American skunk cabbage (Lysichiton americanus)

**Synonyms:**
- American yellow skunk cabbage, meadow cabbage, skunk cabbage, skunk weed, swamp cabbage, western skunk cabbage, yellow arum, yellow skunk cabbage, yellow skunk-cabbage

**Consignments likely to come from:** unknown

**Use:** commonly used as a garden pond plant

**Identification difficulty:** easy

**Identification information:**
- large riparian plant, grows up to 1.5m tall
- leaves grow from a basal rosette
- leaves are bright green, leathery and grow up to 1m long
- flowers consists of 1 or 2 (sometimes 4) bright yellow spathe (leaf like) up to 45cm long, surrounding a central green spadix
- emits an unpleasant odour

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**Key ID Features**

- Leaves bright green, leathery and can grow up to 1m long
- Older leaves are darker and more leathery
- Large leaves grow from a rosette at the plant base
- Flower usually has 1-2 bright yellow spathe
- Central spadix is green
Similar species

There are not many plants likely to be confused with American skunk-cabbage, especially if it is in flower. However, it might be confused with Asian skunk cabbage and Lords-and-ladies.

Additional online resources to support identification:

Q-bank