

## *Arum italicum*, Italian Arum

This new invader has just escaped the Bronx Botanical Garden and is popping up around the NYC area. It resists removal quite fiercely and resembles other plants in the Arum family.

**Population Status:** Confirmed- Lower Hudson PRISM, WA, OR, CA, MO, MS, IL, TN, MD.

**Description:** This herbaceous perennial has arrow-head shaped dark green leaves that have variegation. The plant remains evergreen throughout winter and is very distinctive. It only grows to 12-18 inches tall. The orange-red berries grow in a cluster from late summer to early fall. **All parts of the plant are poisonous and can cause skin irritation! Do not touch if it is found!**

**Control:** Dig out entire underground structure. Tyvek suits required for attempted removal

**Look-alikes:** Calla Lillies (nonnative) and Jack-in-the-Pulpit both look somewhat like Italian Arum but have different leaves, lacking the deep green.

**Flower Time and Description:** The flower of Italian Arum looks much like the native Jack-in-the-Pulpit, with a spadix covered with flowers and a spathe that grows around that spadix. These flowers are produced in the spring.

