



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Philodendron bipennifolium*¹

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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

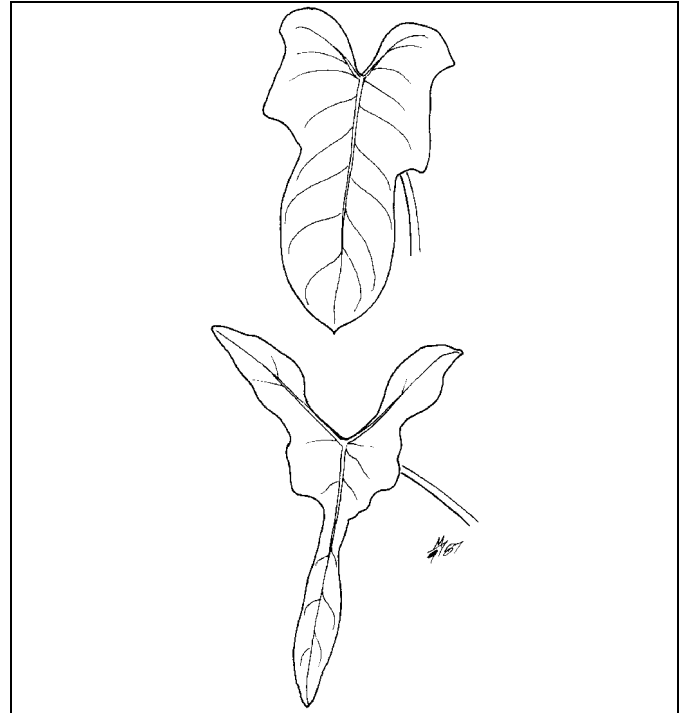


Figure 1. Horsehead Philodendron.

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: undulate

Leaf shape: deltoid

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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.