

# Arum Lily *Zantedeschia aethiopica*

## Environmental Weed Factsheet

**Origin:** South and South-East Africa

**Size:** 1.5m H, 1.5m W

**Fruit:** April — July

**Flowers:** November - February

**Best removal time:** Sept - March



### What it does...

Invades gardens, waterways, irrigation ditches, pastures, bushland and roadside areas. A widespread weed of damp areas. Takes over and chokes out indigenous plants, impeding water flow. Considered poisonous to people and all animals.

### What it looks like...

A perennial, deep green plant with large arrow-head shaped leaves in clumps to 1.5m high. Large, showy white "flowers" with a protruding yellow spike in the centre on a tall fleshy stem. The roots can appear similar to a large ginger root. All parts can cause irritation to the mucous membranes of the mouth, throat and eyes.

### How it spreads...

- by seed and vegetatively (rhizome growth or fragments).
- by being transported by soil movement and wind.
- by dumping garden waste in bushland areas.
- as it is commonly sold at markets, nurseries, fetes and club fundraisers. Buyer Beware!

### How to remove it...



**Remove by Hand:** This is only practical for small clumps of the plant. It is important to remove all roots from beneath the soil. Alternatively, cut the flower heads before seeding to help prevent spreading. Brush cutting or mowing can be done regularly.



**Dig out:** You will need to ensure that all the root material is removed when digging out. It is important to avoid dumping the soil elsewhere on your property as this will further distribute the weed. The area should be monitored for any regrowth.

**Please contact the Yarra Ranges Council's Environment Department on 1300 368 333 for more information on weed removal techniques, support and training available and details of active community groups in your area.**

## Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many lily and iris alternatives exist that are indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region and would make great substitutes for the Arum Lily. Some alternatives include:



Spiny Mat Rush,  
*Lomandra longifolia*



Butterfly Flag,  
*Diplarrena moraea*



## How to dispose of weeds:

*By disposing of environmental weeds correctly you can prevent re-infestation on your property and elsewhere.*

- Landfill (Weed Wipeout Tip vouchers available for some species).
- Green waste bin ensures that weeds are not able to spread.
- Woody weed stems can be bundled for green collection twice per annum.
- Composting (excluding seed heads or species with vegetative reproduction, e.g. Wandering Trad).
- Burning in accordance with Council and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) prescribed burning periods and regulations.
- Recovery and transfer stations available for weed tipping are Healesville, Wesburn, Coldstream, Lysterfield and Montrose.

## Bare ground attracts WEEDS!!!

For effective long term weed control we recommend:

- **Habitat Restoration**
  - Encourages indigenous and native plant to **regenerate**
  - **Revegetation** - replanting indigenous vegetation
- Productive land **use**.
- **Replace** with non invasive garden species.

## Using Chemicals:

*Non chemical treatments is often the most effective and safe option especially on smaller scale infestations.*

### Where chemical use is undertaken:

- Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines when using chemicals.
- Wear protective clothing and eyewear
- On purchasing your herbicide, always ask for a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or refer to the manufacturer's website for specific safety guidelines and information.
- Some herbicides will kill other plants and not just the target species.
- Near waterways herbicides can be very poisonous to aquatic life.
- Use chemicals sparingly and be sure that you are using the right chemical and application technique.
- Ensure the weather conditions are suitable (e.g. minimal wind and no rain expected)
- Apply herbicides at the correct time during the plant's growth cycle so you get the best results..