

Botanical Name: *Agave colorata*

Common Name: Mescal Ceniza



Family: Agavaceae

Native Distribution: Sonora and Sinaloa, Mexico

Plant Size: Up to 2-4' tall and wide

Flowers: 6-10' tall panicle, usually curved or bent, with umbels of yellow-clustered flowers in late spring and early summer

Foliage: Powder blue-gray snowshoe-shaped leaves, 2-4' long and 7-10" wide, with dark brown, scalloped teeth on the margins, a 2" long terminal spine, and zebra-striped cross-bands and imprints on both sides

Site Preferences: Shade while young, then full sun or reflected heat

Landscape Uses: Use as specimen, border, or bold accent in transition and outer zones with drought-tolerant perennials and small shrubs. Can also be used in containers.

Other Stuff:

- Has deep bud imprints as a defense mechanism against animals.
- Has a back side (not very attractive) and a front side.
- Hardy to at least 17°F.
- Very drought tolerant, surviving and flowering on only 11 inches of annual rainfall.
- Slow to moderate growth rate depending on whether supplemental water is applied.
- The leaves color up best with maximum sunlight.
- Prefers well-draining soil; does not require a large planting hole or organic material.
- Requires virtually no maintenance once they are established.
- Flowering plant means the end of its life cycle; remove to allow offsets to replace the dead plant.
- Watch for a small insect that sucks the juices from the leaves and control with a contact insecticide.