

XERISCAPE

NATURE'S CHOICE OF LANDSCAPE



Agave

Agaves are impressive leaf succulents with a wide range of color, texture and size to their rosettes. There are approximately 200 species found throughout the southwest, Mexico and Central America. The bold rosettes are dramatic accents for the landscape that contrast well with the fine texture of desert-adapted trees and shrubs. Agaves are some of the most useful desert plants, tolerant of heat, cold, drought, and poor soil. Agaves, or century plants, take from five to fifty years to finally flower, often with a spectacular flowering stalk. After blooming, the plant slowly dies. However, they often produce offsets, seeds or bulbils (plantlets). Because of their sharp leaves and the large size of some agaves, avoid placing close to walkways, windows, or patios. Medium to small agaves work well in containers or combined with groundcovers and wildflowers for colorful landscape combinations. They are best suited for fall and late winter planting. Irrigation should be deep and infrequent for best plant health.

Agave Americana **Century Plant**

One of the largest agaves growing relatively fast to 6 feet tall by 8 feet wide, *Agave Americana* will surely make a statement in your landscape. The wide gray leaves have recurved teeth along the margins and a terminal spine. Unfortunately, it is a favorite target for the agave snout weevil, whose larvae feed on sugar-laden tissues in the trunk.

Agave desmettiana **Smooth Agave**

A landscape-friendly agave, having only a terminal spine on its leaves. Its soft, fleshy leaves are slightly recurved giving it a graceful appearance. This agave looks best in filtered shade and will grow to 3 feet tall and wide. Bears a spectacular tree-like flower stalk. Works well in containers.

Agave parryi **Parry's Agave**

One of the most striking and hardy agaves, Parry's agave grows to about two feet in diameter with compact blue-green rosettes, and bears a tree-like flowering stalk. This plant is native throughout the southwest and Mexico. Excellent for mass planting. *Agave parryi* works well with wildflowers and also in containers for the patio.

Agave vilmoriniana **Octopus Agave**

This agave from northwestern Mexico grows on cliff faces with graceful, twisting, light green unarmed (spineless) leaves that are approximately 4 feet long. It is considered the most user-friendly of the agaves. It works well in the ground or in a container. Octopus agave bears a striking, brilliant yellow, 20 foot flowering spike followed by numerous bulbils which can be collected and rooted.