

Kumari: Plant of immortality

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issues. Aloe is a genus of plants belonging to the larger lily family. Aloe is the most common of the 420 species of aloe and also the most noted for its benefits. The plant is native to southern and eastern Africa and is now grown worldwide.

These days, aloe has an entire industry behind it. Its juice and leaf gel is used in cosmetics and personal-care products such as

moisturizer, soap, shaving cream, and suntan lotion. The aloe products that probably come readily to mind are the bright green gels that are stocked on drugstore shelves. Probably it is used to soothe nasty sunburn.

The term for aloe vera in Sanskrit is 'kumari', which means beautiful young girl.' Ayurveda considers aloe vera to be the herb that maintains a woman looking young at all times. It's a revitalizing herb that belongs to the Rasayana class of Ayurvedic herbs. Rasayana herbs are anti-aging, immune-system-building, and healing agents that protect your body from the normal wear and tear of daily life and stress.

Aloe plants, which go by a few common names such as "burn plant," "lily of the desert," and "elephant's gall" – have been used traditionally to treat wounds, hair loss, hemorrhoids, and digestive



Aloe plants like it warm, so their ideal temperature is between 25 degree Celsius and 38 degree Celsius. If it gets too cold, the leaves will

It is propagated through suckers. The suckers are dipped in 0.1 % Carbendazim for five minutes and planted in the field. For planting one hectare of land, 10,000 suckers are required. Roots of Aloe do not penetrate below 20-30 cm. so depending upon soil type plough the land thoroughly and bring soil to fine tilth. At time of last ploughing add 6 ton per acre of well decomposed cow dung in soil. Forms ridge and furrow for planting of suckers at 45 or 60 cm apart. If necessary irrigate the field. Plant suckers at 40 or 30 cm apart

Plant suckers in July-August for better growth. Under irrigated conditions, sowing can be done around the year except in winter month. Normally spacing of 45 cm x 40 cm or 60 cm x 30 cm is followed. Plant three- to four-month-old suckers in a pit having depth of 15 cm. 22000 suckers required per acre of land.

At time of land preparation, apply 60-80 quintal per acre of well decomposed cow dung.

turn yellow or pucker. These plants also don't like drafts, so ensure they're not in a spot where a door or window is constantly opening and closing.

Apply basal dose of N:P:K @ 20:20:20 kg/acre in form of Urea @ 44 kg, Super Phosphate @ 125 kg and MOP @ 34 kg per acre. Do earthing up and keep field weed free. Weeding is to be done at proper intervals. Weeding is mainly done twice in a year. In summer or dry conditions, apply irrigation with interval of 2 weeks. In rainy season, it does not require any irrigation and in winter season, less irrigation should be given as the plant not take up much water. Before irrigation drenching should be done so that extra water will runs out.

Aloe crop take 18-24 months to fully mature. In year time, it bears yellow colour flower. It can be harvested 4 times a year. 3-4 leaves cut from each plant. Carry out picking in morning or in evening. The leaves are regenerated and thus crop can be harvested up to 5 years. Allow freshly harvested plant to wilt and loose moisture in the field before transporting. Wilting is noticed normally within 24 to 72 hours. But the plant should be kept dry and cool to prevent fermentation or mould growth.