East Bay Nursery

Tilt-head Aloe

Aloe speciosa



Tilt-head Aloe
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 10 feet

Flower Height: 12 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: Tilted Head Aloe

Description:

A generally unbranched variety with massive rosettes of blue-green leaves with a pinkish tinge, that tilt off to one side; dark red flower buds on terminal racemes, open to greenish white flowers with orange-red stamens, from late fall into winter

Ornamental Features

Tilt-head Aloe features showy racemes of orange cup-shaped flowers with grayish green overtones rising above the foliage from late fall to late winter, which emerge from distinctive dark red flower buds. It has attractive pink-variegated bluish-green foliage. The succulent sword-like leaves are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Tilt-head 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. It is a good choice for attracting bees and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Tilt-head Aloe is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Tilt-head Aloe will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity extending to 12 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow 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 xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. 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.

Tilt-head Aloe makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.