



Fence Aloe

Aloe tenuior

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Other Names: syn. Aloiampelos tenuior

Description:

A shrubby variety forming semi-woody stems that are topped with open rosettes of blue-green leaves with white teeth; grows tall with support; erect spikes of yellow flowers in fall; great on fences or walls, or in the garden

Ornamental Features

Fence Aloe features dainty racemes of lemon yellow tubular flowers rising above the foliage from late fall to mid winter. It has attractive bluish-green foliage edged in creamy white with hints of powder blue. The succulent sword-like leaves are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter. The gray stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Fence 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

Fence Aloe is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Fence Aloe flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

Fence Aloe will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy. It grows at a medium 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 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 species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Fence 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.