



ALOCASIA AMAZONICA • AFRICAN MASK • ELEPHANT EAR PLANT

An Alocasia plant, native to Asia, is also called an Elephant Ear plant or African Mask Plant because of their very large, glossy, heart-shaped leaves with wavy edges. These stunning, veined leaves come in red, bronze, blue-green and purple. If you are searching for a dramatic, very different looking plant that can be as small as 6" or as tall as a tree, an Alocasia plant is a great choice. These plants do require a little care and attention to thrive.

CARE

LIGHT

An Alocasia plant requires very bright indirect light but no direct sun.

WATER

Allow the top 2"- 3" of soil to dry out before watering. Try to keep the soil evenly moist. Over-watering, wet leaves, and soggy soil makes an Alocasia susceptible to a variety of serious fungal infection. Alocasia require less water during the winter when it is dormant.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize every two weeks from late March through September with a basic houseplant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Never fertilize during the winter. Too much plant food results in salts building up in the soil and burning the leaves.

TEMPERATURE

Alocasia prefer warm temperatures between 60°-80°F. These plants become dormant with prolonged exposure to temperatures below 60°F and may drop all of their leaves. Be sure to keep an Alocasia away from air conditioners and cold drafts. During warm summer months, an Alocasia can produce a new leaf every week and each new leaf may be twice the size of the previous leaf.

HUMIDITY

Alocasia grow best in high humidity. To increase the humidity, place the plant on a tray filled with pebbles and water. Be sure the plant is sitting on the pebbles and not in the water. You can also increase the humidity by placing a small humidifier near the plant or grouping plants together. Do not mist the plant, misting encourages plant diseases.

FLOWERING

The flowers of an Alocasia plant are very small in comparison to the beautiful leaves.

PESTS

Spraying an Alocasia with warm soapy water every few weeks helps prevent mealy bugs, scale, aphids, and spider mite problems. It also keeps the large leaves of the plant dust-free. If an Alocasia does become infested spray with an ultra-fine household safe insecticide or Neem Oil. This kill both the pests and their eggs.

DISEASES

When Alocasia are over-watered or when the leaves are consistently wet, they develop a variety of diseases such as crown, stem, and root rot, leaf spot and xanthomonas. These diseases usually appear as dark brown or black spots on the leaves, surrounded by a yellowish rim. The best way to prevent plant diseases is to avoid over-watering, keep the leaves dry, and provide good air circulation around the plant. Once an Alocasia is infected quickly remove the damaged leaves and any leaves that have fallen off, isolate the plant from your other plants, and treat with a household safe fungicide.

SOIL

Use an organic well-aerated loose soil that contains a good amount of peat moss. If the soil seems a little heavy, add some builder's sand or perlite.

POT SIZE

Alocasia like to be root-bound in small pots, so don't rush to put them into larger pots.

PRUNING

Quickly remove any yellow leaves or those that develop brown or black spots as that may be a sign of a fungal disease

PROPAGATION

Plant division is the best way to propagate.

RESTING PERIOD

An Alocasia becomes dormant for several months during the late fall and winter.