



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Philodendron selloum*¹

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Introduction

This large-leaved, easily-grown philodendron makes a dramatic, tropical statement wherever it is used in the landscape, eventually developing a three to four-foot long tree-like trunk and a spread of 8 to 10 feet (Fig. 1). The deeply divided, usually drooping, medium green leaves grow up to three feet long and 12 to 18 inches wide, appearing on long, smooth petioles. It can be grown outside in central and south Florida, and in a protected area in Gainesville or Jacksonville.

General Information

Scientific name: *Philodendron selloum*

Pronunciation: fill-loe-DEN-drun sell-LOE-um

Common name(s): Selloum

Family: *Araceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 8B through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

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

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: 6 to 12 feet

Spread: 10 to 15 feet

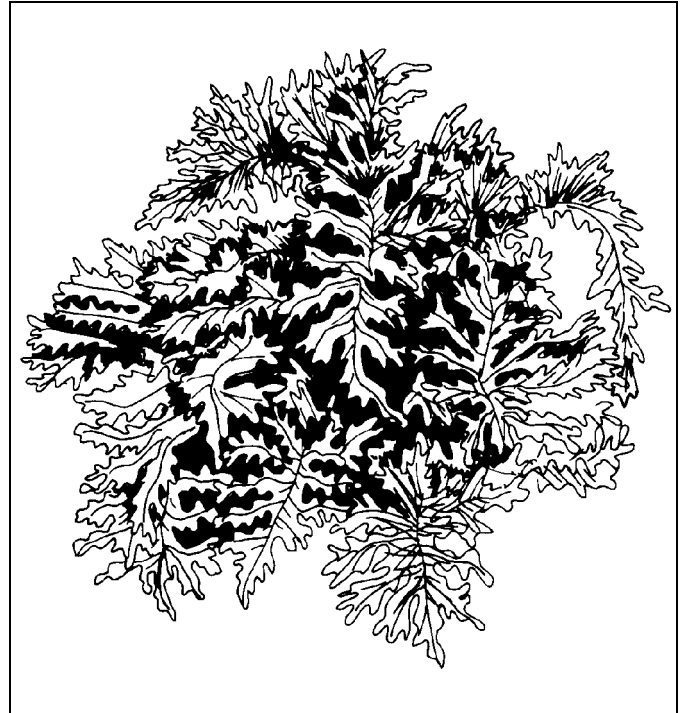


Figure 1. Selloum.

Plant habit: round

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: fast

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: spiral

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: undulate
Leaf shape: saggitate (arrow)
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 18 to 36 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; pleasant fragrance

Fruit

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

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: showy; usually with one stem/trunk
Current year stem/twig color: brown
Current year stem/twig thickness: very thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun; plant grows in the shade
Soil tolerances: occasionally wet; slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem
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

When given enough room to spread, Selloum makes a handsome foundation or specimen planting, and can also be used in large containers where it looks especially attractive at poolside.

Although appearing as if it would need deep shade, Selloum actually grows quite well in full sun or partial shade, and needs fairly rich, moisture-retentive soil to look its best. Most people planting this shrub forget how large it can grow.

The cultivar 'Lundii' is more compact in form.

Propagation is by division of the offshoots or from seed.

Infrequent pests include mites and scale.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

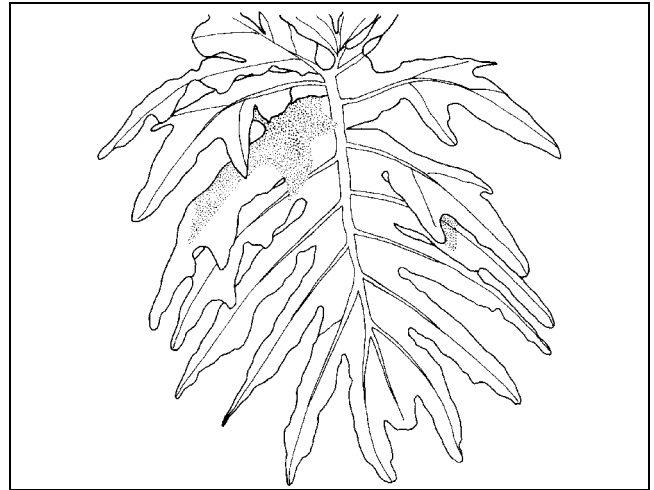


Figure 3. Foliage of Selloum