

Go Ga-Ga Over Agaves!

Would you like to add dramatic succulents to your drought tolerant landscape, but you live east of the Caldecott Tunnel where cold hardiness is a concern? Look into the genus Agave.

Sun-loving Agaves are native to a wide range of habitats in the Americas and many are perfectly suited to colder inland winters. Unlike most succulents they do not bloom annually, but instead are grown for their bold rosette shapes and colorful leaves. Agaves do bloom—just not very often. Smaller varieties may bloom once every five years or so, and large (Century Plant) varieties every twenty to forty years with a tall spike of bell-shaped whitish blooms. Most Agave rosettes will die off after blooming and leave “pups” (young plants that form at their base) which continue to grow.

Here is a partial list of small (1’-2’), medium (2’-4’) and large (4’ or more) Agaves to try in your garden along with their cold hardiness ratings.

Small

- Agave parryi ‘Cream Spike’ >15° very small and cute
- Agave leopoldii >20° long slender threads adorn leaves
- Agave ‘Cornelius’ >15° beautiful golden stripes
- Agave ‘Gray Puppy’ >15° lots of cute “pups” spreading to 2 feet
- Agave bracteosa ‘Calamar’ >10° ‘Squid’ Agave

Medium

- Agave villamoriana >25° ‘Octopus’ Agave
- Agave shawii >25° Coastal Agave
- Agave ‘Crème Brulee’ >25° beautiful color

Large

- Agave ‘Mr. Ripple’ >10° wavy and toothy
- Agave ‘Jaws’ >10° what big teeth you have....
- Agave desmettiana ‘Variegata’ >20° great form!
- Agave tequilana ‘Blue Star’ >25° 100% Blue Agave for making tequila
- Agave Americana ‘Medio-picta’ >25° Variegated Century Plant

Our Nursery Staff will be happy to help you with more information on Agaves. Next time you are in the nursery, check out one of the over twenty varieties in stock now!