The plants in this greenhouse mostly come from tropical and subtropical climates where winters don’t exist or are very mild. Sound like a great place to live? Then it’s not surprising that a wide variety of plants are growing like crazy in here! Do many of them look familiar to you? That’s because lots of them are commonly grown as house plants. Now why do you think that might be? Well, if you like your house to be nice and cozy in the winter, then it’s a pretty good bet these plants would like it there too!

As you walk around this greenhouse you might want to take a look at the large collection of Gesneriads. No, that wasn’t a sneeze! Gesneriads are a family of some of the most decorative flowering tropical houseplants. This group, next to the waterfall with their velvety leaves are common Gesneriads known as African Violets – one of the most popular houseplants around! The first African violet was discovered in east Africa by Baron Walter von St. Paul in 1892. Baron is one of those fancy European titles of royalty! Hmmm… I wonder if he called it a “castle plant” instead of a houseplant after he brought it home!

In the middle of the room there are many fruiting plants like oranges and kumquats. And check out the tree with the giant yellow fruit on it. Those aren’t grapefruits – they’re called ‘ponderosa lemons!’ Wow! You can make a lot of lemonade from one of those!