Basic Guide to Grow Aloe Vera

First of all, let me point out the importance to grow your Aloe Vera organically. Why? Click here to read more.

The Aloe Vera plant is known to man over centuries. If you want to plant Aloe Vera - than it is important to know its origin.

The Aloe plant originated from Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. That means it grows well in desert and semi-desert regions. Today it is widely cultivated in California, Texas, Mexico, India, and coastal Venezuela. It is also a popular house plant.

The Aloe family belongs to a larger class of plants known as the “succulent”. The “succulent” plant family possesses the ability to close their stomata completely to avoid loss of water. They can survive long periods of drought stress.

The Aloe Vera plant produces baby plants, the so-called suckers around the mature mother plant. Generally these are used as seedlings for propagation.
My advice is to plant them in little planters and after they take root, transplant them permanently.

Transplant the baby plants when they are 10 to 15 cm high. Don’t plant them to shallow, a little deeper ensures a better root system.

The Aloe Vera plant can not tolerate freezing temperatures. In the winter time, when the temperature drops slightly below 10 degree Celsius, the plants go into a dormant stage.

The length of its dormant time depends on the environment where the Aloe Vera grows. This can be from a few days up to three months.

As soon as a cool spell is past and warmer weather appears, the flower-stems burst forth, and the annually flowering flourishes under the warming weather conditions.

The leaves are in a rosette form around the trunk in circulating rows. In the center of the plant the new leaves grow upward, and as they increase in size, they fold outward to give the plant an upside down umbrella appearance.
Planting Aloe Vera

For common use, growing Aloe Vera in your own garden is one of the easiest ways to get the freshest and most natural Aloe Vera gel...

It is easy to cultivate, requiring only good drainage, mild temperatures and occasional watering.

The soil should be...

Moderately fertile and fast draining. The best soil for growing Aloe Vera is in a sandy loam with good drainage. If your soil does not have good drainage you can mix it with some gravel.

During the summer months, the soil should be completely soaked, but then be allowed to dry again before re-watering.

If you need good drainage, consider making ridges mixed with \( \frac{1}{4} \) of gravel by volume. The ridges should be 25 cm wide and the rows a meter apart. Mix the soil with about 3 kilos of compost per Aloe Vera plant.
Growing Aloe Vera Indoors

Unless you live in an area with a very mild climate it is best growing an Aloe Vera plant indoors in a pot. The pot should be a clay pot rather than a plastic one.

Because Aloe Vera plants consist of 95% water, they are extremely frost tender. Bring the Aloe Vera plant in to the inside if the temperature drops below 5º Celsius.

Growing Aloe Vera plants indoors requires a planter and well-drained potting soil. Mixing the soil with some gravel and at least with 30% of compost gives an excellent soil for the Aloe Vera plant. This also will guarantee a good drainage.

Aloe Vera needs enough light, so be sure to put it in a well illuminated spot. Place it near a window that gets a lot of sun. You can move the pot outdoors during the summer months. If you don't have a sunny spot - a special plant light could be used.

Aloe Vera is a succulent plant, and as such, stores a large quantity of water within its leaves. Don’t wet the Aloe Vera plant when you water the plant, because this causes the leaves and roots to rot.

During the winter months, the plant will become dormant, and utilizes very little moisture. During this period watering should be minimal. Allow the soil to become completely dry before giving the plant water.
Aloe Vera has a shallow, spreading root system, so when it is time to repot, choose a wide planter rather than a deep one. Use a planter with a drainage hole to ensure adequate drainage.

**Transplanting Aloe Vera**

There is a difference between transplanting a mature plant or baby plants.

When transplanting Aloe Vera from the shade, it is best to provide semi shade until the plant is accustomed to the sunshine.

Aloe Vera plants planted from the shade into direct sunshine will get a “suntan” and the plants leaves will turn brown.

The Aloe Vera plant easily gets a diameter of 60 cm. This should be considered when planting Aloe Vera to avoid the plants get too crowded when they get bigger.

My advice is to have one plant per square meter.

**When transplanting baby Aloe Vera plants, consider:**

- They should not be planted in to hot, direct sunshine.
- It takes about 4 to 6 weeks for a baby plant to take root.
- After planting, water it and wait about 2 weeks before watering again.
- It is best to transplant the baby plants when they are 10 to 15 cm high.
• Don’t plant them to shallow, a little deeper ensures a stronger root system.

When transplanting mature Aloe Vera plants, consider:

• Mature Aloe Vera plants love bright sunlight.
• The soil should be moderately fertile and fast draining.
• When you plant in a pot, be sure to have enough drainage holes.
• Don’t wet the plant when you water it.
Signs of a sick Aloe Vera plant

*The leaves turn brown* -> Too much sunshine – the plant is getting a “suntan”.

*The leaves lie flat instead of upright* -> too much shade. Move your plant to a sunnier place.

*The leaves are thin and curled* -> too little water. The plant uses its own water resources.

*The tips of the leaves turn brown and dry up* -> too much fluorine or chloride in the water. Use spring or mineral water instead of tap water.

*Your Aloe Vera plant grows slow* -> this can be caused by different factors:
  - Your plant gets too much water;
  - Your plant needs more water;
  - Your plant gets too much shade;
  - You used too much fertilizer.

*Something is “eating” your Aloe plant* -> in some regions Aloe Vera plants are eaten by turtles and in wild Africa by monkeys.
Grow Your Aloe Vera
Organic

It is of utmost importance to grow your Aloe Vera organically.

Why is that, you might wonder...

“...Chemical fertilizers used by commercial growers produce lush growth by swelling produce with more water. On a per-weight basis, organic food has more fiber (i.e. real food). Partly because of this, organically grown foods contain higher levels of nutrients.”

So, convenience and nutrition are just two of the many benefits of having your own garden. Not to mention the environmental benefits of eating locally grown produce.

Why it is important to grow your own food?

· Eliminate the use of chemical pesticides.
· How to start your own organic food garden with simple, easy to follow steps.
· How to provide the freshest, nutritious, most delicious foods for your family.
· The basic tools you’ll need to get started.
· How easy it is to convert your current gardening practices (if you garden already) to organic gardening practices.
· Find out how...
Now that you grow your own organic Aloe Vera...

How do you use it?

Do you need a recipe book to make your own Aloe Vera remedies?

If so...

-> Check this out