Cornelius Agave

Agave americana 'Marginata Aurea Monstrosa'



Cornelius Agave
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 5 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Other Names: syn. Quasimoto Agave, Century Plant

Description:

As an ornamental, this smaller form is usually grown in rock gardens, cactus and succulent gardens; very attractive blue-green and yellow variegated foliage arranged in rosettes makes a great accent plant; very spiny

Ornamental Features

Cornelius Agave features bold spikes of chartreuse cup-shaped flowers rising above the foliage in mid summer. It has yellow-variegated bluish-green foliage with hints of chartreuse. The succulent sword-like leaves remain bluish-green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Cornelius Agave is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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

Cornelius Agave is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Cornelius Agave will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 5 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. 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.

Cornelius Agave makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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.