

Philodendron

Possibly the best known foliage plant for its easy care and abuse tolerance! No matter the variety they are all easy to grow and wonderful air purifiers indoors. Some trailing varieties like the Heart-leaf Philodendron (*P. scandens*) can be trained to grow up stakes or simply used as a hanging plant. Some of the floor plant types like the Red-leaf and Selloum Philodendron have glossy, thick foliage, growing up to 6' tall. They are best grown indoors, but can flourish outdoors during the summer in a shady spot.

Flowering and foliage- Foliage shape can differ greatly from heart-shaped, to fiddle leaf, and wavy, deeply cut margins. All foliage is glossy in color from medium green to a maroon red; some with yellow to cream blotching.

Light- Requires bright to medium indirect light with little or no sun. Placement near a north, east, or filtered west and south window will work well.

Temperature- Grow in average household temperatures (60-80 degrees). May tolerate short periods of cooler weather (35-45 degrees F).

Watering- Apply water thoroughly keeping the soil slightly dry in between water applications. Spray misting or using a humidity tray year round will always benefit foliage plants.

Fertilize- Use Osmocote for Houseplants in the spring lasting all growing season, or use a water soluble multi-purpose plant food once every month April through September.

Other maintenance needs- Repot in spring when roots have filled the pot and are starting to grow out of the container. Propagate by tip cuttings rooted in water or moist soil or root division. An insecticidal soap spray and a systemic insecticide are best at controlling any infestation the plant may develop, but this rarely occurs.