

Botanical Name: Dasyilirion wheeleri

Common Name: Sotol, Desert spoon

Type of Plant: monocot; perennial Family Liliaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a rounded clump of narrow, twisting, spine-edged leaves; the
plant will produce a trunk with age; the trunk may be erect or reclining

Height to 5 ft. Spread to 5 ft. Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred; tolerates light shade in inland areas

Soil requires a soil with excellent drainage

Hardiness hardy; zones 10-24 - thrives in hot, inland areas

Morphology:

Leaves blue-gray to gray leaves 1" wide; up to 45" long with stout
spines on the margins; the upper half of the leaf is often twisted

Flowers tall spikes of creamy white flowers up to 10 ft.; individual
flowers are up to 1/4" across; produced in summer only by older plants

Fruit 3-winged samara

Propagation: seed

Usage: widely used in desert landscapes as a secondary accent for
its dramatic form and fine leaf texture; good for grayish color and tolerance of
extreme heat, drought and poor soils

Landscape Care:

Watering tolerates much drought once established, but grows faster
with summer watering

Fertilizing none

Pruning remove spent flower spikes; plants do not die after flowering

Pests/Diseases root rot where drainage is poor

Other base of leaves flare out to create "spoon" shape

Origin: Arizona, New Mexico and Texas