



Aloe (*Aloe vera*)

Biology of the world's most versatile leaf

Content By CR Hardy

Aloe

A. Uses & History

1. Cosmetics, medicines (internal & external), edibles, & ornamental



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2. Egyptian papyrus (1550 BCE)



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1. Cosmetics, medicines (internal & external), edibles, & ornamental
2. Egyptian papyrus (1550 BCE)
3. Dioscorides & *De Materia Medica* (1st Century CE)



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A. Uses & History

1. Cosmetics, medicines (internal & external), edibles, & ornamental
2. Egyptian papyrus (1550 BCE)
3. Dioscorides & *De Materia Medica* (1st Century CE)
4. Today cultivated in dry, tropical climates worldwide



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A. Uses & History

B. Conservation


Sought-after ornamentals, CITES protects the many wild species.

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C. Taxonomy & Biogeography

1. *Aloe* (ca. 500 spp.; drier habitats of African and Arabia)




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C. Taxonomy & Biogeography

1. *Aloe* (ca. 500 spp.; drier habitats of African and Arabia)
2. *Aloe vera* and several other species exploited commercially



Aloe

D. Morphology & Anatomy



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