

## Colocasia esculenta

Capture the hot tropical trend with these phenomenal foliage plants

Add some tropics to your mix of plant material with *Colocasia*. The Royal Hawaiian *Colocasia esculenta* series from PlantHaven is great for large containers, landscape beds and pond-side plantings. The series was bred by University of Hawaii plant pathologist John Cho. Cho selected these plants for their disease resistance, tidy clumping habit and quick production time.

The series currently has five cultivars.

'Blue Hawaii' has green leaves with purple veins, petioles and margins with a matte finish. It grows to 48 inches tall. 'Diamond Head' produces glossy, dark purple to black leaves with dark purple petioles and reaches a height of 48-60 inches tall. 'Hawaiian Eye' has greenish-purple leaves with a matte finish and burgundy piko and burgundy petioles. Mature height is 48-60 inches. 'Hilo Bay' produces glossy, dark olive green, corrugated leaves with dark purple petioles on a 48-inch tall plant. 'Pineapple Princess,' with its dark, coppery yellowish-green leaves, light purple veins and margins and burgundy petioles, reaches 36 inches tall.

### Production basics

Rooted cuttings are available in 50- and 72-cell liners. Recommended finished pot size is 1 gallon and larger. Transplant liners into a moist growing medium high in organic matter with a pH of 5.5-6.5.

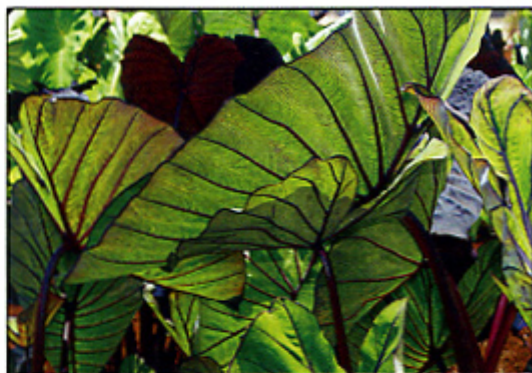
*Colocasia* are wetland plants, so the growing medium should be kept moist. Burned leaf edges can be a sign of under-watering.

Plants should be grown in a temperature range of minimum 50°F nights and 70°F-80°F (or warmer) days. Warmer nights promote faster growth and larger leaves.

Plants produced warm from 72-cell liners finish in 1-gallon pots in six weeks, in 5-gallon pots in 12-15 weeks and in 15-gallon pots in 20-24 weeks.

### In the landscape

Each selection in the Royal Hawaiian series is disease resistant with fabulous foliage and stem interest. Plants have a tidy clumping habit and don't exhibit any signs of runners. The leaves reach 30-36 inches long by 18-24 inches wide.



'Blue Hawaii' grows to 48 inches tall.



'Diamond Head' grows up to 60 inches high.

Plants do best in full sun to light shade and moist soil. They are hardy to USDA Hardiness Zones 7b-11. Frost will trigger dormancy.

*Colocasia* thrive in humid conditions. Ample soil moisture is a must. When frost threatens, bring plants indoors to overwinter. For best results provide a southern exposure.

For more: PlantHaven Inc., (805) 569 9179; [www.planthaven.com](http://www.planthaven.com); [www.royalhawaiiancolocasias.com](http://www.royalhawaiiancolocasias.com).

— David Kuack

### SPECIFICS

**Name:** *Colocasia esculenta* Royal Hawaiian series

**Common name:** Taro.

**Hardiness:** USDA Hardiness Zone 7b.

**Production time:** Plants grown warm from 72-cell liners finish in 1-gallon containers in six weeks, in 5-gallon pots in 12-15 weeks and in 15-gallon containers in 20-24 weeks. 🌿