



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Aglaonema commutatum***<sup>1</sup>

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### **Introduction**

For locations with reduced light, Aglaonemas are outstanding (Fig. 1). Their dark green, glossy variegated leaves, 9 to 12 inches long and four inches wide, have attractive silver markings along the primary veins. Leaves are produced on short, erect, glossy green stems reaching two feet in height over several years. The fruit is a bright red oval about a third of an inch long and is held on an erect stalk among the leaves. It is usually not produced in abundance and is normally not seen through the dense foliage.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Aglaonema commutatum*

**Pronunciation:** ag-lay-o-NEE-muh kom-yoo-TAY-tum

**Common name(s):** Aglaonema

**Family:** *Araceae*

**Plant type:** perennial; 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:** border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; ground cover; edging; suitable for growing indoors

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

### **Description**

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

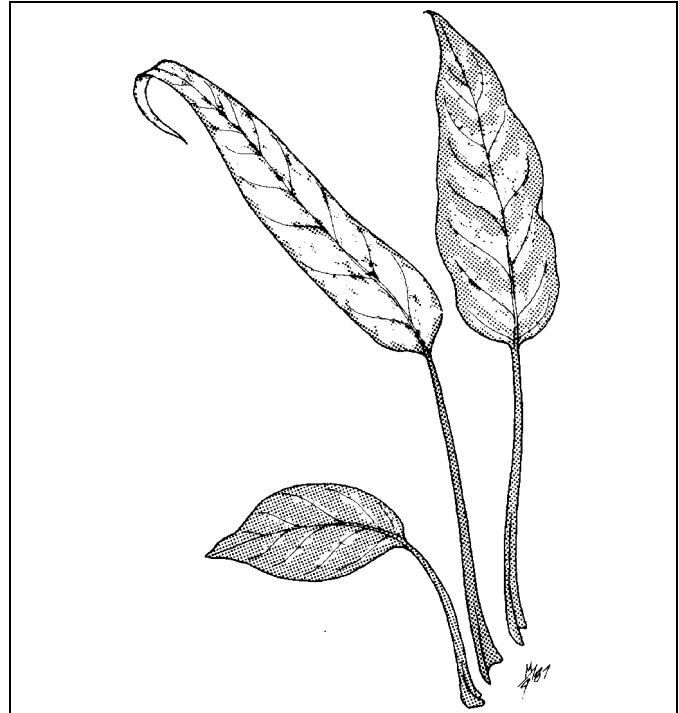


Figure 1. *Aglaonema*.

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

#### **Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** spiral

**Leaf type:** simple

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf margin:** entire  
**Leaf shape:** lanceolate; oblong  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** 8 to 12 inches  
**Leaf color:** green; silver/gray  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** white  
**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** oval  
**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch  
**Fruit cover:** fleshy  
**Fruit color:** red  
**Fruit characteristic:** showy

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems  
**Current year stem/twig color:** green  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** very thick

**Culture**

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

Any fertile, nematode-free soil or artificial media is suitable for growth, yet Aglaonemas will survive in peat and perlite, in sand, or can be grown hydroponically. They enjoy moist soil which is allowed to dry slightly before watering. Be careful not to overwater but do not let the soil dry for more than a few days. Aglaonemas require shade since direct sun will turn leaves yellow. They perform admirably in conditions too dark for most other tropicals. They will succeed in low light, either as house plants or in sheltered locations on the north side of buildings, or under heavy shade of trees. They are attractive planted as single specimens, or in mass to create a tropical, coarse-textured effect. Plant on two to three-foot centers. Temperatures below 45-degrees F. can injure the foliage. Overwatering causes root rot and yellowing of the leaves.

Popular cultivars include 'Silver Queen' and 'Silver King', which have different leaf variegation patterns.

Propagation is normally by cuttings, as seeds will not produce variegated plants.

Mites can infest leaves and can cause rapid decline in plant health.

### Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern. Roots can rot if the soil is kept too wet.