

**Chapter 1 : Century Plant: Profile of a House Plant | HowStuffWorks**

*The century plant's leaves spread out from a central core, resembling a rosette. The plant, which actually takes an average of 15 years to flower, does not look like much until it comes time for it to bloom.*

Agave americana One of the most familiar species is Agave americana, a native of tropical America. Common names include century plant, maguey in Mexico , or American aloe not related to the genus Aloe. The name "century plant" refers to the long time the plant takes to flower. The number of years before flowering occurs depends on the vigor of the individual plant, the richness of the soil, and the climate; during these years the plant is storing in its fleshy leaves the nourishment required for the effort of flowering. Agave americana, century plant, was introduced into southern Europe about the middle of the 16th century, and is now widely cultivated as an ornamental, as it is in the Americas. In the variegated forms, the leaf has a white or yellow marginal or central stripe. As the leaves unfold from the center of the rosette, the impression of the marginal spines is conspicuous on the still erect younger leaves. The plant is reported being hardy to They mature very slowly and die after flowering, but are easily propagated by the offsets from the base of the stem. Introduced by the British settlers in , the plant was originally cultivated and used as emergency feed for livestock. Unlike most species of agave, A. Unlike many agaves, A. Like all agaves, A. Agave tequilana Agave azul blue agave is used in the production of tequila. In , the Mexican Government and European Union agreed upon the classification of tequila and its categories. As we have already noticed its bruised leaves afforded a paste from which paper was manufactured, its juice was fermented into an intoxicating beverage, pulque , of which the natives, to this day, are extremely fond; its leaves further supplied an impenetrable thatch for the more humble dwellings; thread, of which coarse stuffs were made, and strong cords, were drawn from its tough and twisted fibers; pins and needles were made from the thorns at the extremity of its leaves; and the root, when properly cooked, was converted into a palatable and nutritious food. The agave, in short, was meat, drink, clothing, and writing materials for the Aztec! Surely, never did Nature enclose in so compact a form so many of the elements of human comfort and civilization! There are four major parts of the agave that are edible: The stalks, which are ready during the summer, before the blossom, weigh several pounds each. Roasted, they are sweet and can be chewed to extract the aguamiel, like sugarcane. When dried out, the stalks can be used to make didgeridoos. The leaves may be collected in winter and spring, when the plants are rich in sap, for eating. The leaves of several species also yield fiber: Agave Americana is the source of pita fiber, and is used as a fiber plant in Mexico , the West Indies and southern Europe. During the development of the inflorescence , sap rushes to the base of the young flower stalk. Agave nectar also called agave syrup , a sweetener derived from the sap, is used as an alternative to sugar in cooking, and can be added to breakfast cereals as a binding agent. The flower shoot is cut out and the sap collected and subsequently fermented. By distillation, a spirit called mezcal is prepared; one of the best-known forms of mezcal is tequila. When dried and cut in slices, the flowering stem forms natural razor strops , and the expressed juice of the leaves will lather in water like soap. The natives of Mexico used the agave to make pens, nails, and needles, as well as string to sew and make weavings. Leaf tea or tincture taken orally is used to treat constipation and excess gas. It is also used as a diuretic. Root tea or tincture is taken orally to treat arthritic joints. The Hohokam of southern Arizona cultivated large areas of agave. A beverage is squeezed from the baked fibers, and the heads can be baked or boiled, pounded into flat sheets, sun dried, and stored for future use. The baked, dried heads are also boiled and made into an edible paste, eaten whole, or made into soup. The leaves are eaten boiled, and the young, tender flowering stalks and shoots are roasted and eaten as well. The fibers are used to make rope, the leaves are used to line baking pits, and the sharp pointed leaf tips are used to make basketry awls.

## Chapter 2 : Agave americana - Wikipedia

*Agave americana*, common names sentry plant, century plant, maguey or American aloe, is a species of flowering plant in the family *Asparagaceae*, native to Mexico, and the United States in New Mexico, Arizona and Texas.

Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 8 through 11 Sometimes called American aloe, the century plant is a succulent native to Mexico and the southwestern United States. In actuality, the century plant will flower when it is as young as 10 years old. It is monocarpic, meaning that after it finally does bloom, it dies.

**Light and Water** The century plant requires full sun. As with many plants, the century plant requires more water during the growing season than in the dormant period. In the winter, the soil should be allowed to dry out almost completely.

**Propagation and Potting** Century plants produce offsets sometimes called "pups" that are removable when they reach several inches in length. Wear thick protective gloves and use a trowel or small spade to gently lift them from the soil. You can then root them in an ordinary potting mix. Until they establish a good root system, the offsets do best when watered very sparingly; once a sound root system is in place, the new plants will do well with the same watering regimen as larger plants. It is possible to propagate the century plant from seed, but because flowering is so infrequent, vegetative propagation is probably the best option. Although the century plant can serve well as a potted plant when small, it is destined to be large. This means that repotting yearly up to the next-sized pot is in order. Eventually, with successive and successful repottings, what was a small offset can be out-planted to a suitable site in the outdoor garden.

