

Cultural Information – Colocasia
(kol-oh-KAY-see-uh)

<u>Light:</u>	Full sun, partial sun or shade, a southern, eastern, western or northern exposure. The higher light, the better.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 50°. During the winter, to maintain active growth, keep temperatures above 60°.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels without harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	They can be grown with wet feet as in water gardens or bog gardens; however, they are also tolerant to periods of dryness as long as it is not severe. A good rule of thumb is even moisture. Exception: Colocasia gigantea prefers a state of visual dryness between waterings.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	During the summertime, under high light and high moisture levels they can be grown with moderate to high levels of feed. This will speed up growth on a seasonal basis. During the winter, reduce or stop the application of fertilizer, as they are sensitive to high levels of salt.
<u>Pruning:</u>	If the growth gets rough or ragged looking it can be pruned off. At times, we will remove all the foliage to get a “fresh start”. This does no harm and in no time, the plant is full of leaves.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They are highly susceptible to spider mite under dry conditions. Diseases of the foliage and roots are usually not a problem.
<u>Comments</u>	Colocasias are vigorous growing plants that thrive under warmth, light and high moisture. They can be wintered over in basements until spring if the roots and a small amount of foliage remain. They make great garden or mixed container plants.