

Aloe Bainesii 15 feet tall.

average gardener. If all you can find is a two inch liner, plant it anyway. The Aloe is a fast grower, and best of all, will do so without special care. For example, *Aloe bainesii* (the tree aloe) can be quite a formidable tree in less than ten years. Whether or not it was a cutting or a seedling, it grows fast.

There are a number of other plants which closely resemble Aloes. The Gasterias, which have blotched or spotted succulent leaves, but no thorns, are the most closely related, and many hybrids between Aloes and Gasterias are known. The leaf formation of many Haworthias resemble Aloes. Aloes are sometimes confused with Cacti. The Cactus Family is a very large one and is native to the Americas. South Africa has no indigenous Cacti, although they have many other succulents belonging to different genera.

Aloes have been collected for many years. Early

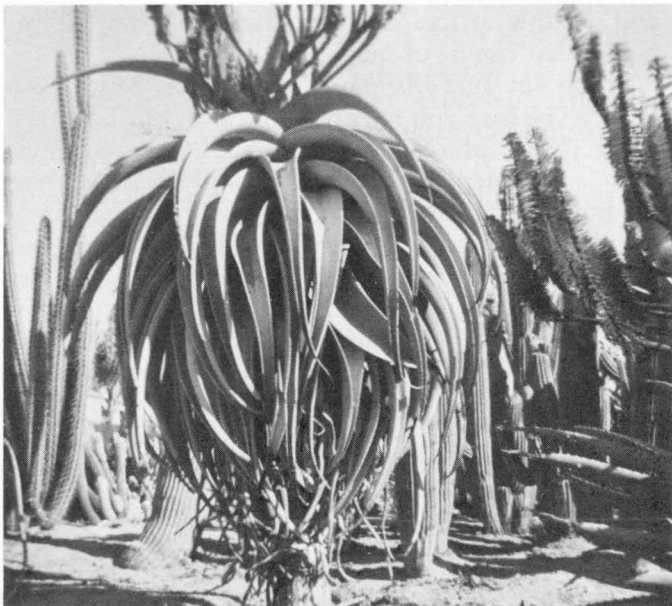
Aloe Vera
Background Aloe Marlqthii

Aloe Ferox



collectors, such as Masson, Haworth, Oldenland and Thunberg, collected plants which were grown in the 'Gardens' in Cape Town, and sent overseas to other gardens throughout the world. In recent years, with so much interest in the genus, collectors have cleared out areas where rare species occurred. This is an appalling waste, and is, in fact, illegal in Africa. There are strict laws governing the removal of indigenous plant species from the veld, but, there are agencies through which plants may be obtained. By becoming a member of the Botanical Society of South Africa, Kirstenbosch, Newlands, Cape, seed of a large number and variety of indigenous plants, including Aloes, may be obtained.

A note of thanks to my good friend and neighbor, for his help with the Aloes, David Grigsby, of Grigsby's Cactus Garden, Vista, California ■



Aloe Thraskii 6 feet tall.

A.F.A. to Draft Legislation Imposing Penalty for Bird Theft

The A.F.A., through its attorneys, is drafting legislation to establish minimum fines and penalties for persons apprehended in the act of stealing or in possession of stolen birds. Upon finalization of this draft, a bill will be introduced into the 1975 session of California legislature.

Under current law, persons caught stealing birds are being released without penalty, by the courts. Under A.F.A. proposed legislation, mandatory minimum penalties will be dealt to offenders. Members will be advised at the appropriate time, and asked to support this legislation in writing to their State Senators and Assemblymen ■