



ABOUT THE COLLECTION

The need for a new palate of plants

We may have rain or even floods, but one thing is for certain- the drought will return and we Australians all need to recognise that we are essentially a dry country without the luxury of unlimited water resources - The plants we use in our gardens must be able to sustain themselves over their natural lifespan without needing regular watering in order to survive.

For some time now landscapers and gardeners have been seeking a new palette of plants that are environmentally sustainable and offer them predictability and reliable performance under a range of conditions. For a number of years the team at Aloe-Aloe Horticulture have been actively seeking out new plants from other parts of the world which are appropriate for Australian conditions.

The Genus Aloe

Immortalised for years as tough, thorny silhouettes on the African skyline, historically in Australia the aloe has been associated with “Aloe vera”. This is one of the few non-African species within the genus, one of the least attractive species and one which has been more valued as a medicinal plant through the centuries, and only rarely used as a garden plant.

Pure species of tough South African aloe have been available in limited quantities in Australia for some time now, but have been largely in the domain of collectors and succulent societies. They are increasingly becoming more widely appreciated for their statuesque shape, their aesthetic strength and durability, and especially their drought tolerance. In addition they present a range of flower and foliage colour and texture as well as varying flowering times, giving the gardener the ability to have displays of flowering aloe in most seasons.

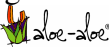
With the need for low-water use plants now greater than ever throughout Australia and a renewed appreciation of plants with both striking floral and architectural forms we are already seeing aloes appear in the horticultural spotlight as plants of the future

Hybrid Aloes

In recent years many magnificent hybrid aloes have been developed by the worlds leading aloe breeder in South Africa. These hybrids take the finest qualities of aloe a

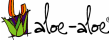
quantum leap further, as they have been specifically bred over many years to display a wider range of colour, faster growth, earlier flowering, longer flowering periods and dramatically more profuse flowering than the pure species, as well as being better adapted to gardening conditions.

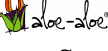
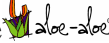
Aloe-Aloe Horticulture

Aloe-Aloe Horticulture is dedicated introducing these superior quality aloe hybrids, and after extensive testing and trailing, making the  collection available to the Australian gardening and landscape community on a wholesale basis in commercial quantities.

By making available plants that are drought tolerant, easily maintained and visually pleasing, Aloe-Aloe Horticulture believe that their knock-on effect will result in them becoming popular choices for landscapers, home gardeners and therefore standard stock items for local nurseries and garden centres.

Hybrid Vigour

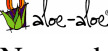
All plants in the  collection have been subject to strict trial and selection procedures in different parts of the world and within Australia, at different locations for a number of years before their release so as to prove their superior qualities.

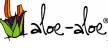
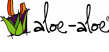
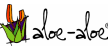
All  hybrids sold are clones of unique selected superior plants with proven hybrid vigour. Seed is not used to propagate plants for sale as seedlings can never produce plants that are identical to the parent, or to each other, and so for the discerning gardener who likes to know what they are buying, seedling aloe are a bit like a “lucky dip”. It is because of this that through cloning by tissue culture we are able to provide exact genetic copies of the superior clone for sale, and thereby guarantee hybrid vigour of all plants sold in the  collection.


Characteristics of hybrids


3 key characteristics of  hybrids are:

1) COLOURFUL


 hybrids provide a colourful flower display from February through to November. They are particularly impressive in winter there is little else in the garden which can compete with their showy flowers.

The beauty of  hybrids lies in the spectacular nature of their flowers - in size, number of flowers, longer lasting and diversity of colour. The  collection contains a range of colours from deep red to orange, yellow, pink, apricot, cream and white as well as colour combinations known as bi-colours. The rich colours of the  premium aloe collection have been created by the breeder crossing various


parent plants to enhance and combine their different characteristics. The resulting hybrid inherits characteristics from both parents, and  hybrids are clones of offspring which are selected as containing the most desirable traits of both parents. These superior aloes often produce three to four times the number of flower racemes of either parent, have extended flowering times, and greater flower size. This phenomenon is referred to as 'hybrid vigour'.


Generally  hybrids have been bred to flower at a young age and in most instances are able to flower in the pots in which they are sold. However the older they get, the more flowers they produce.

2) SCULPTURAL


 hybrids are all architectural plants containing the strong contemporary sculptural lines sought after by architects and designers today.


In addition to the bold foliage and striking shapes, the flowers contrast not only in colour but also in shape being upright spires of tubular flowers, softer heads of flowers or pendulous flower heads.


The unique texture and composure of the  hybrids also adds value to any landscape through out the year, even when their spectacular flowers are not in season. Their bold foliage and striking shapes add interest and accent to the garden.


Because of their strong architectural form  hybrids make good container plants for both small and large containers. In addition some plants, like "Aries" can be allowed to grow as a trailing plant over retaining walls, rockeries or hanging baskets.


3) SUSTAINABLE


Aloes are the greatest self-sufficient plants in the world with their own "built in water tanks" – their leaves. All plants in the  collection have the ability to store large quantities of water and food for protection against dry periods within swollen leaves and roots.

Because  hybrids are selected superior clones, they tend to be stronger than pure species, are more resistant to disease and pests, are generally much easier to grow and require very little care.

As well as being able to withstand dry conditions  hybrids are able to withstand poor quality and sandy soils.

 hybrids all have wildlife benefits by attracting nectar-feeding and other birds to the garden.

The fact that  aloe-aloë hybrids live long (20 years and more), and that their superior hybrid qualities improve with age, combined with their low maintenance requirements means that they score highly in terms of environmental sustainability.

The  aloe-aloë collection of fashionable dry tolerant colourful aloe hybrids is an exciting new addition to the Australian horticultural industry and is sure to lift the spirits of our water-stressed gardeners across the nation.