Blue Emperor Agave

Agave 'Blue Emperor'



Blue Emperor Agave
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 8 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8

Description:

A stunning variety presenting rosettes of short, broad, silver-blue leaves with red-orange margins and teeth, and short, black terminal spines; rarely flowers, and rosette will die after it does; grown for foliage; a dramatic accent planting

Ornamental Features

Blue Emperor Agave is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. Its attractive succulent spiny leaves remain silvery blue in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Blue Emperor Agave is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a more or less rounded form. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This plant 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

Blue Emperor Agave is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Blue Emperor Agave will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 8 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant 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. Like most succulents and cacti, this plant 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 soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.

Blue Emperor Agave is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.