



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Philodendron martianum*¹

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Introduction

This dark green philodendron has six to eight-inch-wide leaves which are 18 inches long (Fig. 1). Flask Philodendron is well-suited to use as an accent or specimen planting or in mass as a groundcover or low shrub. It would be hard to find a small plant with a coarser texture. Plant on three to four foot centers in a mass planting to create a solid dark green two foot tall ground cover, or as a single specimen in a small-scale garden.

General Information

Scientific name: *Philodendron martianum*

Pronunciation: fill-loe-DEN-drun mar-shee-AY-num

Common name(s): Flask Philodendron

Family: *Araceae*

Plant type: perennial

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

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: mass planting; container or above-ground planter; accent; foundation; edging; suitable for growing indoors

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Plant habit: upright; spreading

Plant density: open

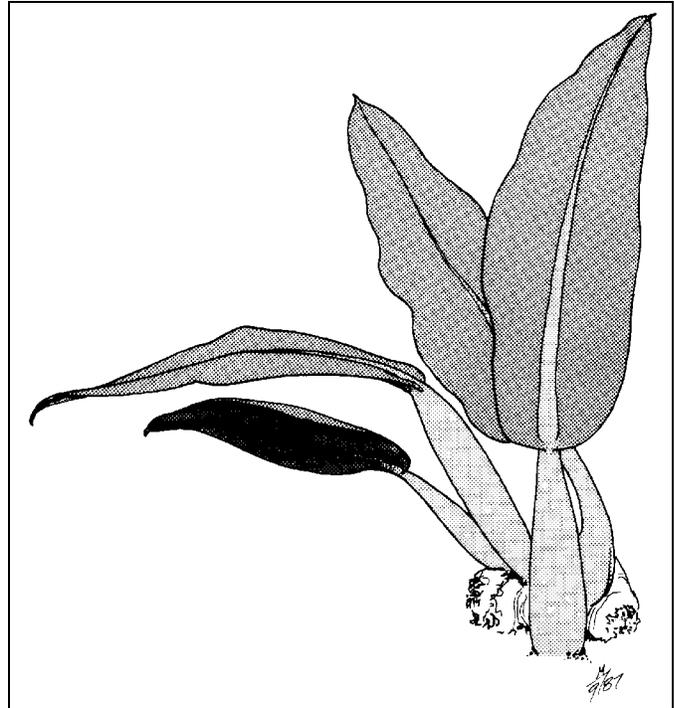


Figure 1. Flask Philodendron.

Growth rate: slow

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: spiral

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-471, 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 shape: ovate
Leaf venation: pinnate
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: flowers periodically throughout the year

Fruit

Fruit shape: round
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: fleshy
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: usually with one stem/trunk
Current year stem/twig color: green

Current year stem/twig thickness: very thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in the shade
Soil tolerances: alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam;
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

It grows best in deep shade locations in well-drained soil, and is somewhat salt-tolerant. It can bring to life a dark area of the landscape with an overstory of trees. Normally used for making crosses in the nursery trade, Flask Philodendron may be hard to come by in retail garden centers.

Propagation is by seed or cuttings.

Pest problems include mites, scale, and mealy bugs.

Pests and Diseases

The leaves are susceptible to fungal leaf spot diseases.