Plant of the Month: June  
Scientific Name: Sauromatum venosum  
Common Name: Voodoo Lily  
Selected by: Director of Horticulture, Brendan Huggins

As we approach the summer we can be overloaded with images of flowers and talk of fragrance. We can often lose sight of the subtle beauty that many plants possess such as the bizarre voodoo lily. When looking this plant up you may find it listed as Typhonium venosum which is a synonym.

We frequently receive questions about plants that can be used in shade. This is a great aroid to use in those conditions- especially if you have decent drainage and rich soil. Another great characteristic is that it can live in more sunny conditions which makes it a great selection for areas that have young trees which will provide shade in the future.

In terms of appearance its stem is green with dark spots reaching up to 4 feet in height, though ours has not been larger than about 2 feet. Its spread can usually reach about 2 feet. The flower is a beautiful pastel yellow with maroon spotting, thought the whole plant can look “alien-like”. Many people feel that this plant has a unique fragrance- which is typically not received well- but can be a wonderful icebreaker at a garden party. Its fruiting body emerges from the ground after flowering and can add late season interest.

So it you are looking for something interesting, bizarre and a conversation piece, this plant is exactly for you!

Unique spotted stems add even more interest to this conversation piece.

Old fruiting body which is a colony of seeds. This makes this plant event more bizarre!

Photos taken by Brendan Huggins