

Botanical Name: *Dasyilirion wheeleri*

Common Name: Desert Spoon or Sotol



Family: Liliaceae

Native Distribution: Arizona, New Mexico, W Texas, and NW Mexico (Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts) occurring naturally on rocky slopes

Plant Size: Up to 8' tall, 6' wide, perennial

Flowers: Tiny, greenish-yellow, sometimes with a dark tint, clustered above the crown on dioecious racemes up to 12', more round on female plants and more narrow on male plants

Foliage: Flat silvery-blue or bluish-green blades, 1" wide and 2-4' long with saw-toothed margins and spoon-shaped bases

Site Preferences: Full sun to light shade

Landscape Uses: Use as accents, can be used as specimen when mature, in mixed gardens.

Other Stuff:

- Will sometimes have 2-3 heads as they mature.
- Good for reflected heat, tough in adverse conditions.
- Can work well in a container.
- Slow-growing, generally grown from seed requiring scarification (early summer).
- Mix with cacti and agave.
- Low maintenance, will brown at the tips and along the bottom to protect the plant from the sun.
- Leaves used as tools, fiber, and decoration by native peoples.
- Soil requires good drainage.
- Do not use near foot traffic or in mass plantings.
- Dioecious.