Elephant Ears

Today on Gardening in a Minute: elephant ears.

Elephant ears are a group of plants that have bold foliage and can add a tropical look to any garden.

The group includes plants that are scientifically known as Alocasia, Colocasia, and Xanthosoma.

Elephant ears can be grown in pots, beds, or contained water gardens. Most prefer full sun and fertile, well-drained soil. They’ll need plenty of water and fertilizer in order to thrive.

Gardeners should understand that one type of elephant ear, known scientifically as Colocasia esculenta, is invasive in Florida and should not be planted.

So be sure to look for specific cultivars that aren’t invasive. Some popular ones include ‘Hilo Beauty’, ‘Lime Zinger’, and ‘Black Magic’.

Also, never plant elephant ears in or near a natural waterway. Many spread rampantly and may become a problem.

For more information about this and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.