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Monstera deliciosa

[Synonyms : *Philodendron pertusum*, *Pothos pertusa*]

CERIMAN is an evergreen climbing vine. Native to Mexico and Middle America it has spikes (spadices) bearing green or creamy flowers each shielded by a large, creamy-yellow petal-like leaf (spathe).

It is also known as Cheeseplant, Cut-leaf philodendron, *Fensterblatt* (German), *Filodendro de Folha Furada* (Portuguese), *Finger filodendron* (Danish), Fruit salad plant, *Fruto Delicioso* (Portuguese), Hurricane palm, Mexican breadfruit, *Monstera* (Danish, English, Swedish), *Monstera délicieux* (French), *Monstera skvostná* (Czech, Slovak), *Monstera*, *Monster plant*, *Philodendron* (French), Shingle plant, Split leaf philodendron, Swiss cheese plant, and Tarovine.

The fruit takes 1 year to ripen (starting from the tip) and acquires a banana/pineapple- (*Musa/Ananas comosus*) like taste.

Warning – if the fruit are eaten unripe the throat can be aggravated by itching caused by needle-sharp crystals of calcium oxalate. Plant juice can cause dermatitis.

Deliciosa means ‘delicious tasting’ with reference to the fruit.

Caribbean women weave the roots into baskets and these are dyed mauve with the leaves of bitter bush (*Picramnia pentandra*).

In temperate climates ceriman is often cultivated as a house plant but it rarely fruits under these conditions.