

# Century Plant

*Agave americana*



'Blue Glow'



'Marginata'

# Century Plant

*Agave americana*

Family: Asparagaceae

**Stem & Leaf Type:** succulent, evergreen

**Leaf Color:** blue-green to gray-green, cultivars sometimes have dark green or variegated

**Fall Color:** n/a

**Flower Time:** When mature

**Flower Color:** greenish yellow on a very tall stalk

**Fruit:** brown, oval pod, 1" to 3" long

**Light:** full sun

**Moisture:** very well-drained

**USDA Hardiness**

**Zones:** 8-10

**Insect/Disease Issues:**

Few, root rot or slugs when overwatered

**Nativity:**

Southwestern United States & Mexico

**Location in the Gardens:**  
Conservatory



**Landscape Value:** Agave gets very large overtime reaching 6'+ tall and 8'+ wide. The large, thick, fleshy leaves grow in a basal rosette and come to a sharp point. Plants require well drained soil and perform well in containers (until they become too large!). Plants are not hardy in Iowa, but grow well as a houseplant (albeit, slowly) and appreciate being put outdoors for the warm summer months. Plants produce a very large branched flower spike that can reach 20'+ feet on large mature specimens. Plants are monocarpic, meaning they only flower once in their life, dying after the blooms fade. Agave grown as houseplants rarely flower. Plants are easily propagated from offsets or "pups" that form at the base of the plant.

**Notes:**

The common name *century plant* implies that it lives for 100 years. While plants can have a long life and may take many years to flower, it is typically between 10 to 25 years for cultivated plants to flower.

**Months of Interest:**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec