

## Alocasia, Elephant Ear (Hybrid) - Plant



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Sales price R 791

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Description

### Description for Alocasia, Elephant Ear (Hybrid)

Elephant ear plants (*Alocasia* spp.) received their common name because their leaves look like green renditions of elephants ears. The plants can be kept indoors as house plants or grown outdoors.

The Elephant Ear plant is a Herbaceous Perennial, meaning that they grow from non-woody stems and will re-bloom each year. Elephant Ear plants are actually part of the Caladium family

Common name	Flower colours	Bloom time	Height	Difficulty
Kris Plant or Elephant Ear.	Although flowers appear once in a while on a well looked after Alocasia, they are quite insignificant. The focus of this plant should be maintaining its beautiful foliage.	Rarely flowers	Height: 2.00 to 6.00 feet Spread: 2.00 to 6.00 feet	Easy

## Planting and care

Plant in locations protected from strong winds after last frost date. Rhizomes/tuberous roots may be started indoors in pots or containers. After last frost date, pots may be sunk to the rim in the garden and containers may be set out on the patio. Water and fertilize regularly.

Reduce watering in winter. Return to the garden in spring. Rhizomatous varieties are best left in pots year-round. Tuberous varieties may be planted directly in the garden in late spring. After first fall frost, dig and lift tubers, shake off loose soil, dry and store in cool, dry location for winter. May be grown as a house plant.

Sunlight	Soil	Water	Temperature	Fertilizer
You must avoid both direct Sunlight and very dark and gloomy spots. Locations which fall between these two extremes are required.	Use a fast draining peat based potting mix.	Elephant ears are water-loving plants. They need at least moist, organically rich soil, but constantly moist soil is preferable, especially in warm months. You can decrease your watering schedule for the plants in winter, when they don't need as much water as they do other times of the year.	approximately 65-75°F (18-24°C)	Feed with a diluted balanced fertilizer from spring every 2 weeks and stop at the end of August then start again at the beginning of spring.

## Caring for Alocasia

- If elephant ear plants are starving for sunlight, their growth becomes stunted and their leaves may turn a bit pale or yellow.
- If that happens to container-grown elephant ears, move them to a better lit area.
- Too much sunlight, on the other hand, can burn the plants leaves.
- Adjust your garden accordingly, either by moving the elephant ears or providing them some shade from a tree or other structure.
- Watch for spider mites.

## Harvesting

Winter

## Typical uses of Alocasia

**Special features:** The impressive and stunning leaves are arrowhead or shield shaped with large protruding white veins running through them which contrasts strongly with the rest of the dark green leaf.

**Ornamental use:** These are tropical plants of the Arum family that are treasured for their decorative (and in some cases enormous) leaves. Closely related to Colocasia (taro), the plants of this genus feature heart to arrowhead-shaped leaves (12-36" long), each singly atop long and stout succulent stems.

## References

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a435>  
<http://www.houseplantsexpert.com/amazon-elephants-ear-plant.html> <http://homeguides.sfgate.com/should-elephant-ears-planted-shade-sun-90451.html> <http://www.ourhouseplants.com/plants/alocasia>