

## JOHN'S CORNER:

### Pothos Ivy - A Gardeners Tale

*by John Ferguson*



About 11 years ago after my daughter graduated from college she brought home and gave me a little Pothos Ivy that she had in her dormitory room. I did not have any use for the plant; however, it was in a nice pot that I decided to save. Hence, I dumped the plant on the ground under some shrubs where it could die and be decomposed. It rather looked like the one below with variegation and 3-4 long leaves. It rather looked like the one below with variegation and 3-4 long leaves.



However, this tough little plant had other ideas. It liked my rich organic soil and decided to grow and grow and grow. It grew for 11 years through droughts, freezes, storms, etc. and survived without any care. The ivy has climbed up some trees (Hickory and Mulberry) and spread throughout my yard. It gives my yard a very cooling and tropical look. Today the leaves are over 16 inches long and the one shown in the foreground below is 19.25 inches long from the base of the leaf

touching the stem to the tip of the leaf.

These pictures illustrate what a good biologically active, organically maintained soil can do. Plants grow larger, quicker and are much more drought and freeze tolerant.

The only issue is that it grows so well, I am constantly pruning the runners to keep it under control.