

Botanical Name: Agave deserti

Common Name: Desert agave

Type of Plant: monocot; perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a low-growing, clumping plant, often forming large colonies
in its native habitat; distinctive silvery gray stiff fleshy leaves are
crowded in rosette pattern on mostly subterranean stems

Height 1' - 2' Spread 3' - 6' Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors requires full sun; grows very poorly in shaded locations

Soil prefers loose sandy or rocky habitats; avoid wet clay

Hardiness hardy (zones 12-23): thrives in hot dry inland areas

Morphology:

Leaves succulent, triangular or lanceolate, sharp-pointed,
arranged in mostly upright basal rosette fashion; silver-gray to grayish green,
stiff, 5"-10" (15") long; margins lined with straight or curved pale prickles

Flowers yellow, 1 1/2"-2" long, produced on showy flower stalk
6"-15" tall; May - July

Fruit a capsule; 1"-2" long

Propagation: seed

Usage: a distinctive small accent shrub or low filler, valued for
its overall clumping form and silvery gray foliage; rock gardens, desert or
subtropical landscape styles

Landscape Care:

Watering extremely drought-tolerant; an occasional deep soak in
summer promotes a more succulent appearance

Fertilizing none

Pruning none; older plants will develop flower stalks and then
die (only that portion of plant which produced the stalk)

Pests/Diseases root rot diseases in poorly-drained areas

Special Conditions

Origin: Colorado Desert & So. Mojave Family: Agavaceae