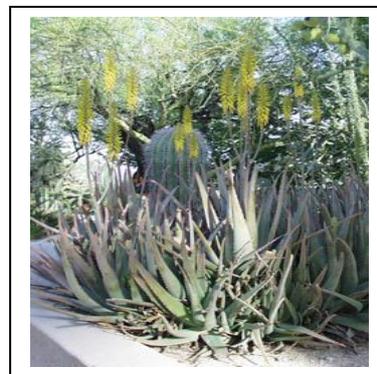


ALOE VERA

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, white flecks on the upper and lower leaf surfaces. The leaf margin is serrated and has small white teeth. The flowers occurs 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.