Spider Aloe

Aloe x spinosissima

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Aloe humilis x arborescens

Description:

A medium-sized clumping selection producing numerous rosettes of long, lightly spotted dark green leaves that twist and curl; red flowers on unbranched spikes in winter; a wonderful garden or container accent

Ornamental Features

Spider Aloe features dainty spikes of red tubular flowers rising above the foliage from mid to late winter. Its attractive succulent sword-like leaves remain bluish-green in color with distinctive white spots and tinges of coppery-bronze throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Spider 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;

- Insects
- Spiny

Spider Aloe is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Spider Aloe flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Spider Aloe in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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

Planting & Growing

Spider Aloe will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet 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 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Spider 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. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.