

Colocasia esculenta 'Mojito'

Colocasia esculenta 'Mojito' is an attractive addition to a garden, a waterscape or in a large pot of mixed annuals. Each leaf has its own unique variegations. The downward pointing large heart-shaped lighter green leaves are splashed with irregular spots of dark purple to black. The petioles add more colorful interest. They immerse light green in the spring with vertical dashes of purple. The green fades to pink as the stems mature.



Colocasia esculenta 'Mojito'

Same as other taros 'Mojito' likes moisture. It can be planted in wet areas around the water garden or used as a marginal plant in the pond. For a water garden of any size, I would plant it in a two-gallon grower's pot in good-quality top soil. Fertilize when planting and a couple more times during the summer. Place in the pond so the top of the pot is at water level or just below.

If planted in a perennial/annual garden or a container it will need extra watering. Best to combine with other moisture-loving plants. 'Mojito' likes full to part sun and grows upwards to five feet. It is a frost-tender tuberous foliage plant, hardy zones 8 to 10. Colder than zone 8, lift the bulb in the fall before the first hard frost.



Green stems fade to pink as "Mojito" matures

According to the Missouri Botanical Garden website, *Colocasia esculenta* 'Mojito' is a branch mutation of *Colocasia esculenta* 'Midnight' discovered by Ty Richard Strode in a controlled greenhouse environment in Apopka, Florida in May 2007. It received a plant patent in June 2011.

I saw this taro growing in the Riverside International Friendship Garden in LaCrosse, WI and put it on my must-have list. Unfortunately, it is still on the list.