



*Exotic
Tropical
Plants*

<http://stores.ebay.com.au/exotictropicalplants>

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~meckms/>

Philodendron cv 'Lemon Lime'

Description

Philodendrons are among the most common and easy-to grow houseplants. Many tolerate low light and neglect. If well treated, they will be beautiful and dependable for many years.

Philodendron "Lemon Lime" is a lovely coloured philodendron, which climbs happily, but would be equally at home in a hanging basket.

New leaves are a bright lime green, almost yellow, and become darker with age, so that the plant is a mixture of lighter and darker green leaves at all times. The base of the leaf stems have a faint maroon colour.

Leaves are about 20 or 30cm long, and about 5-10 cm wide. If left to grow outdoors up a tree or similar, it would probably grow to several metres, but will be quite happy kept in a pot and allowed to climb up a short totem pole. You will need to prune to keep it contained - but this will promote more new leaves and better colour.

At a glance:

Suitable for Zones: 9 - 12 (see the Zone Hardiness Map in my eBay store). **These Zones are for outdoor temperatures** – if this plant is suitable for growing indoors, you can grow it indoors even if you live in a lower Zone

Sun requirements: Light to full shade (up to 80% shade)

Moisture requirements: Moderate to high, well drained soil

Size when fully grown: Several metres tall if allowed to grow outdoors -otherwise, keep to desired size by regular pruning

Not frost tolerant

Suitable as an indoor plant? Yes

Suitable as a container plant? Yes

Cultivation

Light: Most philodendrons prefer indirect or filtered sunlight but will tolerate low light. They need to be shaded from direct sun. Some light morning sun is usually ok.

Indoors/

Outdoors: In mild, frost-free climates, Philodendrons can be grown outside in shady spots. They'll flourish in rich, moist soil that contains a good supply of organic matter. If grown outside, night temperatures down to around 15°C and day temperatures around 30°C are ideal.

If grown indoors, the lower temperature can often be reduced further, as the plant is protected from extreme cold and frost.

Water: High humidity is ideal for best growth, but philodendrons tolerate the low level of humidity in most homes.

Water frequently enough to keep the soil evenly moist, but not soggy. Never let the plants stand in water.

Newly potted plants need to be carefully watered. Allow the soil to become almost dry before watering. Follow this procedure until the roots have grown into the new soil, after which the soil can be kept more evenly moist. It's especially beneficial to newly planted Philodendrons to spray their leaves two or three times a day.

Fertilize philodendrons regularly with a dilute water soluble houseplant fertilizer, or use a time-release fertilizer.

Pots: Philodendrons grown in pots need well-drained pots that aren't too large for the plants. They do best when their roots are slightly cramped, but not too tightly packed that they form a tight ball of roots.





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Most kinds of Philodendrons need supports to cling to. A totem pole, pieces of rough bark or stakes wrapped with a thick layer of sphagnum moss will serve well. Otherwise, many Philodendrons make very beautiful hanging basket specimens.

You can repot overcrowded plants at any season, using a general-purpose potting soil. Plants may be propagated at any season from stem cuttings, or by air layering. Some philodendrons will produce offsets.

Problems: In the home, plant diseases are very rarely a problem. Too much or too little water plus insects and mites are the main problems.

Root rot usually results from a soil mix that does not drain quickly or overly frequent watering.

Yellowing of lower leaves and the death of the growing tips can be caused by too little light or overwatering.

Too much fertilizer can cause tips of leaves to curl and brown.

While philodendrons are generally pest-free, aphids, mealybugs, scales and spider mites can infest them.

Some philodendrons contain a chemical that causes a burning sensation and can be toxic if the foliage is eaten. Keep philodendrons away from any pets or young children that may eat plants.

