



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Philodendron bipennifolium*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

Large, 18-inch-long, shiny, olive green, leathery leaves in the shape of a violin or a horse's head distinguish this vining philodendron (Fig. 1). Whether growing up tree trunks or potted totem poles, Fiddleleaf Philodendron provides neat evergreen, glossy foliage with a tropical appeal. The stems are an attractive light brown with long tendrils.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Philodendron bipennifolium*

**Pronunciation:** fill-loe-DEN-drun bi-pen-niff-FOLE-lee-um

**Common name(s):** Horsehead Philodendron, Fiddleleaf Philodendron

**Family:** *Araceae*

**Plant type:** herbaceous

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** suitable for growing indoors; cascading down a wall; hanging basket

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

### Description

**Height:** depends upon supporting structure

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**Plant habit:** spreading

**Plant density:** open

**Growth rate:** moderate

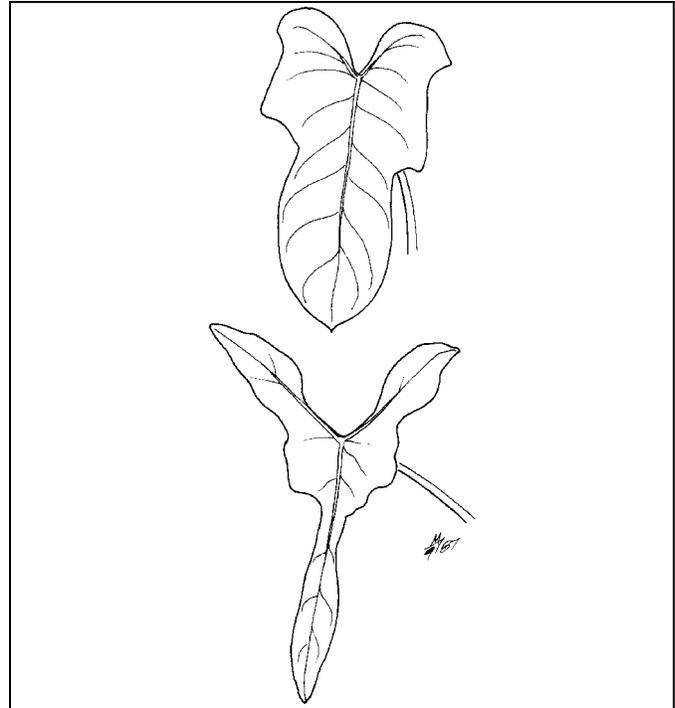


Figure 1. Horsehead Philodendron.

**Texture:** coarse

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** undulate

**Leaf shape:** deltoid

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-470, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf venation:** palmate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** 12 to 18 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** green  
**Flower characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** round  
**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch  
**Fruit cover:** fleshy  
**Fruit color:** unknown  
**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable  
**Current year stem/twig color:** gray/silver  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** very thick

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in the shade  
**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; acidic; loam;  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Soil salt tolerances:** poor  
**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

**Other**

**Roots:** not applicable  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** aggressive, spreading plant  
**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

## **Use and Management**

Growing well in bright light or deep shade, Fiddleleaf Philodendron needs well-drained soil to avoid root rot. The plant is slightly salt tolerant.

Propagation is by cuttings or layering.

Mites, scale, thrips, and mealy bugs are all known to bother Fiddleleaf Philodendron.

## **Pests and Diseases**

Bacterial soft rot and several leaf spotting diseases can cause problems for Fiddleleaf Philodendron.