

Quadricolor Century Plant

Agave lophantha 'Quadricolor'

Size:

Up to 1-2' tall x 1-2' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun or shade

Hardiness:

20-25 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Infrequent

General: A very distinctive and attractive small agave featuring 6 to 8 inch long dark green leaves edged with yellow and a pale green mid-stripe. The yellow marginal stripe, highlighted by dark reddish teeth, flushes red when grown in bright light to give the leaf four distinct colors.

Designer: A gorgeous accent plant in the garden. Plant in full sun to bright filtered light (best sheltered from full summer sun in hot climates) in a well drained soil. Tolerates dry conditions but will grow much faster with regular summer irrigation.

Maintenance: Low. Treat once or twice per year for the agave borer weevil with Bayer Tree and Shrub Insecticide, Merit Insecticide, or equivalent (active ingredient: Imidacloprid). Treatment should occur in mid-April to mid-May. If a 2nd treatment is desired, it should occur in September. One treatment is believed to provide adequate protection, but the 2nd may be applied for added security. Agave borer weevil larvae can eat the root system of this plant and by the time the damage is noticeable, it is too late. The symptoms show as the outer leaves laying close to the ground while the center rosette of leaves stays upright, leaving a gap in between.

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Queen Victoria Agave

Agave victoriae-reginae

Size:

Up to 18" tall x 18" wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

10 degrees F.

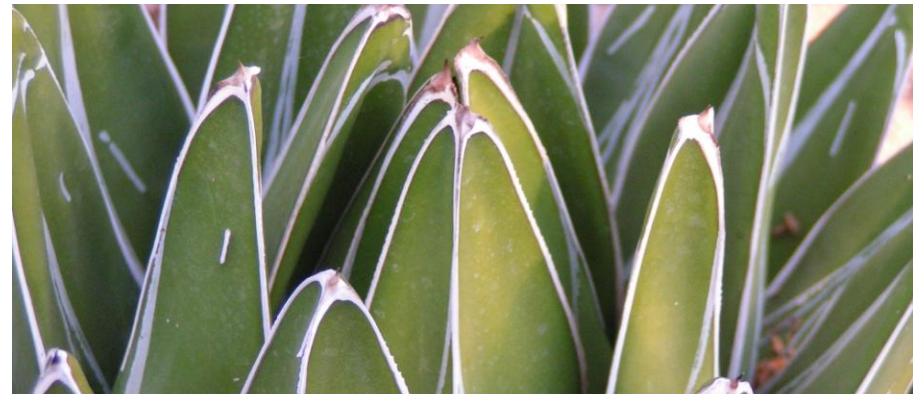
Bloom Period:

Infrequent, Summer

General: Queen Victoria Agave features a dense, compact form, and beautiful white markings on both sides of the leaves. Leaves are toothless, but have a sharp terminal spine. Flowers are reddish-purple, and are densely packed on an unbranched spike reaching 15 feet in height.

Designer: Its compact size and ornamental appeal make it an ideal candidate for decorative containers. In the ground, it looks best planted in cactus and succulent gardens, or nestled among large boulders. Avoid planting it too close to large shrubs that could obscure its beauty.

Maintenance: Low. Treat once or twice per year for the agave borer weevil with Bayer Tree and Shrub Insecticide, Merit Insecticide, or equivalent (active ingredient: Imidacloprid). Treatment should occur in mid-April to mid-May. If a 2nd treatment is desired, it should occur in September. One treatment is believed to provide adequate protection, but the 2nd may be applied for added security. Agave borer weevil larvae can eat the root system of this plant and by the time the damage is noticeable, it is too late. The symptoms show as the outer leaves laying close to the ground while the center rosette of leaves stays upright, leaving a gap in between.

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Weber's Agave

Agave weberi

Size:

Up to 7' tall x 6-10' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun, part shade

Hardiness:

10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Flowers at maturity

General: As there do not appear to be any specimens left in the wild, this medium to large agave is often only seen in cultivation. Long, fleshy leaves are grey-green with fine teeth along the margins, and a sharp black terminal spine. Yellow flowers appear on a 15 foot branched flower spike when the plant reaches maturity.

Designer: Though similar in size and appearance, **Weber's Agave** offers a more upright form than the popular *Agave americana*, or Century Plant. **Weber's Agave makes a superb accent plant in any xeriscape garden.** A variegated variety called Arizona Star is sometimes available.

Maintenance: Low. Yellowing of the foliage may indicate heat stress and a need for more water. Treat once or twice per year for the agave borer weevil with Bayer Tree and Shrub Insecticide, Merit Insecticide, or equivalent (active ingredient: Imidacloprid). Treatment should occur in mid-April to mid-May. If a 2nd treatment is desired, it should occur in September. One treatment is believed to provide adequate protection, but the 2nd may be applied for added security. Agave borer weevil larvae can eat the root system of this plant and by the time the damage is noticeable, it is too late. The symptoms show as the outer leaves laying close to the ground while the center rosette of leaves stays upright, leaving a gap in between.

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Carob Tree

Ceratonia siliqua

Size:

Up to 30' tall x 30' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to moderate

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

20-25 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Fall

General: This beautiful tree has dense, rich green foliage and typically shows very healthy and handsome form. The fruit is an elongated, compressed, straight or curved pod. The pods take a full year to develop and ripen. Carob tree seed-pods are edible to humans and wildlife.

