Aloe, Blue Elf

Aloe 'Blue Elf'



Aloe, Blue Elf
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: Blue Boy Aloe, California Aloe

Description:

Beautiful rosettes of succulent, toothed, sword shaped blue-gray leaves, that may flush red at the tips in extreme weather; produces erect racemes of tubular orange flowers in winter or spring; a wonderful garden or container accent

Ornamental Features

Aloe, Blue Elf features dainty racemes of orange tubular flowers rising above the foliage from late winter to early spring. Its succulent sword-like leaves remain bluish-green in color with hints of powder blue throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Aloe, Blue Elf 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Aloe, Blue Elf is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

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Planting & Growing

Aloe, Blue Elf will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 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 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.

Aloe, Blue Elf 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.

For plants rated USDA zone 7, these plants survive our average winter conditions, however, they may need mulching or winter protection when we get extreme winter conditions like low teens or single digits. For plants rated USDA zone 8 and above, these plants will not survive our winter temperatures, so they need to be either brought inside or replaced annually.