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How to Care for Philodendrons

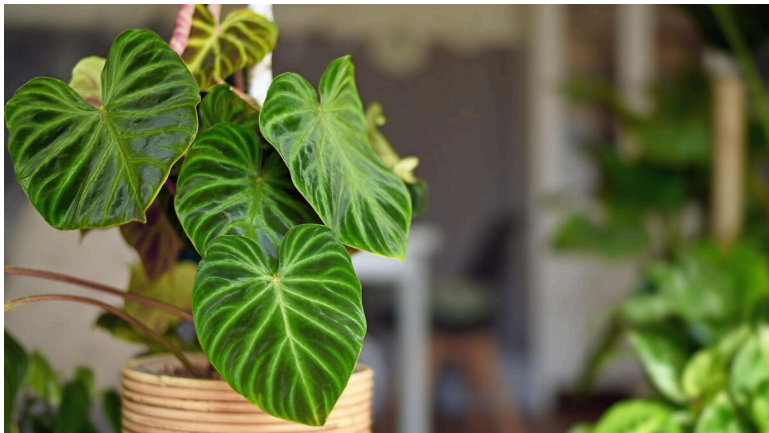


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Growing Philodendron Plants: Planting, Watering, Propagating, and More

By [Andy Wilcox](#)
Last Updated: January 16, 2025




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One of the easiest houseplants to grow, philodendrons are fairly large indoor plants with stunning foliage and unique shapes. Happy in indirect light, they make excellent houseplants for even the beginner plant parent. Learn how to plant, grow, and care for philodendrons.

About Philodendron

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Philodendrons are a genus of tropical and subtropical plants in the family Araceae, which includes other popular houseplants like Monstera and Anthurium. Their generic name is also often used as the common name, for example, heartleaf philodendron. With over 450 species and growth habits from terrestrial to vining and climbing, you may find you can never have enough of these beautiful plants.

Most philodendrons have large, glossy leaves that can be oval-, spear-, or heart-shaped. Some are covered in a velvety

In their natural habitat of Central and South America, most philodendrons are tree canopy species growing in humid, tropical forests. They enjoy the dappled light, high humidity, and warm temperatures found in and under the tops of the trees.

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While some are *epiphytic*, others are *hemiepiphytic*. If you want some bedtime reading, check out this paper on the history and use of the terms [epiphytic and hemiepiphytic](#) published by Oxford University Press. Epiphytic philodendrons germinate in the tree canopy and eventu-

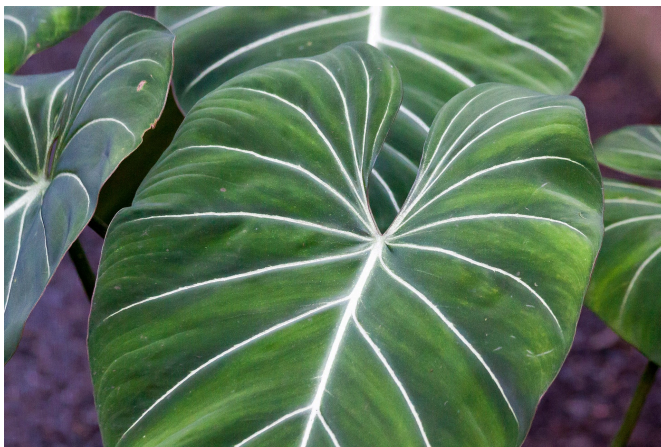
near or on the forest floor and look for a tree to climb.

Philodendrons that follow this pattern will grow along the ground toward areas of darkness (heavy shade under trees). This trait is called *skototropism*. Once they find a tree trunk or plant to climb, they revert to phototropism, growing toward the light.

Read Next

- [How to Care for Monsteras](#)
- [How to Care for Peperomia Plants](#)
- [How to Care for Hoya Plants](#)

PLANTING



When to Plant Philodendrons

Generally, they will do the best when repotted in spring or summer, during the peak growing season.

