

## Alocasia brisbanensis - Cunjevoi Lily / Elephant's Ear / Spoon Lily

This tropical delight is endemic to Australia, occurring naturally in warmer coastal and inland coastal areas just south of Sydney NSW and up to far north QLD growing as an understorey plant on rainforest margins and in riparian areas along watercourses with filtered light coming down through the tree canopies.

Alocasia brisbanensis can reach a height from 1.2m to 2.5m tall, has large luscious shiny emerald green leaves 30cm to 1m long with prominent veins, a heart shaped base and a narrowly blunt tip.

Tiny flowers are produced in early Summer on a creamy green coloured spathe that opens up on one side to reveal a highly perfumed creamy yellow spike (spadix), this has the male flowers at the top end and the female flowers at the bottom. Once pollinated by native bees and other insects, each of the female flowers produces an ovoid red fruit (each can contain up to 2 seeds) and are clustered along the flower spike.

This is an easy to grow, low maintenance plant that will add a touch of the tropics to any home garden, it can also be grown in containers, as an understorey plant in a tropical garden, poolside filler or as a feature.

Best grown in part shade in rich, well drained soil in areas with some humidity. Water well during very hot and dry periods but let it dry out in Winter.

Propagation is easy and straight forward with fresh seed.

Note that the seed is short lived and only available for a very short time so get your seeds for this season before they sell out!

**Note - All plant parts are poisonous if ingested or chewed and care must be taken when handling as sap may be an irritant.**

### Propagation

**SOW** – In warm areas at any time. In colder areas after danger of frost has passed.

**CULTIVATION** – No pretreatment of seed is required.

Sow as deep as the seed is wide and cover with good quality propagation mix – I like to add perlite to my mix, keep moist but not too wet.

Plant out when seedlings are large enough to handle.

**WHERE TO GROW** – In a moist but well drained position with part shade. Takes most soil types but enjoys a good water.