Frostbite Agave

Agave xylonacantha 'Frostbite'



Frostbite Agave
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 10 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Other Names: Saw Leaf Agave, Century Plant

Description:

This visually stunning variety is perfect for rock gardens, cactus and succulent gardens; long and narrow, scalloped leaves are pale green with creamy white margins and prominent hooked spines; forms a low, symmetrical solitary rosette

Ornamental Features

Frostbite Agave features bold spikes of chartreuse cup-shaped flowers rising above the foliage in mid summer. It has attractive grayish green foliage edged in creamy white with hints of yellow which emerges bluish-green in spring. The succulent sword-like leaves are highly ornamental and remain grayish green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Frostbite 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

Frostbite Agave is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Frostbite Agave will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 10 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 4 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 15 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 selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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.

Frostbite 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. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. 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.