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*Philodendron hastatum*

**SPEARHEAD PHILODENDRON** is an evergreen climbing shrub. Of unknown origin it has and spikes (or spadices) of tiny fleshy white flowers shielded by fleshy, often red and purple-marked, white to greenish-yellow leaflike spathes.

It is also known as Arrowleaf philodendron, Elephant ear philodendron, Elephant's ear, and Spade-leaf philodendron..

Warning – species in this genus can be poisonous if eaten.

*Hastatum* is Latin (armed with a spear) meaning 'spear-shaped'.

American research at NASA at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries has identified useful air purification qualities in spearhead philodendron. Apparently they are believed to be able to dissipate formaldehyde present in interior environments.