



Agave bracteosa Squid Agave

Description: *Agave bracteosa* is a medium size, clumping species that grows to 2 feet tall and clumps out to 3 feet across. The medium green leaves are unarmed both along the edge and at the tip. They are upright and recurved above the middle; measure up to 2 feet long and 2 inches wide near the base and taper to the tip. This Agave offsets freely which detracts from the beauty of individual specimens. However, the pups can be removed and repotted or planted elsewhere. Keep a few however, for the main plant dies when it sends up its spectacular spike of white flowers.

Habitat and Distribution: *Agave bracteosa* is found growing on sheer vertical cliffs of steep walled, limestone canyons in northeastern Mexico. It occurs at elevations from 3,000-5,500 feet in the Sierra Madre Oriental.

Culture: Place *Agave bracteosa* in filtered sun, it grows quite well under the shade of small trees like *Eysenhardtia* or *Leucaena retusa*. The plant is hardy to at least 10 degrees F. It is drought tolerant although they will respond to supplemental water. Growth rate varies from slow to moderate-slow depending on the amount of supplemental water. As with other succulent or semi-succulent plants, *Agave bracteosa* grows best in a soil with good drainage. Aside from pulling the offsets very little maintenance is required.

Uses: *Agave bracteosa* has many uses. It can be placed in a decorative pot and used as a focal point on a patio. When planted in the ground, it can be used in all zones of a xeriscape. The plant does great when placed under the shade of small trees like *Acacia willardiana*, *Eysenhardtia orthocarpa*, or *Leucaena retusa*. It will also grow just fine under larger, denser trees like *Acacia minuta*, and *Prosopis* species. *Agave bracteosa* fits in nicely with cactus, and other succulent and semi-succulent plants. It would also look attractive when planted near large boulders. I would not recommend mixing it with shrubs that would obscure the Agave.

To
print
Hit
the
Blue
Agave



Agave bracteosa Information Sheet