

## Arum lily

### *Zantedeschia aethiopica*

January 2015

Arum lily is a perennial herb growing up to 1.5 m high, with very recognisable large arrowhead-shaped leaves and large white funnel-shaped flowers. Arum lily is widely cultivated in Australia as a hardy garden plant and for use in the floriculture trade.

It is now declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, with prohibition on sale and movement throughout South Australia and enforced control in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region.

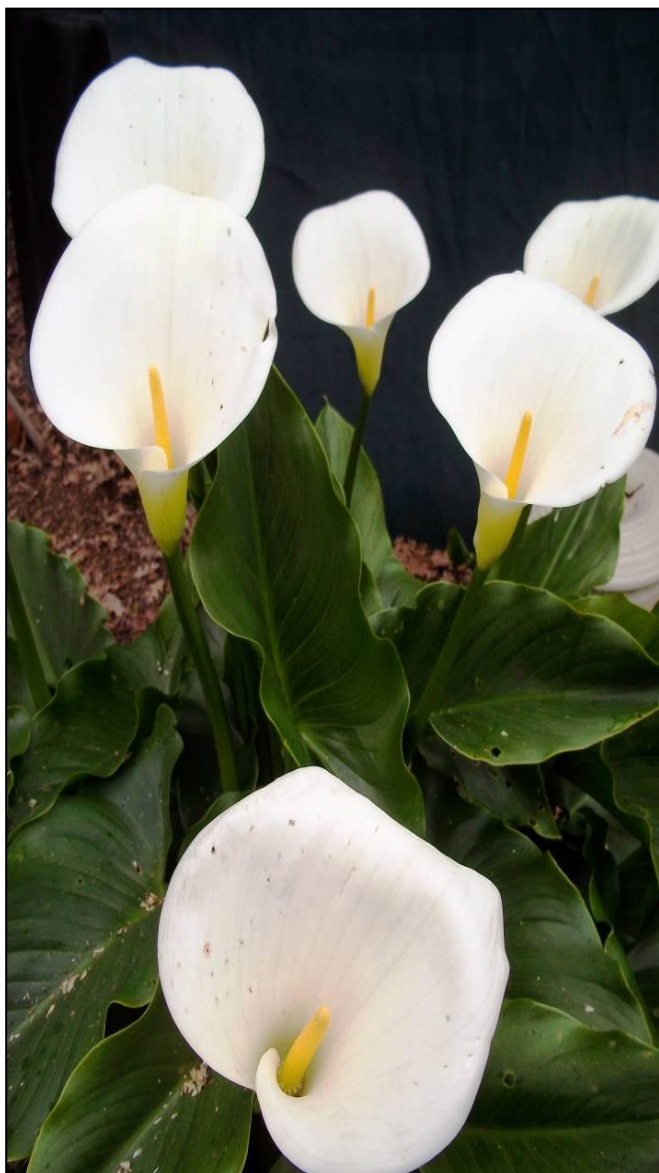
- **Other common names:** calla lily, white arum lily, common calla, pig lily, death lily, Egyptian lily, funeral flower, florist's calla, garden calla, lily of the Nile, St. Joseph's arum lily, green goddess, trumpet lily.
- **Family:** Araceae
- **Synonyms:** *Calla aethiopica*, *Richardia africana*
- **Origin:** Natal and Cape Province in South Africa

#### WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Arum lily has escaped from garden plantings and invaded bushland and pasture areas. It can also invade pasture and is poisonous.

- forms dense monocultures which crowd out native vegetation, affecting biodiversity
- is highly toxic to animals and people
- is a skin and eye irritant for people and livestock
- infestations compete with pasture species, forming solid stands.
- can dominate wetland habitats and impede water flow in creeks





## For more information

Contact your local Natural Resources Centre for information on controlling declared weeds:

[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au)

Further weed control information is also available at:

[www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa)

## DESCRIPTION

**Habit:** fleshy, glabrous perennial herb growing up 1.5 m in height. **Leaves:** large, glossy, dark green arrow-shaped 15-45 cm x 10-25 cm, arising from a robust leaf stalk growing directly from the rhizome. **Roots:** white, long and fleshy growing from the rhizome at the base of the stem. **Inflorescence:** flowers are small and packed on a yellow spike within a large white funnel-shaped bract, which is slit to the base and tapers to a point at the top. **Seed:** yellow-brown/orange and irregularly globose, approx. 5 mm in diameter, and protected by the base of the bract.

*Note:* Treat all arum lily plant parts as toxic as they contain calcium oxalate and alkaloid coniine.

## HOW IT SPREADS

Arum lily spreads by seed and transport of rhizomes, particularly via waterways and landscaping activity.

## HABITAT

Arum lily thrives in moist to wet conditions. It forms dense stands under trees and pastures in wetter areas. It can also be found growing amongst heath on sand dunes.

## DISTRIBUTION

Naturalised in Eyre Peninsula, Murraylands, Southern Lofty, Kangaroo Island, and the South-East. Also naturalised in Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Seek control advice if you have this weed. Select alternatives to replace invasive garden plants. Read 'Grow Me Instead' for suggestions.

Arum lily habit, infestation, flower & foliage images - J. Dean, Biosecurity SA.

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