Designer: It is widely cultivated for its edible legumes, as well as an ornamental tree or screening hedge in the landscape. When not grown for legume harvests, the plant is drought tolerant and part of xeriscape landscape design for gardens, parks, and public municipal and commercial landscapes.

Maintenance: As with all trees, it should always be pruned thoughtfully. The plant develops a sculpted trunk and ornamental tree form when 'limbed up' as it matures, otherwise it is used as a dense and large screening hedge. No pest or disease problems have been noted or observed. Some litter is produced from spent flowers and seed pods.

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Oklahoma Redbud

Cercis reniformis

Size:

15-20' tall x 15-20' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Deciduous

Water Needs:

Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun to part shade

Hardiness:

-5 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

April

General: Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils. In our hot Las Vegas valley, it appreciates some afternoon part shade, but tolerates full sun as long as soils are not allowed to dry out. Since this tree does not transplant well, it should be planted when young and left undisturbed.

Designer: Oklahoma Redbud is an excellent small tree for lawns, courtyards or other limited space areas. It is effective planted as a specimen or in groups. It grows slowly into a rounded or vase shape. This tree blooms before the production of leaves, giving a fantastic color show that is especially dramatic set against the bare branches.

Maintenance: As with all trees, it should always be pruned thoughtfully. The plant develops a sculpted trunk and ornamental tree form when 'limbed up' as it matures, otherwise it is used as a dense and large screening hedge. Some litter is produced from spent flowers and seed pods.

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Mormon Tea

Ephedra nevadensis

Size:

Up to 4' tall x 4' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Semi-Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Spring

General: Historically, *Ephedra nevadensis* was used for food and medicine by indigenous people and for tea by Mormons in the deserts of the southwest. It is a semi-evergreen shrub with yellowish-gray, erect-spreading branches. Small, paired leaves split and fall off leaving a leafless, broom-like shrub. Tiny, individual, yellow to light-brown flowers cluster together in Spring.

Designer: Mormon Tea's most common use is as forage for sheep and cattle (it poisonous to horses), and for habitat restoration. As an ornamental it is grown in xeriscape and rock gardens for its dramatic form. Its vertical orientation makes it especially attractive when planted with groundcovers and near boulders to accentuate its architectural form.

Maintenance: Mormon Tea prefers well-drained, light (sandy) and medium (loamy) soil, and cannot grow in the shade. Though it is extremely drought tolerant, supplemental irrigation helps this plant looks its best in the landscape.

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‘Sierra Bouquet’ Texas Ranger

Leucophyllum pruinoseum ‘Sierra Bouquet’

Size:

Up to 6’ tall x 6’ wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Semi- evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun, reflected heat

Hardiness:

10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Summer – Fall

General: The grape bubble-gum like scent of *Leucophyllum pruinoseum* ‘Sierra Bouquet’ fills the garden in summer and fall, as it is the most fragrant Texas Ranger. This large, semi-evergreen shrub grows with an open, irregular form.

Designer: Though individual species of Sierra Bouquet make a nice addition to the garden, it is best-suited for mass plantings. The silver colored foliage looks especially spectacular when planted against green foliage. Since it take reflected heat well, Sierra Bouquet is a good choice for hot-spots in the garden, or in a parking lot or commercial landscape.

Maintenance: Low. Can be pruned back fairly hard in late winter or early spring if desired. Be careful not to overwater to avoid root rot, especially if the soil has poor drainage.

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Blackfoot Daisy

Melampodium leucanthum

Size:

12" tall x 15-18" wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Deciduous

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun, reflected heat, part shade

Hardiness:

-20 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Spring – Fall

General: Blackfoot Daisy is a low, bushy, mounded perennial. The small (1 inch) white daisy flowers have yellow centers, and cover the small mound of foliage during the bloom season. These honey-scented flower heads arise just slightly above the foliage giving a nice tight form. The plant itself has narrow medium green to grey-green leaves. The stems are quite brittle, so it is not suited to high traffic areas.

Designer: Blackfoot Daisy has a natural place in meadow, woodland, rock, and xeriscape gardens alike. The flowers attract butterflies, and leave behind a star-like seed pod.

Maintenance: Plant Blackfoot Daisy in full sun, well-drained soil, and be careful not to over water. It is reported to be deer resistant.

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Bull Grass

Muhlenbergia emersleyi 'El Toro'

Size:

Up to 2-3' tall x 2-3' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Semi-Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun, part shade, reflected heat

Hardiness:

10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Fall

General: This petite, dense grass grows to about 3 feet tall and wide. The long blue-green leaves are wider than the other *Muhlenbergia* species. In the fall months it sends up masses of loose, rosy-purple flower spikes, which dry to a tan color in the winter. This is one of the most drought-tolerant muhlys. 'El Toro' is a trademarked ornamental grass from Mountain State Wholesale Nursery.

Designer: 'El Toro' looks great as an accent plant in the landscape, or in a mass planting. This wonderful ornamental grass has fairly thick and dense blue-green foliage. Blooms and foliage bring movement to the garden. The airy nature and wonderful, soft architecture of the blooms is particularly delightful in this species.

Maintenance: Low. Cut back in early spring flat to the ground at a height of about 2-4". Be careful not to cut back during the hot summer months! A vigorous spring pruning will remove any dormant foliage and flower spikes.

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