

# Asphodelaceae

TERESA RUSSELL



# Asphodelaceae

In the order of Asparagales

Is a family of Monocotyledonous flowering plants

Monocot- Grass-like flowering plants

## ***Significance of Family***

- Important in gardens
- Cut flowers
- Or as collector items

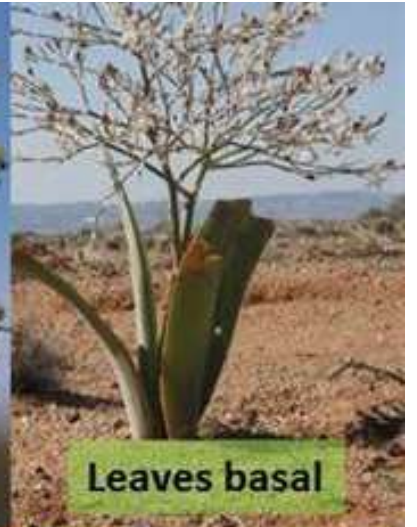
Asphodelaceae  
Pronunciation:  
ass-fod-ul-AY-  
see-ee







Raceme



Leaves basal





# Asphodelaceae has 3 subfamilies

---

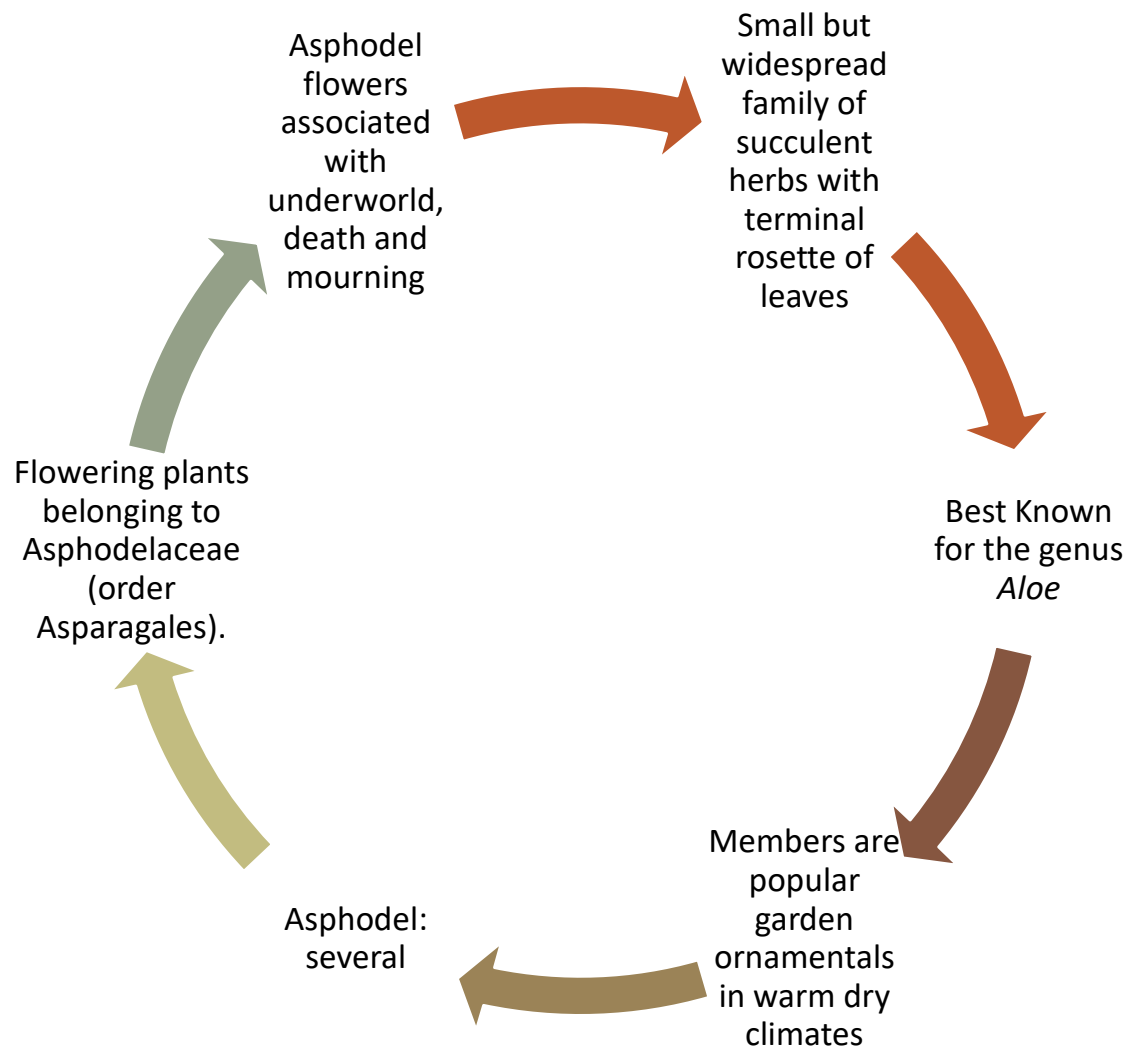
Members of  
Asphodelaceae are  
diverse uniting 3  
subfamilies

Flowers are born on  
leafless stalk which  
arises from a basal  
rosette of leaves

Subfamily :  
Xanthorrhoeoideae:  
(native of Australia)  
thick woody stems

Subfamily:  
Asphodeloideae: often  
leaf succulents such as  
aloes with some  
ornamental perennials

Subfamily:  
Hemerocallidoideae:  
Day lilies are one of the  
widely grown members  
of this subfamily



## Asphodelaceae Family *Aloe*

## Distribution

---

Widespread in arid and mesic areas

---

Widespread in temperate to tropical regions of the Old World

---

Highest diversity in Southern Africa

Found from arid plains to marshy areas of high escarpment mountains



## Genera and Species in World

### Number

- Number of genera in world-(8)

### Number

- Number of Species in the world – (800)

### Number

- Number of Species in the Flora of Southern African (635)

*Aloe dichotoma*  
Species

---

Conspicuous constituent of the  
vegetation of South Africa  
(northern Cape)

---

Tree grows up to 9 m tall and  
bears beautiful yellow/orange  
flowers during winter months

---

Large trunks of dead trees are  
hollowed out and used as  
natural fridges



*Aloe Tree*

---

# Significance of the family

---

*Aloe* grown for leaf sap which has medicinal and cosmetic uses

Used medicinally as a purgative in the treatment of

Arthritis

Eczema

Skin irritations

Burns

Hypertension/stress

*Aloe leaf*

Fleshy part of the Aloe leaf  
sap are used:

In cosmetics industry

Basis of health drinks and  
tonics

# Medicinal Use

---

Medicinal use of  
*Aloe vera*

Originating from  
Arabia

Recorded from  
China and India  
about 2400 yrs  
ago



# *Aloe* Diseases

Root Rot

Fungal stem rot

Softrot and leaf rot

Aloe problems can result from  
overwatering

Poor drainage

Disease





# *Aloe* Pests

---

*Aloe* plant can be affected by 6 different insects

Red spider mite

Snout Beetles

Gall mites

Fungus Gnats

Basal Stem Rot

*Aloe* Rust

# References

---

Henry Shaw Cactus and Succulent Society 2023 <https:hscactus.org>

Lucidentral.org Factsheet 2022

National Institute of Health Taxonomy 2022

Asphodelaceae Plant Family Britannica 2022