

## ***Alocasia macrorrhiza***

### **/ *Similar spp***

#### **Common name:**

Alocasia, Cunjevoi, Elephant ears,  
Giant taro,

#### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Not known to be eaten.

#### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Toxic to all animals, stock, humans and pets.

#### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Cyanogenetic glucocides,
- . Oxalate crystals,
- . Unknown toxins.

#### **Effects:**

##### *Signs and symptoms;*

- . Intense irritation to, and swelling of, the lips, tongue, mouth, and throat.

##### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Recovery in most cases.
- . Can be stinging or corrosive to humans when handled.
- . Juice from leaf or rhizome can cause intense conjunctivitis or temporary blindness.

##### *Treatment;*

- . Unknown, rinse with water.
- . See Doctor or Vet.

#### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Garden plant escapee,
- . All parts are potentially irritant.
- . Use herbicides, or weed out into disposable bags.
- . Do not feed this plant to any livestock.

#### **Comments:**

- . A large perennial garden plant, with a thick rootstock and thick stems, with a height and spread of about 2.5 metres.
- . Root stock is edible after cooking.
- . Broad arrow-shaped, glossy green leaves grow to about a metre long, with two deep lobes at the base, in good conditions.

- . Usually prostrate or semi-prostrate at ground level; can grow to a metre high, without support.
- . Native to Malaysia, SE Asia and N. Australia.
- . The flower heads are a spike of pale yellow-green flowers along the upper part of a stout stalk - spadex - and surrounded by a cream-coloured, hood-shaped spathe, in summer.
- . Berries are red, yellow or orange when ripe.
- . Found growing wild in Queensland and northern NSW, in moist gullies.
- . Stock are not attracted to this plant in the fresh state; it may have a sweet smell.
- . Sap is very corrosive to mucous membranes.
- . Sharp needles of oxalate are found in the plant.
- . *A cuprea*, Giant caladium.



Alocasia.

Picture: Helen Simmonds, Calga, NSW.



Cunjevoi.

Picture: Helen Simmonds. Calga, NSW.

#### **Further Reading.**

- . Everist S. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997