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Royal Hawaiian® Waikiki Elephant Ear

Colocasia esculenta 'Waikiki'



*Royal Hawaiian Waikiki Elephant Ear
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Cocoyam, Dasheen, Taro

Group/Class: Royal Hawaiian Series

Description:

An impressive variety with dark green, glossy leaves adorned with creamy white markings and vivid pink veins; disease resistant with a tidy, clumping habit; adds a tropical feel to pond and poolside containers; performs great in borders and beds

Ornamental Features

Royal Hawaiian Waikiki Elephant Ear is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its attractive large glossy heart-shaped leaves remain dark green in color with distinctive pink veins and tinges of creamy white throughout the season. The dark red stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Royal Hawaiian Waikiki Elephant Ear is an open herbaceous annual with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Royal Hawaiian Waikiki Elephant Ear is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Royal Hawaiian Waikiki Elephant Ear will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Royal Hawaiian Waikiki Elephant Ear is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

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