



Description

Arum lily is an evergreen, clump-forming perennial with large, glossy, arrowhead-shaped leaves and a white, funnel-shaped flower wrapped around a bright yellow spike. Clumps commonly reach 1 to 1.5 metres tall, with leaves up to 45cm x 25cm on stalks as long as a metre. Flowering usually runs August to late January, followed by 1cm berries (green-yellow, orange-yellow on some variants) that birds, animals and water spread to new sites. The real problem is underground: the plant grows from a tuber with fleshy white roots, and it's this tuber, not the seed, that lets an established clump persist and expand. Any viable fragment left behind, from digging, mowing or a partial spray, can resprout, so established clumps almost always need a follow-up treatment. Once established it's drought resistant and long-lived.

Habitat

- Drains, wetlands and stream margins
- Low-lying wet paddocks and pugged ground
- Damp forest margins and gullies
- Garden waste dump sites, where discarded rhizomes take root and spread
- Mostly North Island, with scattered South Island occurrences

Manual Removal

Realistic only for small, scattered plants. Dig out the entire root mass, not just the top growth, since any rhizome fragment left behind can resprout. Bag and bin removed material at a transfer station rather than green waste or home compost, as both rhizome pieces and berries can survive and re-establish. Mowing or slashing does nothing to the rhizomes below ground and isn't a control method on its own.



LIVESTOCK & PEOPLE RISK

Arum lily is listed among NZ's most commonly enquired-about poisonous plants. Calcium oxalate crystals in the leaves and stems irritate the mouth and throat if chewed or eaten. Stock very rarely try to eat it, but keep stock and pets away from clumps and cut material.

Herbicide Control

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Apply to healthy, actively growing plants, spring through late autumn. In wetter sites, aim for the comparatively dry late summer to avoid contaminating nearby waterways. Plan for a follow-up treatment on any regrowth.

SPRAY APPLICATION (Handgun / Knapsack)

MSF600 mix 3g per 10L of water with one of the following, per 10L of water:

G-360 GLYPHOSATE 150ml plus **SuperWetter** 10ml.

G-540 GLYPHOSATE 100ml plus **SuperWetter** 10ml.

GRANNY HERBICIDE 70g plus **SuperWetter** 10ml.

CUT STEM / WIPE Treatment

Cut'n'Paste MetGel Cut down to the stump and paste. If the stump oozes a gel-like sap, wipe this away before applying. **Cut'n'Paste Glimax Professional** is a good second option. If regrowth occurs, add a little **Cut'n'Paste Bamboo Buster** or **Cut'n'Paste Glimax Professional** to the stump alongside the MetGel to increase its effectiveness. Use MetGel with caution, it is ground-residual and can travel through soil to affect nearby plant roots.

CUT & SPRAY / SWAB (hand-mix alternative)

For smaller patches. Cut off the entire plant as close to the ground as possible and immediately hand spray or swab the stump with:

MSF600 1g plus **G-360 GLYPHOSATE** 100ml (or **G-540 GLYPHOSATE** 67ml, or **GRANNY HERBICIDE** 45g) plus **SuperWetter** 10ml, per 1L of water.

