

# gardenguide

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

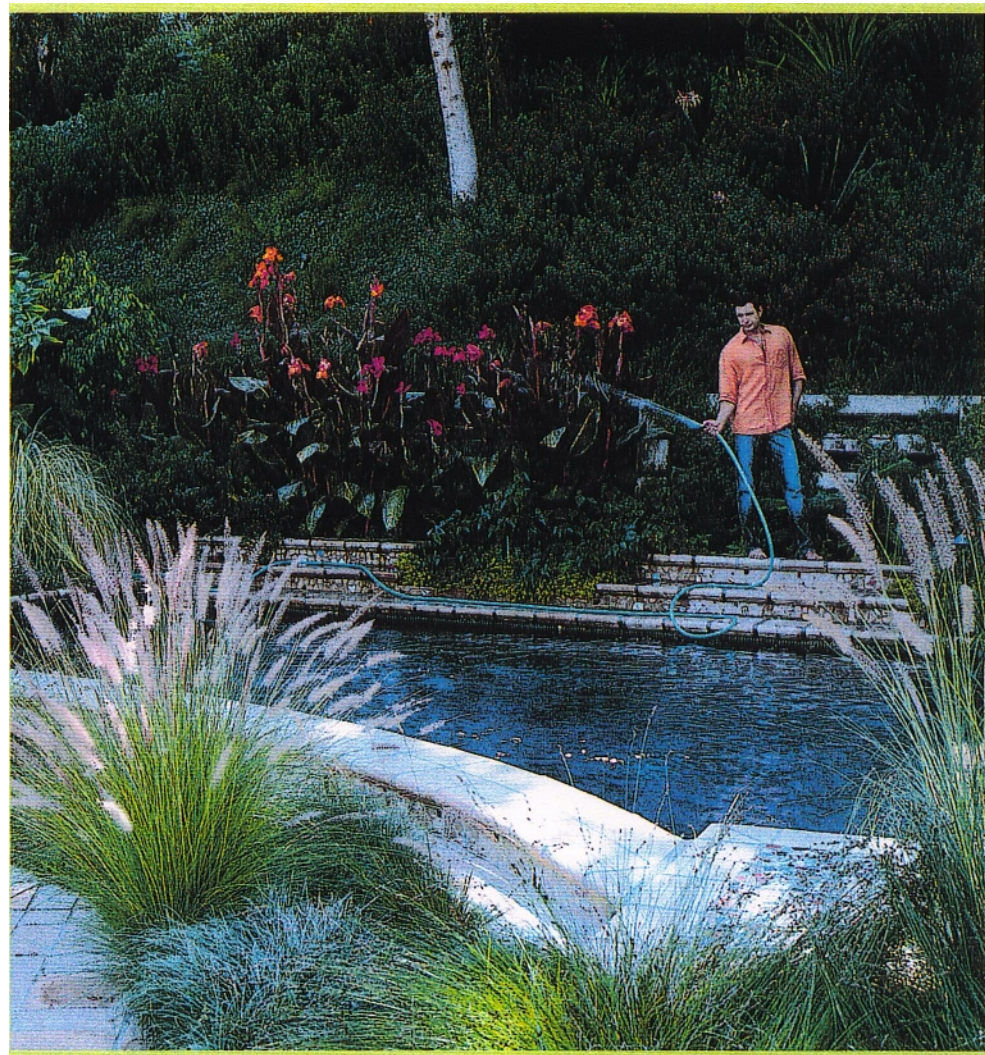
## Jurassic Park revisited

Actor Jeff Goldblum's garden is a playful mix of jungly subtropicals

■ When Robert Cornell was asked to replant actor Jeff Goldblum's slope and pool area after El Nino damage, the Pasadena landscape designer immediately knew his theme. "After starring in two *Jurassic Park* movies, it seemed only fitting that Jeff have a *Jurassic Park* garden," says Cornell. Besides, he says, the warm peach tones of his Mediterranean-style house and saltillo-tiled patio, and the bright flecks of tile in his handsome, vintage pool, all seemed to lead to the same conclusion: This setting called for exotic, tropical plants.

Since the pool was the obvious focal point of the yard, Cornell situated the garden's showiest plants, 'Durban' and 'Tropicanna' cannas, along its far edge to reinforce its star status. Ornamental grasses—*Pennisetum setaceum*, variegated pampas grass, and *Carex glauca*—soften the remaining edges.

The wide (40 ft. by 150 ft.), steep slope behind the pool



STEVEN GUNTHER

FEATHERY FOUNTAIN GRASS and blue fescue (foreground) edge the pool, while flaming cannas stand shoulder-high to Jeff Goldblum on the far side.

is a natural backdrop, and Cornell painted it in bold swaths for dramatic effect. Thirstier plants, such as orange trees and yellow-flowered *Cuphea micropetala* (immediately behind Goldblum in the photo above), grow on the shadier side of the slope.

The sunnier half is planted with drought-tolerant species—Mexican sage (purple flowers), *Tagetes lenimonii* (yellow flowers), and coral fountain (*Russelia equisetiformis*).

Though still young, Goldblum's garden is already a pretty convincing jungle.

But give it a few years, says Cornell. "When the flowering tropical trees [*Chorisia* and *Markhamia*] are big enough to form a canopy, we'll take out the remaining silk oaks," he says. "Then it will really look like a set for *Jurassic Park*."

— Sharon Cohoon