

# *Alocasia macrorrhizos*

## GIANT TARO

### Araceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

**FLEPPC Category:** -

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

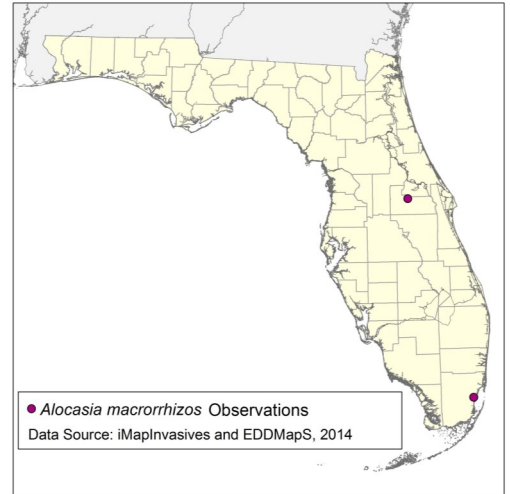
**IFAS Assessment**

North -  
Central -  
South -

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 8b-11

**Growth Habit:** Herb

**Origin:** Tropical Asia



*Alocasia macrorrhizos* plantation on Tongatapu, by Tau'olunga

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/92/Alocasia\\_macrorrhizos.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/92/Alocasia_macrorrhizos.jpg)  
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**Description:** Large herb to 5 m tall with large erect stems up to 1 m long. Leaves large, ovate-triangular. Stalked inflorescences. Spathe white to yellowish, 13-35 cm long, 4-6 cm wide, the upper part withering. Spadix nearly as long as spathe, 11-32 cm long. Berries red, ovoid, 8-10 mm in diameter.

**Habitat:** wet disturbed thickets

**Comments:** Cultivated widely in the tropics for its starchy stem tubers, used as a famine food in areas. Considered invasive in Cuba, Hawaii, Fiji, and other Pacific Islands.

**Florida Introduction Date:** Earliest Florida specimen available vouchered in 2000.

#### **Control Methods:**

Mechanical: Mechanical removal is effective but very labor intensive. All corms and tubers need to be removed (CABI).

#### **Useful Resources:**

CABI. 2014. Invasive Species Compendium: Datasheet, *Alocasia macrorrhizos*. <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/4220>. Accessed on June 25, 2014.

Dave's Garden. 2014. PlantFiles: Upright Elephant Ear, *Alocasia macrorrhizos*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/53227/>. Accessed on June 17, 2014.

PIER. 2014. Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER): *Alocasia macrorrhizos*. [http://www.hear.org/pier/species/alocasia\\_macrorrhizos.htm](http://www.hear.org/pier/species/alocasia_macrorrhizos.htm). Accessed on June 25, 2014.

Wunderlin, R. P., and B. F. Hansen. 2008. Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>). [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research.] Institute for Systematic Botany,