PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Zantedeschia aethiopica (L.) Sprengel

GENUS *Zantedeschia* **FAMILY** Araceae

COMMON NAMES White Arum Lily

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Stems, Vegetable, Roots

CAUTION: The flower stalk and the roots are poisonous if eaten raw. Like many plants in this family they contain oxalates that need special processing to remove these.
The young leaves and leaf stalks are eaten as a vegetable. Roasting and boiling removes the toxicity.

DESCRIPTION

A succulent herb. It is a perennial plant. The roots are fleshy and form underground storage organs. It grows 90-120 cm high and 50-75 cm wide. Plants form dense clumps of leaves. The leaves are glossy and arrow-shaped. They are 40 cm long. The leaves are on stalks arising from the base of the plant. The stalks can be 40 cm long. The leaf stalks have a sticky sap when broken. The flowers have white spathes and a yellow spadix. The white spathes are funnel shaped with a split down the side. The stalk or spadix in the centre has true flowers are clustered along this. After flowering oval yellow berries form and these have round seed.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It can stand light frosts. It can grow naturally along watercourses. It suits swampy areas. They can grow in full sun or light shade. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,000 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 8-11. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed sown as soon as ripe and at 21-27°C. They can be grown by division of the clump. The tubers are planted 30-40 cm apart and 10 cm deep.

NOTES

There are 6-8 Zantedeschia species. It can be invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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