

Blue Elf Aloe

California Aloe

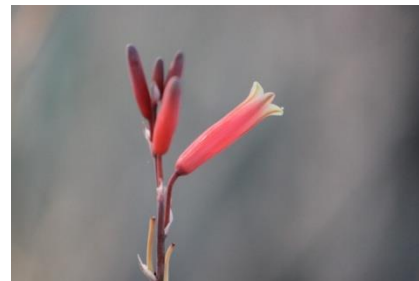
Aloe hybrid 'Blue Elf'

California Aloe

Family: Aloeaceae

Description: A small compact aloe that grows 1-2 feet tall and most to about 1-2 feet wide, but some can clump up to 3.5 ft. Has flexible and narrow upright gray-blue leaves. Foliage may tint red and has teeth along leaf margin. Clumping growth spreads through additional leaflets that grow out from the crown.

This is the smallest aloe specimen in the Center Gardens. It has done very well and has been used to replace other species that did not do well.



Bloom: Has red-orange, cigar-shaped flowers. It blooms in winter and spring, usually January through April. The lower flowers bloom first with additional blooms moving up the stalk.

Cultural information/Uses/Human Interaction: Possibly a hybrid of *Aloe humilis* and another unknown aloe. May have been developed by Edward C. Hummel, but is not the same as the *A. humilis* hybrid known as Ed Hummel which is smaller with spines on the upper and lower leaf face.

Aloe Genus in general has references dating back 2,000 years to the Greek historian Dioscorides who recorded its healing properties. More cultural information available for genus aloe on [Aloe Genus Fact Sheet](#).

Distribution/Range: Found in South Africa, North Africa, Canary Islands, and Cape Verde regions.

Habitat: A possible hybrid, which is very adaptable, and has non-specific habitat requirements. Can grow from 0 – 4800 ft elevation range.

Requirements: It requires full sun and is hardy 20-25°F. It has low water needs requiring only occasional irrigation. It's easy to grow and does well in containers or in mass plantings. It is a fire safe species.

Propagation: Can be grown from seed. Can be propagated from off-shoots that grow at the base of the plant.

Wildlife: Mainly pollinated by hummingbirds in the Center Gardens.

Disease/Pathology: Snout weevil, scale and rust are the biggest threats with stressed plants most susceptible.

Status: X

Resources:

Rodale's Encyclopedia of Herbs

Tucson Botanical Gardens

Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

San Marcos Growers

Monrovia Growers

Delange Nursery



Blue elf budding



Blue elf stalk



Blooms bottom up



Full bloom