

## Agave Americana - Plant



Agave is a long-leaved succulent plant that naturally forms a rosette shape and produces a flower spire of attractive cup shaped blooms. The plant is drought tolerant and perennial, making it ideal for the mature arid garden. Many agave plants are native to North America.

Rating: Not Rated Yet

### Price

Sales price R 535

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Description

### Description for Agave Americana

It is very impressive when big, with its bold structure, and beautiful form. On the rare occasion when it finally blooms, it is a complete show stopper; The stalk bolts to the sky and the showy flowers grace the neighbourhood. It works beautiful as a single large specimen and also when planted amass with other agaves.

Tough and particularly indestructible this Native beauty should be in anyone drought tolerant landscape. Works particularly well when planted with ornamental grasses nearby.

Common name	Flower colours	Bloom time	Height	Difficulty
Blue Agave, American Aloe, Maguey	Greenish yellow	-	Height: 3.00 to 6.00 feet Spread: 6.00 to 10.00 feet	Easy to Medium

### Planting and care

Growing agave is easy if you plant the right variety in the right location. Agaves need full sun and gritty soil that percolates easily. They can even do quite well when potted but use an unglazed clay pot that will allow evaporation of excess moisture.

In spring they benefit from the application of a granulated time release fertilizer that will provide nutrient needs for the season. Many varieties of agave will die after blooming and then produce pups or offshoots from their base to replace themselves. On varieties where the parent plant doesn't die after flowering, it is a good idea to get long handled pruners and remove the spent bloom.

After establishment, neglect is actually how to grow agave and produce happy plants.

Sunlight	Soil	Water	Temperature	Fertilizer
Place the plant in a bright area of the home; a south or south-east facing window works great. If natural light is not adequate, you can supplement with a nice natural white florescent bulb. You can put it outside in summer and spring, with indirect light, but it will need to remain indoors during fall and winter.	Use a potting soil mix with a little sand; a cactus & succulents likes good drainage. You can mix in a little slow release organic fertilizer, but it is not necessary. Make sure to pack down the soil around the transplanted plant, and thoroughly water it, to help spur the rooting process in the new soil.	When the soil is dry it is time to water. If the plant gets too fleshy and starts to lean over, you need to water less often. Dry climate, outdoors: Water every two to three days when warm and sunny. Humid, cool or indoors: Water every week. During the fall and winter months, the plants should be watered less frequently in order to promote blooming.	Agave americana likes warm temperatures in summer and cooler in winter with a minimum of 10°C (50°F). Normal room temperature is great for Agave americana during the growth period. Plants become more tolerant of cold temperatures as they grow larger.	Apply standard liquid fertiliser every two weeks during the active growing period. Do not fertilise the plant during the resting period.

## Caring for Agave Americana

- Agave that are grown in pots require even more grit in the soil and can actually be planted in a cactus mix.
- The addition of small rocks or pebbles to the soil increases the drainage capabilities of the container.
- Agave plants in containers will require more water than those in the ground and will need to be re-potted every year or so to replenish soil and root prune the plant.
- Agave plant care for container grown plants is otherwise the same and it affords you the ability to bring sensitive forms indoors when temperatures plummet.

## Typical uses of Agave Americana

**Special features:** This plant is known to some as the century plant, because it is thought to flower only once every 100 years; however, this is misleading as it usually flowers after 20-30 years of storing enormous food reserves in its leaves and then dies.

**Culinary use:** na

**Ornamental use:** Agave americana is hardy enough for the most exposed courtyard or balcony.

Agave americana makes a dramatic statement in the landscape and is much favoured for use in rock gardens. In many gardens Agave americana is best grown in containers. The gigantic leaf-rosettes of these splendid succulents rank them among the most popular accent plants for modern gardens.

**Medicinal use:** na

## References

- <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=275719>
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- <http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/cacti-succulents/agave/growing-agave.htm>
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