BARTLETT'S FARM
NANTUCKET

Royal Hawaiian® Black Coral Elephant Ear

Colocasia esculenta 'Black Coral'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Cocoyam, Dasheen, Taro

Group/Class: Royal Hawaiian Series

Description:

Deep burgundy-black leaves are one of the darkest grown; best grown in fertile, organically rich soil; in colder climates it can be removed after first frost and stored in a cool dry place until spring; a stunning garden, or pondside accent plant

Ornamental Features

Royal Hawaiian Black Coral Elephant Ear is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its attractive enormous heart-shaped leaves remain burgundy in color with showy black variegation and tinges of dark red throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Royal Hawaiian Black Coral Elephant Ear is an open herbaceous annual with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Royal Hawaiian Black Coral Elephant Ear is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Royal Hawaiian Black Coral Elephant Ear
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Royal Hawaiian Black Coral Elephant Ear foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Royal Hawaiian Black Coral Elephant Ear will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

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 is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Royal Hawaiian Black Coral Elephant Ear is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.

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