

## Aloe vera :-

A succulent plant with a very short stem, about 15-50 cm long and 4-7 cm wide at the bottom. It is widely distributed, and is considered an invasive species in many world regions. The aloe vera plant grows in many places in the Sultanate of Oman and is considered one of the widespread Omani wild plants.

An evergreen perennial, it originates from the Arabian Peninsula, but also grows wild in tropical, semi-tropical, and arid climates around the world. It is cultivated for commercial products, mainly as a topical treatment used over centuries. The species is attractive for decorative purposes, and succeeds indoors as a potted plant.

The leaves of Aloe vera contain significant amounts of the polysaccharide gel acemannan, which can be used for topical purposes. Aloe skin contains aloin which is toxic. Products made from Aloe vera usually only use the gel.

There are many products containing aloe vera's acemannan, including skin lotions, cosmetics, ointments and gels for minor burns, skin abrasions, insect bites, and windburn.

Oral ingestion of aloe vera extracts can be dangerous, because it causes reactions which are not yet fully understood. It is especially dangerous for pregnant women. Some people have allergic reactions, even when the aloe vera is applied only to the skin.



**Habitat:** It grows in sandy areas and on the sides of roads in sunny locations.

**Geographical distribution:** unknown. Its cultivation has been introduced to many countries. In several countries, including Oman. It has been around since ancient times and has spread naturally Pastoral importance: non-pastoral.

**Other uses:** This plant is used in the treatment of many diseases, namely cracks that affect the skin of the legs and hands. Using the sticky substance extracted from the leaves of the plant, and the juice of the leaves to heal wounds and skin infections, and treat itching. Scabies, chest pains, lengthens hair, purifies the brain, and stomach diseases. It also helps in digestion due to the bitterness of the aloe vera plant. As it is done It can be used in medicine by extracting several effective substances to treat sunburn, insect bites, and psoriasis. It also helps It lengthens the hair and turns it black, eliminates lice, and makes the hair grow. Moreover, it is used in cosmetics. This plant contributes to the treatment of many diseases, including stomach ulcers, joint diseases, chest crises, and eye diseases. Infections and pulmonary tuberculosis, and stimulating the secretory functions of the small intestine.

