Fan Aloe

Aloe plicatilis

Plant Height: 6 feet

Flower Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: syn. Kumara disticha



Fan Aloe
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A multiple branched variety with a shrubby habit; beautiful fan shaped clusters of succulent sword shaped leaves with rounded tips; produces erect spikes of tubular orange-coral flowers in winter and early spring; an amazing accent or screening plant

Ornamental Features

Fan Aloe features showy spikes of orange tubular flowers with red overtones rising above the foliage from late winter to early spring. It has attractive bluish-green evergreen foliage. The succulent sword-like leaves are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter.



Fan Aloe in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Fan Aloe is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its strikingly bold and coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced landscape composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, 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;

- Spiny

Fan Aloe is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Fan Aloe will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity extending to 8 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub 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 xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.



Fan Aloe
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Fan Aloe makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.