How to Plant Philodendrons

- Philodendrons may be purchased as young plants or as cuttings. Young plants can be potted up, similar to other houseplants. Cuttings should be rooted first, commonly in water although rooting in soil can also work.
- Make sure the pot and soil have good drainage. Although they are tropical plants, wet, soggy soil can still lead to root rot.
- Wet the soil in the existing pot and let it soak in for a few minutes to make removing the plant easier.
- You may also need to loosen the sides of the root mass from the original container with a wooden spoon.
- Take care to replant your philodendron at the same height, with respect to the soil, as it was before.
- Don't bury the crown or have it perched too high.

air pockets.

GROWING

Philodendrons are one of the easiest houseplants to grow. Follow these care tips for the best results.

- Bright but indirect light is what these plants like. Near a sunny window, but not in direct sunlight, is a good spot. Direct sunlight can burn the leaves.
- Mimic their natural environment. Philodendrons like humidity and warmth. Mist your plant several times a week to keep it happy. If your air is dry, place the pot in a pebble tray, and keep water in the tray. The philodendron's pot should be on top of the pebbles, not resting in the water. As the water evaporates, it will provide a little boost of localized humidity.
- Wipe off the leaves with a soft, damp cloth periodically. They are large and can gather dust, which looks unsightly and can block some light,

Too much can cause the plant to show brown leaf margins or drop leaves.

Propagating

Philodendrons are straightforward to propagate. If you want more philodendrons or want to make a copy of your plant for a friend, try your hand and follow these steps.

- Select a piece of stem with at least one node and leaf. A node commonly has a brown aerial root growing.
- Cut 1 inch below the node with clean, sharp shears. Make the cut where the stem is brown, not in green new growth.
- Wipe off any milky sap and place the new cutting in a clear-walled container filled with clean water. Make sure the node is submerged.
- Use bottled water if your tap water is heavily treated.
- Place the jar in a brightly lit and warm spot out of direct sunlight.
- Change the water weekly to keep it

start to root. Transplant to moist potting mix once the baby roots are about an inch long.

Types

All philodendrons are beautiful. Browse this guide by Clemson Cooperative Extension for more [growing tips and recommended varieties of philodendrons](#).

- *P. melanochrysum*, often called 'Black gold,' is a dark, velvet-leaved climber that steals the show. They can be hard to find but well worth it.
- *P. scandens*, or heartleaf philodendron, is easy to find and fast-growing. Tolerates low light levels.
- *P. erubescens* 'Pink Princess' is famous for its pink variegated leaves.
- 'Brasil' is a smaller leafed vining plant with yellow variegation.
- *P. hederaceum* is another velvet-leaved philodendron with a smaller growth habit. The new foliage is a striking bronze tint.



PESTS/DISEASES

Philodendrons grown as houseplants don't have many issues but can be bothered by common houseplant pests.

- [Aphids](#)
- [Scale insects](#)
- [Spider mites](#)
- [Thrips](#)
- Mealybugs

WIT AND WISDOM

ads, keep these out of reach.

- Climbing and vining philodendrons can be pruned to keep their size manageable, and the cuttings make excellent propagations.
- The common name split-leaf philodendron usually refers to a plant that is not a *Philodendron* at all: *Monstera deliciosa*. However, it can also be *Thaumatococcus danianum*, the plant formerly classified as *Philodendron bipinnatifidum* or *P. sellouanum*. It's good gossip for your next garden club party.

HOUSEPLANT GUIDES

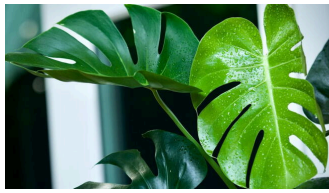
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andy Wilcox



Andy Wilcox is a flower farmer and master gardener with a passion for soil health, small producers, forestry, and horticulture.

[Read More from Andy Wilcox](#)



How to Care for Monsteras



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COMMENTS

ADD A COMMENT

Geo (not verified) 2 years ago

Hello. I have had a Monstera Deliciosa for 25 years now.

It was a gift from my mother-in-law. Her Father grew it in their farmhome from the '40's and it has survived quite well since then. They make beautiful vase and pebble arrangements when rooting, adding

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similar tropical bloom. Changing the water is key and they can be kept in the water rooting this way for a few months. I presently enjoy 4 plants all potted. They have been widely gifted and will endure another 50 years hopefully ;^)

Happy Gardening

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