

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower. Photographer Orchi, Mallorca, Spain



Fruits. Photographer Valter Jacinto, Portugal



Naked fruiting stalks. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Goulburn



Leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Goulburn

Common name

Italian Arum

Family

Araceae

Where found

Urban bushland, gardens, and stream banks. Coastal, mainly in the Sydney area. Rarely elsewhere. Doubtfully **naturalised** in the ACT.

Notes

Introduced perennial herb to about 0.5 m high, **rhizomatous**. Fruit fleshy. Leaves appearing basal, about 20-30 cm long, to about 180 mm wide, arrow **head** shaped, deep glossy green marbled with white. New leaves emerge in autumn and remain **evergreen** in warm winter climates, dying back in colder climates and emerging again in early spring. Male and female flowers on the same plant. Individual flowers small, with 0 **petals**. Spathe **subtending** and partially enveloping the flower **spike** like a hood, to about 28 cm long, green below, the expanded upper part creamy. Flower spike yellowish, much shorter than the **spathe**. After flowering, the leaves and spathe die back leaving only the flower spike, which develops fruit. Fruit orange-red; more or less oval, each about 10 mm long, in naked cylindrical clusters. Flowering: Early spring. Poisonous.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Arum-italicum> (accessed 28 April 2021)

Missouri Botanical Garden description: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=y760> (accessed 28 April 2021)

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