

**Botanical Name:** *Manfreda virginica*

**Common Name:** Manfreda, False Agave, False Aloe, American Aloe, Rattlesnake Master



**Family:** Agavaceae

**Native Distribution:** Florida to Texas and north to North Carolina, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri

**Plant Size:** Less than 18" tall, clumps can reach 5' or more wide, herbaceous perennial

**Flowers:** Spikes up to 7' tall, up to 30 solitary, fragrant, green or greenish-yellow 1" long tubular flowers with cinnamon-colored stamens

**Foliage:** Variable in size and color, soft and floppy, up to 16" long and 2-3' wide silvery-blue leaves with varying degrees of purple spotting

**Site Preferences:** Afternoon shade

**Landscape Uses:** In and around Phoenix, use as accents, in containers, masses, and mixed gardens.

**Other Stuff:**

- Fat, fleshy roots store water that can be lost in the shade.
- Used by Native Americans as a snakebite antidote.
- Not a desert plant, so not drought tolerant.
- Occurs most often in alkaline soils on rocky glades and in sandy open woods in the Ozark region.
- Flowers give way to capsule-like fruit.
- Sometimes sold as *Agave virginica*.