



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Philodendron martianum*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

This dark green philodendron has six to eight-inch-wide leaves which are 18 inches long (Fig. 1). Flask Philodendron is well-suited to use as an accent or specimen planting or in mass as a groundcover or low shrub. It would be hard to find a small plant with a coarser texture. Plant on three to four foot centers in a mass planting to create a solid dark green two foot tall ground cover, or as a single specimen in a small-scale garden.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Philodendron martianum*

**Pronunciation:** fill-loe-DEN-drun mar-shee-AY-num

**Common name(s):** Flask Philodendron

**Family:** *Araceae*

**Plant type:** perennial

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

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

**Origin:** not native to North America

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

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

### Description

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Plant habit:** upright; spreading

**Plant density:** open

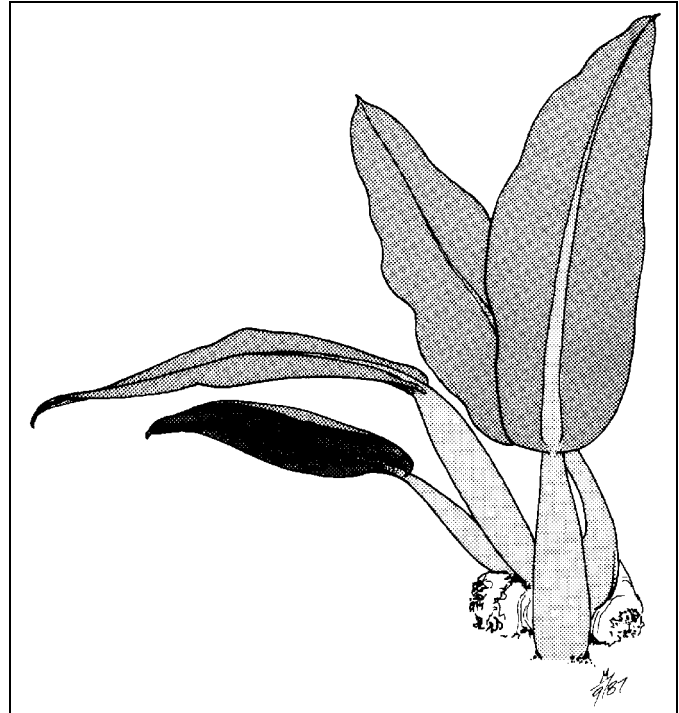


Figure 1. Flask Philodendron.

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** coarse

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** spiral

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

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**Figure 2.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf shape:** ovate  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**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:** flowers periodically throughout the year

**Fruit**

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

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** usually with one stem/trunk  
**Current year stem/twig color:** green

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** very thick

**Culture**

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

**Other**

**Roots:** not applicable  
**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**

It grows best in deep shade locations in well-drained soil, and is somewhat salt-tolerant. It can bring to life a dark area of the landscape with an overstory of trees. Normally used for making crosses in the nursery trade, Flask Philodendron may be hard to come by in retail garden centers.

Propagation is by seed or cuttings.

Pest problems include mites, scale, and mealy bugs.

### **Pests and Diseases**

The leaves are susceptible to fungal leaf spot diseases.