



Zantedeschia aethiopica

Common Name(s):

arum lily

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Scattered throughout northern North Island, less common in southern North Island and northern South Island.

Habitat:

Swampy areas, often under willows and damp pasture and waste land.

Features*:

Robust, evergreen, erect, clump-forming, to 1.5 m high, in close-set tufts from a tuberous rootstock with white fleshy roots; new tubers arising from shoots on the rootstock. Leaves large, leathery; laminae sagittate or ovate-cordate, 15-45 × 10-25 cm, dark green, the very fine veins somewhat lighter green, shining, entire, tip apiculate, margins undulate; petiole 40-100 cm long, lighter green, spongy, white on inside, purplish on outside. Scape ± = leaves, green, stout. Spathe ivory-white, bright green at base on outside, to 25 cm long, funnel-shaped, narrowed towards tip with a recurved apiculus to 2 cm long. Spadix ± 1/2 spathe, bright yellow; basal female zone, with staminodia interspersed, c. 1/4-1/2 length of spadix, contiguous with upper male zone; sterile terminal appendage 0. Berries green or yellow, to ± 1 cm diam.

Flowering:

October to December

Fruiting:

Summer to autumn

*Attribution:

Prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description taken from Croasdale et al. (1994).

References and further reading:

Croasdale, H., Flint E. A. and Racine, M. M. (1994). Flora of New Zealand Volume 3: Freshwater algae, chlorophyta, desmids with ecological comments on their habitats, Staurodesmus Staurastrum and the Filamentous desmids. Manaaki Whenua Press: Lincoln, New Zealand.

Weeds of Australia (http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/03030800-ob07-490a-8d04-0605030c0f01/media/Html/Zantedeschia_aethiopica.htm)

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2655



Caption: *Zantedeschia aethiopica*
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: *Zantedeschia aethiopica*
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth