

## Philodendron scandens Heart Leaf Philodendron<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Heart leaf philodendron is probably most often seen as a houseplant, its 2 to 3 inch wide, solid green, heart shaped leaves and long, thin stems trailing out of a hanging basket. Although well-suited to indoor use due to its ease of growth and very high tolerance of low light conditions, when allowed to grow outside heart leaf philodendron takes on a whole new appearance. Grown as a ground cover, it quickly covers a shady area with its lush, dark green growth. As the strong stems climb up a tree trunk or other vertical support, the leaves become larger, eventually reaching 12 inches or more in length. If desired, it may also be grown in a container or on a totem pole or other moisture-retentive support column.

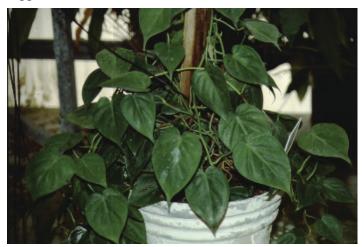


Figure 1. Full Form - *Philodendron scandens*: Heart Leaf Philodendron Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

## **General Information**

Scientific name: Philodendron scandens

**Pronunciation:** fill-loe-DEN-drun SCAN-denz

Common name(s): heart leaf philodendron

Family: Araceae

**Plant type:** herbaceous

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



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

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**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Uses:** suitable for growing indoors; hanging basket; cascad-

ing down a wall

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: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

**Foliage** 

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: cordate

Leaf venation: pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches; 8 to 12 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: unknown

Fruit length: unknown

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: medium

**Culture** 

**Light requirement:** plant grows in the shade

Soil tolerances: slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Plant spacing: 18 to 24 inches

**Other** 

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by

pests

**Use and Management** 

Heart leaf philodendron should be located in partial to deep shade on fertile, moist soils. It should be planted outside only in frost-free areas. Direct sun often discolors

the foliage.

Propagation is by cuttings.

**Pests and Diseases** 

No pests are of major concern, but occasionally bothered by

scales.

No diseases are of major concern, but occasionally bothered

by leaf spots.