

Hooded Dwarf Elephant Ear

Chinese Taro, Buddha's Hand, (*Alocasia cucullata*)

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. I would use a minimum of a 5"-6" (diameter) pot; a one gallon would be even better. 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 **shade**. 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 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 – darker above the soil line and lighter below.

If any of the 'branches' have gotten broken or bent during shipping, **DO NOT cut them off**. These plants bleed a lot when cut and a broken or bent branch is best left on until the plant has a couple of new leaves to replace the one that is broken. When the plant is growing strong and has new growth, then you can remove the broken one safely.

When the temperatures warm sufficiently, you can plant your elephant ear in the ground in a shady or partly sunny location. Water liberally – these plants love water! Of course, you can keep it as a container plant all year long on your deck, patio or as a houseplant.

These plants are hardy in zones 9 and warmer but they make wonderful container plants in any zone! The larger the container and more moisture they receive will determine their size, but they will never become an overwhelming plant.