

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Philodendron melanochrysum: velvet leaves with room to grow

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AI-created scene based on the original shop image. Size reference: 12 cm pot · about 35–40 cm. Decoration not included; not a product photograph to scale.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

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PLANT PORTRAIT

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Botanical classification	Philodendron melanochrysum
Family	Araceae
Origin	Colombia and Panama
Delivery size	12 cm pot · about 35–40 cm
Growth and special feature	Climbing aroid with elongated, velvety heart-shaped leaves

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Position	Bright and filtered, without hot direct midday sun.	Velvet sheen remains visible and sensitive foliage is protected.
Water	Let the surface dry slightly, then water evenly.	Moist does not mean persistently wet; remove remaining water.
Compost	Airy mix with coarse structural components and drainage.	Climbing aroids need oxygen in the root space.
Nutrients	Feed weakly during active growth according to product instructions.	Too much salt burdens roots and leaf edges.
Temperature	Keep warm, preferably consistently above 18 °C.	Avoid cold window positions and draughts.
Humidity	Combine higher air humidity with gentle air exchange.	Persistently wet leaves are not a substitute for suitable indoor conditions.
Training	Support the main shoot loosely and let new leaves unfold freely.	Do not pull rolled leaves or fasten leaf stalks tightly.
Checking	Check new growth and undersides for speckles, deposits and webbing.	Handle velvet leaves carefully and do not use shine products.

Knowledge that grows

Velvet here is a leaf surface

Philodendron melanochrysum fascinates with long, heart-shaped leaves featuring a dark background and prominent pale veins. Depending on the light, foliage looks almost black or warmly shimmering. Young leaves may initially appear bronze and change as they harden. The species comes from Colombia and Panama and belongs to the aroid family. Its climbing habit explains why suitable support becomes as important as the right position over time.

The young delivery form remains the basis

The offer in a 12 cm pot is described as about 35–40 cm tall overall. Very large leaves of older climbing plants are therefore not automatically included in delivery. The scene follows the existing young leaves and does not depict an artificially enlarged specimen. A bright position on stable furniture displays its markings well. Also allow upward space: new leaves need clearance from walls, curtains and other objects as they unfold.

Combine warmth with gentle light

Bright, filtered light suits it better than hot midday sun. Keep the philodendron warm and avoid prolonged periods below about 18 °C; the specialist source states 15 °C as the lower cultivation limit. A thermometer at the actual pot position is more informative than room temperature at the other end of the room. Higher air humidity helps leaf development. Frequently wet leaves do not replace a suitable indoor climate, however. Even in humid air, provide gentle air exchange without cold draughts.

Moist roots still need oxygen

The shop wording about even moisture must not be taken as an instruction to keep compost constantly wet. Let the top layer dry somewhat and check the root ball before watering again. A loose mix with coarse structural components lets water drain and preserves air pores. Remove the inner pot for watering or check the decorative pot afterwards. In a small 12 cm container, position, root development and compost composition matter more than a fixed number of watering days.

Let leaves unfold and guide shoots

Fasten the main shoot loosely to a suitable support; leaf stalks must remain free to move. Do not pull a still-rolled leaf apart with your fingers. Its sensitive tissue can tear permanently. When repotting in spring or summer, the next suitable container size is usually sufficient. Feed weakly during active growth. Fresh compost and healthy root growth take priority over trying to produce particularly large leaves quickly through extra nutrients.

Take damage on velvet surfaces seriously

Dry edges may relate to unfavourable humidity, water stress or salt build-up. Pale speckles, silvery areas or fine webbing call for checks for sap-sucking pests. Examine leaf undersides and young growth particularly closely. Do not treat the velvety surface with leaf shine or rub it vigorously. Initially observing a new plant separately makes checks easier. Like other aroids, this philodendron belongs out of reach of nibbling pets or small children.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



Original shop image: Philodendron melanochrysum. 12 cm pot · about 35–40 cm. Natural variation is possible.



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Good to know

Are leaves already 60 cm long at delivery?

No, such measurements describe possible older leaves. The linked offer is a young plant about 35–40 cm tall overall.

Why is the new leaf bronze rather than dark green?

Its colour changes while hardening. Do not judge a fresh leaf like a fully developed one.

Should I pull open a stuck leaf?

Not by force. Check warmth, humidity and water supply; its sensitive tissue tears easily.

Must the compost always be wet?

No. Even supply and an airy mix are important, but excess water must drain away.

The matching offer

[View plant in the shop](#)

Link to the offer in German. Check the shop for the current price, availability and delivery contents.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer (in German)