

Aloe Vera

Aloe Vera is a member of the Lily family. It is a succulent plant, which means that it stores water in its tissues. Aloe has become very popular world wide, and for good reason. Its many medicinal and cosmetic uses have become well known. In addition, its beauty and ease of care make this a most desirable ornamental plant. Reported benefits of both external and internal use are countless. Perhaps the best established benefit is the soothing and healing of burns. Indeed, a live Aloe plant at home provides a ready source of burn relief as well as a pleasing ornamental plant. The application of the gel from the Aloe Vera leaf brings cool relief to the pain of sunburn. Today Aloe Vera is used in many commercial products including cosmetics, health foods, and sun tan products.

LIGHT AND TEMPERATURE:

These plants tolerate some shade, but grow best in full sun.

Aloe is native to tropical climates, but will do well in colder climates if protected from freezing temperatures.

WATER AND SOIL:

Use a well-drained soil to avoid standing water around the roots, which will cause rot. Water generously; wait until the soil approaches dryness before watering again.

FERTILIZE:

Use fertilizer sparingly and only in warm months.

PROPAGATION:

Cuttings root easily. Take stem cuttings, offsets or leaf cuttings in spring or summer. It is vital to let the cuttings dry for a few days before inserting in well-drained soil. Water very sparingly and do not cover with polythene or glass.