

Botanical Name: *Aloe vera*

Common Name: Medicinal Aloe



Family: Asphodelaceae

Native Distribution: Unknown, probably Arabia or N Africa

Plant Size: Up to 3' tall and wide, clumping rosettes spreading by offsets

Flowers: Medium yellow, tubular flowers on densely clustered, simple or branched leafless stems up to 3' tall from winter to spring

Foliage: Thick, fleshy lance-shaped leaves, green to gray-green, with a sharp apex and spiny margins

Site Preferences: Full sun

Landscape Uses: In Phoenix, use as large plantings or mass plantings on sloped or disturbed areas.

Other Stuff:

- The true *Aloe vera* is yellow, but many cultivars are coral or red.
- Tolerates poor soil and drought, but requires excellent drainage.
- The offsets tend to become crowded, and some should be removed from time to time.
- Hardy to 20-25°F.
- Drought resistant, but use moderate to regular water if you plan to use the plant for its gel.
- Gel often used for medicinal purposes like burns and sunburns.
- Skin inflammation can occur in sensitive individuals. The gel is mildly toxic if ingested.
- Has arbuscular mycorrhiza, a symbiosis that allows the plant better access to mineral nutrients in soil.