



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Epipremnum aureum*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

The green and yellow heart-shaped leaves of Golden Pothos are easily recognized from its use as hanging baskets indoors, but this plant makes a suitable groundcover or climbing vine in frost-free climates (Fig. 1). Growing quickly up the trunks of pine, palm, oak, or other coarse-barked trees, the normally small leaves change to a mature form averaging 18 inches in length, lending a tropical effect to the landscape. The leaves sometime become so large that they may cause the vine to lose its tendril-hold on the trunk, especially after heavy rain storms. When not allowed to climb, Golden Pothos rapidly covers the ground with a dense cover of its variegated foliage.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Epipremnum aureum*

**Pronunciation:** epp-pip-PREM-num AR-ee-um

**Common name(s):** Golden Pothos, Pothos

**Family:** *Araceae*

**Plant type:** ground cover

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

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

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** ground cover; container or above-ground planter; naturalizing; suitable for growing indoors; cut foliage/twigs; hanging basket; cascading down a wall

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

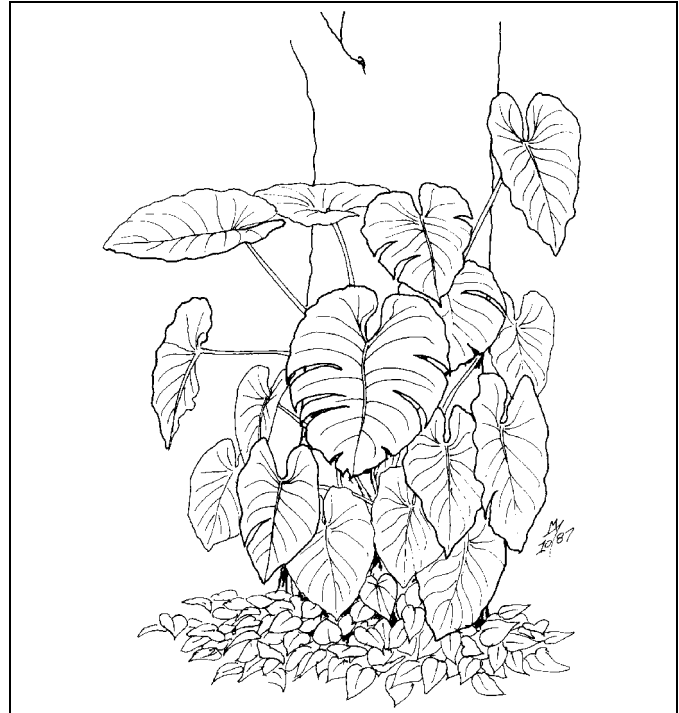


Figure 1. Golden Pothos.

### Description

**Height:** depends upon supporting structure

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**Plant habit:** prostrate (flat); spreading

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

- Leaf arrangement:** alternate
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** entire
- Leaf shape:** ovate
- Leaf venation:** pinnate
- Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches; 8 to 12 inches; 12 to 18 inches; 18 to 36 inches
- Leaf color:** variegated
- Fall color:** no fall color change
- Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

- Flower color:** white
- Flower characteristic:** year-round flowering

**Fruit**

- Fruit shape:** unknown
- 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:** green
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** very thick

**Culture**

- Light requirement:** plant grows in the shade
- Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; loam
- Drought tolerance:** high
- 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:** potentially invasive

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

## Use and Management

Golden Pothos displays best leaf color when grown in bright diffuse light, such as in the shifting shade of a pine tree, but the plants seem to grow quickest in deeper shade. Moist, rich soil is recommended, although any well-drained soil is sufficient as long as plants are regularly watered during dry periods. The vining habit makes it unsuitable for planting in and around a shrub border since stems will grow up into the shrub. Frequent trimming (several times each year) is required along the edges of this groundcover to control growth.

Popular cultivars include: 'Marble Queen', white to creamy leaves, blotched with green and grey-green; 'Tricolor', green leaves marbled with deep yellow, cream, and pale green; and 'Wilcoxii', with sharply-defined variegations of green and white.

Golden Pothos is easily propagated by tip cuttings, rooting and growing quickly, even in water. Stem cuttings can also be rooted in moist peat and vermiculite or soil.

Problems include scale, mites, and mealy-bugs.

### Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.