Mateo's Agave

Agave 'Mateo'



Mateo's Agave
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 12 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Matthew's Agave, Agave bracteosa x lophantha

Description:

An upright selection producing vertical, arching, spineless lime green leaves with a pale band down the center; infrequent towering spikes with clusters of yellow-green flowers when rosettes mature; a great accent for rockeries or dry gardens

Ornamental Features

Mateo's Agave features bold spikes of chartreuse cup-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from mid fall to late winter. Its attractive succulent sword-like leaves remain lime green in color with prominent light green stripes throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Mateo's Agave is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

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

Mateo's Agave is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Mateo's Agave will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 12 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. 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.

Mateo's Agave is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.