



## Alocasia Care Instructions

■ Alocasia grow well in most parts of the UK and in winter require minimal care to ensure they survive. If you have purchased young plants (3x6cm rootball), please keep them somewhere warm (7°C+) until they have established in at least a 1-2litre container.

■ They can get very big, growing up to 7 feet tall with leaves 3 feet across (A. macrorrhizos) They should ideally be planted in full-sun to semi-shade or even up to 80% shade. Typically, they prefer 65-75% shade.

■ All Alocasia like an aerated mix of compost containing bark and perlite.

■ Alocasia calidora grows between 5-7 feet (1.5-2.1M) tall with leaves 3 feet (90cm) across.

■ Alocasia macrorrhiza grows up to 7 feet (2M+) tall with leaves 3 feet (90cm) across.

■ A rhizome is a root section. Those that we send to you may have only a hint of roots. The section will grow and it will develop many roots and the leaf of the Alocasia plant will follow very quickly. Some rhizomes may already have the first leaf growing.

■ Place the rhizome just beneath the surface of multipurpose compost in a large pot and water in gently from early spring onwards, increasing the amount of water as the plant grows. Plant out after the last of the frosts have passed.

■ Alocasia can be grown in a container or straight into the ground from May until September/October. If planted in the ground, dig up the plant and divide some of the suckers if you want new plants and pot into a mix of perlite/bark and multi-purpose compost. Never just use garden soil. Bring inside frost-free for the winter keeping **very** dry until the spring. If kept below 7°C, Alocasia will become dormant until the temperature increases in the spring.

One of the biggest killers for Alocasia is winter rot. Always check the stems for signs of mildew and rot and remove accordingly if you see a problem. Keeping very dry, allowing air to circulate and not feeding will prevent this from happening!

■ The plant can be cut down to a manageable size if space is limited and new leaves will unfurl from the main stem in spring. Keeping the plant in a container all year round will limit the total size of the plant.

■ Using a slow or controlled release fertilizer when planting will ensure that your plant is correctly fed and will grow at an optimum rate remembering to re-pot as necessary. John Innes or general multi- purpose compost will usually have sufficient food for the first 4-6 weeks, if no food is added.

Please have a look at [www.easytropicals.com](http://www.easytropicals.com) for companion ideas. If you have any questions please email for a prompt reply.

Many thanks for looking.