

Aloe Vera

Aloe barbadensis

The Aloe plant is one of the most commonly kept houseplants. Although there are over three-hundred Aloe species, Aloe vera is perhaps the most popular due to its reputed skin-soothing nature. The gel found in the leaves is used for soothing minor burns, wounds, and various skin conditions like eczema and ringworm. Aloe is a good plant for a beginning gardener since it doesn't require much water or attention and can be grown for years in a pot. When grown outdoors, Aloe vera produces showy yellow or red flowers on stalks that emerge in late winter or spring; plants grown indoors will rarely bloom. Can be grown outside year-round in zones 8-11 but is injured by frost in north Florida.

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INFORMATION**

Type: perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 8 through 11

Uses: border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; naturalizing; accent

Origin: not native to Florida

Height: 2 to 3 feet **Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Light requirement: full sun to part sun

Soil tolerances: slightly acid to alkaline; clay; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: high

Invasive potential: low

Pest resistance: susceptible to caterpillars



Photo: UF/IFAS