drama of the scarlet plumes towering above its deeply cut leaves.

- *Silene dioica*, red campion x 9:

Little pink meadow flower which is often found in the wild. Should be interplanted with cow parsley.

- *Vitis vinifera 'Purpurea'* x 1:

Purple, delicately cut leaves, and sometimes produces grapes.