

Culture Advice

Colocasia esculenta

Taro

Description:	Taro is one of the most important starch suppliers for the population of tropical countries. In Europe it is primarily used for mixed plantings in beds and on balconies. An outstanding feature is its luscious green to black foliage. Ideal as a big upright background plant for beds and borders.
Potting:	13 to 17 cm pot, calendar weeks 5 to 12. (Sales can be individually handled, depending on desired plant size.)
Substrate:	Loose, with sufficient water holding capacity (with increased clay portion). pH approx.. 5.0 to 5.8
Fertilization:	High; apply a balanced multi-nutrient fertilizer (0.15 to 0.3 %) once or twice a week.
Temperature:	Warm cultivation at a high air humidity is preferred; cultivate from start to end at 16 to 18 °C.
Light:	Provide for shadow as from 55 klux. End customer should choose half-shaded places.
Flowering:	Does not produce flowers under (our) local conditions; purely decorative foliage plant.
Growth regulators:	Watering possible only under specific conditions, max. 2 x Cycocel 720, 0.15 to 0.25 % , 120 to 300 ml per pot
Pinching:	Is not recommended!
Diseases and pest:	Leaf stains through excessive solar radiation or insufficient air humidity. Fungus gnats, thrips, mites and spider mites; take hygienic measures!

Water balance is of importance; the plants must not stand too dry but excessive soil wetness may lead to root damage. Insufficient air humidity or permanent air draught cause necrotic leaf stains and dry leaf edges.