

# 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

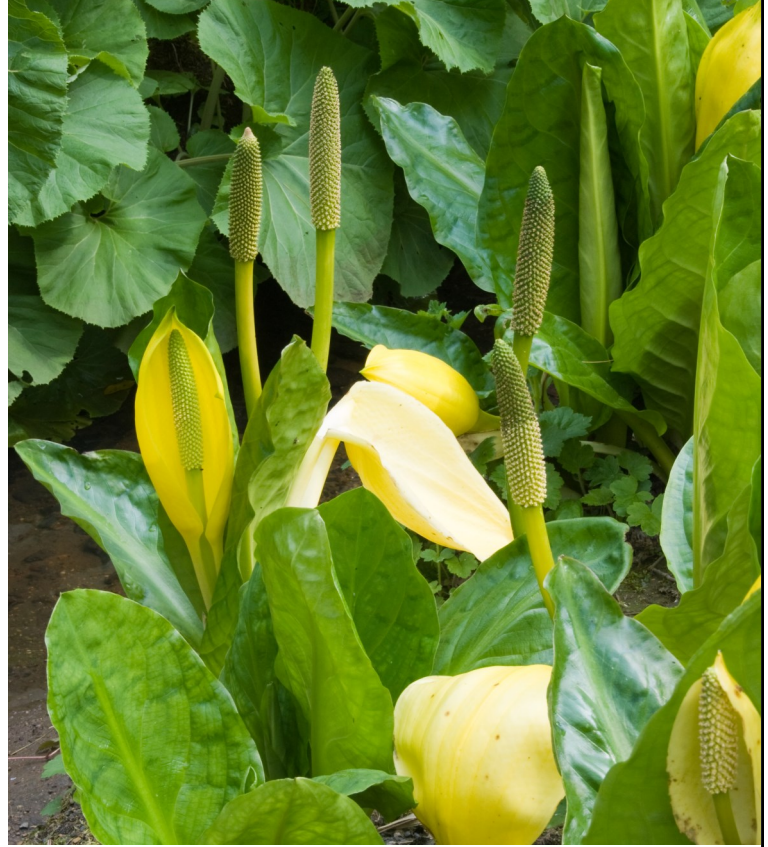
**Consignments likely to come from:** XX

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

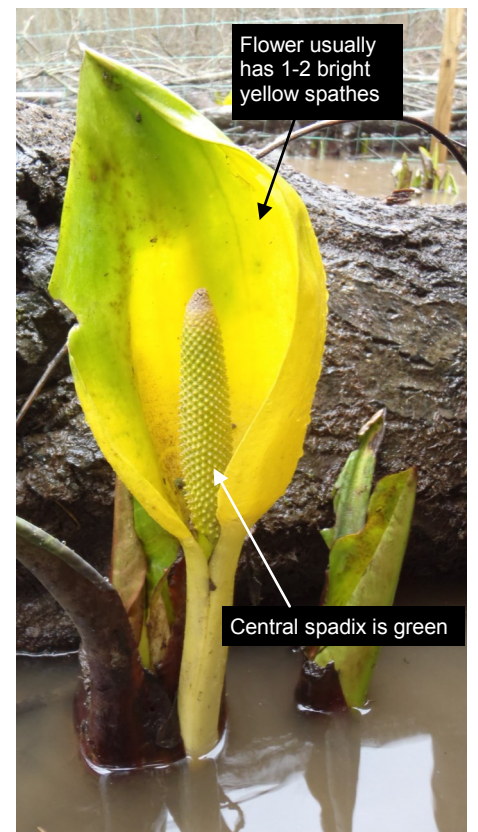
**Identification difficulty:** easy

## 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 spathes (leaf like) up to 45cm long, surrounding a central green spadix
- emits an unpleasant odour



## Key ID Features



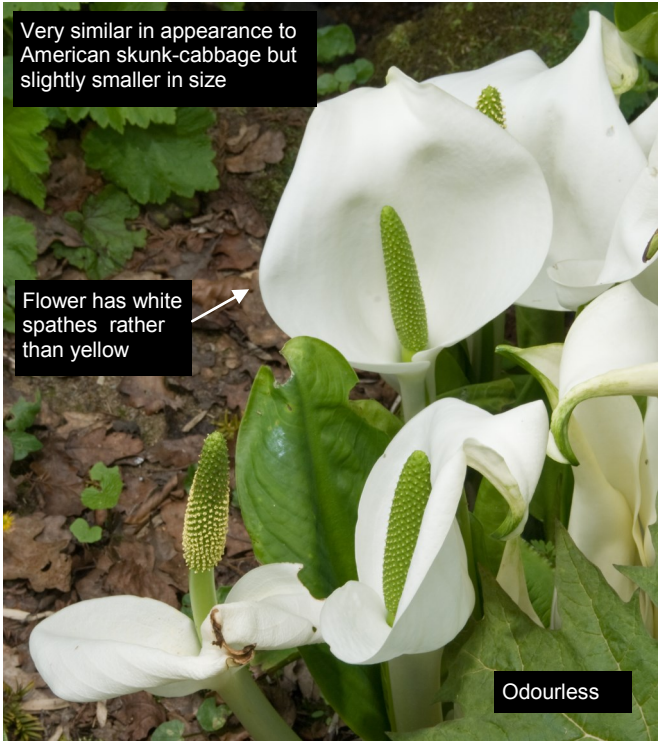
# Similar species

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.

*Lysichiton camtschatcense*  
(Asian skunk cabbage)

Very similar in appearance to American skunk-cabbage but slightly smaller in size

Flower has white spathes rather than yellow



Odourless

*Lysichiton americanus*  
(American skunk-cabbage)  
for comparison

Flower has bright yellow spathes



Emits an unpleasant odour

*Arum maculatum*  
(Lords-and-ladies)

Much smaller than American skunk-cabbage, grows up to 25cm tall

Flower has green spathes rather than yellow, and a purple spadix rather than green



Leaves are arrow shaped, often with dark spots

Additional online resources to support identification:

[Q-bank](#)