

# Marbled - Variegated Upright Elephant Ear *Alocasia Macrorrhiza* 'Variegata'

(AKA: Giant Taro, Wild Taro, *Alocasia macrorrhizos*  
'Variegata', *Alocasia macrorrhiza*)

## Planting and Growing Instructions

These plants have leaves that vary in color from solid green to nearly solid white, with most of the leaves having a marbled effect of various shades of green and white. Each leaf is different and unique.

### FOR PLANTS SHIPPED BARE ROOT:

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 **FULL 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.

### FOR PLANTS SHIPPED IN CONTAINER WITH SOIL:

Your elephant ear plant has been through a bit of stress the last couple of days. Your plant can stay in the container it's in for a while or you can re-pot it into a larger container (1 quart up to a 1 gallon container would be suitable using good, water retaining, potting mix). Either way, be sure to keep it 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 long, dry trip. Keep the soil damp, but not soggy and, for the next week or two, keep in **FULL SHADE** allowing the plant to recover from the trip. It is not unusual for these plants to be 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.

## FOR ALL PLANTS:

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 at least one new leaf 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.

Fertilize your plant with a houseplant fertilizer (such as Miracle Grow or a time release fertilizer like Osmocote) periodically to keep it growing strong. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when applying fertilizer to keep from burning your plant.

When the temperatures are warm enough, you can plant your elephant ear in the ground in a **shady or partly sunny** location. Water liberally – these plants love water! Don't allow the soil to dry. 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. In colder zones, plants should be moved to a container during the winter and grown indoors until the next spring after danger of frost has past.

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