

## Winter Aloe Sunshine- By Scott Hogg of Plant Culture Nursery



*Aloe arborescens –a multi-stem aloe*

Aloes are often overlooked when considering a garden plan and defiantly something we should all make space for. They come in so many different sizes, shapes and forms with new hybrids showing up all the time. There is an Aloe for every garden, be it on the coast in Gordons Bay with sea spray, a windy South Easter position on the flats or a shady canopy in Newlands. Their forms are unique and hugely beneficial in how you can use them in the landscape. They have many unique uses from structural focal points to combination plantings while require remarkably little attention and to top it very little water.

As we roll into July & August it's rainy and grey while so much of our gardens have gone into hibernation. Unless something has been planned and planted for in these cooler months it so often leaves the garden quite dreary. Consider reserving a corner for some instant sunshine?

Have you noticed all the radiant color emanating from all our fantastic Aloes and other succulent species? Yes nature really does have its own ways in lifting our spirits. I find it amazing to witness how all the fiery reds and oranges are all in full bloom and perfect display. It might be cold and wet but these plants and combinations have a characteristic way of adding warmth when it's most needed. I' am sure there must be a few botanists out there who could explain why so many of these spectacular inflorescences are all so distinctive in reds and oranges



*Aloe striata x maculate*

Alongside is a combination of Aloes and Cotyledons all with different shaped leaves and tones. When out looking to buy and match your own combination a good tip is to put your favorite ones together, next to each other and see if they complement each other in texture. Once you identify the right feel check on their growth habit and planting position, take them home and welcome them to your garden.



For more ideas or a selection of trees and plants please feel free to visit Plant Culture Nursery, they are located off the R310 close to Spier Wine Estate, open Mon-Fri 8:00 to 5:00. See there very informative website for more. [www.plantculture.co.za](http://www.plantculture.co.za) Scott Hogg