



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Philodendron scandens*¹

Edward F. Gilman²

Introduction

Heart-Leaf Philodendron is probably most often seen as a house-plant, its two to three-inch-wide, solid green, heart-shaped leaves and long, thin stems trailing out of a hanging basket (Fig. 1). Although well-suited to indoor use due to its ease of growth and very high tolerance of low light conditions, when allowed to grow outside Heart-Leaf Philodendron takes on a whole new appearance. Grown as a groundcover, it quickly covers a shady area with its lush, dark green growth. As the strong stems climb up a tree trunk or other vertical support, the leaves become larger, eventually reaching 12 inches or more in length. If desired, it may also be grown in a container or on a totem pole or other moisture-retentive support column.

General Information

Scientific name: *Philodendron scandens*

Pronunciation: fill-loe-DEN-drun SCAN-denz

Common name(s): Heart-Leaf 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; hanging basket; cascading down a wall

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

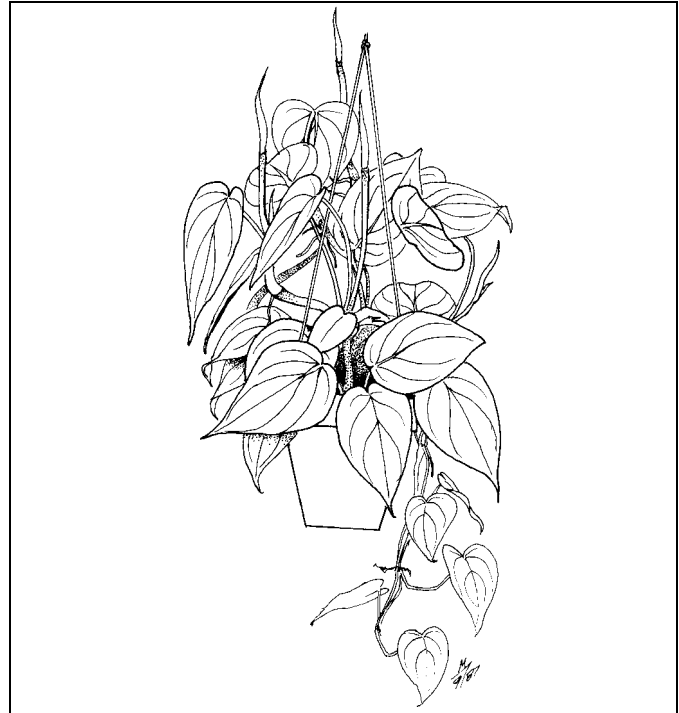


Figure 1. Heart-Leaf Philodendron.

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-472, 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>.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** alternate
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** entire
- Leaf shape:** cordate
- Leaf venation:** pinnate
- Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches; 8 to 12 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:** unknown
- Fruit length:** unknown
- 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:** green
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in the shade
- Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam;
- Drought tolerance:** moderate
- Soil salt tolerances:** poor
- Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 inches

Other

- Roots:** not applicable
- Winter interest:** no special winter interest
- Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding
- Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive
- Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Heart-Leaf Philodendron should be located in partial to deep shade on fertile, moist soils outside only in frost-free areas. Direct sun often discolors the foliage.

Propagation is by cuttings.

No pests or diseases are of major concern but occasionally bothered by scales.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern but occasionally bothered by leaf spots.