PLANT FACT SHEET

Xanthosoma undipes (K. Koch & C. D. Bouche) K. Koch

GENUS *Xanthosoma* **FAMILY** Araceae

COMMON NAMES Elephant ear

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Tubers, Root

The tubers can be eaten only after drying and cooking.
As well they can be boiled and fermented and used to make an alcoholic drink. Caution: Alcohol is a cause of cancer.

DESCRIPTION

A large herb. It grows 2-3 m high and spreads 2-3 m wide. It keeps growing from year to year. The stem can be 2 m long. The leaves are broadly heart shaped. They are 0.5-2 m long. The leaf stalks are 100 cm long. The large bract around the flower is egg shaped and 8 cm long. It is yellowish-green inside. The tubers are acrid and yellow fleshed. The fruit develop as hundreds or fleshy, many seeded green fruits along the stalk.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It needs warm humid conditions. It needs moist humus rich soil. In Costa Rica it is common in wet regions above 1,000 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 10-11.

NOTES

There are 57 Xanthosoma species.

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