

ALOE VERA

BOTANICAL NAME	:-	Aloe vera
FAMILY	:-	Liliaceae
LOCAL NAME	:-	Aloe
HINDI NAME	:-	Grithikumari



HABITS AND HABITATS :-

It is a perennial herb. The genus Aloe comprises about 600 species, most of which are indigenous in South Africa (A. ferox, A. Africana, A. Spicata). The plant is distributed throughout India. It has become completely naturalized, especially in hot dry valleys of North-Western Himalayas.

PLANTS DESCRIPTION :-

It is a stemless or very short-stemmed succulent plant growing to 60–100 cm (24–39 in) tall. The leaves are lanceolate, thick and fleshy, green to grey-green, with white flecks on the upper and lower leaf surfaces. The leaf margin is serrated and has small white teeth. The flowers occur in summer on a spike up to 90 cm (35 in) tall, each flower pendulous, with a yellow tubular corolla 2–3 cm (0.8–1.2 in) long.

PARTS USED:-

The leaf and the Juices.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES :-

Aloe is used for inflammatory bowel conditions such as: gastritis, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcerative colitis. It is also used in menstrual cramps and irregularity and suppressed menses in females. A common ingredient in Modern cosmetic. Used as Deworming agent, for skin diseases, Dysentery, minor wounds and burns.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-

The major constituents are hydroxyl anthraquinone derivatives (25-40%) viz., aloin (=barbaloin, a mixture of aloin A and B, the diastereoisomeric 10-C glucosides of aloe-emodin anthrone) and 7-hydroxaloin isomers. Aloe emodin, chrysophanol consists in minor quantities. Indian aloes contain aloinosides as major constituents with only traces of aloin.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-

The plants are generally propagated by root suckers or rhizome-cuttings. The plants are planted at a spacing of 60 x 30 cm or 60 x 45 cm. About 15-18 cm long root-suckers or rhizome-cuttings are planted in such a way that two-thirds portion of the root-sucker or rhizome-cutting should be under the ground. Soon after planting, the land should be irrigated. Weeding may be done twice a year and the land should be kept weed-free. The plants are harvested eight months after planting. While harvesting, the plants can be removed manually or with the help of a tractor-drawn disc harrow or cultivator.