Royal Hawaiian® Tropical Storm Elephant Ear

Colocasia esculenta 'Tropical Storm'

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7a

Other Names: Cocoyam, Dasheen, Taro

Group/Class: Royal Hawaiian Series

Description:

An impressive variety producing large, sea green leaves, with contrasting white centers and purplish highlights, held up on dark red stems; a stunning garden or pondside accent plant for a tropical look

Planting & Growing

This plant is native to the tropics and prefers growing in moist environments with evenly warm conditions all year round. In our climate, it is usually grown as an outdoor annual in the garden or in a container. If you want it to survive the winter, it can be brought in to the house and provided with special care, and then returned to the garden the following season. In its preferred tropical habitat, it can grow to be around 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. However, when grown as an annual or when overwintered indoors, it can be expected to perform differently, and its exact height and spread will depend on many factors; you may wish to consult with our experts as to how it might perform in your specific application and growing conditions.



Royal Hawaiian Tropical Storm Elephant Ear foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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 Tropical Storm Elephant Ear is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. 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.