

Agave sp.

a-GAH-vay

Common Names: Century Plant, American Aloe

Family: Agavaceae

Origin: American Desert

Growth: Clumping

Light: Full sun

Foot Candles: 250+

Water: When completely dry

Humidity: Not required

Temperature: 18°C+

Soil: Cactus mix

Container: Planter with drainage

Nutrients: 10-5-5 Monthly in Spring & Summer

Propagation: Seed, removal of offsets

Interiorscape Use: Desert scapes, atrium, large planters



Common Pests: Mealybugs, Aphids, Spider Mites, Scale, Thrips.

Common Issues: Root rot: when overwatered. Main plant dies after flowering.

Comments: Includes about 270 different species. Named Century Plant due to it requiring 10-15 years to flower. Flower stalks are massive and tree-like. Agave have many uses, such as sweetener made from its juices and rope made from the fibres. Also used as medicine and soap. Blue Agave is the primary ingredient for tequila. Oddly enough, Agave is also used in the art of tattooing, making use of the spines as needles and burning the plant to create a charcoal based ink.

Toxicity: Has a toxic sap that immediately causes pain and burning upon contact with skin. Typically the skin will also turn red and may begin to develop blisters soon after exposure.



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