

Ecoscope Nursery
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Thanks for your business and interest in Aloe polyphylla. Here is a set of brief instructions and caveats to start your journey of wonderment growing the Spiral Aloe. There's two articles attached to the website with more detailed information.

1. Soil Mix: Peat or Coir 25%, Perlite 25%, Potting Soil 50%. You can add up to 25% more red lava or pumice for specimen containers.
2. Prevent soil temp. above 75F by using a large container, ceramic, wood or terra cotta. Overpotting is the rule for good growth. The leaf tolerance of high air temperatures is much higher than the roots' tolerance.
3. Plant must have light quality with UVA, UVB radiation to achieve good spiral form. Remember that it is IR radiation which heats up the container.
4. Use only water you would drink and enjoy; No chlorine, No salt, Not alkaline. No graywater. Compost teas are ok.
5. Larger plants have the rated hardiness of 10 F if winter sun is ~6 hours.
6. Organic materials fertilizers are safe. No osmocote, No salty granular formulations. I use Miracle Gro at 50% strength and Dr. Earth.
7. Be watchful of ant activity and use chemical warfare to kill and deter them and aphids and mealy bugs by using 1% soap with some pyrethroid additive.
8. Never pull off leaf with tip necrosis mid spiral. The only grooming is to pull off the lowermost leaf when paper thin. The plant will release its hold on it when the goo is resorbed. At maximum size of ~175 leaf the ratio of new leaf creation to old leaf retirement is 1.
9. Healthy roots are yellow, dead roots are brown. If the plant collapses pull it up, clean off the dead roots, jet wash and replant on moist peat or coir in shade. In 2-3 weeks new roots form. I call this plant rehabilitation and is a normal and expected event in the life of A.p.. Adult container specimens require this every 5 years.
10. Maintain soil moisture at 50-75% of the water holding capacity of soil described above. Healthy roots require much oxygen to inflate each leaf. High soil temperatures and/or very high soil moisture will suffocate the roots and the rosette collapses. Turgid leaf is a sign of good root physiology.
11. The above recommendations are written referenced to container plants, in the landscape a mound of sandy loam free of root competition from other plants will be a good start for 65-75 leaf plants and diminish concerns of high soil temps. Do not set 45 leaf plants into a landscape position until they reach the 70 leaf stage.
12. The use of the biological fungicide Actinovate SP has greatly decreased plant death by Fusarium, a ubiquitous primitive pathogen which plagues many species. Your new plant comes with a soil sample treated with Actinovate Iron, a soil applied formulation of Actinovate SP.