



Western Skunk Cabbage

Lysichiton americanum

Characteristics

Large perennial that grows in wet woods and swamps from fleshy upright underground stems. Very large tapered leaves, 20-50 inches long and 12-30 inches wide when mature. Gets name from the distinctive “skunk-like” odor that permeates areas where plant grows.

Flowers/Fruit

Large yellow flowers bloom in early spring followed by leaves. In mid-summer berry-like pulpy fruit appear embedded in the flowers. Inside the fruit are 10-14 globular seeds.

Habitat Value

Roots are food for Black Bears, who eat it after hibernating as a laxative. Generates heat (60-90 degrees Fahrenheit) and a foul odor that attracts pollinating insects.

Home Garden Applications

Skunk-like odor makes this plant very unattractive for home gardens.