

# COLOCASIA PRODUCTION



*All Rights Reserved. No parts of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of AGRIHORTICO*

**© 2019 Agrihortico Digital Publishing**

# INDEX

1. Colocasia: An Introduction	1
2. Origin and Taxonomy	1
3. Growing Requirements	1
4. Pest and Disease Management	2
5. Harvesting and Yield	2
6. Nutritive Value	3

## Colocasia: An Introduction

Colocasia is a popular tropical tuber crop grown for its edible root tubers. Colocasia tubers are used as a staple food and as a vegetable in many countries. Colocasia tubers can be prepared in many ways such as by boiling, baking, steaming, etc. Sliced colocasia tubers may be deep-fried to make delicious colocasia chips. Young, tender leaves of colocasia plants may be used as a leafy vegetable. Colocasia leaves are cooked like other green leafy vegetables.

There are many varieties of colocasia that are cultivated for edible purposes. Tubers of some varieties of colocasia may contain considerable amounts of an acrid compound called calcium oxalate which can be destroyed by proper cooking.

## Origin and Taxonomy

Colocasia is believed to be originated in the tropics of the old world. It belongs to the family Araceae, genus *Colocasia* and species *esculenta*.

## Growing Colocasia

**Climate Requirements:** Colocasia is a tropical tuber crop and can be successfully grown in warm, tropical climates. Two crops of colocasia are possible in tropical regions: Summer Crop and Rainy Season Crop.

**Soil Requirements:** Just like other tuber crops, colocasia needs well-drained, fertile, loose sandy loam soils for its healthy growth.

**Propagation and Planting:** Colocasia is propagated through tuber cuttings. Sprouted tuber cuttings are planted in the main field for raising a colocasia crop. Summer crop is sown in February-March while the rainy season crop is planted in June-July. Colocasia tubers need plenty of moisture in the soil for vigorous sprouting and leaf production.

**Spacing:** Sprouted tubers are sown in rows about 45 cm apart and 30 cm within the row.

## **Watering and Intercultural Operations**

Colocasia plants needs moist soil throughout its life cycle. Once sprouted tuber cuttings are planted, care should be taken not to dry the soil. If planted tuber cuttings are not germinated properly, one light irrigation may help quick germination process. In an established crop, intercultural operations such as hoeing, earthing up soil, weeding etc may be carried out regularly. One or two light earthing up operations are beneficial for a colocasia crop.

## **Fertilizers and Manures**

Colocasia crop may be raised in a well-prepared field where plenty of organic manures and compost may be mixed thoroughly with the top soil to replenish the soil fertility.

## **Pest and Disease Management**

Colocasia is a hardy plant and withstands many insect-pest attacks. Generally there are no major diseases that attack colocasia plants in a serious way. However in some regions, colocasia is found to be susceptible to a disease called ‘Colocasia Blight’.

Colocasia blight attacks young leaves and petioles first and in later stages, tubers are also affected. Spraying Bordeaux mixture may control the disease very effectively.

## **Harvesting and Yield**

Colocasia crop is ready for harvesting within four to five months after planting. In other words, colocasia crop matures in about 130 to 140 days after planting. Estimated yield is about 15 tons of tubers per hectare.



## Nutritive Value of Colocasia

*(per 100 grams of edible portion)*

<b>Moisture</b>	73.1 g
<b>Fat</b>	0.1 g
<b>Fibre</b>	1.0 g
<b>Calories</b>	97
<b>Phosphorus</b>	140 mg
<b>Sodium</b>	9.0 mg
<b>Vitamin A</b>	40 I.U.
<b>Riboflavin</b>	0.03 mg
<b>Protein</b>	3.0 g
<b>Minerals</b>	1.7 g
<b>Other carbohydrates</b>	21.1 g
<b>Calcium</b>	40 mg
<b>Iron</b>	1.7 mg
<b>Potassium</b>	550 mg
<b>Thiamine</b>	0.09 mg
<b>Nicotinic acid</b>	0.4 mg
<b>Vitamin C</b>	Nil

**Colocasia Plant**



**Colocasia Tubers**

# FOR FURTHER INFO...

*Visit Our Website at*

<https://agrihortico.com>

*Or*

*Contact us at*

[info@agrihortico.com](mailto:info@agrihortico.com)

[agrihortico@gmail.com](mailto:agrihortico@gmail.com)

*You May Also Watch AGRIHORTICO  
Video on [Colocasia Plant](#) and [Know  
Your Vegetables](#)*

We have a book with detailed  
information on

# Colocasia Leaves...

To Purchase [Click Here](#)

