Sunset Aloe

Aloe dorotheae



Sunset Aloe
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 8 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 20 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 9

Description:

A low growing variety with green new foliage that turns russet red with white spots when it matures; better color in sun; produces spikes of yellow or red flowers in late winter or early spring; a wonderful garden or container accent

Ornamental Features

Sunset Aloe's attractive succulent sword-like leaves emerge green in spring, turning red in color with distinctive white spots the rest of the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. It features dainty spikes of yellow tubular flowers with green tips rising above the foliage from late winter to early spring.

Landscape Attributes

Sunset Aloe is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Sunset Aloe is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Sunset Aloe will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 20 inches. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Sunset Aloe is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.