



Wild Taro

Wild Taro (*Colocasia esculenta*)

Instant ID

- A leafy plant with broad arrowhead-shaped leaves
- Leaves are bright to dark green with veins radiating out from the stem and grow up to 24 inches long and 20 inches wide
- Stems are attached to the backs of leaves
- Flowers are shorter than leaves and encased in a yellow sheath

Hijacked Habitats

- Brought to the United States from Africa as a food plant
- Native to India and Southeast Asia
- Growth was encouraged as a possible substitute for potatoes
- Grows in or very near water





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Plant Particulars

- It replaces native plants on shorelines of freshwater
- Tubers (potato-like roots) used to make a variety of foods
- Oxalic acid in the tubers and leaves make it toxic if not prepared properly
- The only arrowhead-shaped water plant in Florida with the stem attached to the back

Population Prevention

- Choose native plants for landscaping
- Reproduction by buried tubers makes removal difficult
- Handle leaves carefully when removing
- For removal information, visit <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/>

