

## Philodendrons

Greek for tree loving; 480 species in the family Araneae; the family name relates to the flower, which are similar to Calla Lilies; originally from South & Latin America – hemi-epiphyte – they start in soil then climb; known by large leaves and aerial roots; two types: vining or non-vining (self-heading).

Common examples:

Heartleaf (often confused with pothos), Xanadu, Congo or Red (Rojo), Horsehead, Birkin

Note: Monsteras are in the Araneae family but are not philodendrons

- Tropical, with temp preferences from 16 – 26 C, they really don't like cold but love warmth & humidity
- Can be broad, needing cubic space indoors or assistance to vine
- Prefer bright, indirect, filtered light, some grow well in low light
- Grow well in fertile, well-draining soil and benefit from fertiliser in warmer months as they are heavy feeders requiring nitrogen
- Water when dry as they need to drain well
- Propagate – leaf tip, stem cuttings in water
- Do well slightly cramped
- Dust regularly
- Toxic to humans and pets – calcium oxalate



Image credit: <https://balconygardenweb.com/stunning-philodendrons/>