

**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.