

New Guinea Shield Elephant Ear (*Alocasia Wentii*)

AKA: Hardy Elephant Ear

Planting and Growing Instructions



Your elephant ear plant has been through a lot of stress the last couple of days. To help it recover, I suggest planting it in a pot that can be kept in a warm and shady location for a few days. The thing your plant really wants is a LOT OF WATER to help it get over the transplanting and long, dry trip. I would plant in a rich, water-retaining potting mix and set the whole pot in a pan of water for a few hours in the **FULL shade in a WARM PLACE**. After the initial soaking, keep the soil damp, but not soggy, for the next week or two and keep in FULL SHADE, allowing the plant to recover from the trip. It is not unusual for these plants to be quite wilted for a few days, even up to 2 weeks, and some of the original leaves may even die, but new leaves will emerge from the base of the old ones.

Don't plant too deep, you should be able to see the original soil line by the color of the stalks – greener above the soil line and more white or brown/tan below.

If any of the 'branches' have gotten broken or bent during shipping, go ahead and cut them off, but be careful not to cut too low, as new leaves form from the base of the previous leaf. It is not unusual for the leaves to turn yellow during, or just after, shipping and transplanting. Don't cut them off until new leaves form to replace them. The new leaves come from the base of the stem of the old ones, so cutting off the old ones will sometimes cut the new growth, too – don't cut them too low.

When the temperatures warm sufficiently, you can plant your elephant ear in the ground in a shady location, if desired. Water liberally – these plants love water! Of course, you can keep it as a container plant all year long in any zone.

These plants are hardy in zones 7 and warmer; bulbs may be lifted in the winter in colder zones and stored. Of course, they make wonderful container plants in any zone! The larger the container and more moisture they receive will determine their size, but these never get overwhelmingly large.

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onalee@aol.com

www.onaleeseeds.com

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