

PLANT CARE GUIDE

AGAVE SP. (a-GAH-vay)

COMMON NAMES:
Century Plant, American Aloe

FAMILY: Agavaceae

ORIGIN: American Desert

GROWTH	Clumping
LIGHT	Full sun
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
INTERIORESCAPE 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.