Kissho Kan Agave

Agave potatorum 'Kissho Kan'



Kissho Kan Agave
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 14 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Lucky Crown Century Plant

Description:

This rare agave stays small, eventually only a foot high; rosettes of oval leaves are blue-green with cream edges; spines emerge yellow and mature to cinnamon brown; blooms only once every 15 to 25 years; a great accent planting

Ornamental Features

Kissho Kan Agave features bold spikes of chartreuse flowers rising above the foliage in mid summer. It has attractive bluish-green foliage edged in creamy white. The succulent oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Kissho Kan Agave is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its strikingly bold and coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced landscape composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering
- Spiny



Kissho Kan Agave
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Kissho Kan Agave is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Kissho Kan Agave will grow to be about 14 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Kissho Kan Agave makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.