

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month January 2010 – *Aloe*

In lieu of writing an article that lacks depth and completeness, we are substituting the following link for information on *Crassula & Sedums*.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aloe>

If other web-based articles in Wikipedia are appropriate they too will be used.
If you have comments on using this method, please contact Dale La Forest

Aloe

from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Scientific classification

Kingdom: [Plantae](#)

(unranked): [Angiosperms](#)

(unranked): [Monocots](#)

Order: [Asparagales](#)

Family: [Asphodelaceae](#)

Genus: *[Aloe](#)* [L.](#)

Aloe Description.

Aloe, also written Aloë, is a [genus](#) containing about four hundred [species](#) of [flowering succulent plants](#). The most common and well known of these is *[Aloe vera](#)*, or "true aloe".

The genus is native to [Africa](#), and is common in [South Africa](#)'s [Cape Province](#), the mountains of tropical Africa, and neighbouring areas such as [Madagascar](#), the [Arabian peninsula](#), and the islands off Africa.

The [APG II system](#) (2003) placed the genus in the family [Asphodelaceae](#). In the past it has also been assigned to families [Aloaceae](#) and [Liliaceae](#) or lily family. Members of the closely allied genera *[Gasteria](#)*, *[Haworthia](#)* and *[Kniphofia](#)*, which have a similar mode of growth, are also popularly known as aloes. Note that the plant sometimes called American aloe (*[Agave americana](#)*) belongs to [Agavaceae](#), a different family.

Most Aloe species have a [rosette](#) of large, thick, fleshy [leaves](#). The leaves are often lance-shaped with a sharp apex and a spiny margin. Aloe [flowers](#) are tubular, frequently yellow, pink or red and are borne on densely clustered, simple or branched leafless stems.

Many species of Aloe appear to be stemless, with the rosette growing directly at ground level; other varieties may have a branched or unbranched [stem](#) from which the fleshy leaves spring. They vary in colour from grey to bright-green and are sometimes striped or [mottled](#). Some Aloes native to South Africa are [arborescent](#).

Aloe species are frequently cultivated as ornamental plants both in gardens and in pots. Many Aloe species are highly decorative and are valued by collectors of succulents. *[Aloe vera](#)* is used both internally and externally on humans, and is claimed to have some medicinal effects, which have been supported by scientific and medical research.

Species

There are around 400 species in the genus Aloe. For a full list, see [List of species of genus Aloe](#). A few of the more common species include:

[Aloe vera](#) - used in healthcare & health products

[Aloe arborescens](#) - used in healthcare

[Aloe aristata](#) - Torch Plant, Lace Aloe

[Aloe dichotoma](#) - quiver tree or kokerboom

[Aloe nyeriensis](#)

[Aloe variegata](#) - Partridge-breasted Aloe, Tiger Aloe

[Aloe wildii](#)

Images



Aloe arborescens



Aloe aristata



Aloe dichotoma



Aloe hereroensis



Aloe parvula



Aloe peglerae



Aloe maculata (A. saponaria)



Aloe maculata flower



Aloe sophie



Aloe speciosa



Aloe striatula



Aloe rauhii