

# Tea Cups Elephant Ears



The leaves and stems are strong enough that the cup actually fills with water. Once it gets heavy enough, the stem arches over and pours it out, then springs back to collect more rainfall—like a natural water feature!

Sooo.. easy to grow and lots of fun for the kids!

## *Colocasia esculenta* 'Tea Cup'

- **Use:** An elephant ear with a sophisticated new look. Great for height interest, growing 5–6' tall on sleek, dark stems. The foliage is the most stunning part, shiny green leaves show in stylish contrast against dark, near-black veining—the coloration becomes even more stunning when the sunlight hits. These leaves grow upright, and form into a distinctive cup-shape. When it rains, this shape makes an extraordinary display. loves the water, you can even grow it in a pot submerged in a pond. It's easy and fast growing plant, useful in the shade garden and borders. It also makes an exquisite display in a patio pot. Deer tend not to bother this variety.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Sun (but may be difficult as it needs lots of water!)– part shade. Provide well-drained, moist soil, but not soggy. Use a slow release fertilizer. The more water and fertilizer they get the better. Could grow in a well aerated pond.
- **Growth:** It makes a giant clump to 5-6' tall with a similar spread.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 7b-10, perennial, mulch 1' around plant in fall
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. The leaves hold themselves very upright in an inverted cup like pose. They will fill up with water and then slightly tip over and pour it out. 'Tea Cup' can put on a spectacular show. When the sun shines down on 'Tea Cups' leaves, it illuminates the leaf tissue around the dark purple veins, which gives it a very spectacular look.
- **Flower:** Not known for flowers.