

African Mask

Alocasia x amazonica
Araceae



ROGER S. BOLGER
HORTICULTURALIST
WWW.ROGERBOLGER.COM



Alocasia x amazonica is a tropical foliage houseplant with out of the ordinary appearance. The white veins have a silver cast that reflects light, and adds to its exotic appeal. Breezes cause the leaves to nod, suggesting masked faces in a far-off land.

The large, 12 to 24 inch long leaves are glossy dark green to greenish-grey on top, matte purple beneath. They are arrow-shaped, have wavy margins and prominent white veins, and stand on stalks about as tall as the leaf. Flowers are whitish spathes.

A. x amazonica requires moderately bright light (60% to 80% shade). Keep the soil moist but not wet. Temperatures between 65° and 85° are best; 45° may cause dormancy. Extra humidity helps prevent spider mites.

Fertilize *A. x amazonica* sparingly. Root rot will occur unless the soil is allowed to dry slightly between waterings. Check regularly for spider mites and treat immediately if found, since they can quickly cause the plant to decline. Leaves can be burned by sun or even high indirect light.

Related species:

Alocasia 'Corozon'

Alocasia sanderana

Alocasia 'Green Velvet'

Alocasia 'Hilo Beauty'

lead green with dark veins

exaggerated wavy margins

leaves are greener

splashed variegation

