

## Alocasia macrorrhiza

### (Elephant's Ear, giant tarro)

Alocasia is a genus of about 70 huge-leaved species from Asia. Elephant ear is a perennial evergreens with large rhizomes (underground lateral stems) The leaves are arrow with large, prominent, variously colored veins often decorate the leaves. The leaves grow directly from the underground rhizome as a result the plant does not have any stems. As it belong to the Arum family it has a spadix (floral column) surrounded by a green petal like leaf the spathe. Red to orange berry-like fruit follows the flowers. Alocasia imparts a tropical feeling where ever planted. It prefers locations with part shade to full shade and organic, well drained soil. The plants will tolerate moist to very wet conditions. They are frost and wind sensitive. The plants spread and can form dense clumps which should be thinned regularly. Some species are considered invasive in various areas. The plant is highly poisonous if eaten. It contains calcium oxalate crystals which give skin irritation, swollen lip and tongue if eaten.



Plant Image

#### Landscape Information

**Pronunciation:** al-lo-KAY-zee-uh mak-roh-RY-zah

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Origin:** South-East Asia

**Heat Zones:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Hardiness Zones:** 10, 11, 12, 13

**Uses:** Mass Planting, Indoor, Container, Ground cover

#### Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Tree Shape:** Upright

**Canopy Symmetry:** Symmetrical

**Canopy Density:** Open

**Canopy Texture:** Coarse

**Height at Maturity:** 1 to 1.5 m, 1.5 to 3 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 1 to 1.5 meters

**Time to Ultimate Height:** 2 to 5 Years

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Flower Image

### Botanical Description

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#### Foliage

**Leaf Arrangement:** Spiral

**Leaf Venation:** Brachidodrome

**Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Blade:** 30 - 50

**Leaf Shape:** Sagittate - Arrow

**Leaf Margins:** Undulate, Lobate

**Leaf Textures:** Leathery, Glossy

**Leaf Scent:** No Fragrance

**Color(growing season):** Variegated

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#### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** True

**Flower Size Range:** 3 - 7

**Flower Type:** Spadix

**Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)

**Flower Scent:** No Fragrance

**Flower Color:** Green, White

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#### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Berry

**Fruit Showiness:** True

**Fruit Size Range:** 0 - 1.5, 1.5 - 3

**Fruit Colors:** Red

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Leaf Image

### Horticulture Management

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#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** No

**Heat Tolerant:** No

**Drought Tolerant:** No

**Salt Tolerance:** Poor

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Clay, Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic

**Water Requirements:** High, Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Full, Shade

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#### Management

**Toxity:** Yes

**Invasive Potential:** No

**Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases:** No

**Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter:** No

**Surface Rooting:** No

**Life Span:** Less than 25

**Edible Parts:**

**Plant Propagations:** Division

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Other Image