



Photo: Travis Johnson

\*\*\*\*\*NOXIOUS WEED ALERT\*\*\*\*\*

## Italian Arum

Italian arum (*Arum italicum*), also known as "orange candleflower" and "Italian lords and ladies," is a non-native perennial that was introduced as an ornamental plant. It has now naturalized and appears to be spreading. *Arum italicum* is a woodland species and prefers moist, well-shaded environments. It's extremely difficult to eradicate once it becomes established and may spread from residential gardens into woodland areas.

### Why is it a problem?

This plant is problematic because of its ability to form a dense cover in open sites. It can out-compete native plants and prevent their establishment.

Italian arum is also toxic to humans and animals. All parts of Italian arum are poisonous. Handling of the plant can cause skin irritation and ingestion can cause swelling of the mouth, tongue and throat. Breathing difficulties can follow as well as burning pain, upset stomach and even death.

### What Can You Do?

One of the best ways to control this plant is to prevent its spread. Often, chemical control only burns back foliage and does not hurt the corms (like bulbs) underground.

Digging and disposing of the small underground corms in the garbage can help. However, manual removal is only recommended on small patches, because if the plant is not completely eradicated, the soil disturbance can increase its spread. If you have it on your land, do not let it go to seed. Wearing gloves, cut and bag all seed heads, and dispose of them in the garbage.

For more info on Italian arum:

[WA Noxious Weed Control Board](#)

[Lower Hudson PRISM](#)

The Western Invasives Network encourages you to report Italian arum, in an effort to inform future management priorities across western Oregon. (not currently listed by state of Oregon)

### How Do I Report Italian Arum?

Report Online at:

<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>

-or-

Call 1-866-INVADER

-or-

Contact [your local CWMA](#)



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*The variegated, exotic leaves and showy red fruits make it an attractive garden plant. Unfortunately, Western Oregon is the perfect environment for unwanted invasions. (Photo: East Multnomah SWCD)*

