

# Green goddess

## *Zantedeschia aethiopica* 'Green Goddess'

### Family

Araceae (arum)

### Where is it originally from?

South Africa

### What does it look like?

Clump-forming, evergreen perennial (<1.5 m) growing from tubers, with large glossy, leathery, dark-green, arrow-shaped leaves (to 45 cm x 25 cm) with pale fine veins and wavy margins, held upright on long stalks (<1 m). Yellow, finger-like spikes, surrounded by large, greenish-white, funnel-shaped, modified leaves (<25 cm, Sep-Dec), form a flower-like structure that is followed by round green or yellow berries (1 cm) on the flower stalk after the leaves die back.

### Are there any similar species?

Italian arum (*Arum italicum*) is smaller and has distinctive cream-coloured markings on its leaf.

### Why is it weedy?

Tolerates a wide range of conditions including wet, wind, salt, hot to cold, most soil types and moderate shade, and is drought-resistant once established.

### How does it spread?

Seed is spread by birds and water, and it also spreads by fragments of tubers.

### What damage does it do?

Forms dense cover on the ground in open sites, shading out native plants and preventing native plants establishing.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Swamps, river banks, open damp areas with high light to part shade and regenerating ex-pasture.

### What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Dig out scattered plants (all year round): remove all pieces of root and dispose of them at a refuse transfer station.
2. Cut and paint stumps: metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (1g) + glyphosate (100ml) + penetrant per 1L water. Mulch the leaves and dispose of seeds at refuse transfer station.
3. Overall spray: metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (3g) + glyphosate (150ml) + penetrant per 10L water.

### What can I do to stop it coming back?

Plant a dense cover of native trees or shrubs to produce deep shade.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



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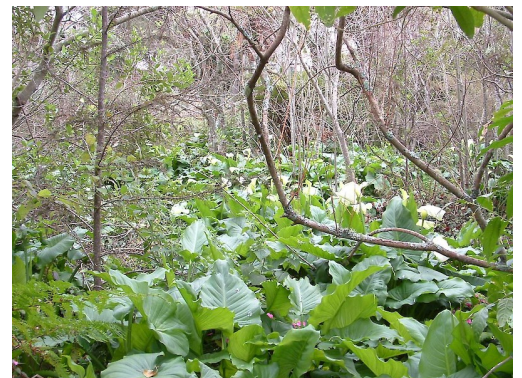


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