

Botanical Name: *Agave americana*

Common Name: Century Plant



Family: Acanthaceae

Native Distribution: Texas to NE Mexico and south to Oaxaca on rocky hillsides and loose soil

Plant Size: 6-10' tall, 12-13' wide

Flowers: Panicle up to 40' tall in the spring with umbels of golden yellow-clustered flowers

Foliage: Well-armed lance-shaped 3-6' long, 6-10" wide gray-green to silvery-blue leaves with grayish teeth curved downward on the margins, spines, and an interesting pattern on the back side

Site Preferences: Shade when less than 1' tall, then full sun

Landscape Uses: Use as specimen, border (security), focal point, accent, or in container.

Other Stuff:

- Century plant adapts to a wide range of conditions including Greater Phoenix xeriscapes.
- Protect smaller plants until they are at least 1' tall.
- Also includes *Agave americana* v. *variegata*, *Agave americana* v. *marginata*, and *Agave americana* v. *mediopicta* which have green and yellow stripes and grow to 4'tall and wide.
- Attracts wildlife.
- Pups freely and can be pulled off for aesthetic purposes.
- Moderate growth rate and hardy to 15°F.
- Very susceptible to the agave snout weevil.
- Dies after blooming.
- Does better with supplemental watering (once/month) in the summer.
- Requires minimal maintenance and removal of lower leaves can be dangerous.
- Removal of entire dead plant after blooming can be difficult due to large size.