

Aloe Vera

Aloe vera · Asphodelaceae

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Perennial succulent

MATURITY 6–12 months to first harvest



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Low, drought tolerant, rot risk if overwatered



SOIL PH
7.0–8.5



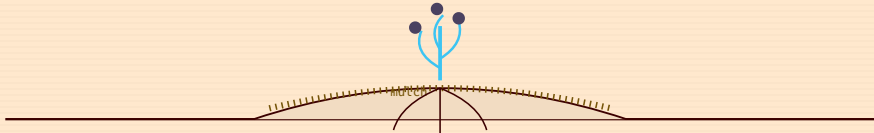
SPACING
0.5–0.6m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 One of the easiest plants to keep

Grown worldwide for centuries, Aloe Vera's thick leaves store the gel traditionally applied to skin for minor cuts and sunburn. It's also a forgiving plant — happy in a pot on a sunny windowsill or straight in the ground, and hard to kill through neglect.



mulched bed, shallow roots

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a nursery pot, or divide an offset ("pup") from an established plant.
SOIL	Gritty, free-draining succulent or cactus mix; hates wet feet.
TIMING	Plant in spring or autumn.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Root rot** — the most common issue; caused by overwatering or poor drainage.
- **Very few pests** — otherwise a hardy, trouble-free plant.
- **Frost** — frost tender; protect or bring undercover below about 5°C.
- **Soft, pale leaves** — usually a sign of too much water or too little light.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply but infrequently — let the soil dry out between waterings.
- Offsets ("pups") appear naturally at the base; separate and repot once large enough.
- No feeding needed — it thrives in poor, lean soil.
- Bring potted plants indoors or under cover before frost in cooler zones.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Outer, lower leaves are ready once thick and mature — usually from 6 months onward.
METHOD	Cut an outer leaf close to the base with a clean knife; slice open to access the gel inside.
CURING	None needed — used fresh, straight from a just-cut leaf.
STORAGE	Fresh gel keeps a few days refrigerated; whole leaves keep about a week in the fridge.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Other drought-tolerant succulents	Poorly drained, wet spots	Not applicable — long-lived perennial succulent.