

Alocasia macrorrhizos

GIANT TARO

Araceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

FLEPPC Category: -

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

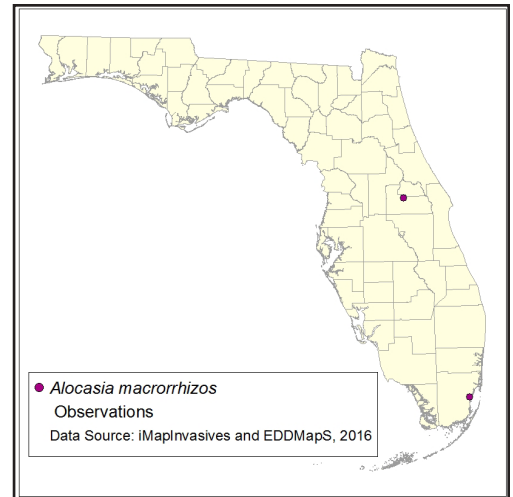
IFAS Assessment

North -
Central -
South -

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8b-11

Growth Habit: Herb

Origin: Tropical Asia



Alocasia macrorrhizos plantation on Tongatapu, by Tau'olungahttp://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/92/Alocasia_macrorrhizos.jpgUsed under Creative Commons 2.5 license

Description: Large herb to 5 m tall with large erect stems up to 1 m long. Leaves large, ovate-triangular. Stalked inflorescences. Spathe white to yellowish, 13-35 cm long, 4-6 cm wide, the upper part withering. Spadix nearly as long as spathe, 11-32 cm long. Berries red, ovoid, 8-10 mm in diameter.

Habitat: wet disturbed thickets

Comments: Cultivated widely in the tropics for its starchy stem tubers, used as a famine food in areas. Considered invasive in Cuba, Hawaii, Fiji, and other Pacific Islands.

Florida Introduction Date: Earliest Florida specimen available vouchered in 2000.

Control Methods:

Mechanical: Mechanical removal is effective but very labor intensive. All corms and tubers need to be removed (CABI).

Useful Resources:

CABI. 2014. Invasive Species Compendium: Datasheet, *Alocasia macrorrhizos*. <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/4220>. Accessed on June 25, 2014.

Dave's Garden. 2014. PlantFiles: Upright Elephant Ear, *Alocasia macrorrhizos*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/53227/>. Accessed on June 17, 2014.

PIER. 2014. Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER): *Alocasia macrorrhizos*. http://www.hear.org/pier/species/alocasia_macrorrhizos.htm. Accessed on June 25, 2014.

Wunderlin, R. P., and B. F. Hansen. 2008. Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>). [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research.] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.