

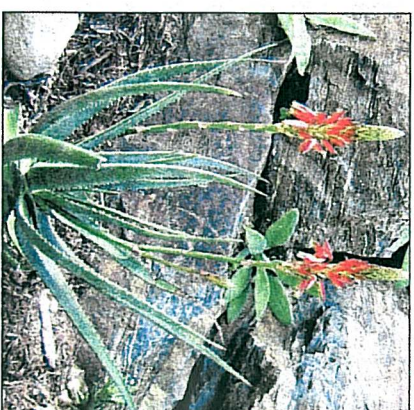
Plant Life Deryn Thorpe



Variety: Using different forms, you can get flowers from February to November.



Gemini: Prune for ball shape.



Always red: Flowers for 10 months.



Topaz: Good for mass-planting.

SAY ALOE TO COLOUR

Aloes are easy to grow, resistant to diseases and pests and attract nectar-

attracting birds. They're known from almost everywhere for a small but in the sun 70m turn



their attractive foliage, aloes are grown for their

spectacular flowers and architectural form.

Many varieties have stunning tubular flowers in shades of greenish yellow through to orange and red, which are borne over a long flowering on a densely clustered, simple or branched leafless stem. Lots of varieties bloom in winter and flowers come in a diversity of colours and shapes. By planting different forms you can get flowers from February to November.

The genus is native to sub-Saharan Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and Madagascar in grassland scrub and semi-desert areas and consists of more than 400 species.

Most of the aloes grown in WA have been wild species but over the past 30 years hybridists have focused their efforts on producing aloes that display superior flowers and are suited to a wider range of climates including tropical areas.

Their striking sculptural form usually has leaves arranged in a spiral formation and most varieties have teeth along the edges. The teeth will

be very deep because aloe roots remain quite close to the surface.

Aloes can be propagated from seed, from divisions taken off the clumping varieties or from well dried stem cuttings.

They are not true desert plants and must receive some water during summer. Improve coastal and inland sands with organic matter such as compost or animal manures.

If you have clay soils it is best to grow Aloes in pots or raise the height of the beds by adding sand and organic material.

The improvements do not have to be very deep because aloe roots remain quite close to the surface.

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While other types of aloes may be available in your nursery, these are in stock in most garden centres.

ALOE TOPAZ

Lasting pinkish-orange flowers, from mid-summer to early winter, complement elegant grass-like leaves that grow to about 30cm tall and 20cm wide. Good for full sun to semi-shade. Frost tolerant and prefers regular watering in summer. A good specimen for borders, mass planting and pots.

ALOE GEMINI

Long-lasting, pale orange flowers appear in early winter. A ball-shaped plant with foliage in a spiral formation. Grows to about 30cm tall and 20cm wide with clumping shoots that can be removed to retain the ball shape. Light frost tolerance and prefers regular watering in summer.

ALOE FAIRY PINK

Numerous dainty white flowers, sometimes with a faint pinkish tinge at the base of the flowers, appear in late summer and early autumn above the delicate fleshy green leaves. A small clumping hybrid to 20cm tall and 12cm wide which is ideal for pots and protected semi-shade positions. It is not frost tolerant and needs summer watering.

ALOE ALWAYS RED

One of the best flowering hybrid aloes which has spears of blood red flowers for up to 10 months of the year. Growing to 30cm tall and wide it flowers in

TREE ALOE (ALOE BARBARAE)

Also known as the soft-tip forest Aloe, this plant looks good when young and grows slowly into a statement tree with long, jade-green, arching leaves with small white teeth. It flowers in winter and is one of the few aloes that can handle shaded and moist locations as well as full sun.

ALOE VERA (ALOE BARBADENSIS)

Used medicinally for the yellow juice near the green leaf surface which is used for burns and skin irritations. Clump forming with leaves about 30cm tall and narrow spikes of yellow or orange flowers that bloom above the foliage.



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