**Soil and Temperature** Think of the century plant as a desert plant. Because they are very tolerant of drought but intolerant of soggy conditions, century plants need a grainy or sandy growing medium with excellent drainage in order to thrive. Even though sandy, desert-like soils may be regarded as fairly impoverished of nutrients, the century plant will do best when its soil receives biweekly doses of an all-purpose fertilizer in liquid form. Room temperature is best for the century plant in the active growing season, while cooler conditions, near 50 degrees Fahrenheit, should prevail in the dormant period. Showing proper respect for the spines that form can help a gardener avoid a painful encounter while pulling dead leaves and doing general maintenance. When it does flower, the floral spike on a large plant can reach more than 30 feet.

## Chapter 3 : Agave americana (Century Plant)

*The century plant's flowers are quite impressive, not least because of their infrequency. Fox tail agave (Agave attenuata), which grows in USDA zones 10 through 12, flowers when it is about*

Palms and Cycads Century Plant Century plant is the common name usually associated with Agave americana. While there are over species of agave that vary greatly in size and color, century plant is one of the most impressive and show-stopping. Century plants generally take between 8 and 30 years to flower. Once the plant has reached maturity, a central stem grows up to 20 feet tall. Pale yellow or white blossoms appear atop this branched flower spire during summertime. Most century plants will die after they flower, although the spineless century plant Agave attenuata flowers multiple times a year. Century plant is quite striking, with large succulent leaves that are greenish-blue color and boldly textured. The leaves are very large, reaching up to 6 feet long and 10 inches wide. The spread of the mature plant is quite an impressive sight for any landscape—up to 12 feet. Thanks to the sharp spines at the end of each toothed leaf, these plants need to be planted well away from where anyone may brush up against them. Century plant should be planted at least 6 feet away from areas where people and pets are walking or playing. Variegated century plant A. The variegated leaves look like ribbons folded and twisted across each other. Like those of the single-colored century plant, leaves can grow as long as 6 feet and 10 inches wide. While century plant can be a dramatic addition to your landscape, its considerable mature size and sharp foliage may not be right for every yard. If you are looking for similar aesthetics, just scaled down and less pointy, check out spineless century plant A. Individual evergreen leaves are light blueish-green and are between 1. Pale yellow to white flowers bloom periodically throughout the year about 10 years after planting. Planting and Care This highly drought-tolerant and moderately salt-tolerant plant grows well in zones 9 — Agave plants are easy to grow, but they do have a few "needs" to thrive. They need at least 6 hours of direct sun and well-drained soils. Planting in well-drained soil is particularly important in preventing root rot, especially in North Florida where cooler winter temperatures may add stress to your plant. If your in-ground conditions are not ideal for growing century plant, try growing it in a container where you can control the soil conditions. Just remember that century plants can get quite large; the smaller spineless century plant is a better choice for growing in a container. Once your plant has matured you may notice multiple "pups" around the base of the mature parent plant. After the parent plant has died you can remove and transplant the pups and start the growing adventure over again.

## Chapter 4 : Century Plant - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Century plant definition is - a Mexican agave (Agave americana) that takes many years to mature, flowers only once, and then dies. a Mexican agave (Agave americana) that takes many years to mature, flowers only once, and then dies.*

## Chapter 5 : Agave - Wikipedia

*The century plant (Agave americana) is hardy within U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 8 through Sometimes called American aloe, the century plant is a succulent native to.*

## Chapter 6 : What is the Century Plant? (with picture)

*The century plant is remarkable for its large (up to five feet across) rosette of fleshy, gray-green, sharply toothed leaves, each ending in a needlelike spine. Many cultivars are attractively striped in white or yellow. Although the century plant dies after blooming, it can take thirty years or.*

## Chapter 7 : How to Grow a Century Plant | Garden Guides

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*The century plant, a succulent whose leaves form a basal rosette, grows wild in eastern Mexico. The century plant becomes rather large in its native habitat, with leaves 5 feet long and nearly 10 inches wide. But as a houseplant, it grows slowly and remains much smaller. The plant is relatively easy.*

### Chapter 8 : How Do I Grow a Century Plant? | Home Guides | SF Gate

*The Century Plant provided Native Americans with a source of soap, food, fiber, medicine and weapons. Agave americana, can grow up to 40 feet high with much longer leaves and larger stalk. This American Century Plant is sometimes grown in southern California as an ornamental.*

### Chapter 9 : Century Plant | Definition of Century Plant by Merriam-Webster

*Agave americana (Century Plant) American Aloe, Century Plant, Maguey, Flowering Aloe, Spiked Aloe, Mexican Soap Plant, Agave gracilispina Incredibly beautiful and majestic, Agave americana (Century Plant) is a very large, evergreen perennial forming handsome rosettes of thick, spiny-edged, blue-green leaves, up to 6 ft. long ( cm).*