



Philodendron *Philidendron selloum*

03-72



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 9-11	Need bright indirect sunlight	Moist, well drained, fertile soil	Regular watering	White-near white large flower mid-summer	Will grow 12-15 feet

Most philodendrons are climbers, but not this one. Tree philodendron (also called split leaf philodendron) grows as a large semiwoody shrub with enormous glossy leaves and a single erect unbranched stem that tends to fall over and sprawl when the plant gets large. The robust stem bears stout aerial rootlets between conspicuous leaf scars. The leaves are up to 3 ft (0.9 m) long, deeply dissected into many wavy-margined lobes and held on long petioles. Older and larger plants develop leaves that are more deeply dissected and more ruffled. The inflorescence consists of a 1 ft (0.3 m) long purplish red spathe enclosing an upright spadix with many tiny petalless flowers. Specimens grown indoors rarely flower, however.

This oldtimer was planted up against a San Diego apartment building. In its quest for light it became top heavy and required wire support causing it to grow in interesting new directions. Tree philodendron can get as large as 15 ft (4.6 m) tall and 15 ft (4.6 m) wide with a stem 6 in (17.8 cm) or more in diameter. Windowleaf or ceriman (*Monstera deliciosa*) is superficially similar to tree philodendron, but it has actual holes (windows) in the leaves instead of just indentations and lobes.

'German Selloum' has very narrow leaf lobes, and 'Variegatum' has leaves with yellow markings. Numerous hybrids with other philodendron species have been developed as well. The old name, *Philodendron selloum*, is still frequently seen. *Philodendron bipinnatifidum*, the tree philodendron is native to the rainforests of Paraguay and southeastern Brazil.

**** All parts are poisonous if ingested, handling plant can cause skin irritation**