Jeweled Aloe

Aloe distans



Jeweled Aloe
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 6 inches

Flower Height: 8 inches

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Golden Toothed Aloe

Description:

A sprawling aloe, with long trailing stems along the ground or over rocks, that bear tight rosettes of short, thick blue-green leaves with gold teeth; clusters of coral flowers rise up in summer; an excellent groundcover variety

Ornamental Features

Jeweled Aloe features dainty clusters of coral-pink tubular flowers rising above the foliage from mid summer to early fall. Its attractive succulent sword-like leaves remain bluish-green in color with pointy gold spines and tinges of powder blue throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Jeweled Aloe is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging 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;

- Suckering
- Spiny

Jeweled Aloe is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Jeweled Aloe will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity extending to 8 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 4 feet. 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. 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.

Jeweled Aloe is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.