

# Zantedeschia aethiopica 'Green Goddess'

## COMMON NAMES

green goddess

## FAMILY

Araceae

## AUTHORITY

Zantedeschia aethiopica (L.) Spreng. 'Green Goddess'

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Evergreen clump forming plant with large arrowhead shaped leaves ( up to 45 cm long and 25 cm wide) and green flushed with white funnel shaped flowers (up to 25 cm long) with a bright yellow narrow sausage shaped centre (actually the flowers, the other part is a modified leaf).

## DISTRIBUTION

Scattered throughout northern North Island, less common in southern North Island and northern South Island.

## HABITAT

Swampy areas, often under willows and other damp shaded areas.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust, evergreen, erect, clump-forming, to 1.5 m high, in close-set tufts from a tuberous rootstock with white fleshy roots; new tubers arising from shoots on the rootstock. Leaves large, leathery; laminae sagittate or ovate-cordate, 15-45 × 10-25 cm, dark green, the very fine veins somewhat lighter green, shining, entire, tip apiculate, margins undulate; petiole 40-100 cm long, lighter green, spongy, white on inside, purplish on outside. Scape ± = leaves, green, stout. Spathe green variously flushed with white, to 25 cm long, funnel-shaped, narrowed towards tip with a recurved apiculus to 2 cm long. Spadix ± ½ spathe, bright yellow; basal female zone, with staminodia interspersed, c. ¼-½ length of spadix, contiguous with upper male zone; sterile terminal appendage 0. Berries green or yellow, to ± 1 cm diam.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Unlike most other wetland plants, but two other large plants in the arum family are superficially similar. Taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) and elephant ear (*Alocasia brisbanensis*) also have large leaves but arum can be distinguished by the veins of the leaf being the same colour as the rest of the leaf and the spathe being green and white, rather than uniform green or yellow.

## FLOWERING

October to December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow



Zantedeschia aethiopica cv. Green Goddess.  
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Zantedeschia aethiopica cv. Green Goddess.  
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## FRUITING

Southern Africa

## LIFE CYCLE

Seeds prolifically (Walter Stahel pers com). Seeds dispersed by water movement, birds and other animals. Local clonal spread by rhizomes, with longer distance spread by water movement, deliberate planting and garden discards.

## YEAR NATURALISED

2002

## ORIGIN

S. Africa, cultivation

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

## TOLERANCES

Appear to be wider than for *Zantedeschia aethiopica*. The plant is tolerant of deep shade as well as full sun light. (Walter Stahel pers com)

## ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

**This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC.** 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

## ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Healy, A.J.; Edgar, E. (1980). *Flora of New Zealand, Volume III. Adventive Cyperaceous, Petalous and Spathaceous Monocotyledons*. Government Printer, Wellington. 220pp.

Weeds of Australia

([http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/03030800-0b07-490a-8d04-0605030c0f01/media/Html/Zantedeschia\\_aethiopica.htm](http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/03030800-0b07-490a-8d04-0605030c0f01/media/Html/Zantedeschia_aethiopica.htm))

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). *Wetland plants in New Zealand*. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Popay et al (2010). *An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand*, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/zantedeschia-aethiopica-green-goddess/>

## PDF DATE

17 September 2024