



Colocasia Care Instructions

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

■ If you have purchased a rhizome, plant this just below the surface of the compost and water in. Colocasia grow quite quickly and you will need to re-pot these regularly. Do not allow the compost to dry out in the growing season!

■ Most Colocasia can get quite big, growing between 4-6 feet tall with a wide spread as the plants clump. They should be planted in anything from full-sun to semi-shade or even up to 80% shade, although 'Black Magic' and 'Black Ruffles' will further develop their striking purple colour if grown in full sun. If grown in deep shade they will turn green.

■ Colocasia can be grown in a container or straight into the ground from May until September/October. Dig up the plant and divide some of the 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, watering only sparsely until the spring. If kept below 7°C, Colocasia will become dormant until the temperature increases in the spring. One of the biggest killers for Colocasia is winter rot. Always check the stems for signs of mildew and rot and remove accordingly if you see a problem. Keeping very dry, warm (above 5C, 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 stems in spring. Keeping the plant in a container all year round will limit the total size of the plant.

■ Keep very well watered in the growing season and they will thrive if planted in a bog garden or next to a pond.

■ 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 for companion ideas & a general hardiness guide. If you have any questions please email for a prompt reply.

Many thanks for looking.