

## Indian Medicine Plant

### *Aloe chinensis*

**Family:** Aloeaceae

**Plant Description:** A succulent evergreen. Grows clusters of rosettes formed by upright fleshy leaves. Leaf pattern is variegated with white spots green surface. Leaves are soft and flexible with teeth along the leaf margin.

- \* Reddish tone when in direct sunlight. This process occurs when extreme sunlight triggers a buildup of the chemical **rhodoxanthin** in the **chloroplast**, in place of **chlorophyll** which causes the change in color from green to red. Rhodoxanthin appears to absorb light which could otherwise cause molecular damage to the aloe.



**Bloom Description:** Has an orange - red flower color. Blooms in spring and early summer. Grows 3-5 foot tall upright panicles.

**Cultural information/Uses/Human Interaction:** It is very hard to track the aloe species as it has been in cultivation for over two millennia. This form may have originated in India and Vietnam.

Extensive medicinal use exists throughout the world and is related, through documentation or folklore, to many cultural figures. More cultural information available for genus aloe on [Aloe Genus Fact Sheet](#).

**Distribution/Range:** Currently cultivated worldwide.

**Habitat:** It is highly adaptable in Mediterranean and arid regions.

**Requirements:** Full sun is needed along the coast and light shade inland. Occasional summer watering may be necessary, but handles drought. It is hardy to 28° F.

**Propagation:** Can be propagated from off-shoots that grow at the base of the plant and from seed when available.

**Wildlife:** Pollinated by bees, hummingbirds, ants.

**Disease/Pathology:** Snout weevil, scale and rust are risks, and stressed plants are most

susceptible.

**Status:** X

**Resources:**

Rodale's Encyclopedia of Herbs  
International Plant Names Index  
Royal Society of Chemistry



Orange blooming bud



Orange blooming



Orange blooms open

