

## PLANT NAME: ALOE VERA

- **Light:**

- Aloe vera plants thrive in bright, indirect sunlight. They can tolerate some direct sunlight, but too much intense sunlight can scorch their leaves. Place them near a sunny window with filtered light, especially in the morning.

- **Temperature:**

- Aloe vera prefers temperatures between 59–77°F (15–25°C). It can tolerate short periods of colder temperatures but should be protected from frost. During the winter, it's a good idea to bring potted aloes indoors if you live in a colder climate.

- **Pot and Soil:**

- Use well-draining soil for your Aloe. A cactus or succulent mix is suitable, or you can create your own mix by adding sand or perlite to regular potting soil. Ensure the pot has drainage holes to prevent waterlogging.

- **Watering:**

- Aloe vera is drought-tolerant and prefers to dry out between waterings. Water your Aloe deeply, allowing excess water to drain from the pot, and then empty the saucer to prevent root rot. Wait until the top 1–2 inches of soil are dry before watering again.
- Water sparingly during the winter months when the plant is not actively growing.

- **Fertilizing:**

- Aloe vera doesn't require frequent fertilization. You can feed it with a diluted, balanced, liquid fertilizer during the growing season (spring and summer) every 4–6 weeks. Avoid over-fertilizing, as it can lead to root burn.

- **Repotting:**

- Aloe vera typically doesn't need frequent repotting. Repot when the plant has outgrown its container or when you see signs of root overcrowding, usually every 2–3 years. Spring is the best time to repot.

- **Pruning:**

- Aloe vera doesn't require extensive pruning. However, you can remove any damaged or dead leaves near the base of the plant to maintain its appearance.

- **Pests and Problems:**

- Aloe vera is generally resistant to pests and diseases, but it can occasionally suffer from mealybugs or aphids. Treat any infestations promptly with insecticidal soap or neem oil.
- Yellow or brown leaves can be a sign of overwatering or exposure to cold temperatures. If the leaves become mushy, it's likely due to overwatering and root rot.

- **Harvesting Gel:**

- You can harvest the gel from Aloe vera leaves for various purposes. Use a sharp knife to cut a mature leaf close to the base. Allow the yellowish latex to drain, as it can be irritating to the skin. Then, scoop out the clear gel and use it as needed for its soothing properties.

Aloe vera is a hardy and low-maintenance plant that can thrive with minimal care. By following these guidelines, you can enjoy the health benefits and beauty of this versatile succulent in your home or garden.

