

Kalo

(*Colocasia esculenta*)

A staple and staff of life in Hawaiian culture, providing nutritious food (both corms and leaves). Numerous cultivars, some more tolerant of drier conditions, and some tolerant of full shade: pick a cultivar based on your location.

GROW

- **Size:** 3-6 ft tall, 2-4 ft wide
- **Light:** Full Sun, Partial Sun, Shade
- **Soil:** Well-drained Soil
- **Water:** Accustomed to moist to wet and submerged soils.
- **Maintenance:** Weed and remove yellowing leaves to promote healthy growth
- **Pests:** Aphids, apple snails, army worms, root rot

PROPAGATE

Best way to propagate

- **Cut:** Below the stem line just above the corm
- **Prep:** In lo'i (wet) systems, plant immediately; in mala (dryland systems) cure cuttings in shade for 1-3 days before planting to reduce rot
- **Plant:** In lo'i: cuttings must be planted 4-6 inches deep. In mala: plant in mounds 12-18 inches apart
- **Water:** Watering in lo'i must be kept flowing gently. In mala, water deeply and regularly to keep soil moist
- **Transplant:** Not usually transplanted, but only if they are young by 2-3 months

HARVEST

- Pick young to mid-sized leaves once plant is well-established
- Corm can be harvested 8-14 months after planting depending on the cultivar
- Full size of corm is 4-6 inches across or larger

EAT

Corm can be used to make poi, a traditional Hawaiian staple

- Steam or boil the corm until tender and can be pierced with a fork
- Pound and mix with water to a smooth, doughy consistency

Leaves can be used soups and stews

- Rinse fresh leaves
- If using stems, make sure to peel the outer skin
- Boil leaves and stems until wilted

Air-dry leaves in shade for long-term storage

