

## *Zantedeschia aethiopica*

### **Common name:**

Arum lily, Cattle lily,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Seldom eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Potentially toxic to all animal species.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

- . Insoluble calcium oxalate crystals.
- . Coniine.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Severe purging and shock.

### *Health and Production Problems;*

- . Calcium oxalate crystals can pierce the tongue and allow the entry of an enzyme which causes irritation and swelling.
- . All parts should be considered toxic.
- . Irritating to the mucous membranes of mouth and throat.
- . May cause excema in humans, and swelling of throat and tongue, gastritis, diarrhoea and exhaustion.

### *Treatment;*

See Doctor or Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

Be aware of potential health problems.

### **Comments:**

- . Garden plants gone feral.
- . Tuberous perennials, usually frost hardy, needing full sun and well drained soil.
- . Leaves grow from the base of the plant, arrow shaped, large and leathery.
- . Growth commences in autumn, forming large clumps of green leaves.

. Plant yellows off in mid summer, in areas of low rainfall.

. Underground rhizomes are short and thick, dense cluster of several large knobby tubers, with white fleshy roots, new tubers shoot from the rootstock, these can be toxic to livestock.

. Flowers are minute, on a yellow rod, called a (spadex), partially enclosed by a fleshy white leaf like structure (spathe) , mainly August to February – (this part is very toxic).

. Fruit are green or yellow berries, orange when ripe, on the old spadex.

. Native to S Africa.

. Found in all states of Australia.

. An invader of pastures, coastal and riparian vegetation, seasonal or permanent rainforest, roadsides and rubbish dumps.

. Tolerates tropics to cold areas, sun, shade, frost, waterlogging, wind and salt.



Picture: *Zantedeschia spp*  
Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW

### **Further Reading:**

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1979.
- . Blood. Environmental Weeds for SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003.
- . Cherry. Fact Sheet. Central Northern CC.1997.
- . Coovacevich, Davie and Pearn. Toxic Plants and Animals. 1987.
- . Everist Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004
- . Wilson. Some Plants are Poisonous. 1997