



## GROWING ALOE VERA

Because Aloe plants consist of 95% water, they are extremely frost tender. If they are grown outdoors in warm climates, they should be planted in full sun or very light shade. The soil should be moderately fertile and fast draining. Established plants will survive a drought quite well, but for the benefit of the plant, water should be provided.

Unless you live in area with a very mild climate, it's best to leave your Aloe plant in the pot and place it near a window that gets a lot of sun. You can move the pot outdoors during the summer months.

Aloe vera is a succulent, and as such, stores a large quantity of water within its leaves and root system. During the winter months, the plant will become somewhat dormant, and utilize very little moisture. During this period watering should be minimal. Allow the soil to become *completely* dry before giving the plant a cup or two of water. During the summer months, the soil should be completely soaked, but then be allowed to dry again before re-watering.

Aloes have a shallow, spreading root system, so they are happiest planted in a wide container rather than a deep one. Use a planter with a drainage hole, or provide a 1-2 inch layer of gravel in the bottom of the pot to ensure adequate drainage. Use a good commercial potting mix with extra perlite, granite grit, or coarse sand added – do not use the newer “water-management” soils. They hold too much moisture for an aloe. You may also use a packaged 'cacti mix' soil. Fertilize occasionally with a balanced fertilizer mixed at half-strength.

Aloes are propagated by removing the offsets which are produced around the base of mature plants, when they are a couple inches tall (*or larger*).

If you have any questions – or comments on these directions – please feel free to write or call!

Stay Healthy and Happy,

*Vicki Parsons*

601 Southwood Cove • Brandon, FL 33511 • 813-661-8873 •  
[www.neemtreefarms.com](http://www.neemtreefarms.com)