

Taro

Colocasia esculenta · Arum family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Perennial tuber, subtropical/tropical
MATURITY 200–280 days



SUN
Full-part sun



WATER
High — thrives in boggy, wet soil



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



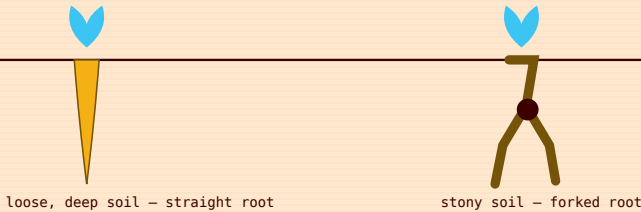
SPACING
60–90cm



DEPTH
5–8cm

01 A wet-footed exception

Unlike most root crops, taro actually prefers constantly moist to boggy soil — a low, poorly-drained corner of the garden that's a liability for other crops can be perfect for taro.



02 Planting

METHOD	Plant corms or offsets from an existing plant.
SOIL	Rich, heavy, moisture-retentive — even waterlogged conditions are tolerated.
TIMING	Plant in spring in warm, frost-free, subtropical to tropical zones.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Keep soil constantly moist to wet — this is one crop that wants a boggy spot.
- Feed generously — a heavy feeder over its long growing season.
- Mulch well to retain moisture.
- Protect from frost, which taro cannot tolerate.

04 Problems

- **Frost damage** — kills the plant; only suited to frost-free zones.
- **Taro leaf blight** — fungal spotting in very humid weather; improve airflow.
- **Slow growth in cool conditions** — needs consistent warmth.
- **Toxic if eaten raw** — corms must always be cooked before eating.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Leaves begin to yellow and die back, typically 8–9 months after planting.
METHOD	Dig up the whole corm cluster carefully.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Cool, dry spot, several weeks; always cook thoroughly before eating.
PRESERVING	See Root Cellaring (cool, dark storage without processing) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Ginger Banana	Dry-soil-loving plants nearby	Not applicable — perennial, often grown in a dedicated wet bed.