



AGAVE PALMERI

OUTSTANDING FEATURES: *Agave palmeri* is a compact plant, with an attractive rosette of blue-green leaves. The leaves are edged with reddish-brown teeth. At the end of its life cycle, *Agave palmeri* sends up a spectacular flower spike.

DESCRIPTION: *Agave palmeri* forms medium-sized rosettes to 3 feet tall by 4 feet wide. In the wild it doesn't produce offsets, but occasionally produces them in cultivation. *Agave palmeri* has beautiful blue-green leaves with many reddish brown teeth along the margins. The leaves are lance-shaped, about 2 feet long by 4 inches wide, and have a strong terminal spine up to 2 inches long. The branched flower spike is 10-18 feet tall, with the branches in the upper one-half of the stalk. The greenish yellow flowers are clustered at the ends of the lateral branches. Flower stalks begin to appear in late spring, with full flowering occurring in mid-summer.

CULTURE/MAINTENANCE: *Agave palmeri* is hardy to about 5° F, judging by where it grows naturally. This plant is drought tolerant, growing on 12 to 15 inches of annual rainfall. It has a moderate growth rate, responding to supplemental irrigation from late spring through summer. To achieve the most compact rosettes and best color, plant *Agave palmeri* in full sun. As with other *Agave* species, this one is tolerant of most soils, but should not be over-watered if drainage is poor. Since it is generally a non-offsetting type, it requires very little maintenance.

IDENTIFICATION: *Agave palmeri* is closely related to both *A. chrysantha* and *A. murpheyi*. These three are similar in appearance, but can be separated by the shape and color of the leaves, the marginal teeth and the terminal spine. The leaves of *Agave murpheyi* are linear in outline while those of both *A. palmeri* and *A. chrysantha* are lance-shaped. The terminal spine of *A. murpheyi* is conical and shorter than 3/4 inch long, while the terminal spines on the other two are needle shaped and longer than 1 inch. The leaf edges of *Agave palmeri* are relatively straight with closely set marginal teeth, while the leaf edges of *A. chrysantha* are wavy with the teeth about 1 inch apart.

LANDSCAPE APPLICATION: *Agave palmeri* grows best in full sun, with minimal irrigation. It is ideal for the transition and outer zones of a xeriscape. Its texture and form mix nicely with fine-textured plants such as *Chrysactinia mexicana*, *Dalea capitata* **Sierra Gold**™, *Dalea frutescens* **Sierra Negra**™, *Psilostrophe tagetina*, and *Muhlenbergia* species.



PRECAUTIONS: As with other species, *Agave palmeri* should be treated to prevent possible damage by the Agave Snout Weevil. Remember that when the plant flowers, it will die and need to be replaced.

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AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (HEIGHT x WIDTH)	3 feet x 4 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Greenish yellow
FLOWER SEASON	Late spring-early summer
EXPOSURE	Full sun
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Moderate
HARDINESS	5° F USDA 7
PRUNING	None
HARDY IN THESE CITIES	Tucson, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Palm Desert, Los Angeles, San Diego, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, West Texas

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