



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Palmer Agave or Lechugilla *Agave palmeri*

DESCRIPTION: This is one of our native century plants, growing in the grasslands and lower oak zone, from the border with Sonora, north to Globe. The toothed grey leaves, and its clumping habit, give it an attractive look. It has a moderate growth rate to <3' tall X <4' wide in 10 to 18 years. At maturity, Palmer Agave sends up a flowering stalk up to 15' tall, usually between late April and July. The flowers are grey-green and held out on side branches to allow easy access for nectar feeding bat species, the primary pollinators. Hummingbirds visit the flowers as well, in the day. As the fruits mature, the original plant dies. However, the pups at the base of the plant will continue to grow.

RECOMMENDED USE: Barrier, accent specimen, enhanced desert revegetation, container.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Palmer Agave is hardy to at least 12°F.



Sun tolerance: It grows best in full sun to very light shade.*



Watering and feeding: Once established, water twice monthly in the ground; more often in pot. Feeding is not necessary in the ground, but could be done once a year in containers.



Soil requirements: This plant is tolerant of most any soil.



Pruning: None needed if planted well away from paths.

*Please note if there is an “S” marked on the pot. This denotes which side has been facing south in the nursery. Keep this orientation to prevent sunburning. Whether or not there is an “S”, we recommend that you acclimatize your plant gradually to the sun. Ask for the care sheet entitled “Hardening Greenhouse-Grown Succulents for the Garden”.