



Yellow skunk cabbage

(*Lysichiton americanus*)

Originated in the Northwest of North America, from Alaska to California. Introduced in Europe in the early 1900s for ornamental purposes.

Description

- Herbaceous plant that can reach a height of one metre when adult
- Wide, basal leaves, bright green, with thick veins, that grow after flowering
- Tuberous rhizome
- Spike inflorescence, called a spadix, 10 to 15 cm long, growing on a large, yellow bract, called a spathe, typical of the Arum genus. The spadices produce a musky odour to attract insects
- The fruit is in the form of green berries

Ecology and reproduction

- A perennial plant, slow growing, that can live up to 80 years
- Wetlands (peat bogs, swamps), riparian zones. Found generally in soil with a neutral to acid pH
- Flowers at the end of winter, seeds become mature during the summer. The stem of the spadix then sags and bends over to release the seeds at the foot of the plant
- The seeds can survive in the soil for up to nine years

Documentation

- Lebreton A. 2007. Présence du Lysichite jaune ou Faux arum, *Lysichiton americanus* Hultén & St John (*Araceae*), en France. Symbioses, nouvelle série, n° 20 : 60– 64.
- Lebreton A, Gibernau M. 2015. Lysichite jaune : *Lysichiton americanus* Hultén & St John, 1931. Espèces exotiques envahissantes des milieux aquatiques et associés en France métropolitaine: recueil de fiches d'identification. Onema: pp. 25-26. http://www.gt-ibma.eu/wpcontent/uploads/2015/04/Lysichiton-americanus_-Lysichite-jaune.pdf
- IBMA work group. 2016. *Lysichiton americanus*. Database on biological invasions in aquatic environments. National work group on biological invasions in aquatic environments. IUCN France and the French biodiversity agency. <http://www.gt-ibma.eu/espece/lysichitonamericanus/>
- Invasive Species Compendium. 2017. Species profile: *Lysichiton americanus*. [On line]. Document available at: <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/31580>

Classification

Order	Alismatales
Family	<i>Araceae</i>
Genus	<i>Lysichiton</i>
Species	<i>L. americanus</i> (Hultén & H. St John, 1931)

