

Coral aloe

Aloe striata

Family: Aloeaceae

Plant Description: Has pale, bluish-green leaves that can become pink-toned in full sun. The leaves are flat, wide and flexible with margins that are pink and toothless.

- * Pink 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.



See below for bloom progression photos

Bloom: Blooms in winter and early spring with a 2-foot stalk. Has umbrella shaped canopies of coral, cigar-shaped flowers.

Cultural information/Uses/Human Interaction: The name 'striata' comes from the Latin word 'striatum' (strio) which means "grooved" or "striped."

More cultural information is available for genus aloe on [Aloe Genus Fact Sheet](#).

Distribution/Range: Grows in Eastern and Southwestern Cape provinces of South Africa and inland Karoo.

Habitat: Grows at 800 to 7,300 feet in elevation in stony soil and rocky hillsides.

Requirements: Requires full sun and is hardy at 20-25°F. Has low water needs with occasional irrigation. Is easy to grow and does well in containers and mass plantings. Is a fire safe species.

Propagation: Can be propagated from off-shoots that grow at the base of the plant. Seeds germinate easily in well drained soil, covered with a light sand.

Wildlife: Pollinated by hummingbirds and ants.

Disease/Pathology: Susceptible to snout weevil, scale and rust. Stressed plants a most susceptible.

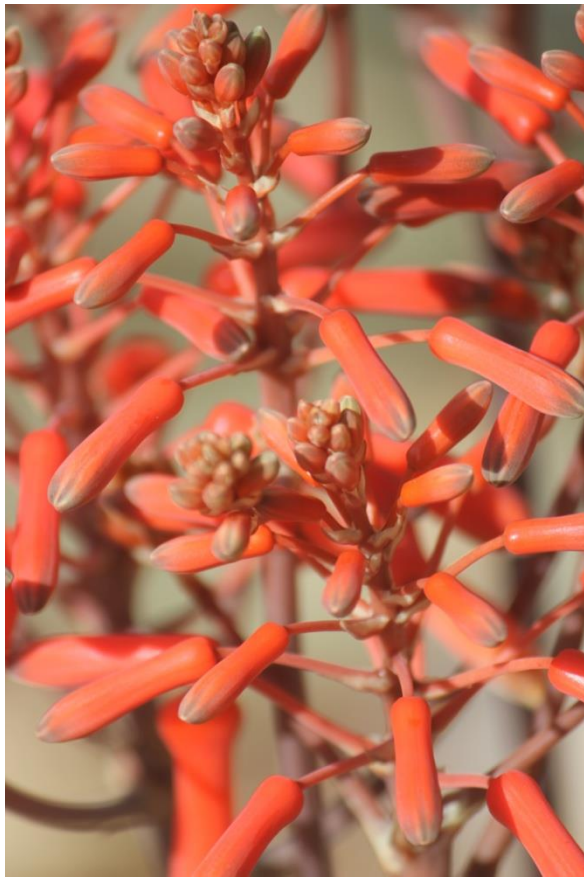
Status: X

Resources:

South African National Biodiversity Institute
Rodale's Encyclopedia of Herbs
Royal Society of Chemistry
San Marcos Growers



Bloom progression of *Aloe striata*



Close-up of *A. striata* blooms