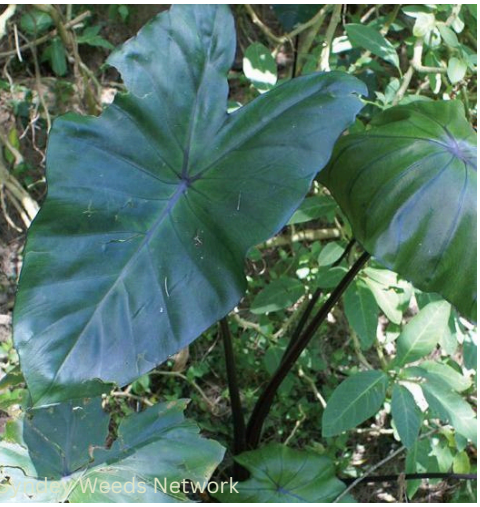
TARO

Colocasia esculenta

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL







Description

A large herbaceous plant growing 1-2 m tall. Large “elephants ears” leaves (17-70 cm long) grow from the base, upper surface glossy green to bluish-black. Produces tuberous creeping stems. Leaves are borne on thick, spongy, stalks 30-100 cm long. These upright leaf stalks are joined to the undersides of leaf blades and are usually purplish in naturalised plants. Its elongated flower clusters (6-21 cm long) have green female flowers at the base and yellowish male flowers towards the tip. These clusters are mostly enclosed by a large greenish-yellow or yellow bract 20-35 cm long. Its fruit are small oval berries (3-5 mm long) that turn orange or red as they mature.

Impacts

Forms dense monocultures, shade tolerant. Spread from gardens and invaded waterways and wetlands forming large and dense colonies and replaces native aquatic plants.

Habitat

A weed of waterways, riparian vegetation, wetlands and the margins of waterbodies.

How is it spread

This species reproduces by seed and vegetatively via its tubrous underground stems (i.e. rhizomes and corms). Seeds are spread by birds and other animals that eat the fruit. The tuberous roots, corms and seeds are dispersed in dumped garden waste and by water during floods.

Origin

Asia

Similar species

There are many different variants. Edible cultivars (*Colocasia esculenta var. esculenta*) and ornamental garden cultivars (mostly *Colocasia esculenta var. antiquorum*) of this species have been introduced into Australia, and both have become naturalised. However, it is the purple-stalked ornamental garden cultivars (i.e. *Colocasia esculenta 'Euchlora'* and *Colocasia esculenta 'Fontanesii'*) that seem to be the most invasive in Australia.

- Alocasia brisbanensis. Cunjevoi has green stems, white flowers and red fruits. Native

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Control Methods

PHYSICAL REMOVAL

By hand small infestations dig up rhizome and hang up to dry it out. Larger infestations:dig up and remove, though this can cause a large amount of soil disturbance.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Foliar spray repeated treatments needed or **cut, scrape and paint** or **drill & inject** rhizome with glyphosate and water.

Weed wipers to apply herbicide directly onto leaves.

To control dense patches of the plant near waterways **splatter gun** can be used. Use only formulas that are registered for use near waterways.

The whole plant contail Calcium Oxalate crystals which are slighly poisonous (unless cooked) for humans, horses, dogs, and cats. Leads to oral irritation.

Best Season

All year but best prior to fruiting.

Biosecurity Duty

All pest plants are regulated with a general biosecurity duty to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Herbicide

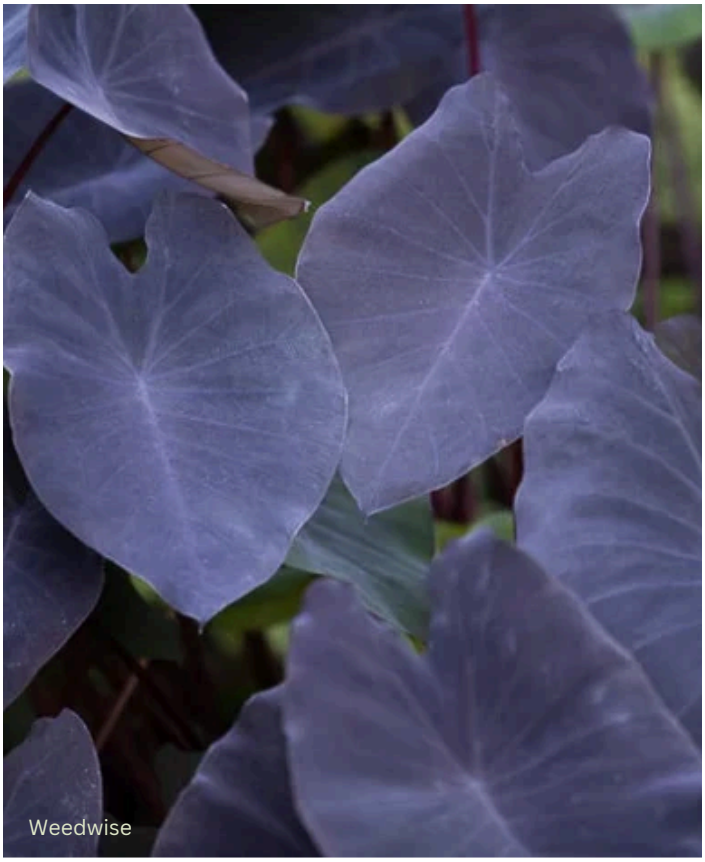
WARNING - ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Users of agricultural or veterinary chemical products must always read the label and any permit, before using the product, and strictly comply with the directions on the label and the conditions of any permit. Users are not absolved from compliance with the directions on the label or the conditions of the permit by reason of any statement made or not made in this information. To view permits or product labels go to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website www.apvma.gov.au. See Using herbicides for more information.

PERMIT 9907 Expires 31/03/2025

More information

https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/taro



Weedwise

updated June 2024

NSW GOVERNMENT

Australian Government

This opportunity is supported by Byron Shire Council and jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding arrangements.