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Agriculture Protection Board
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ARUM LILY



1. Flower 2. Seedling 3. Fruit 4. Mature plant 5. Seeds

(continued overleaf)

ARUM LILY

Arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica* Spreng.), also known as Calla or White arum lily is a member of the Araceae family. It was introduced from South Africa as a garden plant and subsequently escaped to become established as a weed. It is found in creeks, irrigation ditches and areas of moist summer land in the higher rainfall south west of Western Australia.

Arum lily is a declared plant (noxious weed) in most shires of the south west of Western Australia.

Significance:

Arum lily competes with valuable perennial pasture plants on summer land. Arum lily has been claimed to

cause eczema in man. The roots when boiled provide a starchy food for some South African tribes; however, they are poisonous when eaten raw.

Stock deaths have occurred from grazing Arum lily.

Description:

Arum lily is a robust dark green succulent herb. The petioles (leaf stalks) are up to 0.4 m long and smooth; the leaf blades are thick and fleshy, pointed at the apex with blunt lobes at the base.

The flower is white to greenish white and tubular, becoming funnel shaped at the top with a slit down one side.

Flowering takes place in Spring.

The berry is oval, yellowish, about 1 cm in diameter and contains several round seeds about 3 mm in diameter.

Arum lily has fleshy roots and forms storage tubers.

Ecology:

Arum lily spreads vegetatively by regeneration from root fragments and by seeds.

For advice on Arum lily recognition and control contact the Agriculture Protection Board, Jarrah Road, South Perth, Telephone (09) 367 0111 or any country office of the Agriculture Protection Board or Department of Agriculture.