Variegated Smooth Agave

Agave desmetiana 'Variegata'

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 6 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Other Names: Spineless Jade Agave



Variegated Smooth Agave
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

As an ornamental, this variety is usually grown in rock gardens, cactus and succulent gardens; large arching leaves are green with yellow edges; smaller when grown in containers; may take many years to bloom, then rosette dies; makes a great accent

Features & Attributes

Variegated Smooth Agave features bold spikes of yellow cup-shaped flowers rising above the foliage in early summer. Its succulent sword-like leaves remain bluish-green in color with prominent yellow stripes and tinges of chartreuse throughout the year.

This is a multi-stemmed evergreen houseplant with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture is quite ornamental and should be used to full effect. This plant usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning.



Variegated Smooth Agave foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

When grown indoors, Variegated Smooth Agave can be expected to grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 6 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years. This houseplant requires direct sun for optimal performance, and should therefore be situated in a room that gets bright sunlight for a good part of the day; it is not a good choice for rooms lit only by artificial light. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and may die if left in standing water for any length of time. This plant should be watered when the surface of the soil gets dry, and will need watering approximately once each week. Be aware that your particular watering schedule may vary depending on its location in the room, the pot size, plant size and other conditions; if in doubt, ask one of our experts in the store for advice. Like most succulents and cacti, it prefers to grow in poor soils and should therefore never be fertilized. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soil. Contact the store for specific recommendations on pre-mixed potting soil for this plant.

There are many factors that will affect the ultimate height, spread and overall performance of a plant when grown indoors; among them, the size of the pot it's growing in, the amount of light it receives, watering frequency, the pruning regimen and repotting schedule. Use the information described here as a guideline only; individual performance can and will vary. Please contact the store to speak with one of our experts if you are interested in further details concerning recommendations on pot size, watering, pruning, repotting, etc.