

Got Aloe?

Hummingbirds love them. They are beautiful succulent plants that bloom at least once a year with spectacular spikes of tubular flowers. They originated in Africa and have been hybridized into some of the most unique and rewarding plants that you can add to any Bay Area garden. They are widely variable in size, from trees to ground covers. Their bloom season is variable, some species blooming in winter and putting on new growth in summer - some blooming in summer and growing in winter. They are the Aloes.

While I was sprucing up in the Cactus & Succulent Area, I found more than 16 different varieties of Aloes! WOW! Although this is only a drop in the bucket in the world of Aloes (there are around 300 known species) we have some very unique ones like:

- Aloe 'Magoo' (Blind Aloe) which produces 'mini' plants on the bloom stalks instead of flowers.
- Aloe 'Rooikappie' (Red Riding Hood) whose coral-colored blooms appear repeatedly through the year.
- Aloe 'Pink Blush' with bumpy textured leaves that are blushed terra cotta pink.
- Aloe plicatilis (Fan Aloe) with gray-green strappy leaves growing in two-dimensional 'fans'.

Along with these show-stoppers you will find many other Aloe varieties including Aloe vera—a must for every gardener to heal cuts, sunburns and other skin injuries.

Come take a peek at the world of Aloes today as some of these varieties are in limited supply. They are drought tolerant, easy to grow in either the ground or in containers, and beautiful in any style garden.