Lindley's Nursery and Garden Center

Portora Elephant's Ear

Alocasia 'Portora'



Portora Elephant's Ear foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Alocasia, Taro

Description:

Enormous, scalloped leaves on strong purple stalks, emerge from the center of this fast-growing hybrid, and can reach up to 8 feet; elegant as a large accent or screen; can tolerate some cold and grows well in containers

Ornamental Features

Portora Elephant's Ear's attractive enormous crinkled heart-shaped leaves emerge light green in spring, turning bluish-green in color the rest of the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. It features solitary conical creamy white hooded flowers with white centers rising above the foliage in mid summer. The purple stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.



Portora Elephant's Ear
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Portora Elephant's Ear is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Portora Elephant's Ear is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Portora Elephant's Ear will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Portora Elephant's Ear is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.