

Colocasia esculenta

TARO

Araceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

FLEPPC Category: 1

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

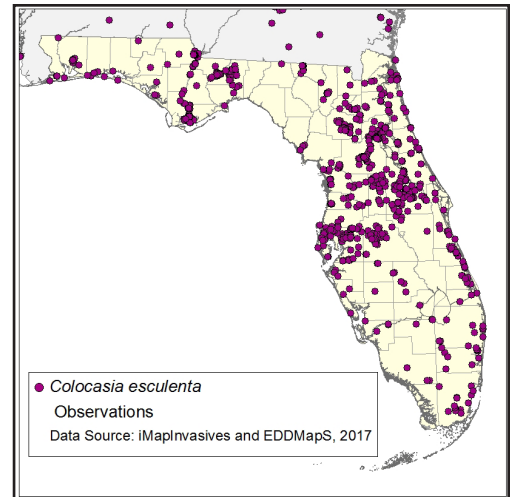
IFAS Assessment

North	INVASIVE
Central	INVASIVE
South	INVASIVE

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8a-11

Growth Habit: Perennial herb

Origin: Central and South America



Brenda Herring

Description: Herbaceous perennial with arrow-shaped leaves up to 1.2 m in length. Flowers infrequently, but consists of spadix and spathe.

Taro resembles the exotic elephant's ear (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium*) but is distinguished based on its petiole is attached to the leaf several inches from the base of the leaf (peltate). Elephant's ear petioles are attached at the base of the stem directly.

Habitat: Wet to dry sites, but mostly in floodplain swamps, stream banks, and wet disturbed areas.

Florida Introduction Date: In the southeastern United States, it was introduced in 1910 by the Department of Agriculture as a substitute crop for potatoes.

Control Methods: Mechanical: manually dig out corms.

Chemical: Foliar (1.0% aquatic glyphosate + 0.5% aquatic triclopyr amine + 0.5% aquatic 2,4-D, or, 0.5% aquatic imazapyr), add silicone surfactant so herbicide mix adheres to waxy leaves. [IFAS].

Useful Resources:

Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

IFAS, UF, Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. 2017. *Colocasia esculenta*. <https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/colocasia-esculenta/> Accessed September 18, 2017.

IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. 2017. *Colocasia esculenta*. <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/colocasia-esculenta/> Accessed September 18, 2017.

Dave's Garden. 2017. PlantFiles: taro (*Colocasia esculenta*). <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/188/> Accessed September 19, 2017.

Comments: Introduced for its edible tubers.